

## Travel restrictions imposed between provinces

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last night instructed the relevant officials and agencies to impose travel restrictions between the nine provinces until May 30, 2021, the President's Media Division said. Accordingly, inter-provincial movements will be restricted apart from essential travel and essential goods transport/services. This move is aimed at minimizing the COVID-19 spread among the provinces. Further details will be announced in this regard.

## COVID-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund Balance funds to be used for vaccination

**SHAVINI MADHARA**  
A decision has been taken to use the balance Rs.1,360,922,969.64 of the COVID-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund for vaccination, the President's Media Division stated. The President's Media stated that the total amount credited to the fund was Rs. 1,752,402,793.24. The amount spent so far is Rs.391,479,824.00. It is 23% of the total amount collected. The remaining amount is very low when compared to the amount the Government is expected to spend on vaccinations. But the management of the Fund's Board has pointed out the importance of using the Fund's balance for vaccination. A large number of people, several local institutions and a group of Sri Lankans living abroad donated money to the Itukama COVID-19 Fund. International financial institutions or organizations have not contributed to the COVID-19 Fund.

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## IN CASE OF LOCKDOWN/ISOLATION OF ANY AREA

# UNINTERRUPTED FLOW OF ESSENTIALS GUARANTEED

### UTILITIES, SERVICES, FOOD DISTRIBUTION UNAFFECTED

### LICENSES FOR MOBILE VENDORS

**DILSHAN THARAKA**  
A discussion was held under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force former Minister Basil Rajapaksa, with the participation of the relevant Ministers, Secretaries to the Ministries and Heads of Departments on the setting up of a mechanism for the continuous and efficient distribution of essential services and consumer goods to the local public, at Temple Trees on May 09.

According to the report prepared by the Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister Anton Perera regarding that discussion, if a quarantine curfew is imposed or if any area or district is isolated, it is essential that the distribution mechanism be continued to maintain the supply of goods and services required by the people in those areas. Accordingly, licenses should be issued to a minimum number of

mobile vendors in accordance with health guidelines when necessary to distribute food items within or outside the District. Government Banks, Sathosa Sales outlets, Co-operative Wholesale Corporation, Economic Centres, Manufacturing Industries, Distribution Networks and Co-operative Warehouses need to be kept open at all times in compliance with healthcare regulations, report said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Vaccination to be expedited

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The COVID-19 Virus Control Performance Review Committee which convened yesterday under the patronage of Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi has taken a number of decisions on specific measures that need to be taken to prevent the spread of the pandemic. This Special Performance Review Committee consists of Medical Administrators, Administrative Service Officers, and Specialist Physicians and is chaired by Minister Wanniarachchi. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Educational reforms by 2023

- Prof. G.L. Peiris

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The proposed new educational reforms will pave the way for students to complete their university education early and become graduates in their early twenties, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said. Speaking to the media at the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) head office in Battaramulla yesterday, he said those reforms are expected to be implemented in 2023. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Institutional exams postponed

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Department of Examinations has postponed all the institutional examinations scheduled to be held from May 15 until further notice. Issuing a special notice, the Commissioner General of Examinations B. Sanath Pujitha said the decision was taken considering the present COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## No decision on islandwide lockdown

DILANKA GUNATILLAKE

Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) General Shavendra Silva said that no decision had been taken regarding an islandwide lockdown.

Hence, he requested the public not to panic due to certain rumours and misleading reports of a lockdown spreading through social media. However, the Army Commander stated that travel restrictions could be imposed within the next few days curtailing travel between provinces. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Members of the Special Task Force Special Waterborne Operations Squadron displaying their skills during the Unit's inauguration at the Bolgoda Lake.

## STF forms Waterborne Operations Squadron

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Paramilitary Unit of the Sri Lanka Police, the Special Task Force (STF) has established a Special Unit named the Special Waterborne Operations Squadron comprising 16 officers

of the Special Task Force. The Unit was established on Sunday to thwart illegal sand mining, felling of trees, forest destruction, smuggling and other crimes across the country. Police Spokesman DIG Ajith

Rohana said 16 officers of the STF were trained by experts under the sponsorship of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Sri Lanka Powerboat Association. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Police to monitor public transport, taxis

DINULI FRANCISCO

Police are conducting a special operation in Public transport to monitor adherence to COVID-19 rules and regulations since yesterday morning.

Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana stated that public transport vehicles including buses, three-wheelers, and taxis will be monitored. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Cabinet should take charge - Ranil

SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE

Former Prime Minister and United National Party Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has said the Cabinet should take full powers to save the country and its people from the Corona epidemic.

He noted that the Committees that have been set up to suppress the spread of corona have failed, adding that there are people in the Cabinet who have experience and many lives could be lost if the Cabinet does not take immediate responsibility. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



**RAMADAN Prayer Time**

| DATE      | 09-13 |
|-----------|-------|
| Sahar End | 04-20 |
| Subah     | 04-35 |
| Sun Rise  | 05-55 |
| Luhar     | 12-08 |
| Asar      | 03-38 |
| Mahgrib   | 06-20 |
| Isha      | 07-33 |

**DMT Narahenpita, Werahera offices closed**

The Department of Motor Traffic (DMT) has decided to extend the time period of the temporary suspension of the services provided by Narahenpita and Werahera offices. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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# Youths to make 10,000 COVID beds in four days

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Youth in various Provinces have donated 10,000 beds completed in a short span of 10 days to help COVID-19 infected patients. The beds were handed

over to the relevant Health officers in the districts yesterday. The national task of making 10,000 beds in 10 days commenced on May 7 and yesterday was the fourth day of this

national endeavour. In an attempt to motivate these youth engaged in this national endeavour, Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa engaged in an inspection tour of the various work-

shops where these youth are engaged in manufacturing beds. Accordingly, Minister Rajapaksa visited several locations in the Galle District yesterday to inspect the manufacturing of

these beds. The Minister was also expected to visit several locations in the Colombo District last night to motivate the youth in fulfilling their national duty.

## Impose effective lockdowns at district level - AMS requests President

DINULI FRANCISCO

The Association of Medical Specialists (AMS) in a letter has requested President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to impose effective lockdowns at least at the district level to restrict people's movement with immediate effect.

The Association has stated that the current practice of isolating communities at the Grama Niladari Division level is neither preserving economic activity nor controlling transmission of the disease.

"The time has come to revisit Sri Lanka's management strategy of COVID-19 before it rages out of control. Healthcare resources are fast reaching its threshold. Health Sector beds and available facilities are almost saturated. The requirement for Oxygen is increasing exponentially as we have started seeing more symptomatic patients. ICU beds are almost fully occupied. Healthcare professionals are exhausted and apprehensive with many getting infected with Covid-19 themselves" the letter read.

The letter further read that the

Preliminary predictive disease modelling done by WHO, Geneva predicted that Sri Lanka would most likely be reporting 10,000 cases daily within the next three weeks. If the situation turns for the worse the number of deaths can exceed 100 per day. "If the country reaches this 'tipping point' with the disease spiraling out of control, it would be extremely difficult to recover from that point" the letter added.

Moreover, the letter stated that the vaccine is one method that we can overcome this situation that also should be with quick access to safe and effective vaccines to cover at least 65-70% of the population with two doses. "The time taken for vaccines to provide protection has been widely accepted to be at least 3 weeks after the second dose. Pending protection from the vaccines which is the key pillar supporting the fight against COVID-19, public health interventions to restrict people's movements should be the most important tool to avert a disastrous outcome during this critical period," it said.

## UAE bars travellers from South Asia

The UAE will bar entry to all travellers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka from Wednesday night.

The decision affects incoming flights and all carriers, excluding transit services.

The General Authority of Civil Aviation and National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) issued the decision on Tuesday.

The last flights to be allowed entry to the UAE will be at 11.59pm on Wednesday, May 12. Officials cited Covid-19 as the reason, without elaborating.

In Bangladesh on Saturday officials confirmed the first case of an Indian virus variant. That followed weeks where the South African variant was largely seen in patients.

In Sri Lanka, a similar discovery was made of India's B.1.617 strain in a person who returned from India and was screened at a quarantine centre in Colombo.

And in Pakistan on Monday, the government halted access to many tourism areas until May 16 due to the recent surge there.

The UAE announced last month a ban on entry from India to guard against the spread of the highly contagious Indian variant.

The move has implications for UAE residents who are set to travel abroad for the Eid Al Fitr holidays this week, particularly to Sri Lanka,

one of the most popular getaway choices.

"This decision also includes extending the suspension of entry for travellers who were in these four countries in the 14-day period prior to arrival in the UAE," NCEMA said.

"Flights between the four countries will continue to allow the transport of passengers from the UAE to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and the transfer of exempted groups from these countries to the UAE who have applied for exemption. "Exempted travellers, including UAE citizens, those on diplomatic missions accredited by the four countries, official delegations, those traveling on business planes and golden residence holders, will be subject to precautionary measures that include a 10-day quarantine and PCR testing at the airport and on the fourth and eighth days after entering the country.

"The required PCR testing period prior to travel has been reduced from 72 to 48 hours and all tests must be administered by accredited laboratories that issue results carrying a QR code." The General Authority of Civil Aviation said travellers from these four countries, transiting through other countries, are required to provide proof of a period of stay of no less than 14 days to be allowed into the UAE.

Cargo flights are excluded from the ban. (The National)



Police were compelled to take stern measures against people in the Batticaloa district who failed to adhere to health guidelines due to the increased number of COVID-19 infections and deaths. Therefore, Rapid Antigen Tests were carried out on pedestrians who failed wear face masks in public places at the Gandhi Park, Batticaloa yesterday. Police also inspected fairs, hospitals, private institutions, public markets and public and private bus stands during the operation conducted under the direction of the Batticaloa MOH Dr.K.Kirisuthan. SP Batticaloa L.R.Kumarasiri, HQI C.I. Hettiyarachchi and Police officers were deployed for these activities. on the instructions of SSP Batticaloa District Sudath Masinghe. Picture by Sivam Packiyannathan, Batticaloa Special Correspondent

## CA quashes university rule mandating to complete MBBS Degree within 10 years

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal has issued an order in the nature of writ of Certiorari quashing the rule relating completion of the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Degree within 10 years contained in the Handbooks of three state universities.

Court of Appeal Justice Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne and Justice R. Gurusinghe made this order after delivering the judgment in respect of three writ petitions filed by eleven students who had registered themselves to follow MBBS Degrees at

University of Peradeniya, Ruhuna and Kelaniya. They had been unable to complete the Degrees within the stipulated period.

The Court of Appeal further issued an order quashing the cancellation of studentship of eleven petitioners by these three universities.

Accordingly, writs of mandamus were issued directing the university administration to restore their studentship in terms of the law and permit the petitioners to sit for their final examinations of MBBS Degrees.

The Court of Appeal observed that

although the senate of the university is empowered to make regulations relating to the courses of study and examination in respect of the relevant specialties, the regulations made by the university senate are amenable for judicial review.

The petitioners stated that in terms of the Examination Rules and Regulations issued by relevant universities, a student is required to complete his or her Final Examination within 10 years after registration as a student of the Faculty of Medicine. One of petitioners had informed court that at the time

he entered the University of Peradeniya in 1982 to follow a five-year course in medical leading to a degree in Medicine and Surgery, the university had not published a handbook containing the rules and regulations of the Faculty of Medicine and therefore he was unaware of the fact that he had to complete his final examination within 10 years of registration.

Counsel Faisza Marker with Thushani Machado appeared for the petitioners. Senior State Counsel Manohara Jayasinghe appeared for the Attorney General.

### Vaccination to... From page 01

Accordingly, a decision had been taken to accelerate the COVID vaccination programme in other districts giving priority to Colombo, Kalutara, and Gampaha districts and also doubling the number of existing vaccination centres in the country.



It was also decided to increase the number of PCR tests and Rapid Antigen Tests and also to increase the number of laboratories at district level.

The participants also stressed the importance of taking measures to expedite the issuance of sample test reports which have been collected for testing purposes.

Discussions also focused on preparing a mechanism to prevent the people who undergo PCR tests from leaving their homes till the report is issued.

It was also decided to expedite the provision of oxygen and other facilities required for the treatment centres which are currently being set up and to procure and provide other medical equipment to the centers as soon as possible.

The Minister also stated that steps will be taken to increase the number of PCR laboratories at district level and to provide the necessary financial assistance through the COVID-19 Prevention Fund. The Minister of Health urged the officials of the Ministry to submit a report in this regard to the President.

State Ministers Dr. Sudarshani Fernando and Prof. Channa Jayasumana, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Maj. Gen. Sanjeeva Munasinghe, Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Additional Secretaries, and Deputy Directors General and Specialist Officers were present.

### Educational reforms... From page 01

Necessary steps in this regard are being taken by the Education Ministry along with the other stakeholders including the Commissioner General of Examinations, he added.



When the new reforms are in effect, the school life of a student who faces the G.C.E. A/L examination will be eight months shorter than present.

According to the reforms, the two-year period the G.C.E. O/L students' spend will be limited to one and a half years, with the exam being conducted in August.

The G.C.E. A/L classes are expected to begin four months after the O/L examination and the A/L examination is expected to be held in December after a two-year period, he added.

Responding to questions, the minister said he accepted that the online education method is not an alternative which can completely replace the present education system.

The Education Minister also said it is fair to vaccinate the school teachers.

### Uninterrupted flow of... From page 01

It was also discussed that if a quarantine curfew is imposed or an area is isolated, the Presidential Task Force would decide to continue to provide the goods and services required by the people in that area.



Accordingly, the Presidential Task Force said in view of the prevailing Covid 19 epidemic situation, steps have been taken to provide continuous and efficient distribution of essential services and consumer goods to the people at the local level.

Accordingly, under the emergency services provisions, focus was placed on the supply of water, electricity, gas,

fuel, personal health-care, communications, waste management and emergency management. In addition, it was also discussed about the supply of essential consumer goods such as rice, vegetables, fruits, potatoes, lentils, onions, chilies, dried fruits, coconuts, coconut oil, poultry, fish, eggs, milk powder, medicines and sanitary ware directly to households.

Former Minister Basil Rajapaksa also pointed out that it would be very useful to work with relevant agencies, distribution networks and rural distributors to complete preliminary discussions expeditiously.

### STF forms... From page 01



The squadron was launched on Sunday in the Bolgoda Lake under the patronage of Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Dr. Sarath Weerasekera. The 16 officers were selected to follow a course conducted by experts and having completed their training, the special squadron was established.

### No decision on... From page 01

Meanwhile, General Silva urged employers to restrict movement between districts as far as possible when assigning staff for service.

"We, in particular, issued a special order last week to the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration to maintain his workplace with a minimum number of employees.

"We informed him that if there were any non-essential employees travelling to work from other districts, the heads of the institu-

tions should be notified not to get them for duty," he added.

The Head of the National Operations Center for the Prevention of Covid 19 said that the 83 Grama Niladhari Divisions belonging to six police divisions in four isolated districts had been released from isolation from yesterday.

He noted that currently, infections are reported from 15 districts. Also, five Police Divisions have been completely isolated by now.

### DMT Narahenpita, ... From page 01

Accordingly, the DMT offices in Narahenpita and Werahera will remain closed next week, the Commissioner-General of the Department stated issuing a notice.

The DMT media release stated that the decision to suspend all the services provided by Narahenpita and Werahera Offices of the Department of Motor Traffic temporarily, was taken in accordance with the health guidelines provided by the health sectors due to the high-risk situation in the country pertaining to the Covid 19 pandemic.

However, limited services will be available at the regional offices, the Commissioner-General said.

The DMT notified all clients that all the appointments were reserved through the Tele. No. 011-2677877 will be thus cancelled. The date of re-commencement of the services will be notified through media.

### Police to monitor... From page 01

He said that buses and trains can only transport passengers to the seating capacity. Three-wheelers and taxis can transport two passengers apart from the driver.

DIG Ajith Rohana stated that legal action will be taken against both drivers and assistants if any of the quarantine rules and regulations is violated under the Quarantine Ordinance.

He also noted that the violators will be arrested and the seized vehicles will be taken under police custody and will be produced before Court.

DIG Rohana also stated that 351 individuals were arrested during the last 24 hours for violating quarantine rules and regulations issued by the Health Ministry.

He added that a total of 7,316 persons have been so far arrested since October 30, 2020 for offences such as not wearing face masks and failing to maintain social distance.

He noted that the Police will continue operations constantly to warn and arrest violators especially at bus stops, train stations, beaches, parks, playgrounds and restaurants.

He requested the public to adhere to quarantine rules and regulations by wearing face masks and maintain social distance and support the Government's endeavors to control the pandemic.

He stressed the importance of adhering to quarantine rules and regulations at workplaces too.

### Institutional exams... From page 01

The Department last week announced that it would provide some services online to the public owing to the pandemic situation.

### Cabinet should take... From page 01

He added that although the gravity of the pandemic was notified earlier, these committees have not taken steps to deal with it. Hence, Wickremesinghe noted that the people have lost faith in them.



Issuing a media release yesterday Wickremesinghe said, "Today we have faced the most dangerous stage of the Covid-19 pandemic and the health condition of the people is deteriorating. The virus is fast spreading throughout the country and there is a serious shortage of vaccines, oxygen and ventilators. The hospitals are packed with patients and there is an acute shortage of hospital beds. The number of infections is rising steadily and we are now at a decisive stage. Hence, if we do not adhere to the advice and health guidelines of the health experts, the country is bound to face serious consequences."

He noted that according to the latest report issued by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in Washington, Sri Lanka could reach a peak in patient numbers and faces the danger of exceeding over 100 deaths per day by June. Hence, he said everyone should unite and act responsibly at this decisive juncture.

"This is not a fight to save the name of the Government. Also, this is not a political battle. In fact, this is a fight to save the lives of the people. We are not asking for a change of Government. According to the Constitution, the responsibility for the country lies with the Cabinet," he added.

"Therefore, we urge the President and the Cabinet to take charge. This week, they should discuss the situation with the Opposition Leaders and obtain their support and input. They too need to extend their support to the Government and they need to act fast. If they fail to act fast, many lives could be lost. If the Government cares about the people, the Cabinet should take over the responsibility as there are many experienced members within the Cabinet. Hence, I appeal to the Government to act responsibly and fast," Wickremesinghe said.

### Sixteen GN Divisions... From page 01

Rathnapura, Kalutara and Monaragala districts have been designated as isolated areas with effect from 6.00 a.m. yesterday and 14 GN divisions previously designated as an isolated areas in the Gampaha, Ampara, Kurunegala, Trincomalee, and Kalutara Districts have been released from isolation with effect from yesterday as follows. The newly designated isolated areas:

- **Gampaha District** - Mahara Police Area
- Etikehelgalla West Grama Niladhari Division
- Katana Police Area -
- K.C.De Silva Grama Niladhari Division
- Atabahagaha Waththa Village in Kadirana North Grama Niladhari Division
- Peshakarma Village in Kadirana South Grama Niladhari Division
- Wattala Police Area -
- Maha pamunugama Sedawatta Village
- 44th lane in Kunjagahawatta Grama Niladhari Division
- Nilsirigama Village 03 rd and 7th Lanes
- **Ampara District** - Dehiattakandiya Police Area -
- Nawamedagama area in Nawamedagama Grama Niladhari Division

- Ranhelagama area in Bakmeedeniya Grama Niladhari Division
- Serupitiya sub area in Serupitiya Grama Niladhari Division
- **Ratnapura District** - Rathnapura Police Area -
- Angammana Grama Niladhari Division
- **Kalutara District** - Moragahahena Police Area -
- Palannoruwa Grama Niladhari Division
- Koralaimea Grama Niladhari Division
- Kumbuka West Grama Niladhari Division
- Horana Police Area -
- Narthanagala Grama Niladhari Division
- **Monaragala District** - Monaragala Police Area -
- Bohitiya Grama Niladhari Division

- **Following areas have been released from isolation**
- **Gampaha District** - Divulapitiya Police Area -
- Aswannawatha East Grama Niladhari Division
- Kotadeniyawa Police Area -
- Heeralagedara Grama Niladhari Division
- **Ampara District** - Dehiattakandiya Police Area -

- Kadirapura Grama Niladhari Division
- Chandana area in Dehiattakandiya Grama Niladhari Division
- Dolakanda area in Dehiattakandiya Grama Niladhari Division
- Kurunegala District - Kumbukgete Police Area -
- Thiththawelgala Grama Niladhari Division
- Neerawiya Grama Niladhari Division
- **Trincomalee District** - Uppuweli Police Area -
- Anpuwalipuram Grama Niladhari Division
- Trincomalee Police Area -
- Ors Hill Grama Niladhari Division
- Moodcove Grama Niladhari Division
- Langanagar Grtama Niladhari Division
- China Bay Police Area -
- Lanka Palama and Dhanyagama 1 in China Bay Grama Niladhari Division
- Samanpura Fishery Village and Dhanyagama 2 in Kawattikuda Grama Niladhari Division
- **Kalutara District** - Panadura South Police Area
- Narampitiya Grama Niladhari Division



# Australian research helps reduce Sri Lankan pesticide deaths

Sri Lanka is reducing its pesticide-attributable deaths and overall suicide mortality using research from The University of Queensland.

UQ Diamantina Institute's Emeritus Professor Michael Roberts, whose team analysed the blood samples of people in Sri Lanka who had poisoned themselves, said the most effective means of suicide prevention was better pesticide regulation.

"In this study, we compared fatalities from agricultural pesticides of almost 35,000 self-poisoned patients in a Sri Lankan hospital cohort over almost 20 years," Emeritus Professor Roberts said. "We found that eight pesticides were responsible for

most deaths. "Three of these are now banned after our research findings were put forward to Sri Lankan authorities.

"Banning the remaining five could further reduce pesticide-related deaths."

Emeritus Professor Roberts' team at UQ worked in conjunction with the NHMRC Translational Australian Clinical Toxicology (TACT) Programme to provide their research data to Sri Lankan authorities.

"One of the responsibilities we have in Australia is to help our Indo-Pacific colleagues, and for me, that is one of the main takeaways from this research," Emeritus Professor Roberts said.

"My team analysed all the blood

samples of the poisoned people in Sri Lanka, so the research is being led by Australia, and it's important that we do our bit to help those around us.

"In countries like Sri Lanka, these pesticides are the easiest materials to get hold of for people who are wanting to harm themselves."

Emeritus Professor Roberts said the overall pesticide fatality rate dropped from 10.5 per cent during 2013-19 after the nationwide bans.

The study also showcased a high fatality rate of 7.2 to 8.6 per cent for the other five commonly ingested pesticides that are not yet banned, which together account

for nearly a quarter of pesticide deaths in Sri Lanka since 2013. Emeritus Professor Roberts said those figures provide strong grounds for those five pesticides also to be banned.

"There is always going to be a suicide rate, no matter what you do, but we want it to be smaller," he said.

"Australia has a good regulatory system now, and we have a balance between having good public health policies and also allowing pesticides to be used where required, so we don't have the same issues that we see in Sri Lanka."

This research is published in *The Lancet Global Health*. (UQ News)

## Discussions regarding SLFP health sector proposals

A special discussion was held at the Ministry of Health recently on the 21-21 point proposal put forward by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) for implementation on May 1.

SLFP Secretary General Minister of State Dayasiri Jayasekara, Senior Vice President Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of State Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of State Lasantha Alagiyawanna represented the Sri Lanka Freedom Party with Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi and SLFP members also present.

This discussion was held to discuss the issues under the 100,000 Jobs Programme. The

most powerful trade union currently in the health sector is the Sri Lanka Jathika Nidahas Wurthiya Samithi Sammelanaya.

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said that the support of the Federation of Trade Unions for the recruitment of 100,000 jobs in the recruitment process for the health sector was discussed at the meeting.

Attention was also drawn to the intervention of the Ministry of Health in certain matters regarding members of the Federation of Trade Unions of Sri Lanka.

Secretary of the SLFP trade union Roy de Mel and others presented

their views to the Minister of Health.

Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said that the trade union affiliated to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party also gave its fullest support to the activities carried out by the Ministry of Health.



## Over 50% of COVID-19 cases reported from WP

DINULI FRANCISCO

Sri Lanka confirmed 2,672 COVID-19 cases in a single day reaching a grim milestone by yesterday morning. At the time this edition went to press, this was the highest number of daily reported cases in Sri Lanka passing the 2,500 mark.

Two thousand six hundred and fifty nine people among those who tested positive for the virus are local residents while 13 were overseas arrivals.

Accordingly, the total number of COVID-19 patients in Sri Lanka increased to 125,905. Currently 20,642 individuals are being treated and 1,314 persons suspected to have contracted the virus and are under medical observation. 104,462 people have fully recovered from COVID-19 and have been sent home.

According to National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 statistics, 50% of the cases were reported from the Western Province (WP) and 755 cases reported yesterday were from the Colombo District. Three hundred and twenty three cases were reported from the Gampaha district, 234 from the Kalutara district and the other 1,347 cases were reported from other districts.

National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 stated that a total of 29,230 cases were identified after the New Year.

During the last 24 hours, 1,365 COVID-19 recoveries were sent home. The total number of COVID-19 deaths in Sri Lanka stands at 801, as at Monday morning.

## Sri Lankan maid's remains brought back

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The remains of a Sri Lankan maid who was murdered in Kuwait were brought to Sri Lanka on Sunday morning.

Police Spokesman, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ajith Rohana said the body of the deceased woman had arrived in Sri Lanka around 8.30 on Sunday morning on board a Qatar Airways flight.

"The Katunayake Police had commenced investigations regarding the remains of the woman and it had been revealed that the woman, who is a resident of Mahawa had left for Kuwait in 2019 for employment as a housemaid."

She had been hacked to death by an Ethiopian maid on April 13, 2021.

The Magisterial inquiry was conducted by the Negombo Magistrate on Sunday, while the autopsy was conducted by the Judicial Medical Officer of the Negombo Hospital yesterday.

The Katunayake Police is conducting further investigations into the incident.

## Housing programme for Novice Monks' parents

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

The National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) as per the instructions of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has launched a programme to construct houses for the homeless parents who have given their children to the Buddhasana to be ordained as Novice Monks.

A recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Buddha Sasana revealed that 23 families in the district whose sons have been ordained as Novice Monks are living in dilapidated houses or shanties due to poverty.

Considering the plight of these parents, the Prime Minister has instructed Kurunegala District NHDA Manager S. Narasinghe to launch a programme to build houses for the parents of these Novice Monks as a tribute to them sacrificing their sons for the uplift of the Buddha Sasana.

"Funds required for this project have already been allocated," Kurunegala NHDA sources.



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# THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN VICTORY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

**YURY MATERII**  
Ambassador of Russia to Sri Lanka

On May 9 Russia celebrated the 76th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War – the war between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the Nazi Germany that raged between June 22, 1941, and May 9, 1945. This Victory was of crucial significance to ending the most devastating world conflict in history – World War II several months later, in September 1945.

The Victory in the war prevented the Nazis from spreading their inhuman ideology worldwide in accordance with which they planned to physically eliminate entire ethnic groups: Jews, Roma, Russians, Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians, French and Czech.

The Soviet Union and Russia, being its successor, always highly appreciated the contribution of the anti-Hitler coalition Allies. The efforts of all countries and peoples who fought against a

common enemy resulted in victory. Russia is eternally grateful to the peoples of Great Britain, the United States of America, and France, anti-fascists of various countries and members of the underground resistance. Russia also remembers the assistance rendered by the Allies, who provided the Red Army with munitions, raw materials, food and equipment, which amounted to about seven percent of the total military production of the USSR.

At the same time, it should be mentioned that it is the Soviet Union and the Red Army, who made the crucial contribution to the defeat of Nazism. The Wehrmacht spent at least 10 times more time on the Soviet front than on all other allied fronts. About four-fifths of German tanks and two-thirds of German aircraft were drawn to the Soviet front. The USSR accounted for about 75 percent of all military



efforts undertaken by the Anti-Hitler Coalition. There were no parallels to these battles anywhere on the Western Front. The Red Army defeated 626 divisions of the Axis states, of which 508 were German. Three-fourths of the German Armed Forces were



crushed on the Soviet-German Front. Then US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated that the "Russian forces have destroyed...more troops, planes, tanks and guns than all the other United Nations put together" and then Prime Minister of Great Britain Winston Churchill wrote to Joseph Stalin that "it is the Russian Army that tore the guts out of the German military machine."

Almost 27 million Soviet citizens perished on the fronts, in German prisons, starved to death and were bombed, died in ghettos and furnaces of the Nazi death camps. The USSR lost one in seven of its citizens. The damage done to the Soviet Union was greater than the combined damage inflicted to all other European countries.

British historian, Max Hastings wrote: "It was the Western Allies' extreme good fortune that the

Russians, and not themselves, paid almost the entire 'butcher's bill' for (defeating Nazi Germany), accepting 95 percent of the military casualties of the three major powers of the Grand Alliance."

Victory Day and the liberation of Europe from Nazism is one of the most important and revered dates. In our country, not a single family was spared by the war. Representatives of all republics of the Soviet Union made their contribution to the Great Victory, fought side by side together in that heroic battle, both on the frontlines and in the rear. Without their heroism and valour, it would have been impossible to stop and destroy the enemy.

The memory of those who fell in battle fighting the enemies will remain alive as long as we mark the Victory Day – the day of salvation and liberation. It is our sacred duty to safeguard the truth about what happened during those years, and remember the grim lessons of war in order to prevent such tragedies from repeating themselves."

## 'A Great Victory that gave FREEDOM to the World'

*Excerpts from Russian President Vladimir Putin's address at the military parade held in Moscow on May 9, 2021 to mark the 76th Great Victory Day:*



Vignettes from the Military Parade held in Moscow on Sunday to mark the 76th anniversary of the Victory Day.

**"H**appy Victory Day! The Victory had a colossal historic significance for the fate of the entire world. It is a holiday that has always been and will remain a sacred day for Russia, for our nation.

It is our holiday by right, for we are blood relatives of those who defeated, crushed, destroyed Nazism. It is ours because we descend from the generation of victors, a generation we are proud of and hold in great honour.

Our dear veterans, we bow before your courage and strong spirit and thank you for this immortal example of unity and love for our Motherland.

You proved that only together it is possible to achieve what seems impossible. You defeated a merciless enemy, defended your home, your children, and your country. You came out an absolute victor in the battle against Nazism and eternalised the memory of May 9, 1945.

We will always remember that it was the Soviet people who demonstrated the ultimate heroism. During the harshest times of war, during the crucial battles that determined the course of the fight against Nazism, our nation was alone on the toilsome, heroic and self-sacrificing road to Victory. Our people fought to the bitter end at every frontline, in the fiercest battles on the ground, at sea and in the air.

People of all ethnicities and faiths fought for every inch of our soil. For the fields on the approaches to Moscow, for the Karelian rocks and Caucasus passages, for Vyzma and Novgorod forests, for the shores of the Baltic Sea and the Dnieper, for the Volga and Don steppes.

The heroism of Soviet troops and the unflinching spirit of civilians are



perpetuated in the glorious titles of Hero Cities, awarded to Moscow and Leningrad, Minsk and Kiev, Stalingrad and Sevastopol, Murmansk and Odessa, Kerch and Tula, Novorossiysk and Smolensk.

The unbreakable bond between frontline fighters and those at the home front ensured that our troops were provided with everything they needed for the Victory, thanks to the efforts of plants in the Volga region and the Urals, Siberia and the Russian Far East, the cities of Kazakhstan and Central Asian republics. We remember those who offered shelter and support to the evacuees who were forced to leave their homes.

Today we gratefully generate the memory of an entire generation of great heroes and dedicated workers, and remember our frontline fighters, brave partisans and members of the underground resistance.

We can feel the never-ending pain of the people of Leningrad who suffered through the siege; the concentration camp prisoners, and the countless tragedies of the people who lived in the occupied territories.

We bow to the blessed memory of those whose lives were taken away by that war; the memory of sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, grandfathers, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, fellow soldiers, family members and friends. We mourn the veterans who have passed.

This year, we celebrate 80 years since the beginning of the Great Patriotic War.

June 22, 1941, is one of the most tragic dates in our history. An enemy attacked our country and invaded our land to kill and to spread death and pain, horror and immeasurable suffering.

This enemy not only wanted to overthrow the Soviet political system but also to destroy us as a state, as a nation and wipe our peoples off the face of the earth.

We responded to the invasion by the Nazi hordes with a united, formidable and unstoppable determination to repel that invasion, to do everything in our power for the enemy to be defeated and for the criminals and murderers to receive inevitable and just punishment. The Soviet people

**"It is our holiday by right, for we are blood relatives of those who defeated, crushed, destroyed Nazism. It is ours because we descend from the generation of victors, a generation we are proud of and hold in great honour.**

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fulfilled their sacred oath, defended their Motherland and liberated Europe from the 'brown plague'.

The Soviet people issued a historic verdict to Nazism with the power of their weapons on battlefields and with their moral strength and righteousness, the self-sacrificing bravery of soldiers' mothers and the faithfulness of those who waited, every day, for a message from the frontline from their loved ones. The Soviet people won thanks to the power of kindness and charity that has been inherent to our national character since the earliest times.

This power was manifested in the heroism of doctors and nurses who saved the wounded and fought for every life in the trenches, in the heat of battle, and in hospitals on the frontline and on the home front.

Back then, in 1941, there were still four years of the most violent war ahead. That war was a strike at our



future, our youth, our youngest generation and, therefore, those who were never to be born.

The war brought upon us so many unbearable ordeals, grief and tears that it is impossible to forget. Those who are plotting new aggressions cannot be forgiven or justified.

It has been almost 100 years since the time when the abominable Nazi beast was gaining insolence and predatory strength in Central Europe. The slogans of racial and ethnic supremacy, anti-Semitism and Russophobia were becoming more and more cynical. Agreements designed to stop the landslide towards a world war were easily broken off.

History demands that we learn from it. Unfortunately, attempts are made to deploy a large part of Nazi ideology and the ideas of those who were obsessed with the delusional theory of their own supremacy.

This ideology is not only supported by radicals and international terrorist groups of all kinds. Today we are witnessing the surviving members of those killing squads and their

followers trying to rewrite history and justify the traitors and criminals whose hands are smeared with the blood of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Our people know too well how this can end. Every single family in our country cherishes the sacred memory of those who fought for our Victory and we will always be proud of their feats.

Russia is consistently defending international law while continuing to protect our national interests and the security of our people.

Our guarantees are the glorious Russian Armed Forces, descendants of the victorious troops, and, of course, our joint efforts for the sake of our country's development and the wellbeing of Russian families.

Our veterans, their fates and loyalty to the Motherland is the example we follow. It is the summit that we must strive for while reaffirming the significance and the value of the Great Victory in our thoughts and deeds, in our present and future endeavours for the sake of our Fatherland."



# Focus on reviving vital tourism sector

With an effective vaccination process and the successful control of COVID-19 in Europe, Russia and China, Sri Lanka has a better opportunity to revive its tourism sector if the authorities take measures to implement a good strategy to attract travellers from these key markets.



ROHANA ARYARATNA

**S**ri Lanka, the small island that floats in the blue waters of the Indian Ocean, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Asia because it contains a mixture of unique wildlife, golden beaches, a rich cultural heritage and amazingly surreal landscapes. Sri Lanka is a beautiful, exotic destination full of culture, nature, wildlife and smiling faces. The island is actually home to some of the friendliest people on Earth.

Over the last few months Sri Lankans lived a quite a free life without having the COVID-19 pandemic in their minds. The schools were reopened and the travel destinations got full with locals as the restrictions were relaxed after months of lockdown and isolation. Also with the vaccination process having progressed people started becoming 'fearless' of the virus. However with the new variants of corona, the country has again faced a massive challenge.

When considering the freedom of movement that Sri Lankans was enjoying, we have to take a hard look at the treacherous COVID-19 pandemic threat that has put Sri Lanka into dire straits. According to health authorities, the COVID threat still exists and we have to continue playing a game of hide and seek with the deadly corona fiend. Amidst the alarming surge in Corona infections, health officials have placed several areas under isolation orders. According to health authorities, the next three weeks would be crucial and they have asked people to follow health safety guidelines strictly.

The eruption was the result of inter-provincial travel, shopping in crowded bazaars and get-togethers during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year despite the warnings by health authorities. Sub-clusters have emerged from many places.

When will we recover from this unusual crisis? When will we be able to live the normal life that we were leading till this treacherous attack came upon us? Sri Lanka is a small country but with all the necessary assets that are needed for the people to lead a contented and happy life. The country's economy has gone haywire and everyone seems to be affected by it. Private companies have stopped their production activities and have retrenched staff. The Sri Lankan economy that depends on foreign exchange earned by workers in the Middle East and from the tourist industry, has been hit hard.

Sri Lanka entered the international tourism market in the 1960s. Since then the industry has been growing steadily as a promising sector for economic development, subject to periodical setbacks – especially the civil war that prevailed in the island, world terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The contribution of the tourism economy to employment was 503,000 jobs. The contribution for real GDP growth from tourism was 5.9 percent and tourism investment was worth Rs. 131 billion.

The tourism industry, badly hurt by Easter day bombings, was hit by a harder blow by COVID-19. The tourism sector, one of the premier revenue earners suffered a massive blow following the April 21, 2019 extremist militant bombings of churches and luxury hotels that killed over 250 people including 42 foreign nationals. Due to this carnage tourists from Europe and Asia-Pacific who accounted for 90 percent of the total visitors to Sri Lanka nearly halved, according to data given by the Tourism Development Authority. Widespread travel restrictions and the closure of airports and national borders to curb the spread of the deadly Coronavirus had plunged world tourism into its worst crisis.

Tourism holds a greater significance in the services sector and has been a driver of growth for the country's economy. The tourism sector which makes a massive contribution to the national economy should be revitalised to suit the present crisis. According to official data, revenue from the tourism sector in the first half of 2019 has fallen to 13.4 percent to US\$ 1.89 billion.

Considering the importance of the tourism sector to the country's economy, the Government's decision to merge the four institutions handling tourism into one institution will be a force that will help the revival of tourism. Chairperson of Sri Lanka Tourism Kimarli Fernando says the current tourism structure is counterproductive with wastage of resources in terms of financial and human capital. She further says that having chaired all four institutions in the past 14 months, she had witnessed the wastage and the lack of coordination among tourism institutions and how inefficient this structure was.

The structure has failed to reach the consumer; instead it focused on roadshows spending nearly Rs. one billion in 2019 and that too had not been shared with all stakeholders. There is no acceptable return on investment, she added.



The new Act would be in line with Global Best Practices including Singapore which has one organisation with 19.1 million tourist arrivals in 2019. The new arrangement will give Sri Lanka Tourism the power to handle the tourism sector better.

Around 78.9 percent of tourists come to Sri Lanka to escape from the harsh winter. Most of them are middle income earners. Nearly 12.7 percent visited Sri Lanka for business requirements and 5.4 percent visited to meet their relations and friends. Most tourists are attracted by our Ayurvedic treatments and spa services because they have to pay large amounts in their countries for such services.

Large numbers of tourists have arrived in Sri Lanka from European nations. They have selected this country for their seasonal vacations. Most of them highly appreciate our hospitality, accommodations, our charges and new innovations in the industry. The country's growing reputation is drawing visitors from an increasingly diverse range of markets to its pristine beaches, historic landmarks and adventure-packed outdoors.

Building on this success, the Government is now aiming to position Sri Lanka as Asia's leading island destination, focusing on high-value segments such as cultural tourism and tour packages for visitors aged 60 and up. The Government's Tourism Vision 2025, under discussion, aims to improve management, investment in assets and infrastructure, and draw Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the industry.

Following the Easter Sunday terror attacks in April 2019, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has given priority to the recovery of the country's tourism industry, reflecting the industry's ability to contribute to the development of the overall economy.

During a meeting with the members of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication, the President said the tourism sector which makes a huge contribution to the national economy should be revitalised to suit the changing situations.

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga was quoted by local media as saying that a new long-term marketing plan to boost tourism would be drawn up for consideration within the next few weeks. Minister Ranatunga said the Government would allocate nearly US\$ one million over the next four months to revive tourism and the short term action plan was being finalised.

Under the plan, 12 new tourist attraction sites identified in several districts would be developed while community tourist villages would also be developed.

Despite COVID-19, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga who is determined to develop the tourism industry has said that airports would function and tourist arrivals would continue. He said that no decision had been taken yet to limit the repatriation process of Sri Lankans despite the increase of COVID-19 patients. Tourists arriving here are subject to PCR tests and a 14-day quarantine period.

The tourists who come here visit many wildlife parks such as Yala, Wilpattu and Kumana. Then they visit Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya and Yapahuwa. Tourists stop over to see wonderful creations, paintings and ruins of great buildings and monuments.



Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Germany, Russian Federation and China were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in February this year. Appointing a special officer to our embassies in those countries to promote Sri Lanka as a suitable tourist destination can be suggested as a sound proposal.



**Large numbers of tourists have arrived in Sri Lanka from European nations. They have selected this country for their seasonal vacations. Most of them highly appreciate our hospitality, accommodations, our charges and new innovations in the industry. The country's growing reputation is drawing visitors from an increasingly diverse range of markets to its pristine beaches, historic landmarks and adventure-packed outdoors.**

The attractive waterfalls in Sri Lanka are another draw. Dunhinda, Diyuluma and Bambarakanda are attractions that thousands of tourists visit annually.

While the Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya and Haggala attract many tourists, the hot water wells in Kanniya, the World's End in Nuwara Eliya and the natural harbour in Trincomalee are some of the other attractive places tourists like to visit. These sites are places that make us to be proud of the beauty of our country. Mist covered mountains draped with carpets of tea, rare and priceless gemstones, rainforests, cave temples, a fortress in the sky, wildlife and marine parks, religious pageants and ancient wellness treatments are among the fabulous attractions offered to the tourists.

Sri Lanka is famous worldwide for its unique cuisine. There is an extremely wide selection to choose from. Sri Lankan cuisine offers the palate mild and delicately flavoured dishes to hot and fiery ones. The dishes are flavoured with an assortment of herbs and

spices, garlic, ginger, lemongrass and curry leaves. Kiribath (unsweetened milk-rice) and string hoppers are exotic dishes which are very popular among tourists.

Sri Lanka is extremely rich in terms of culture. With festivals taking place throughout the year, there is a never-ending stream of joyful occasions filled with song, dance and laughter. The Esala Festival is usually held in July/August in the ancient hill capital of Kandy. Great processions parade the roads of this beautiful city which was the last standing kingdom of the country, with magnificently garbed elephants, fire walkers, Kandyan dancers, spinning plates, all to honour the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha.

Greeting the tourists with 'Ayubowan' when they arrive will help out in all their needs to be taken care of. Years of hardship during the war and after the devastating tsunami which occurred in 2004 failed to wipe the smile out of Sri Lankan faces. With peace returning, the beautiful country is becoming the tourist paradise it used to be.

The island is tiny yet its features are impressively diverse. Tourists can enjoy so many activities in so little time. The Cultural Triangle in its entire historical splendour is just a few hours away from the lush, tropical rainforests which in turn lie a few kilometres away from the glorious sun, sea and sand. Because of this unique advantage, the wonders of the island can be experienced in just a few days.

But the dream of a grand revival of the tourism industry was shattered with the recent and sudden rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 victims in Colombo, Kurunegala and many areas that have been turned into lockdown areas. This painful development was the result of the sudden freedom people got during the New Year period. People without any self-control indulged in shopping sprees and went visiting relatives without any concern about the COVID threat.

We have to be cautious about tackling the deadly virus. If we are able to counter the recent upheaval like how we controlled it earlier, we can again dream of a revival of the tourism industry.

First we must treat this as a pilot project and implement the proposals for countries which have allowed their citizens to visit Sri Lanka. Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Germany, Russian Federation and China were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in February this year. Appointing a special officer to our embassies in those countries to promote Sri Lanka as a suitable tourist destination can be suggested as a sound proposal. This special officer should have a marketing background and should not be somebody's somebody. The selected persons should be qualified, motivated and willing to work hard in promoting Sri Lanka as a unique destination.

In addition, colourful brochures should be published to be given to the interested parties wanting to visit Sri Lanka. For example, photographs of our lovely beaches can be published in a brochure with short write ups and also the names with telephone numbers of the hotels situated close to each beach included.

Brochures (print and online) also can be published on culture, gems and jewellery, wildlife parks and other such places in Sri Lanka for the benefit of visitors who are interested in visiting these places. In this way we will be able to lure more and more tourists to Sri Lanka and get out of this crisis.



# COVID-19: SL cases relatively low as global cases hit 158.4 mn

Authorities in 219 countries and territories have reported about 158.4 million COVID-19 cases and 3.3 million deaths since China reported its first cases to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in December, 2019, according to a CNN report.

Since then, cases have been reported on every continent. The vast majority of cases and deaths are now outside mainland China, where the outbreak began.

The disease has hit the United States especially hard. About 32.7 million cases have been reported in the country and 581,755 patients have died. However, in comparison to most countries, the number of cases per 100,000 population, Sri Lanka still shows promise and has been handling the situation quite satisfactorily.

Experts say it is unclear how deadly the virus really is, in part because a large number of cases—including mild or asymptomatic infections—may never be diagnosed. In the United States, New York City has even told doctors not to test most sick people unless they are hospitalised.

## REPORTED CASES AND DEATHS

The figures below are based on data from the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering. These numbers are updated every 15 minutes but may differ from other sources due to differences in reporting times.

| Location       | CASES      | ...per 100K people | DEATHS  | ...per 100K people |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| United States  | 32,708,348 | 9,965              | 581,756 | 177                |
| India          | 22,662,575 | 1,659              | 246,116 | 18                 |
| Brazil         | 15,184,790 | 7,195              | 422,340 | 200                |
| France         | 5,727,293  | 8,541              | 105,645 | 158                |
| Turkey         | 5,031,332  | 6,031              | 43,029  | 52                 |
| Russia         | 4,832,959  | 3,348              | 111,740 | 77                 |
| United Kingdom | 4,434,864  | 6,636              | 127,605 | 191                |
| Italy          | 4,111,210  | 6,818              | 122,833 | 204                |
| Sri Lanka      | 125,906    | 577                | 801     | 4                  |

source: CNN health

# ‘Recent Amendments to Constitution have both pros and cons’

A.B. ABDUL GAFOOR  
Ampara District Group Corr.

The previous government led by the United National Party (UNP) and Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) brought the 19th Amendment to the Constitution against the Rajapaksa family, All Ceylon Makkal Congress (ACMC) MP Muzharraf Muthunabeen said.

Speaking at a press briefing held at the Arugam Bay Waters' Edge Hotel in Potuvil, on Sunday, the MP said that the recent amendments brought to Parliament have both pros and cons. The Samagi Jana Bal-

awegaya (SJB) also abstained from voting for 19 of 57 sub-divisions of the 20th Amendment.

"I supported only the Dual Citizenship Clause for enabling intellectuals who have dual citizenship to contest in the upcoming elections representing all communities. Today, many intellectuals live abroad with dual citizenship," he added.

This amendment permits them to contest in the elections in Sri Lanka in order to usher in prosperity. Some politicians in the Government openly expressed that they wanted

to vote against the Dual Citizenship Clause, the MP said.

"I urge the Government to produce MP Rishad Bathiudeen before a court of law.

We believe that if he is produced before a court, he will be released without being found guilty. We oppose what should be opposed and support what should be supported," Muthunabeen said.

"I'm still a Member of Parliament representing the ACMC. We want to live in unity and harmony with all the communities in this country," he added.

## Pandemic has affected daily sales of Peliyagoda Central Fish Market

ANANDA KANNANGARA

The COVID-19 pandemic, which previously caused the lockdown of many major cities countrywide, has once again affected the daily sales of the Peliyagoda Central Fish Market, Central Fish Market Employees Federation (CFMEF) Chairman Jayasiri Wickramarachchi said when interviewed by the *Daily News*.

Accordingly, the daily turnover of 75% that was recorded in the recent past has now dropped into 25% due to poor customer attendance, he added.

While thanking the Government, the relevant ministry, and the health authorities for extending their sup-

port to develop institution after the second wave of pandemic emerged two months ago, the CFMEF Chairman said that the public should take the responsibility for violating health guidelines that led to the restrictions imposed on customers.

When inquired about the large stocks of fish that arrive at the fish market from distant areas in the country, Wickramarachchi said that those stocks are still uninterruptedly brought to the market by traders, while following the necessary security guidelines.

He said that although large stocks of fish are

received by the Peliyagoda Fish Market every day, large and small-scale fish traders, as well as the arrival of daily customers, has shown a negative impact.

He said, "After improving the country's health situation, we firmly believe that the fisheries sector will gradually show fruitful results. This is a sigh of relief to all, including the fishing community and their dependents who are directly involved in the trade."

Wickramarachchi further highlighted that due to the ongoing situation, small fish are currently dispatched to certain areas for the manufacturing of dry fish.

## Batticaloa farmers lament rising pesticide prices

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN,  
Batticaloa Special Corr.

Farmers from Batticaloa and Ampara have complained that the higher prices of pesticides are affecting their livelihoods.

They said that the government's ban on chemical fertilisers and requests to use organic fertilisers was the cause for the price hike.

Farmers said that urea, weedicides, and pesticides are being sold at double the previous prices. Weedicides that were priced at Rs.2,500 a week ago were currently being sold at Rs.4,500; while the urea that cost Rs.1,000 before was now being sold at Rs.2,500, they added.

As such, farmers are getting into debt and may have to abandon their fields in the future, they said, urging the government to control the prices of such commodities.



A delegation of the Maha Sangha left for Pakistan on the invitation of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan recently, on a mission to propagate Buddhism in the country. They visited several areas of Buddhist significance and also inspected ruins. Here, former Senior Political Advisor Prof. Asela Wickramasinghe presenting an album covering the visit to Gampagama Viharaya Chief Incumbent Ven. Kirindi Assaji Thera. Pakistani Deputy High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Tanvir Ahmed was also present. Picture by Sudath Malawera.

## Pinto Jayawardena Cynthia

At Rest with Jesus

Beloved wife of Vimal, everloving mother & mother-in-law of Rajith & Andrea (Australia), Viraj & Emesha and Melshika & Sanjaya, beloved grandmother of Rebecca and late Jason (Australia) and Menula, loving sister of late Peter, Angela & Chrissy.

Cortege leaves residence on **11th May 2021 at 3.30 p.m.** from **123/1, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha (Allen Avenue), Dehiwala**, for Burial at General Cemetery Borella (RC Section) at 4.00 p.m.

## OBITUARY



**Mrs. KEJAGNANAWATHI RAJASINGHAM (Baby)**  
(Retired Chief Pharmacist)  
Castle Street Maternity Hospital

Telipalai, varthalavilan as birth place, and lived in Toronto Canada. Mrs.Kejagnanawathi Rajasingham, (Baby)(Retired Chief Pharmacist - Castle street, Maternity Hospital Borella) Passed away in Canada on 6th of May 2021. Beloved wife of Late Mr.Kandiah Rajasingham (Retired Deputy Director Excise Department), Beloved Daughter of Late Mr. Subramaniam (Retired Station Master) and Mrs.Sivagnanawathi Beloved Daughter in law of Late Mr.ThilayarKandiah of Kaddovan (Malyan Pensioner) and Mrs.Selammah loving mother of Raveen (Engineer - Canada) Kagan (MRI/CT Technologist USA) Rajeev (Restaurant chain owner Toronto-Canada) and Rajeevan. Mother in-law of Shamini, grandmother of Aarsh. Beloved Sister of Late Mrs.Kugagnawathi Thruschelam, Mrs.Gunagnawathi Kulasingham (Jaffna), Mrs.Kulgnawathi Mahalingam (Canada), Mrs.Senthignawathi Sivalingam (Canada) Late McKugagnalingam and Mrs.Mahagnanawathi Sanbagasunderam (Vavuniya) Remains will be at Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, Markham. For viewing on 11.05.2021 Tuesday from 7pm to 10pm and final rites will take place on Wednesday 12.05.2021 from 3pm to 5pm and cremation at 5.30pm at Highland Hills cemetery, Gormley, Friend and relations please accept this notice Informant

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Rajith +16479889263  
Kagan +19739010054

## Navy launches multiple COVID-19 treatment projects

The Navy launched a number of projects to expand facilities for the treatment of COVID-19 patients in the Western and Southern provinces recently, in support of the government's efforts to improve the infrastructure of the health sector in the face of ongoing pandemic situation, the Navy stated in a communiqué.

Accordingly, a closed factory in Werellawatta, Gampaha, is being converted as an Intermediate Care Centre for COVID-19 patients, utilising manpower and technological expertise enabled by the Navy. The project began on May 2. The infrastructure of the location would be developed to accommodate 2,000 beds, the statement said.

In addition, the Navy is already facilities of three ward complexes at the Gampaha General Hospital to treat to COVID-19 patients. After these developments, the ward complex could be used as a COVID-19 treatment unit with 50 beds, the Navy added.

Furthermore, the facilities of two ward complexes at the Minuwangoda Base Hospital are being



Naval personnel at work at the Gampaha General Hospital and Minuwangoda Base Hospital. Pictures courtesy: Navy Media Unit.

expanded to treat COVID-19 patients in a safe environment, and the ward complex is expected to turn into a COVID-19 treatment unit with 35 beds, the press release said.

Similarly, the Navy pressed into action to construct three semi-permanent buildings at the Wathupitiwala Base Hospital to establish a ward with 20 beds for COVID-19 treatment, to carry out

PCR tests and provide the necessary facilities for healthcare workers, the Navy stated.

Apart from that, the Navy established an Intermediate Care Centre for COVID-19 with 200 beds at

the Boossa Naval Base in Galle on May 4. Moreover, the facilities of a ward complex at the Balapitiya Base Hospital would also be improved to treat individuals with COVID-19, the statement added.

## Seven-year-old dies in road accident



The three-wheeler involved in the accident, and the deceased seven-year-old. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Corr.

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN,  
Batticaloa Special Corr.

A 7-year-old boy from Polonnaruwa died in a truck-trishaw collision that occurred on the Polonnaruwa - Batticaloa road at Mannampitiya, on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Kihan Mathusangha. The boy's father and another female, who were both severely injured in the accident, have been admitted

to the Polonnaruwa Base Hospital.

The driver of the truck had initially fled the scene, but had later surrendered to the authorities. Police believe that the three-wheeler driver had been speeding at the time of the accident. The truck driver is to be produced at the Polonnaruwa Magistrate's Court.

Investigations are continuing.

## Four Hambantota Divisional Secretaries quarantined

M. IRFAN ZAKARIYA,  
Hambantota Group Corr.

Hambantota Acting District Secretary C.H. Suneth Lochana said that the Divisional Secretaries of four Divisional Secretariats in the Hambantota District have been quarantined.

Accordingly, the Divisional Secretaries of Sooriyawewa, Tissama-

harama, Lunugamwehera, and Hambantota have been quarantined. All these offices will continue to carry out their regular work with only 50% of the staff being called for duty. The Acting District Secretary urged the public in the relevant areas to come to the offices alone for essential duties, and to follow the necessary health guidelines.

## COVID-19 disrupts Hambantota transport, farming sectors

M. IRFAN ZAKARIYA, Hambantota Group Corr.

With rising COVID-19 cases, traffic in the Hambantota District has decreased considerably, affecting both transportation services and the farming community.

Residents said only Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) buses ply on the roads of the district, and that the number of active private buses has dropped below 50%. Buses have stopped running on byroads as well, and the influx of rural people into cities has also been significantly reduced, they added. Shops and hotels are closed and weekly fairs are no longer held. Only public markets remain open, they said, adding that due to the absence of weekly markets, the people of the villages are unable to sell their vegetables. Large stocks of vegetables are going waste, they said.

## Residents of Matala's isolated areas lament lack of essential items

A.A.L. DIAS, Matala District Group Corr.

It was difficult for people in isolated areas of the Matala District to obtain essential items and other necessary commodities at present, residents said.

They added that the situation has seen no change since the time they were placed under isolation over a week ago.

The authorities have so far not implemented a relief programme to provide those affected with essential items, residents said.

Meanwhile, several people have closed the front entrances of their shops, while leaving the backdoors open to continue their business. Residents have requested the government to provide them with essential items and other necessary facilities as soon as possible.

The areas isolated in the district include the Dambulla, Galewela, Naula, and Matala areas.



Eng. S. Senthinathan

# A dedicated engineer

Eng. Seenivasagam Senthinathan, fondly known as 'Senthil', passed away recently at the age of 77 in a fatal accident at his residence in Toronto, Canada. Senthinathan received his primary education at St. John's College, Jaffna, and entered the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Peradeniya in 1963. He passed out of the institution in 1967.

Senthinathan joined the Irrigation Department in 1968, and served there until 1999 before migrating to Canada in 2000. He was a down-to-earth person who was approachable to anyone, especially farmers, and did not allow anybody to leave without a solution for any and all irrigation problems or other issues. He was a very smart man with a good knowledge of Engineering. Senthinathan took quick and appropriate decisions without any hesitation. He loved his job and worked with his colleagues for the betterment of the farming community in Sri Lanka.

I first encountered Senthinathan in 1980 when he came to the Anuradhapura Regional Irrigation Office as the Chief Project Engineer of the Tank Irrigation Modernisation Project (TIMP), back when I was the Irrigation Engineer of Mahakanadarawa. Later, he was appointed Acting Chief Irrigation Engineer of Anuradhapura. Senthil was a comparatively tall and lean person, wearing beige trousers mostly and folded long-sleeved shirts. He married Ranjini, a beautiful woman from Batticaloa whom he had met in the Director of Work Office of the Territorial Civil Engineering Organisation (TCEO) in Batticaloa. He was serving as the Executive Engineer at the same office at the time. I met him by the time they had their daughter Chitra, who looked just like Senthil.

Senthil was appointed to TIMP, which was funded by the World Bank, when the project was lagging behind and showing low progress due to various implementation issues. At the time, the World Bank requested Director of Irrigation to appoint a devoted and experienced senior engineer to guide the Irrigation Engineers handling project in Mahakanadarawa, Mahavilachchiya, Padaviya in the Anuradhapura region, as well as in the Vavuni-kulam and Pavathkulam schemes of the Killino-

chichi and Vavuniya regions, respectively.

He was a special envoy to our project to give momentum to achieve the targets set by the World Bank. Before his arrival, work was carried out entirely on forced account, with hired labour and machinery provided by the World Bank. The visiting World Bank missions instructed the Director of the Irrigation Department to expedite the construction work without hindering the ongoing cultivation. TIMP was the first irrigation modernisation/rehabilitation project implemented by the Irrigation Department in the country's Major Irrigation Systems. It was a new experience for all of us in comparison to other construction projects.

The major issue in these systems was carrying out construction work without hindering the ongoing Maha and Yala Cultivation Seasons. Construction was, therefore, limited to off-season periods; and hence, careful planning was required. The challenge to Senthinathan was proper planning of the modernisation work in these five systems with innovative approach. After many deliberations, Senthil came up with a new approach to expedite work by rearranging the implementation plan through small-scale contract packages in carefully-selected sites; hired labour and departmental machinery was used at the rest of the sites.

Heavy work, such as the construction of Main and Branch Channels, was implemented by hired labour and department machinery, and the construction of Distributory and Field Channels was carried out with the help of small-scale local contractors and farmers' organisations. After Senthil's arrival, the progress of TIMP spiked, and the visiting World Bank missions and other colleagues appreciated his work. During this period, I lived in the Mahakanadarawa Irrigation Engineer's Bungalow, which faced the Mahakanadarawa Reservoir. My wife, too, was an irrigation engineer working at the Anuradhapura Regional Office that Senthinathan worked at. One rainy night,



he came to our bungalow with his daughter. He told me to get ready to go to Japan for a three-month scholarship. "The ministry asked me to send you to Colombo tomorrow morning as the closing date is the day after tomorrow. That is why I came to meet you," he said.

Senthil told me not to miss the opportunity. He told me to get a jeep and go to Colombo visit you personally just to deliver a message, instead of conveying the message through someone else (there were no telephone facilities at the time). It was my first experience abroad after four years of service at the Irrigation Department, all thanks to Senthil.

The next day, it is rare to see a Chief Engineer visit you personally just to deliver a message, instead of conveying the message through someone else (there were no telephone facilities at the time). It was my first experience abroad after four years of service at the Irrigation Department, all thanks to Senthil.

My next workstation was Ampara, as the Engineer-in-Charge of Operations at the Gal Oya Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (funded by USAID) in 1984, after attending a special postgraduate programme in water management in the USA. At the time, Senthil was Regional Deputy Director of Irrigation (DDI) in Ampara, and Project Director of the Gal Oya Rehabilitation Project (GORP). Senthinathan was familiar with the Gal Oya Irrigation Scheme, compared to many other engineers at the Irrigation Department. Furthermore, his fluency in both Tamil and Sinhala was an added advantage when dealing with the farming communities in the area. Senthil was very popular among all farmers near the Gal Oya Scheme.

The Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM), commenced at the Gal Oya Left Bank under the project, was successful under his guidance. The Agrarian Research and Training Institute (ARTI), in collaboration with Cornell University, USA, also launched an Institutional Development Programme under PIM at the Gal Oya system. According to Professor Norman T. Uphoff from Cornell University, who was leading the Participatory Irrigation Management programme in Gal Oya, said, "Senthinathan made a great contribution to his country while serving as the Irrigation Department

Director of the Ampara District in the 1980s, when I had the pleasure of working with him on the Gal Oya Irrigation Rehabilitation Project. One of its objectives was the introduction of participatory irrigation management. Unlike his predecessor, Senthil gave exemplary assistance that transformed Gal Oya from a poorly-functioning irrigation system to one of the best-managed ones."

A post-project evaluation of the project conducted by IWMI concluded that rice production in Gal Oya per cubic metre of irrigation water issued rose from 5kg to 20kg. However, without the leadership, goodwill, and active assistance of Senthinathan, this transformation of Gal Oya, which benefits the entire country, would not have been possible. In 1988, the then Government, through its Cabinet, made farmer participation in the management of major irrigation schemes the national policy for Sri Lanka, citing Gal Oya as the model for the rest of the country. Senthil took his stewardship of the Gal Oya Irrigation System seriously, both professionally and personally, aiming to achieve best possible use of its land and water resources to ensure the greatest benefit for its residents. It is hard to imagine a better model for engineers and professionals in any country.

As the Operation Engineer, my duty was to improve water management at the Gal Oya system, with the computer-aided water management model developed for the first time in Sri Lanka for System Operation and Water Management with the support of ongoing participatory irrigation management programme of GORP. The model worked well at Gal Oya due to Senthinathan's wide experience and knowledge of the area, as well as my hard work on the computer model as a decision support tool for irrigation water management and system operation. Before launching the water management programme in Gal Oya under the project, intermittent/rotation water flow was operated in the main and branch canals, which caused immense problems to farmers in the far end of the system. My responsibility was to operate the main system on continuous flow using the model developed as all main and branch canals had been designed for continuous flow under the project. The critical chal-

lenge was to pass water in the Left Bank Main Canal at the Uhana Saddle, in which water flow had been restricted for many decades. However, this problem was solved under the project with deep excavations. I requested Senthil's permission to practice my model and his immediate reply was "Do it and take responsibility, and I will support you."

I implemented it and, after several days, the irrigation difficulties that existed for decades at the Gal Oya system, was resolved. Senthil was dedicated to his work; wherever he served, he got the highest recognition, especially from farmers. It was a pleasure to work with him. My wife Chandra, who has high regard for this gentleman, served as the Design Irrigation Engineer in his office during that period and resolved irrigation difficulties at the Kaloi Odai Channel in Right Bank area outside GORP. He commended her work and always he spoke of it whenever we met.

My last personal encounter with Senthinathan was on March 25, this year, two weeks before his death. We had a short conversation after several years on a phone call; he was in a hurry, on his way to work. He told me we could chat at length on a free day, but I missed that chance. I hope this appreciation article shows some real qualities of this professional engineer who devoted his life to the farming community of our country. Senthil left the country twenty-one years ago due to the previous unrest and lived in Canada until his death.

Dr. (Eng) G.G.A. GODALIYADDA,  
Former Irrigation Director-General

Air Vice-Marshal P.B. Premachandra

# He was daring and brave

"Taking shelter in the dead is death itself, and only taking all the risk of life to the fullest extent is living."

- Rabindranath Tagore

In war, in peace, and in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in humble and enduring scenes of private life. Just, humane, temperate, and sincere; uniform, dignified, and commanding; his example was as edifying to all around him.

The late Air Vice-Marshal P.B. Premachandra was born on May 1, 1957, to parents the late Pon. Balasuntharam, a village headman and a Justice of Peace, and the late Rasanayaki Balasuntharam; as the last of thirteen children in Thondamanaru, Vadamarachchi, Jaffna. He had his early education at Hartley College, Point Pedro, and later at S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia, where he made a mark as an exemplary student.

Completing his secondary education at the latter, he left school to train as a pilot, which was his childhood dream. Despite an early setback resulting from an accident as a trainee pilot, he did not give up. Driven by a passion to serve Mother Lanka, he chose to join the air force, rejecting the lucrative alternative to be a commercial pilot. The Sri Lankan Air Force was made richer with his choice to be an Officer Cadet in 1979, and the rest was history. Thus began an illustrious career until his retirement in 2011, after 32 years of loyal service, with tenacity of purpose to his motherland.

Within the SLAF, his rise was meteoric, with numerous achievements. Premachandra was a skillful and versatile Airman, learning the craft quickly while receiving training locally, as well as in the United States, India, and Pakistan. Following his commissioning as a Pilot Officer in 1981, he was tasked with numerous responsibilities, rising to become Air Vice-Marshal and taking up command positions at Anuradhapura, Ratmalana, and Katunayake, culminating as the Chief of Staff at the Headquarters.

In the early '70s, the nation had to contend with the turbulent insurrection in the South, and in the '80s began the unprecedented protracted war against terrorism with a very heavy toll of lives to both civilians and security personnel. Challenging times, they were; the forces were stretched to the limit with severe losses. Being a man of valour and courage, Premachandra's mission was uninterrupted: he was focused and persistent in fighting the enemy, an arduous task in comparison to conventional warfare where one knows the enemy. In the war he fought, there was no way of knowing where a bomb would hit, nor in which direction a missile would come from.

In those circumstances, the Forces had to adopt novel tactics with speed, instinct, and sharp situational analysis. Premachandra had the intui-



tive skills not only to fly, but also to plan and manage the battlefields, whether it was to do with raid, rescue, or reconnaissance. One of the speakers delivering the eulogy at the funeral recapitulated a situation when, instead of retreating amidst enemy fire, Premachandra went on to rescue two of his injured Airmen. Another related an incident when he continued to fly his helicopter, despite being hit by a bullet to an airfield further away. Such was his selfless service that saw him decorated with several awards for valour.

Premachandra was a man who stood up to many challenges, always following the most important lesson one learns as a soldier: to serve the motherland in the true spirit with virtue, honour, patriotism, and subordination, irrespective of personal interests or political ideologies. An officer and a gentleman, he was a man of principle.

The accolades, medals, and bars he received were legion. To name a few, he was the recipient of 'Rana Wikrema', 'Rana Sura', and 'Desha Putra' medals for acts of gallantry, as well as the service medals 'Vihista Seva Vibhushanaya', 'Uttama Seva', and the cherished Sri Lanka Armed Services Medal for Long Service. Entering matrimony with Vasuki Ananthasingham and settling down in Colom-

bo saw young Premachandra being required to fulfill an additional role as a family man to his wife, as well as his three children: Barathy, Arjuna, and Pathanjali. Notwithstanding the call of duty to serve in different parts of Sri Lanka, he made sure that his role as a loving husband and dedicated father were fulfilled in difficult and dangerous circumstances that prevailed due to the war, as he was also a target. Knowing that he put the country first, Vasuki, his beloved wife, stood by him at all times, taking the responsibility of reciprocating his contribution through thick and thin to look after the children, in adversity and uncertain times.

Premachandra, the reticent and quite man, was not only an officer safeguarding the security of the country, but also for his strict sense of discipline and vigour. He also displayed ample qualities of humanity and compassion, especially in his capacity where he was required to oversee the training of young recruits. He was kind, caring, considerate, and affable, earning much popularity and respect among his peers. A talented connoisseur known for his hospitality, he enjoyed cooking to the extent that many of his colleagues and relatives recall the numerous occasions he presented them with sumptuous menus combined with culinary delights.

His demise followed a short illness in the UK, while on transit to his homeland from the US. His premature death was a shock and the irreparable loss to his family, relatives, and friends. In retirement, he had a lot to offer the country, particularly in the field of internal security, but, unfortunately, his early departure means that Mother Lanka will not be able to receive his wisdom anymore. Among the dignitaries paying their last respects was Samantha Pathirana representing the High Commissioner for UK, Saroja Sirisena, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Ex-Service Persons Association in the UK was also represented at the funeral.

The cremation took place on February 16, in the Hindu tradition, with a limited number of mourners due to the restrictions on large gatherings. One may think that it was rather unfortunate for an officer of his calibre to have the final send-off without military honours, but the floral wreath from his colleagues bearing the words 'Sri Lankan Air Force' lining the pathway at the crematorium said it all. Moreover, it must be remembered that in death, the best blessing a Hindu could have when his remains are presented to nature would be to have the entire family present, which was the case at his send-off. It was a fitting farewell, indeed, in the serene surroundings of Forest Park Crematorium in London.

He meant so much to the country that his epitaph read: Say not in grief he is no more, but in thankfulness that he was. May his soul attain Moksha!

Capt. Dr. SATI ARIYANAYAGAM,  
Emeritus Consultant Physician, UK



**English Letter & Winning Numbers**

Draw No. 723 Colour: Yellow

**K 45 52 53 80**

Date: 09 May 2021 Sunday

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**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 1,685,020/-

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 81,446,155/-

Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

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**Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 2,000,000/-

Winning Numbers: 21 23 26 56

Virgo

**TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES**  
Rs. 7,487,600/-

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**SUNDAY** Draw No.: 3602  
Date: 09.05.2021 Colour: Pink

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 3,705,800/-

Winning Numbers: 25 50 68 70

English Letter: T

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

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**SUPER BALL** Draw Number: 1446 Colour: Red  
Draw Date: 09.05.2021 Date: Sunday

Winning English Letter and Numbers: A 05 59 60 67

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 3,205,820/-

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**ADA KOTIPATHI** Sunday  
Date: 09.05.2021 Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 3,740,720/-  
Draw No.: 1272 Colour: Green

Winning Numbers: 10 26 63 73

English Letter: C

Winning tickets are valid only for six months



# Daily News



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## Time for hard decisions

With the daily figure of COVID-19 positive cases topping the 2,500 mark for the first time and the daily death toll now in their double digits since the second wave of the outbreak, the writing, indeed, appears to be on the wall that will compel the authorities to consider drastic measures if the pandemic is not to have a free run replicating the situation in India. The figures could be much higher, with only those who undergo PCR tests accounted for with the rest who went under the radar in all probability having carriers among them in large numbers.

The situation is extremely grim which is attested by the fact that all medical professionals' associations and Trade Unions shedding their rivalries to bring to the attention of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on the necessary steps to take to avert a calamity of unimaginable proportions. In a joint letter addressed to the President, the doctors have urged him to enforce the stringent measures contained in the Gazette notification on controlling the COVID-19 pandemic published in October 2020. They have called for movement restrictions of people in the strictest terms and other curbs that would minimize exposure of the public to the virus.

The medicos have highlighted instances of extremely serious emergencies which they claim if not addressed promptly could plunge the country into grave peril. What is most worrisome is the question mark over the already overwhelmed medical staff to cope with the ever worsening situation, given the runaway numbers of Coronavirus cases which keep on multiplying. Even the additional bed capacity put in place would not provide the answer. According to Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, 19,000 beds have been reserved in the 105 COVID Treatment Centres that have been established island-wide, in addition to the existing hospitals. But have we got the required number of doctors and nurses to attend to the cases that keep on coming?

As it is, there is only one nurse for every 12 hospital beds according to reports. How are they going to cope with the ever multiplying numbers? Besides, it is doubtful if most nurses have the expertise to rise to the new challenge as this is the first time they will be grappling with a health emergency of this magnitude. Even in India, many medical professionals are throwing up their arms in despair and in some instances have given up the fight, as shown on television. Some doctors and medical staffers too have perished from the virus, according to NDTV.

Hence, it is vital that authorities here do their utmost to control the numbers by containing the virus spread lest the medical staff gets stampeded and they too throw up their arms in despair like their counterparts across the Palk Strait. The doctors quite rightly claim that healthcare workers are likely to be physically and mentally drained and the fatigue induced by the impending disaster is going to be considerable and unavoidable. COVID deaths may reach unprecedented levels and a grave national catastrophe is a real potential threat, they assert. There is also the question of medical resources which will fast run out if the numbers keep climbing. The doctors in their letter to the President have chiefly focused on this aspect.

Stating that all healthcare resources are currently being overwhelmingly used, they also say that the number of patients requiring Oxygen, while waiting in beds in hospitals and ICUs is increasing exponentially. With laboratories unable to cope with the flood of tests the doctors warn that very soon a situation would arise where testing would have to be confined to selected COVID patients receiving hospital care.

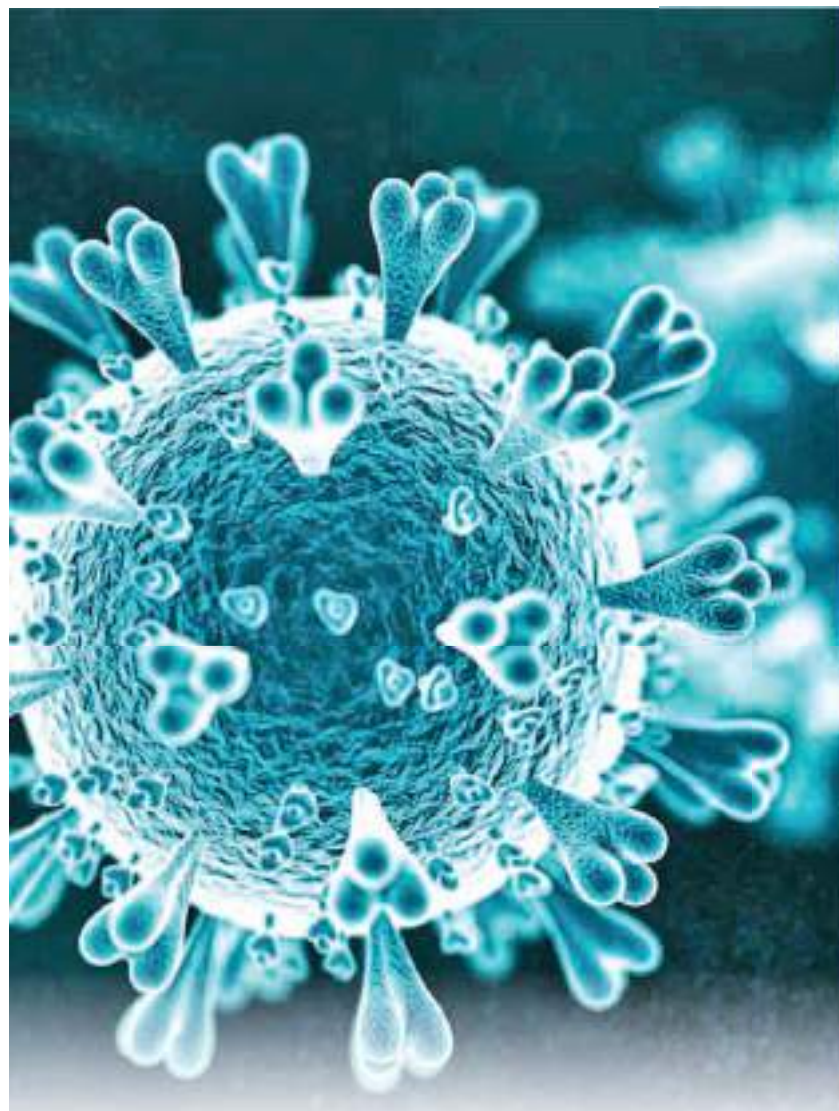
The doctors have also highlighted another serious issue, where significant delays in providing beds and in-patient care at Intermediate COVID care centres to patients remaining at home would cause an increase in the number of deaths during the next three weeks.

Of course, the doctors know what they are talking about. Their coming together to sound the alarm is a sign that the situation has reached a critical stage. There are now six variants of the virus said to be doing the rounds, with the potency of the latest far greater than preceding ones. The increase in the areas going under lockdown each day tells a tale. Opinion is divided on whether the country should be placed under lockdown at this stage. But a decision will have to be made - and fast.

The PHIs who work at ground level favour a lockdown for at least for two weeks so that the spread of the virus could be contained and sufficient PCR tests carried out. Even then it takes three or four days to confirm whether one has contracted the virus or not. In the meantime, the one who subsequently tests positive would have passed on the bug to another. The problem indeed is a debilitating one. How the country comes out of this quagmire will largely depend on the conduct of the public - at least until sufficient doses of the vaccines arrive to give us herd immunity against the pestilence.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Illness is not something you can 100% avoid; you can only try to limit the risk. - Nino Schurter



# COVID-19: HELA VEDEKAMA Vs WESTERN MEDICINE

Dr. TILAK S. FERNANDO

At long last Ayurveda Hospitals are permitted to treat the COVID-19 affected patients. This declaration came from State by Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control, Dr Sudarshini Fernandopulle. The State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion and Rural and Ayurveda Hospitals Development stated that all coronavirus patients would be treated with normal 'Deseeya' (local) treatments such as 'Kanda' (porridge), boiled coriander water and inhaling steam-vapour of various kind etc. Yet again, some of the newspapers give a contradictory version regarding this matter.

Various arguments for and against Western medicine vs Hela Veda Kama (Hereditary treatment coming down from generation to generation), particularly with the eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, surfaced, from March 2020, due to the lack of medicine or a vaccine to cure the Coronavirus. Not a single person expected such a calamity to befall on every nation that crippled the world economy.

The pandemic was prophesied well in advance by 'Ganga Sudarshan Manio' participating in the 'YouTube' (Ravana Creations) Channel. In 2012, 2013 and 2016, she predicted the Universe becoming irascible, and an epidemic will kill thousands of people across the world. But no one believed her. She is known as the shining star in Asia who can communicate with the Universe through meditative powers. She also predicted that the Universe had chosen Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the next President of Sri Lanka when everyone backed Sajith Premadasa. In December 2020, she organised (mainly out of her funds) to conduct a Pirith chanting (Dolos Maha Piritha), a yearlong continuous Pirith chanting from Ruwanweli Seya in Anuradhapura. She believes the only way to get rid of this pandemic is by sending Lord Buddha's vibrations to the Universe, as Sri Lanka is a blessed Buddhist country.

#### Medicine for COVID-19

Coronavirus affected patients were initially treated with boiled Coriander (Kottamalli) water and inhaling steam vapour (in various forms). Sri Lankan hospitals had to depend on Panadol or Paracetamol as there was no effective medicine to attack the virus.

As the number of patients increased, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's forward-thinking plan helped devise a formula to minimise the impact of the virus. It consisted of a unique team assigned to deal with the pandemic, consisting of health experts and the President appointed the Army Commander to head this team. Precautions adopted by this exceptional team of experts managed to curtail the spreading of the virus.

Sri Lanka, at one stage, became recognised for taking stern action to curb the virus. Unfortunately, the Opposition Parliamentary members criticised the Government at every step, whereas Sri Lanka received praise internationally.

Numerous Western nations



researched to find a suitable vaccine on a fast track against the COVID-19 virus. Finally, different vaccine types such as American Pfizer, UK's AstraZeneca and Russia's Sputnik V etc., were invented within a short period. Sri Lanka launched the AstraZeneca vaccination drive in January 2021. The second dose of the vaccination commenced on April 28, 2021.

#### India

India suddenly became the worst country affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. People are dropping dead on the streets, and hospitals and cemeteries cannot cope with the situation. Unlike in Sri Lanka, there is no systematic approach to control the plague. Instead, there is ample criticism against the Indian policymakers and the Indian Government for adopting a relaxed attitude where even state elections and religious festivals were permitted, allowing thousands of citizens to assemble without wearing face masks. Overconfidence in the AstraZeneca vaccine has also been sighted as the failure to be more prepared to face India's second wave.

#### Third Wave

The 3rd wave of the virus circulating in the air is more dangerous than any previous attacks, health authorities warn. Small children are highly susceptible they say. Referring to a visitor from London, who arrived in Sri Lanka and

jected to a PCR test, it was found that the variant of the COVID-19 is identical to a deadly virus and a highly contagious mutant of the Coronavirus found located in the United Kingdom. The University of Sri Jayawardenapura Research Centre came out with it. Immediately, the Sri Lankan media has gone haywire in carrying this hot news item in many Sri Lankan newspapers making headlines such as: "UK variant cause of fast spread".

The writer was inundated with WhatsApp messages from his London friends against such adverse publicity in Sri Lanka. The infected person may have caught deadly variants of the COVID-19, but to wholesale condemn the UK is unfair they say. They are in the process of

VARIOUS ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST WESTERN MEDICINE VS HELA VEDA KAMA (HEREDITARY TREATMENT COMING DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION), PARTICULARLY WITH THE ERUPTION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, SURFACED, FROM MARCH 2020, DUE TO THE LACK OF MEDICINE OR A VACCINE TO CURE THE CORONAVIRUS. NOT A SINGLE PERSON EXPECTED SUCH A CALAMITY TO BEFALL ON EVERY NATION THAT CRIPPLED THE WORLD ECONOMY.

releasing a video to YouTube. They say and Public Houses (Pubs) in the UK are now open along with the major departmental stores. They nurture the idea that the UK does not create a virus, but it was unfortunate that the dangerous variant was 'imported' from another country by a traveller to the UK. Therefore, it is very wrong to categorically condemn all UK patients are affected by a highly contagious mutant of the Coronavirus without giving any proof. And by doing so, UK travellers will be barred from entering Sri Lanka and not allowed to go out of the UK at all.

However much the health authorities advised the public to refrain from assembling during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year period, some people never did pay any heed to such advice, which caused a record steep in COVID-19 cases exceeding 1,000 per day. There is no point in blaming the government or health authorities, but the blame should be directed at those who brought their sins upon themselves. Tragically, some of the Opposition MPs are hell-bent on pointing the finger at the Sri Lanka government on every count, good or bad, for political gains when the whole nation is at peril.

#### Deshiya (indigenous) treatment

It was a battleground from the very inception between the Deshiya treatment and Western medicine. Major pharmaceutical giants are brainwashing qualified Western doctors who are now qualified but hail from parents who were *vedamahathayas* (local and ayurvedic physicians). It is expeditiously exposed in a youtube interview by a Senior Lecturer at the Open University, Nawala, Nemsiri Jayatileke. To get an idea of what he reveals, one should focus on the URL <https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/ayubowan-srilanka>.

Jayatileke is confident of the fact that if the government did not bow down to Western orientated doctors' ideas, and adopted the *Hela Veda Kama*, Sri Lanka could have got rid of the Coronavirus in two weeks. Then Sri Lanka should have created a new world record akin to eradicating the LTTE war that lasted over 29 years.

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**LANGUAGE MATTERS**

Dr. THARANGA WEERASOORIYA

In the last article, we discussed some of the speech organs and mechanisms involved in the production of human speech sounds. We saw that speech sounds are produced by manipulating an air stream that flows out of the lungs and through our vocal tract. Particularly, we discussed the roles of the lungs and larynx in expelling and modifying the air stream to produce the desired sounds and effects on the sounds. In today's article, we will discuss the roles of the vocal tract and associated organs in the production and effects of speech sounds such as consonants and vowels.

**The Vocal Tract**

The passage above the vocal cords that consist of the pharynx, the oral cavity and the nasal cavity is collectively called the vocal tract. This is an area of importance for us, because human speech sounds generate in this region, supported by organs and muscles that exist within and beyond. As its positioning and functioning suggest, this is in fact an area that has undergone an exceptional evolutionary development in the history of mankind to facilitate the production of speech. See **Diagram 1**

The vocal tract encompasses all the organs used in speaking. These different parts or organs play crucial roles in modifying the egressive air-stream in terms of place and manner of articulation to produce noises of different sorts. This means that we make various movements of these organs at different places in the vocal tract to interfere with the air stream to generate different sounds (i.e., phonemes). When the air that is forced through the passage is disturbed by narrowing or blocking the passage and released, the process creates noise and speech sounds are made of these noises.

Moving on to the sounds produced through the organs discussed above, English language has about 44 distinct sounds called phonemes. Out of these, 24 sounds are identified as consonant sounds. The 21 consonant letters in the English alphabet are used to represent these 24 sounds. English language has 20 vowel sounds with 12 pure vowel sounds and 08 vowel sounds identified as diphthongs. The five vowel letters are used to represent the 12 pure vowel sounds. Specific symbols are used to represent speech sounds in the study of language. The set of these symbols is called the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The chart explains the symbols used in the International Phonetic Alphabet to represent the 44 speech sounds in the English language. See **Chart 1**

# Role of the vocal tract in producing speech sounds

The vocal tract encompasses all the organs used in speaking. These different parts or organs play crucial roles in modifying the egressive air-stream in terms of place and manner of articulation to produce noises of different sorts. This means that we make various movements of these organs at different places in the vocal tract to interfere with the air stream to generate different sounds (i.e., phonemes).

| VOWELS     | monophthongs |         |         |             | diphthongs |         |         |
|------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|
|            | i: sheep     | I ship  | U good  | u: shoot    | Iə here    | eɪ wait | əʊ shoe |
| e bed      | ə teacher    | ɜ: bird | ɔ: dog  | ʊəl tourist | ɔɪ boy     |         |         |
| æ cat      | ʌ up         | ɑ: the  | ɒ an    | eə hair     | aɪ my      | ɑʊ cow  |         |
| CONSONANTS | p pea        | b boat  | t tea   | d dog       | tʃ cheese  | dʒ June | k car   |
|            | f fly        | v video | θ think | ð this      | s see      | z zoo   | ʃ shoe  |
|            | m man        | n cow   | ŋ sing  | h hat       | l love     | r red   | w wet   |
|            |              |         |         |             |            |         | j yes   |

Chart 1: The 44 sounds in the English language in IPA

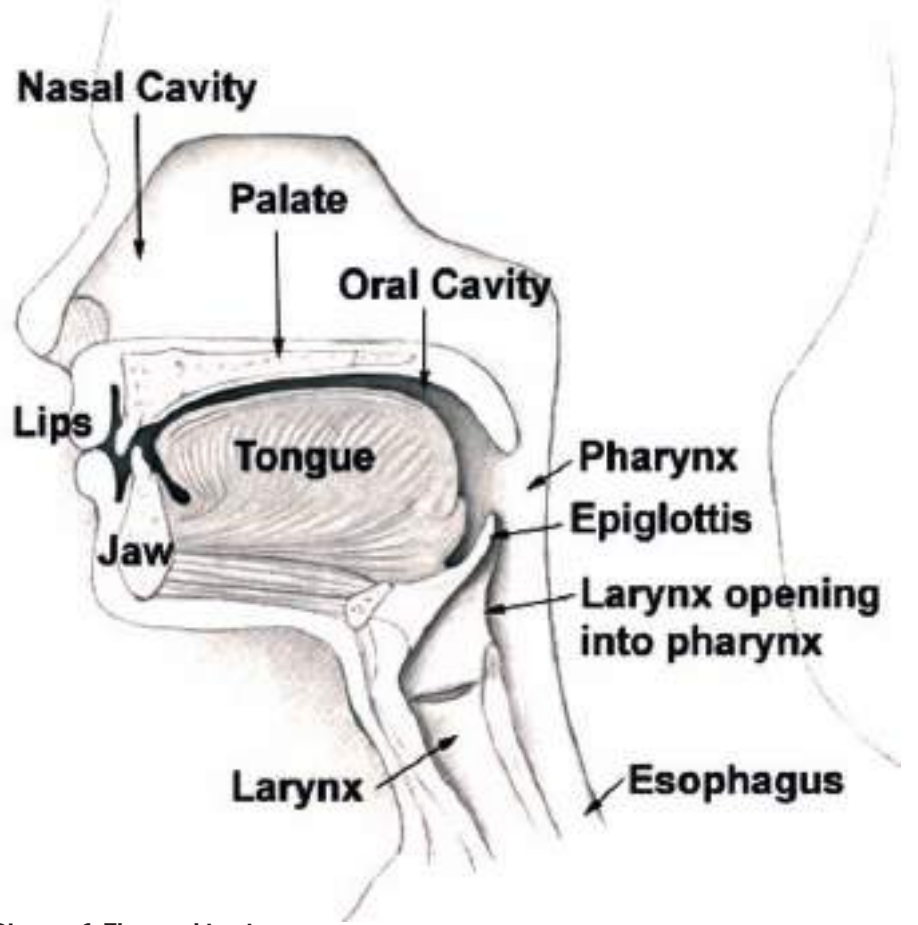


Diagram 1: The vocal tract

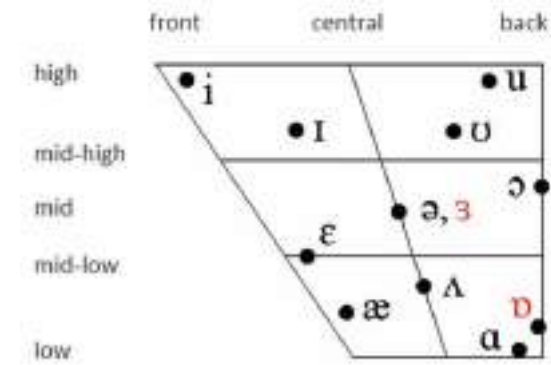


Diagram 2: Classification of English vowel sounds

example, in the above chart, some of the examples of long vowels are represented with the symbols /a:/, /i:/ (/i:/ is similar to /i:/). In contrast, short vowels end early and use less tension in pronunciation. They are also called lax vowels. In the above chart, some of the examples of sound in long and short vowels are able to produce very similar words of different meaning as in *heat* /hi:t/ vs. *hit* /hɪt/.

When we think that vowels cannot get any more complex, our focus moves on to diphthongs. It is a sound produced through the combination of two vowels. Though they begin at one vowel position and move on to another, diphthongs are identified as single vowel sounds. The IPA chart illustrates the 8 diphthongs used in the English language.

In today's article, we discussed the role of the vocal tract in producing speech sounds such as consonants and vowels. Consonant sounds were shown to be produced by obstructing the egressive airstream at different places in the vocal tract in different manners. Vowel sounds were shown to be produced by way of resonances created in the air stream that continuously flows without any obstruction. This was only a very brief introduction to the production of speech sounds. There is much more to the mechanisms involved in the physiology and patterns of speech sounds that is studied in what is called *phonetics* and *phonology* in Linguistics. Readers interested in knowing more are referred to a good book such as *Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology*. In the next article, we will discuss the mechanisms involved in the production of words, the next level of speech after sounds with respect to the structure of language.

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**Consonant sounds**

Consonant sounds, as opposed to vowel sounds (see next section) are produced by obstructing the egressive air stream at different

places in different manners in the vocal tract. A consonant is identified as a sound that cannot stand alone but has to be combined with a vowel to form what is called a syllable. For example, the word *cinema* is composed of

three syllables /si.ne.ma/, each consonant sound combined with a vowel sound in the structure CVCVCV. Yet, as an exception, it can also occur in clusters. For example, when we say the word *from*, the *fr* part of the word forms a cluster of two consonants CC and forms the syllable with three consonant sounds and one vowel sound as CCVC. The Chart 1 demonstrates the 24 consonant sounds in English represented with IPA symbols. As we also discussed above, consonant speech sounds can be classified according to its place of articulation, manner of articulation and based on whether it is voiced or not. The Chart 2 helps understand the classification of consonants in this manner.

For instance, the sound /p/ in English is articulated with the two lips as the place of articulation and with a complete stop and release of the air stream as the manner of articulation. It is also produced without voicing (i.e. without vibration of the vocal codes as we discussed last time). At the same time, when the sound /b/ is articulated, it is done

with the same place and manner of articulation, but with voicing. The production of other sounds can also be understood in the same manner.

**Vowel sounds**

In the production of vowel sounds, the sound is not obstructed like in consonants. Instead, resonances are created in the air stream as sound continuously flows. This means that the air in the oral tract is manipulated through the tongue and lips, resulting in the production of different vowels. The IPA chart illustrates the 20 vowel sounds in English with 12 pure vowels and 8 diphthongs. Accordingly, the following criteria is used in classifying vowel sounds:

- Part of the tongue involved (Front, Central, Back)
- Height of the tongue (High, Mid high, Mid, Mid low, Low)
- Degree of lip rounding (Rounded, Unrounded)

(See **Diagram 2**) While the top row shows the area of the mouth cavity that is used in producing the vowel, the left side of the diagram shows the height of the mouth when a specific vowel is pronounced. The right side denotes the degree of lip rounding.

Depending on the degree of the tension on the tongue, vowels are once again classified as long and short. As the name suggests, long vowels are pronounced over a longer duration than short vowels. It uses more tension and therefore are also called tensed vowels. For

|           | MANNER    | VOICING   | PLACE    |             |        |          |         |       |         |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|-------|---------|
|           |           |           | Bilabial | Labiodental | Dental | Alveolar | Palatal | Velar | Glottal |
| Obstruent | Stop      | Voiceless |          |             |        | t        |         | k     | ʔ       |
|           |           | Voiced    |          |             |        | d        |         | g     |         |
|           | Fricative | Voiceless |          | f           | θ      | s        | ʃ       |       | h       |
|           |           | Voiced    |          | v           | ð      | z        | ʒ       |       |         |
| Affricate | Voiceless |           |          |             |        | tʃ       |         |       |         |
|           | Voiced    |           |          |             |        | dʒ       |         |       |         |
| Sonorant  | Nasal     | Voiced    | m        |             |        | n        |         | ŋ     |         |
|           | Lateral   | Voiced    |          |             |        | l        |         |       |         |
|           | Rhotic    | Voiced    |          |             |        | r (ɹ)    |         |       |         |
|           | Glide     | Voiced    | w        |             |        |          |         | (w)   |         |

Chart 2: Classification of English consonant sounds



The Quad Alliance comprises US, Australia, Japan and India

## India and the QUAD: Long term prospects

was not hesitant in using force to pursue Indian national interest wherever and whenever it was possible.

Under Nehru's leadership, India invaded and occupied Goa from the Portuguese. He also initiated India's nuclear programme. Nehru envisioned India as the hegemon of South Asia, which he believed was the country's 'manifest destiny'. He proposed a 'Broad doctrine' that hinged on the idea that New Delhi has an exclusive right to protect its national interests within its landmass and its periphery. In Nehru's words, "any attempt by a foreign power to interfere in any way with India is a thing which India cannot tolerate, and which, subject to her strength, she will oppose."

However, this 'Broad doctrine' achieved maturity under Indira Gandhi, who pursued a policy of aggressive

use of military force to deter external powers from interfering in South Asia. Her interventionist foreign policy led to the breakup of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. Indira's and later Rajiv Gandhi's foreign policy revolved around keeping external powers at bay and maintaining Indian primacy in South Asia. New Delhi was so opposed to the idea of external powers gaining a foothold in South Asia that it intervened in Sri Lanka's civil war out of fear that the United States might secure a naval base in the strategic port city of Trincomalee.

**External powers in South Asia**

However, it seems that Narendra Modi has reversed India's long-standing opposition to the presence of external powers in South Asia. New Delhi has openly backed a defence agreement between Maldives and United States. Among other things, it seeks to increase cooperation between the two countries. Though Indian officials have stressed that the agreement would not "impinge on India's role as a 'Net security provider' in South Asia", it begs the question: would such policy reversals have specific implications on the geopolitical status quo in South Asia? Have India conceded its role as the primary guarantor of security of South Asia to the United States?

It certainly seems that the Modi Government has abandoned India's 'move alone' policy. The concept of an alliance is becoming more and more attractive to Indian policy makers. This shift signals one crucial factor: India is no longer confident of its capabilities to resist the Chinese juggernaut's inroads into South Asia.

Beijing has established a significant presence in South Asia over the years. China is now the largest source of investments in all of India's neighbouring countries. The BRI initiative has gained much traction among South Asian countries. New Delhi is concerned that Beijing is strategically funding infrastructure projects which could be used for military purposes in future.

The very fear of encirclement by China has led India to welcome more American engagements in South Asia. But what would be New Delhi's role in this strategic arrangement? There is no doubt that New Delhi holds a central position in the US Indo-Pacific strategy, but the power asymmetry between the two countries overwhelmingly favours Washington.

On April 7, US Navy's 7th fleet conducted a freedom of navigation operation (FONOP) without consulting with New Delhi. It is interesting to note that the US generally carries out such operations in the backyards of its rivals, like in the South China Sea or Black Sea. But conducting these operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of an allied nation is unusual. This action indicates that Washington is unwilling to concede any space to India just for the sake of the alliance.

Historically, any partnership between a greater power and a lesser



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden

power had never been treated as 'equal'. No matter what officials in New Delhi might believe, this is the conventional wisdom in Washington. Indo-US relations might have come a long way but, if such cooperation continues through the upcoming decades, the position of the lesser power, in this case, India, is bound to relegate to a role of a 'junior partner', and the United States is making no ambiguity in signalling it.

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**RUBIAT SAIMUM**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pursuing an assertive and confrontational foreign policy. From carrying out 'surgical strikes' across the Line of control to unilaterally scrapping Kashmir's special autonomy, Modi has shown that he has no aversion to undertaking bold actions. For the last seven years, he has essentially reshaped India's foreign policy to match the brand of muscular nationalistic politics that he and his party have pursued for decades. In other words, like India's domestic politics, its foreign policy has been (excuse the pun) Modi-fied.

However, no other foreign policy position of the Modi government would be as consequential as his decision to align India with the Quad, a NATO-like strategic coalition centred on the Indo-Pacific. By joining the alliance, Modi has removed the last Nehruvian pillar of New Delhi's foreign policy: Non-Alignment.

**Non-Aligned Movement**

Following Independence, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru crafted India's foreign policy on the Principles of Anti-Imperialism and

solidarity among the Third World States that had recently broken free from the shackles of colonialism. Nehru was one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement along with Nasser and Sukarno. Despite being a comrade and disciple of Gandhi, Nehru was in no way a pacifist. He



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with former US President Donald Trump



# THREADING SALONS: A FOCAL POINT FOR US SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY

FAREEHA MOLVI

It's been a year since Misbah Etman, a real estate agent in Los Angeles, stepped foot in a salon for any kind of beauty treatment, but threading is the one she has missed the most.

Before the pandemic, Etman frequented her go-to salon every few weeks for brow-shaping appointments. Like many South Asian American women, she found that the routine did as much for her mindset as it did her appearance. "I miss that clean feeling that makes me think I can handle the world," said Etman. "If my eyebrows are unruly, the rest of my life is too."

South Asian-owned beauty parlours like Etman's LA favourite, can be found across America. In some, Bollywood music videos will play on a television in the background. In others, a religious symbol near the cash register might hint at the owner's beliefs: a small Hindu altar, a Buddha miniature or a plaque with Islamic calligraphy. Stations will often be abuzz with soft chatter punctuated by loud goodbyes from customers waving at the door. The bustle of comings and goings is usually constant.

In front of vanity mirrors, threading artists clad in kurti tops or salon aprons may be seen standing over reclining clients, who stretch the skin taut themselves. Cotton thread looped around their fingers, the practitioners move

deftly to pluck delicate facial hairs. The service is typically over in a matter of minutes.

This vision of an archetypal salon may not be familiar to everyone in America who has undergone threading, which in recent decades, has become a popular way for people of all backgrounds to shape their brows and remove facial hair. But for women in the South Asian American diaspora, these kinds of spaces have become especially important sources of connection, familiarity and a complicated sense of belonging.

"(A salon is) a space ... where South Asians see themselves in their fullness," said Hareem Khan, an assistant professor of anthropology and ethnic studies at California State University, San Bernardino.

## Culture and kinship

Within the South Asian community, threading falls somewhere between a universal cultural practice and a non-negotiable act of maintenance.

In previous generations, South Asian women would first get threaded in preparation for their wedding day. But today, girls typically start threading around the time they hit puberty, beginning what is often a lifelong commitment.

Many South Asians have body and facial hair that is naturally thick and dark, while beauty norms cast its removal as a marker of



femininity and hygiene (a view that is, increasingly, being called into question). Threading is a quick and cost-effective way to remove unwanted hair from the upper lip, chin, forehead and cheeks, or to shape existing brow hair to accentuate the eyes and open up the face.

"(South Asian women) will give up their Starbucks but not their eyebrows," said Sumita Batra, CEO of Ziba Beauty, a chain of family-run threading salons in California. "It's really self-enhancement ... It's self-love."

While the historic origins of threading are disputed (various sources have claimed the practice originated in the Middle East, China and India) many American threading salons are South Asian-owned and -operated.

In large American cities like Los Angeles and Chicago, burgeoning South Asian American enclaves began taking shape in the late 1980s. Immigrant women started offering threading services out of their living rooms and garages, advertising through word-of-mouth. Others started modest salons in the

back rooms of sari shops, or strip malls near South Asian grocery stores.

When Batra's mother, Kundan Sabarwal, opened the first branch of Ziba Beauty in Artesia, California, in 1988, it was a predominantly women-only space that catered to an exclusively South Asian clientele. Threading's relative affordability (Ziba Beauty charged just US\$ 5 for brows when it first opened) made it a singular self-care ritual accessible across class lines.

The salons were one of the few places where South Asian immigrant women could socialise with one another, both as patrons and employees. People often relied on them to provide traditional beauty services they couldn't find elsewhere, like threading and henna application, as well as certain waxing and facial techniques.

Then, like now, immigrants and working-class women gravitated toward the salons for employment. Despite the prospect of long hours and low wages, many artists prefer threading over other service jobs because of the sense of community it offers, according to Preeti Sharma, an assistant professor of Ameri-

can studies at California State University, Long Beach, who has written a dissertation on the subject. "There is something about folks wanting to work with others in their community, and a kind of comfort," Sharma said in a phone interview.

In smaller salons, she added, women will help each other with transportation and childcare, share food and speak a common language.

This sense of kinship also exists between threading artists and their clients, according to Sridevi Kalvachera, an Indian immigrant and independent threading artist in Tempe, Arizona. Kalvachera started seeing customers in her home when the pandemic forced the salon she works at to close. "(They're) not even like clients now. It's like a family," she said, recalling conversations about recipes, festivals, jewellery and saris. Kalvachera especially loves cooking Indian dishes and serving them to her clients. "They get that homey feeling (from me)," she added.

Pre-pandemic, Aruna Cadambi, a corporate responsibility manager in New York City, saw her threading artist every two to three weeks. They started off discussing things like Cadambi's wedding plans but gradually delved deeper into body image issues and talking about quarrels with family and friends. "We built a relationship of trust naturally over time," she said.

Their working relationship provided a degree of anonymity, making Cadambi feel like she could confide in her beauty technician more readily than she could some friends. Eventually, they became so close that in 2018, when logistical issues prevented Cadambi's mother, aunt and cousins from performing her "haldi-besant," a private pre-wedding ritual where close female relatives apply turmeric paste to the bride's skin, she entrusted her threading artist with the duty. She extended the offer not only due to the pair's special bond, but because the threader came from a similar cultural background and understood the custom.

The intimacy and trust required for threading (which "can have disastrous results if it's not done properly," said Khan) may also partly explain the close rapport that can develop between artists and their customers. If practitioners change jobs, it is not unusual for clients to follow them to their new salon, even if it is less convenient to travel to.

## Flaws in familiarity

For many women in the South Asian diaspora, threading is also a survival tactic. Being teased at a young age, often by male peers, for having a moustache or "unibrow," or being called dirty and hairy, is a near-universal experience. As adults, moving in spaces where having "foreign" features can attract further discrimination, threading dark facial hair away offers one way to stand out less.

Navigating the politics around race, beauty and assimilation, it's not surprising that South Asian clients often seek a threader who is also of South Asian descent. "This person, without me even needing to fully communicate myself, knows how to handle my concerns," Khan said. But this familiarity can have its downsides.

It's common to walk into a salon for one service, only to be met with unwelcome suggestions for others: fix hairy arms with waxing, eradicate acne with a facial, dye unsightly grey hair. "You feel a little on edge because you know you're going to be called out," Khan said.

Critical comments are perhaps to be expected from businesses that rely on customers' aesthetic aspirations. But they may also illustrate generational and cultural disconnects between threaders and their clients.

At a young age, Khan said she was advised to thread her whole face in an effort to make her brown skin look lighter - a comment in keeping with widespread colourist attitudes within the South Asian community. These comments troubled her, but over time she understood it as a way in which care was communicated, however misguided. "I don't see it as necessarily malicious," she said. "It's enacting through this lens of familiarity - and all the good and bad that comes with it."

As both a social space to connect with culture and community, and one that reinforces (in some cases outdated) beauty ideals, the role of threading salons continues to evolve among South Asian Americans.

"The way we feel in a diasporic space is always going to be a complicated feeling ... The salon is a microcosm of that tension," Khan said. (CNN, Illustration by artist Neethi)

## STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS



### URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

**SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING, HANDING OVER & REMEDIATING DEFECTS OF MVAC, ELV & IT, FIRE, LPG, KITCHEN VENTILATION, HOT WATER AND COLD WATER & VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS FOR REFURBISHMENT OF 80 CLUB OF COLOMBO**

Contract No: 46/UDA/MEP-Work/80club/2021/019

1. The Chairman, **Department Procurement Committee (Major)** on behalf of the **Chairman, Urban Development Authority** now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for **Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Handing Over & Remedying Defects of MVAC, ELV & IT, Fire, LPG, Kitchen Ventilation, Hot Water and Cold Water & Vertical Transportation Systems for Refurbishment of 80 Club of Colombo, No. 25, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07** as described below and estimated to cost of **Rs. 61,584,000/- plus VAT**.

The construction period is **45 Calendar days**.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure (NCB).

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have CIDA registered **Grade EMI** with the specialty of **Electrical and Mechanical Services**.

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include :

i. Experience in the MEP works of at least two projects in similar nature during the last five years. The Contract value for one project shall be **Rs. 50 Million** minimum, works cited should be at least 70 percent completed.

ii. Average annual volume of MEP works performed in the last five years shall be at least **Rs. 200 Million**.

iii. The minimum amount of cash flow and credit facilities as exclusive of any advance payments, shall be **Rs. 30 Million**. Credit facility should be addressed to **Chairman, Urban Development Authority, 09th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" - Stage I, Battaramulla**.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Head of Procurement, Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 07th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" - Stage I, Battaramulla. Tel: 011-3358006; Fax: 011- 2874546**, and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from **10th May 2021 to 24th May 2021, from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm** during normal working days.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the **Head of Procurement, Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 07th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" - Stage I, Battaramulla** during normal working days from **10th May 2021 until 24th May 2021 from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 16,500.00 plus taxes in cash to the Shroff of Urban Development Authority**.

7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before **25th May 2021, at 11.00 am**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), Procurement Division, Urban Development Authority, 07th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" - Stage I, Battaramulla.**

8. Bids shall be valid until **23rd August 2021**.

9. All Bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security**, (as per the format given in the Bidding Document) of **Rs. 62,000.00**. Bid Security shall be valid until **20th September 2021**.

10. Pre-Bid Meeting will be arranged on **18th May 2021 at 10.00 am**, at the **Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 07th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" - Stage I, Battaramulla**. Also, bidders may contact Director (Project Management - Western Region) of UDA on Tel. 011-2877539 and visit the site.

11. Employer shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by bidders in connection with preparation and submission of bids or attending site inspections.

**Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major) Urban Development Authority 07th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" - Stage I, Battaramulla.**

## PEOPLE'S BANK - Colombo Outer Regional Head Office PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.12.2019 at the undermentioned Branches/Service Centers and not redeemed / renewed up to the dates mentioned in front of each branch, will be sold by Public Auctions starting at 9.00 on the dates and places as indicated below.

| No. | Branch / Service Centre   | Articles unredeemed up to | Date of Auction          | Place of Auction                    |
|-----|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01  | Homagama<br>Homagama Town S.C. / Padukka S.C.<br>Meegoda S.C. / Godagama S.C.<br>Army R: HQ Panagoda S.C. | 28.05.2021                | 29.05.2021<br>30.05.2021 | Homagama Branch Premises            |
| 02  | Battaramulla<br>Thalawathugoda S.C./Malabe S.C.<br>Hokandara S.C.<br>Foreign Employment Bureau            | 28.05.2021                | 29.05.2021<br>30.05.2021 | Battaramulla Branch Premises        |
| 03  | Dehiwala<br>Attidiya S.C.<br>Nedimala S.C.  | 28.05.2021                | 29.05.2021<br>30.05.2021 | Dehiwala Branch Premises            |
| 04  | Mt. Lavinia   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 05  | Rathmalana<br>Rathmalana Economic Centre S.C.   | 04.06.2021                | 05.06.2021<br>06.06.2021 | Kotikawatta Branch Premises         |
| 06  | Kolonnawa<br>Wellampitiya S/C   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 07  | Kotikawatta<br>Gothatuwa S.C.<br>Mulleriyawa New Town S.C.  | 04.06.2021                | 05.06.2021<br>06.06.2021 | Moratuwa Branch Premises            |
| 08  | Moratuwa<br>Rawathawatta S.C.<br>Katukurunda S.C.   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 09  | Moratulla<br>Puwakaramba S.C.   | 04.06.2021                | 05.06.2021<br>06.06.2021 | Gangodawila Branch Premises         |
| 10  | Katubedda<br>Soyzapura S.C.   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 11  | Nugegoda City<br>Kohuwala S.C.  | 11.06.2021                | 12.06.2021<br>13.06.2021 | Avisawella Branch Premises          |
| 12  | Gangodawila<br>Delkanda S.C.<br>Jayawardenapura S.C.  |                           |                          |                                     |
| 13  | Maharagama<br>Pannipitiya S.C.<br>Pamunuwa S.C.   | 11.06.2021                | 12.06.2021<br>13.06.2021 | Kesbewa Branch Premises             |
| 14  | Avisawella<br>Kosgama S.C.<br>Thalduwa S.C.   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 15  | Kesbewa<br>Kahatuduwa S.C.  | 11.06.2021                | 12.06.2021<br>13.06.2021 | Nugegoda Branch Premises            |
| 16  | Piliyandala<br>Piliyandala Town S.C.  |                           |                          |                                     |
| 17  | Nugegoda<br>Embudeniya S.C./Nawala S.C.<br>Chapel Lane S.C./Welikda S.C.                                  | 11.06.2021                | 12.06.2021<br>13.06.2021 | Hanwella Branch Premises            |
| 18  | Pitakotte<br>Ethulkotte S.C.<br>Thalpathpitiya S.C.   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 19  | Hanwella<br>Hanwella Town S.C.<br>Kahahena S.C.   | 18.06.2021                | 19.06.2021<br>20.06.2021 | Dehiwala Galle Road Branch Premises |
| 20  | Kaduwela<br>Nawagamunuwa S.C.<br>Bandarawatte S.C.  |                           |                          |                                     |
| 21  | Dehiwala Galle Road<br>Kalubowila S.C.  | 18.06.2021                | 19.06.2021<br>20.06.2021 | Kottawa Branch Premises             |
| 22  | Boralesgamuwa   |                           |                          |                                     |
| 23  | Kottawa<br>Aturugiriya S.C.<br>Mattegodda S.C.  | 18.06.2021                | 19.06.2021<br>20.06.2021 |                                     |

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, change the action venue, amalgamate or postpone these auctions without further notice.

**Regional Manager (Colombo Outer)**  
People's Bank, No. 177A, High Level Road, Nugegoda.  
Tel. Nos. 2812260, 2854189



# CEB's 20-year Power Generation Plan to be updated

The Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) has drawn the attention of the CEB with regard to certain important issues concerning the Lakvijaya Power Plant located in Norochcholai.

The attention has been drawn with regard to the electricity generation and the sustainability of the systems on the presumption that it is expected to install another generator at Lakvijaya Plant to generate 300 MW in 2023 and two other power generating units at Point Paul in Trincomalee each producing 300 MW.

The COPE has inquired about the arrangements to fulfill the overall requirement of additional electricity concerning mega development projects including the Colombo Port City.

In this regard a CEB Spokesman said that at present, the Power Generation Plan to be

effective from 2018 for 20 years ahead has already been approved and this 20 year long-term generation plan expected to be updated under the emerging circumstances.

He revealed that as the country's electricity requirement increases by about six percent annually it has been however decided to promote liquefied Natural Gas Power Generation on a prioritised basis.

According to CEB sources, the coal unloading capacity at the Lakvijaya Plant's jetty is 2.7 million tons per annum. At present, the Lakvijaya Plant consists of three power generating units and the fourth unit is scheduled to be added in the near future. As such the present annual coal unloading capacity has to be enhanced up to 3.3 million tons. The COPE has inquired about the plan with regard to the continuous coal supply on the present basis of

uploading 15,000 tons coal per day for maintaining the present three 300 MW plant units.

COPE has further inquired with regard to the extension of an annual environment protection license concerning the depository of the flying ash as being generated as a by-product of coal power generation at the Lakvijaya Plant.

It is learnt that at present there is a deposit of about 660 Metric Tons lying in the dump yard alleged to have created an environmental problem. It is further reported that this quantity of ash has been dumped before 2018 and at present no flying ash get accumulated in the dumping yard.

According to information sources, the result from the burning of coal in all three generator units at the Lakvijaya Power Station generates around 900 Metric Tons of flying ash.

## Heavy rains expected

The Department of Meteorology issued an advisory yesterday warning of heavy rain and severe lightning in several provinces and districts.

The MET Department warned of showers or thundershowers occurring in most parts of the island during the evening or night.

Heavy rainfall of about 100 mm could also be expected at some places in Sabaragamuwa, Central and Uva provinces and in Polonnaruwa, Ampara and the Batticaloa districts.

Thundershowers and severe lightning are likely to occur in the Sabaragamuwa, Central and Uva Provinces and in Polonnaruwa, Ampara, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Kurunegala Districts.

There may be temporary localized strong winds during thundershowers, the MET Department warned, urging the general public to take adequate precautions to minimize damages caused by lightning activity.

## TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE (In the Territory of the Maldives)

Notice is hereby given that our Clients Beiersdorf AG of Unnastrasse 48, 20253 Hamburg, Germany are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade Mark "NIVEA PROTECT & CARE" :-

### NIVEA PROTECT & CARE

The said Trade Mark is used in International Class 03 in respect of the following goods.

"soaps, perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, deodorants and anti-perspirants for personal use"

Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their above mentioned trade mark and that legal action will be taken against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.

Any enquiry relative thereto may be referred to the following: -

**JULIUS & CREASY**  
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public  
No. 371, R. A. De Mel Mawatha  
Colombo 03  
Republic of Sri Lanka  
pts1@juliusandcreasy.lk

## TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE (In the Territory of the Maldives)

Notice is hereby given that our Clients Beiersdorf AG of Unnastrasse 48, 20253 Hamburg, Germany are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade Mark "NIVEA pure fresh (label 2013)" :-



The said Trade Mark is used in International Class 03 in respect of the following goods.

"Soaps; perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions".

Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their above mentioned trade mark and that legal action will be taken against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.

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Two lorry drivers who sustained serious injuries were admitted to the Puttalam Hospital after a head-on collision on the Puttalam Anuradhapura Road. The accident had occurred on Sunday afternoon at the 6th Mile Post on the Puttalam Anuradhapura Road. One lorry which was travelling towards Anuradhapura had stopped by the side of the road and when the driver had attempted to get the lorry back on the road, it had collided with another lorry travelling in the opposite direction from Puttalam to Anuradhapura. Police revealed. The Puttalam Traffic Police Division is conducting further investigations. Picture by W.Crispil Benedict Fernando, Puttalam Group Corr.

## TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE (In the Territory of the Maldives)

Notice is hereby given that our Clients Beiersdorf AG of Unnastrasse 48, 20253 Hamburg, Germany are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade Mark "NIVEA SUN (logo 2018)" :-



The said Trade Mark is used in International Class 03 in respect of the following goods.

non-medicated cosmetics; non-medicated sun care preparations; non-medicated aftersun preparations

Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their above mentioned trade mark and that legal action will be taken against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.

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Colombo 03  
Republic of Sri Lanka  
pts1@juliusandcreasy.lk

## 74th Edition of MICH Diary published

The Moors' Islamic Cultural Home was inaugurated in 1944 by some leading, dedicated, service oriented Muslims who decided to form an association to promote educational, social and cultural activities. The Muslims of Ceylon needed an institution to deal with religious matters, education, economic and the social aspects of the Moor community.



Cader; MLM Ghouse; Rasheed Bin Hassan, MMC; AM Hamid; WM Hassim, JP; SM Ismail; MFA Jaward; MHM Kamil; ALM Lafir; AH Macan Markar; AIL Marikar; MB Mohamed; SL Mohamed; HASM Rafiudeen; MBM Thassim and ARM Zarook.

During the closing stages of World War 2, the Moor leaders of that time, Sir Razik Fareed, Kt, OBE, JPUM, A. H. Macan Markar, W.M. Hassim JP, A.L.L. Marikar and A.L.M. Lafir JP, had the foresight to inaugurate this premier and pioneer Muslim institution, Moors' Islamic Cultural Home.

The Moors' Islamic Cultural Home, was initially established in a small office in the city's commercial hub at No. 5, Second Cross Street, in the Pettah in Colombo 11, by a group consisting of 17-devoted and dedicated Muslims. They were ARA Razik, Member State Council (in the chair); Razeen Abdul

On May 30, 1965, the MICH Headquarters was located in a five-storied building of Saracenic architecture in the heart of the Fort, and is housed in level-3 at No. 27, Bristol Street, in Colombo-1, sandwiched between the YMCA and YMBA towers. Over the past 75 years, the Home has made giant strides in its services towards the community in particular and the nation in general in comparison to other service organ-

isations. The activities of the Home are implemented via various Departmental Committees which include Da'wa & Religious, Library & Literary, Community Welfare & Youth Affairs, Employment & Training, Social & Recreation, Foreign Relations & Cultural Affairs, Housing & Hostel, Finance & Administration, Janaza Service and Elders Home.

The Activity Centre of the MICH is at its 3-storied Pasha Villa at No. 115, Sri Vajragana Mawatha (former Dematagoda Road) in Colombo-9. The other Service Centre of the Home is in Makola, Kiribathgoda on a spacious land gifted by Lady Ameena Fareed, wife of the Founder President of the Home, Sir Razik Fareed way back in 1953. The Home managed an Elders Home at the premises in this land.

The MICH is also involved in the publication of books of religious and cultural importance and has published many books relating to the Ceylon Moor community, it also releases a series of souvenirs cover-

ing events during specific sequential periods of time since the inception of MICH.

Other important MICH publications include the Kandy Attorney, MC Siddi Lebbe's famous work in Tamil, Asrarul-Alam, now translated into English, "Criticism of Mr. Ramathan's Ethnology of the Moors of Ceylon," by ILM Abdul Azeed (1907/1957), Personages of the Past by Mohamed Sameer Bin Haji Ismail Effendi (1965/1982), Glimpses from the Past of the Moors of Sri Lanka (1976) and Genealogical Tables of Ceylon Moors, Malays and other Muslims (1981) by AIL Marikar, ALM Lafir and AH Macan Markar, Muslim Mosaics and Shrines of Sri Lanka written by M.M. Thawfeeq and several other publications in Sinhala and Tamil.

The Home launched the publication of the MICH Desk Diary in 1948 and since then has been publishing it uninterrupted every year and this year, 2021, 74th Edition of the MICH Diary was published.

- M. Zainul Meeadh

## Anuradhapura COVID-19 cluster tops 700

AMILA PRABATH WANASINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional Corr.

Anuradhapura District Epidemiologist Dr. Tejana Somathilaka said that the New Year COVID-19 cluster in the Anuradhapura District had increased to over 700 by yesterday (10).

Meanwhile, an officer attached to the Anuradhapura Nuwaragama Divisional Secretariat tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday (10) and a section of the Divisional Secretariat had been closed. Further, a driver attached to the Anuradhapura Road Development Authority had also been identified with COVID and as a precautionary measure the RDA office had also been closed yesterday by the health authorities. He said that many cases had been detected over the past few days with hospitals running out of space to accommodate all patients. Therefore, measures had been taken to treat 40 female COVID patients and 15 males in their own homes. Therefore, Dr. Somathilaka appealed to the public to act responsibly by following health guidelines and restricting travel.

## COVID-19 pandemic affects Kataragama pilgrim season

K.D. DEVAPRIYA, Kataragama Corr.

The people of Kataragama and a number of surrounding areas who depend only on the arrival of pilgrims are suffering from a severe economic crisis due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation.

The Sella Kataragama and Buttala towns are desolate due to the lack of pilgrims. There are around 3,000 families living in and around the Kataragama Sacred Area who make a living by selling and offering various services to pilgrims.

The daily poojas at the Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya are held regularly sans the large number of devotees as a result of the prevailing situation in the country. It was also reported that most safari jeep drivers who made a living out of tourism are also going through hard times unable to pay their lease installments for their vehicles. People of Kataragama say that their problems are confounded by the large number of monkeys and parrots invading their home gardens and destroying the crops and vegetables.

### DATE 2021.05.09 SUNDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA** DRAW NUMBER : 4476  
Value of prizes won in this draw  
**Rs. 23,820,936.60**

The super prize of next draw  
WINNING LETTER M WINNING NUMBERS 1 9 2 9 1 7  
**Rs. 10,000,000.00**

**Govisetha** DRAW NUMBER : 2771  
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 5,204,580.00**

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
WINNING LETTER T WINNING NUMBERS 05 15 21 38  
**Rs. 71,447,134.00**

**SEVANA** DRAW NUMBER : 336  
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 1,670,830.00**

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
ENGLISH LETTER N WINNING NUMBERS 04 08 11 58  
**Rs. 14,000,000.00**

**Dhana Nidhanaya** DRAW NUMBER : 513  
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 3,529,780.00**

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
ENGLISH LETTER Z WINNING NUMBERS 11 40 46 51  
**Rs. 96,621,814.40**

**DARU DIRI SAMPATHA** DRAW NUMBER : 37  
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 1,992,480.00**

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
ENGLISH LETTER T WINNING NUMBERS 30 46 74 92  
**Rs. 7,284,260.40**

02.05.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD **460,863**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs. 36,218,606.60**

Mahajana Sampatha super prize Rs.17,739,636.60 Super Prizes **01**  
Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES **02** Rs. 100,000 PRIZES **22**

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

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தேசிய லொட்டரி சமூகம்  
National Lotteries Board  
Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324  
Fax: 011-4669416

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

## TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE (In the Territory of the Maldives)

Notice is hereby given that our Clients Beiersdorf AG of Unnastrasse 48, 20253 Hamburg, Germany are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade Mark.

### HANSAPLAST

The said Trade Mark is used in international Classes 05 and 10 in respect of the following goods: -

Class 05  
Pharmaceutical and sanitary preparations, plasters, disinfectants; dressing and bandaging material, medical preparations for body and beauty care, medical preparations for the improvement of well-being; hot/cold packs; heat pads; preparations for skin and footwear in form of creams, ointments, lotions, gels, baths, additives for baths in the form of bubbly bath salt tablets, salt tablets, bath salts; powder and sprays; corn-plasters, callus-plasters, blisterplasters, felt rings; cotton wool, cotton pads, cotton swabs for medical purposes.

Class 10  
Surgical, medical and orthopaedic articles including supportive bandages; and stockings; suture materials; thermometers; condoms.

Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their above mentioned trade mark and that legal action will be taken against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.

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**JULIUS & CREASY**  
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Colombo 03  
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# Indian COVID-19 variant highly pathogenic - ICMR study

The Indian variant of SARS-CoV-2 (B.1.617) causes worse lung disease in hamsters than earlier versions of the coronavirus, the Indian Council of Medical Research has said in a new study days after the Union Health Ministry described it as a 'variant of concern.'

Carried out on hamsters, the ICMR study shows maximal body weight loss and higher viral load in animals infected with B.1.617, causing pronounced lung lesions in hamsters compared to the B1 variant.

This demonstrates the pathogenic or disease-causing potential of B.1.617 in an animal model as the virus has been reported from human samples in at least 17 states and union territories with a significant presence in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Delhi and Gujarat.

Scientists at the National Institute of Virology, Pune, ICMR headquarters and a couple of other institutes studied the effects of B.1.617 variants which have been associated with a surge of cases spreading rapidly



The National Institute of Virology, Pune ICMR headquarters.

not only in Maharashtra but in other states and abroad too.

The variant became known as the double mutant because of two genetic mutations (L452R and E484Q) but subsequently, a third mutation (P681R) was also seen. The tiny genetic changes possibly enhance the virus's transmissibility with the likelihood of escaping the immunity.

The scientists inoculated two groups of Syrian golden hamsters (nine each) intranasally with SARS-CoV-2 isolates, B1 (D614G) and B.1.617 respectively. The animals were

monitored daily for the clinical signs and body weight.

The hamsters infected with B.1.617 demonstrated increased body weight loss compared to the B1 variant. Also, they displayed pronounced lung lesions and haemorrhage. "In some of the districts, B.1.617 comprises nearly 60% of all cases," said Shahid Jameel, a senior virologist and head of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University who was not associated with the Indian SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing initiative.

Out of the 18,000 plus genetic sequencing of the virus carried out till May 4 by a consortium of 10 science laboratories (INSA-COG), more than 1,500 samples carried the double mutation variant.

- DECCAN HERALD



The NIV in Pune develops India's first indigenous antibody detection kit for COVID-19.

## Modi, Morrison discuss equitable access to vaccines, medicines

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison on Friday as the two leaders agreed on the importance of ensuring equitable access to vaccines and medicines, and discussed possible initiatives for it. Modi and Morrison also reiterated the importance of working together for a rules-based international order and a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

During his telephonic conversation with Morrison, the prime minister conveyed his appreciation for the prompt and generous support extended by the government and the people of Australia for India's fight against the second wave

of COVID-19, according to a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement. The two leaders agreed on the need to ensure an affordable and equitable access to vaccines and medicines for containing COVID-19 globally, it said.

"Spoke with my friend @ScottMorrisonMP to thank him for Australia's solidarity and support for India's fight against the pandemic," Modi tweeted after speaking with the Australian prime minister.

"We agreed on the importance of ensuring affordable and equitable access to vaccines and medicines, and discussed possible initiatives in this regard," he said.

- PTI



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison also took note of the progress made in the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation and foster people-to-people ties. - PTI

## Stalin announces Rs. 2,000 as COVID relief

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday announced a COVID pandemic time relief of Rs. 2,000 for the people of the state, a cut in Aavin milk rate and free travel for women in state-run buses, all promises made by his DMK ahead of the April 6 Assembly elections.

Issuing his first set of orders after taking over as CM, Stalin also announced bringing covid treatment in private hospitals under a Government insurance scheme, to provide succour to such people, an official release here said.

It recalled the party's promise of providing Rs. 4,000 for rice ration card holders to aid citizens affected due to the pandemic and help them with

their livelihood. "To implement that, the Chief Minister has signed the order to provide the first instalment of Rs 2,000 in May itself at Rs.4,153.69 crore, covering 2,07,67,000 ration card holders," it said.

He also signed another order, reducing the price of milk supplied by state-run Aavin by Rs 3 with effect from May 16.

Women can travel free of cost in all ordinary fare city buses operated by State transport corporation from Saturday onwards and the Government has allocated a sum of Rs 1,200 crore as subsidy for this purpose, the release said about another poll promise.

Further, he approved constituting an IAS officer-headed department to implement the "Chief Minister in Your Constituency" scheme, to fulfill another assurance of redressing people's issues within 100 days of taking over, on petitions received by him ahead of the polls as DMK chief. He had then promised to solve the issues within 100 days of taking over as chief minister of the state if his party was given the mandate.

- DECCAN CHRONICLE



Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin before taking oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

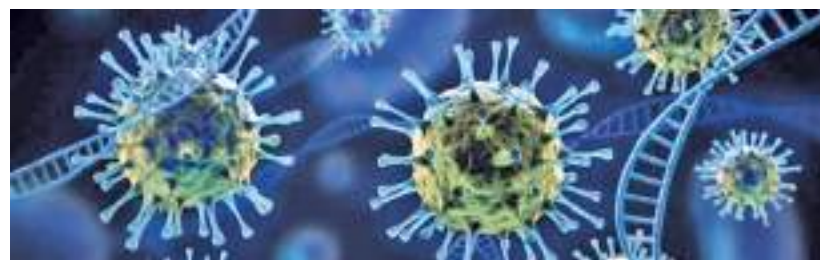
## Concern about one version of Indian COVID-19 variant

Health authorities in England are believed to be especially concerned about one strain out of three Indian variants they have been tracking since last month.

According to a report based on leaked data by the BBC, Public Health England (PHE) is said to have recommended the B.1.617.2 version of the Indian variant to be classed as Variant of Concern (VOC) as it appears to spread more quickly than two other identified subtypes of the Indian variant.

The version, along with B.1.617 and B.1.617.3, have so far been classed as Variant Under Investigation (VUI).

Latest surveillance data released



by PHE indicates 61 more cases of the B.1.617 variant from India with the other two versions still under review, taking the total number of cases to around 500.

Experts believe the variant B.1.617.2 is at least as transmissible as the so-called Kent variant, which had been detected in England at the end of last year and led to the UK's

second wave surge in coronavirus infections earlier this year.

According to the report, there is no evidence that the Indian variants are resistant to vaccines as of now.

They do not feature the E.484K mutation found in the South African variant of the virus, which could help the virus dodge a person's immune system. The Kent, South Africa and

Brazil strains have all been deemed Variants of Concern in the UK.

These versions, along with the India variant, have all undergone changes to their spike protein the part of the virus which attaches to human cells.

Viruses by nature mutate, producing different versions of themselves. Most of these mutations are insignificant but some can make the virus more contagious and harder to vaccinate against.

The Indian variant is believed to be largely behind the current surge in infections in India's ongoing severe second wave of the pandemic. The PHE has said it would not comment on leaked data.

- PTI

## Painful experience for stressed doctors, nurses and other COVID Warriors

Doctors and nurses attending to Covid-19 patients and posting their videos on social

media sum up the trauma they experience in COVID wards, where the pandemic is staging

a dance of death and devastation. End of the day, they often break down in tears.

Medical professionals handling the dying patients say counseling their families on the wait outside is itself a huge task and painful experience. Cases are one too many, hospitals are running out of beds, there is shortage of support systems and life-saving equipment, and the virus's variants are often difficult to identify.

The medical staff is face-to-face with death and strained also by the extra hours of work day after day, in iterations. Worse, they are exposed

closer to this deadly virus than the general public.

Many doctors, nurses and other medical staff have lost their lives while treating the patients. Here is a war-like situation. They are also scared about the possibility that they carry the killer virus home and spread it to the family.

Alongside comes the people's irresponsible behavior, couldn't-careless attitude, the mass gatherings, political rallies, cinema craze, all helping spread the deadly virus. All these are happening when the frontline

Covid warriors are staking their lives and attending to patients non-stop and gasping for breath. - DECCAN CHRONICLE



A health worker inspects COVID-19 patients undergoing treatment at Shehnaiz Banquet Hall, converted into an isolation centre in New Delhi amid a surge in COVID-19 cases. - PTI



Medical workers treat COVID-19 patients at a hospital in New Delhi.

## 26 Indian States/UTs under lockdown

Data show that while we may not have nationwide lockdown in place, as many as 26 states and Union Territories (UTs) have some form of restrictions in place. In other words, nearly 98 per cent of India's population is under some form of lockdown.

Among states, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra have full lockdown in place. Even in other states such as Gujarat, Telangana, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh, there are restrictions in place. But they are not as stringent as full lockdown.

While states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been giving cash handouts and food packets to the ration cardholders, other states are yet to announce welfare schemes to cushion the blow of lockdown on the vulnerable sections of the population.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government on Sunday decided to extend the ongoing lockdown by another week in the wake of the prevailing COVID-19 situation in

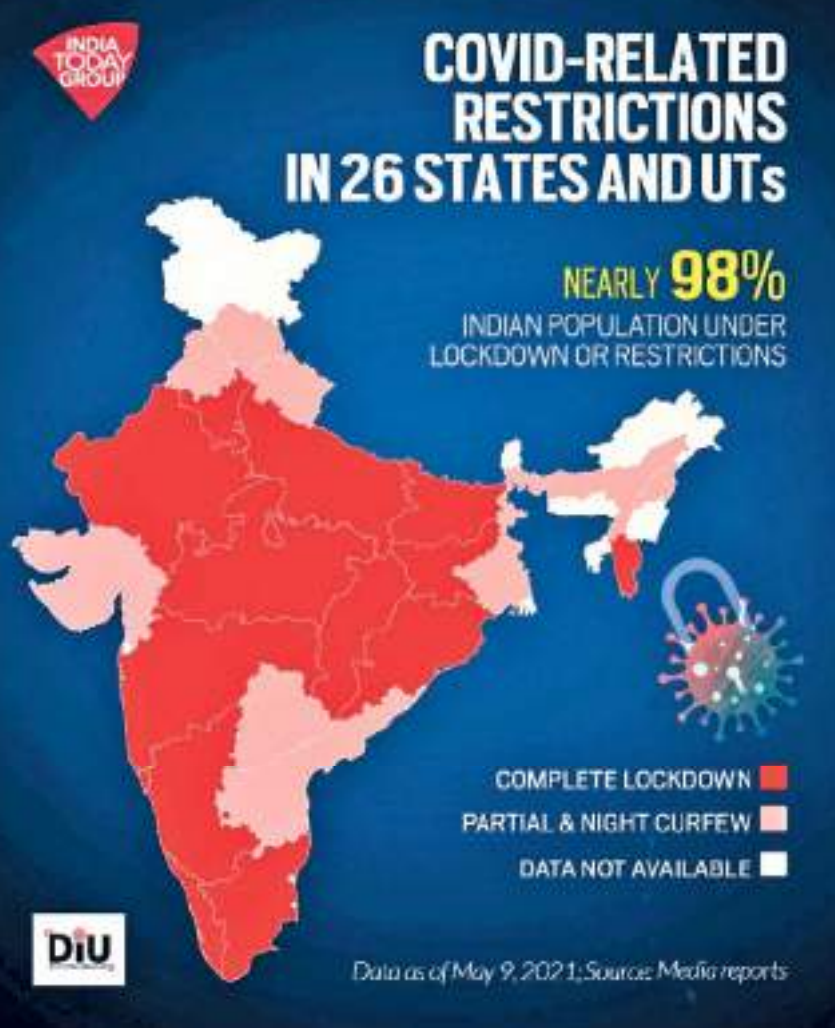
the city. The restrictions will be in place till May 17. This would be the fourth week of the lockdown imposed as the COVID-19 numbers in the city skyrocketed.

Meanwhile, On April 1, India's score on the Global Stringency Index stood at 58. The score touched 74 on April 30. India-specific data has not been updated since then. Once updated, the score is likely to go up given the kind of restrictions in place in most parts of the country.

The Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker has prepared a composite stringency index that uses metrics like school and workplace closures; cancellation of public events; restrictions on public gatherings and internal and external movements; stay-at-home requirements; and closure of public transport among others.

India's score touched 100 in the last week of March last year and stayed at that level during the nationwide lockdown.

- INDIA TODAY







## Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

### PUBLIC NOTICE

We have received information that the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) is displaying nameplates, running fake offices and using vehicles with such nameplates and VIP logos.

It has been revealed that these fake groups are carrying out illegal activities such as violating traffic laws, transporting illegal goods, illegally influencing the people in custody in police stations and charging money by claiming to provide various services.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka is an independent commission established by the Constitution of Sri Lanka. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka was established under the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 21 of 1996. There is no charge for the services provided by it and in addition to the head office in Colombo, the relevant services are provided through 10 regional offices and 03 sub-offices islandwide. Following are the currently active offices and coordinating offices of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

|              |   |             |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| Head Office  | No. 14, R.A. de Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.              | 011 2505580 |
| Anuradhapura | No. 623/20E, Freeman Road, Anuradhapura               | 025 2234801 |
| Ampara       | 4th Mile Post, Uhana Road, Karangawa, Ampara          | 063 2222340 |
| Batticaloa   | No. 46, Covington Road, Batticaloa                    | 065 2224420 |
| Trincomalee  | No. 343, Power House Road, Trincomalee                | 026 2222607 |
| Kalmunai     | Kittanky Road, Manachchnai, Kalmunai 01               | 067 2229728 |
| Jaffna       | No. 1, 3rd Cross Street, Jaffna                       | 021 2222021 |
| Badulla      | No. 43/5, Kumarasinghe Road, Badulla                  | 055 2224594 |
| Matara       | No. 09, Rahula Cross Street, Matara                   | 041 2226533 |
| Kandy        | No. 8/1, Primrose Lane, Peradeniya Road, Kandy        | 081 2205024 |
| Vavuniya     | No. 26/2, Outer Circular Road, Vavuniya               | 024 2222029 |
| Puttalam     | Old Urban Council Building, Kurunegala Road, Puttalam | 071 5663455 |
| Mannar       | No. 121, Hospital Road, Mannar                        | 023 3123906 |
| Kilinochchi  | Old Kachcheri Building, A9 Road, Kilinochchi          | 070 3654910 |

In addition to the above telephone numbers, the hotline number of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka '1996' is available 24 hours a day.

The offices of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka are not maintained anywhere other than offices located at the above addresses. Sri Lankans are also informed that no intermediary agency or intermediaries have been appointed in addition to these offices. Therefore, we kindly request you not to be deceived by such fake individuals and organized groups and to contact our office directly to avail of our services.

**Dr. Jagath Balasuriya**  
Chairman,  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

06.05.2021

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

## Department of Local Government NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of Local Government, North Central Province on behalf of the Procurement entity described in the table below now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the projects mentioned in the same table.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**. Since the estimated value of work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs. 50 Mn regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016(iii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder should not have been blacklisted and shall meet CIDA registration mentioned in table below.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include the successful completion of a similar nature of building construction of value more than Rs. 3.5 Mn. in consecutive last five years and employing a Technical Officer (NCT Civil/NVQ 5).
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Commissioner, Department of Local Government, Provincial Council Building Complex, Harishchandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura. (T.No. 0252234728, Fax: 0252234728, E-mail: ncplg2020@gmail.com)** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs.
- A complete set of Bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the **Commissioner, Department of Local Government, Provincial Council Building Complex, Harishchandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura** from **11th May 2021** until **31st May 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee stated in the table below. The method of payment will be **in cash**.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address: Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of Local Government, North Central Province, on or before **1st June 2021 at 1300 hrs**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **77 days (17.08.2021)**

| No. | Procurement Entity            | Description of work   | Total Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Contract Period | Required Grade              | Non-refundable Fees (Rs.) | Required Bid Security |                 |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|     |                               |   |                            |                 |                             |                           | Security Amount (Rs.) | Validity Period |
| 01  | Medirigiriya Pradeshiya Sabha | Construction of the upper floor of the Building at Medirigiriya Weekly Fair | 4.2                        | 120 Days        | C7-C8 Building Construction | 2,500.00                  | 42,000.00             | 14.09.2021      |
| 02  | Medirigiriya Pradeshiya Sabha | Construction of Fish Market building at Medirigiriya Weekly Fair            | 5.8                        | 120 Days        | C6-C7 Building Construction | 2,500.00                  | 58,000.00             | 14.09.2021      |
| 03  | Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha    | Construction of Sungawila Weekly Fair                                       | 9.8                        | 120 Days        | C6-C7 Building Construction | 3,500.00                  | 100,000.00            | 14.09.2021      |

Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Department of Local Government (Ground Floor),  
Provincial Council Building Complex,  
Harishchandra Mawatha,  
Anuradhapura.  
06.05.2021

## ARE YOU THE BRAND WHO WANTS TO BE?

SRI LANKA CRICKET TEAM'S 'SPONSOR' FOR THE ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2021



### CALLING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM INTERESTED PARTIES

Sri Lanka cricket, an international cricketing brand wishes to call expression of interest (EOI) along with financial offers from local and global firms interested in sponsoring the Sri Lanka cricket team during the 2021 ICC world cup, which is scheduled to take place from October to November 2021 (venue to be confirmed).

This is an opportunity to attract global attention to your valued brand. Sri Lanka cricket team, the former world champions, and a highly competitive team during the ICC world cup campaigns, having featured in three finals, one semi-final and a quarter final is yet again gearing up to reach its past glory during the 2021 world cup campaign.

The matches will be broadcasted globally and also be available on digital media. This will provide wide scale exposure for brands, which associates with the global event.

THE SELECTED PARTNER WILL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY ITS 'BRAND LOGO' ON THE TEAM'S PLAYING AND TRAINING ATTIRE AS SPECIFIED BELOW.

| NUMBER | CLOTHING CATEGORY           | LOGO SIZE  | LOGO POSITION                        |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 01     | PLAYING T SHIRTS            | NOT EXCEEDING 10 SQ INCHES (64.5CM <sup>2</sup> )                            | LEADING ARM ON SLEEVE                |
| 02     | PLAYING SWEATER LONG SLEEVE | NOT EXCEEDING 10 SQ INCHES (64.5CM <sup>2</sup> )                            | LEADING ARM ON SLEEVE                |
| 03     | TRAINING BIB                | TWO TEAM SPONSOR'S LOGOS NOT EXCEEDING 32 SQ INCHES (206.45CM <sup>2</sup> ) | ONE ON THE FRONT AND ONE ON THE BACK |

HOWEVER, KINDLY NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICE CATEGORIES ARE PROTECTED.

- PASSENGER CARS, VANS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (INCLUDING SUVs, SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES), BUSES, TRUCKS, MINI-BUSES, TRAILERS, AND MOBILE HOMES, THIS INCLUDES THE PROVISION OF RENTED VEHICLES
- MOBILE TELEPHONE DEVICES INCLUDING SMARTPHONES, TABLETS AND RELATED ACCESSORIES
- TYRES AND INNER TYRE TUBES

### FINANCIAL PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT TERMS:

- FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SHOULD STATE THE FIGURE OF THE NET RIGHTS FEE OFFERED IN SRI LANKAN RUPEES AND/OR US DOLLARS (IN WORDS AND NUMBERS) EXCLUDING OF VAT/TAX/ANY OTHER DEDUCTIONS DEPENDING ON LOCAL OR FOREIGN EOI PARTICIPANT.
- THE FOLLOWING PAYMENT STRUCTURE SHALL APPLY IN RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS TO BE GRANTED, AND RIGHTS FEE THERETO SHALL BE PAYABLE BY THE SUCCESSFUL EOI PARTICIPANT TO SLC IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
  - THE TOTAL RIGHTS FEE (I.E. THE OFFERED VALUE) SHOULD BE PAID IN FULL ON OR BEFORE 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021.
  - THE MODE OF PAYMENT: BANK TRANSFER TO THE SLC DESIGNATED ACCOUNT/ BANK DRAFT ISSUED IN FAVOR OF SLC.

### THE EOI NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION/ BUSINESS REGISTRATION
- COMPANY PROFILE AND INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS' / OWNERS' PROFILE.
- CERTIFIED COPY OF MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION ALONG WITH CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OR SIMILAR CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS
- UPDATED VAT REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE, TRADE LICENSE AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) CERTIFICATE OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS.
- REFERENCE FROM A REPUTED INTERNATIONAL BANK CERTIFYING THE FINANCIAL STABILITY (BANK SOLVENCY CERTIFICATE)
- UPDATED AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (IN CASE OF CONSORTIUM, EACH PARTY'S AUDITOR'S REPORT NEEDS TO SUBMITTED INDIVIDUALLY).
- IN CASE OF CONSORTIUM, NOTARIZED CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THIS EOI, PLEASE CONTACT MANAGER SALES - SLC VIA 0764 127 253.

INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) ALONG WITH FINANCIAL OFFERS ON OR BEFORE **03. 00 P.M. 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021** TO [SPONSORSHIP@SRI LANKA CRICKET.LK](mailto:SPONSORSHIP@SRI LANKA CRICKET.LK) OR THE HARD COPIES OF THE SAME BEING COURIERED TO AFOREMENTIONED ADDRESS.

THE SLC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION WITHOUT ASSIGNING ANY REASON. THE SLC ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE ENTIRE EOI PROCESS AND / OR MODIFY, ADD OR ALTER THE TERMS OF THE DOCUMENT AND/ OR THE CONDITIONS FOR EOI PROCESS BY ISSUING AN ADDENDUM(S) AT ANY TIME.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SRI LANKA CRICKET, NO 35, MAITLAND PLACE, COLOMBO 07, SRI LANKA.



# Chinese vaccine to benefit global COVID-19 fight

**CHINA:** The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday validated the COVID-19 vaccine developed by China's Sinopharm for emergency use, a move widely welcomed by officials and experts worldwide and set to benefit the global fight against the pandemic.

This is a "great success and benefit for the world" because the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine validated by the WHO is proving very effective in countries including Pakistan where it is being administered, said Musarrat Amin, a Pakistani strategic security analyst.

The world right now is suffering due to COVID-19 and the Sinopharm vaccine is a blessing because of its easy storage requirements, which will make it a desirable vaccine for the low-income economies of the third world countries, Amin said.

"The Sinopharm vaccine being added into the WHO's COVAX program is a huge relief for the third world countries," she added.

COVAX is an initiative led by international partnerships and agencies, including the WHO, to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are distributed equitably.



The approval of Sinopharm vaccines means it will now be added to the Covax programme, which provides equitable access to vaccines against Covid-19, paving the way for millions of doses to reach needy countries.

The WHO's emergency approval of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine is "a step in the right direction" and is "a great

attempt to help beat coronavirus in developing countries," Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fatah Central Committee

and Fatah's Commissioner General for the Arab and Chinese Affairs, told Xinhua.

Prior to the WHO's decision, the Chinese vaccine has already been used in dozens of developing countries, including Palestine, and "offers reassurance and comfort to developing countries as it is safe and effective," Zaki said.

A report published recently on British journal Nature noted that such certification by the WHO could help "address the current shortfall in vaccines available through COVAX," and potentially opens the door to "wide distribution in lower-income nations through the COVAX initiative."

"For many countries, Chinese vaccines were the only accessible ones," it wrote, adding that researchers in other countries such as Brazil, Turkey and Chile are "beginning to see evidence of their effect in controlling the pandemic."

China has been fulfilling its commitment to making its COVID-19 vaccine a global public good "at a time when the vaccine shots are not available in many places or being nationalized," Amin said. - XINHUA

## Vaccination only long-term solution to India's COVID crisis - Dr. Anthony Fauci

'US has undercounted COVID deaths'

**US:** Getting people vaccinated is the only long-term solution to the current COVID-19 crisis in India, America's top public health expert Dr Anthony Fauci said on Sunday as he called for scaling up manufacturing of coronavirus vaccines both domestically and globally to fight the deadly pandemic.

"The endgame of this all...is going to be to get people vaccinated...India is the largest vaccine-producing country in the world. They've got to get their resources, not only from within, but also from without," Fauci, who is the Chief Medical Adviser to US President Joe Biden, told the ABC News in an interview.

"That's the reason why other countries need to chip in to be able to get either supplies to the Indians to make their own vaccines or to get vaccines donated. One of the ways to do that is to have the big companies that have the capability of making vaccines to really scale up in a great way to get literally hundreds of millions of doses to be able to get to them," he said.

Responding to a question, Dr Fauci said that India needs to immediately build makeshift field hospitals like what China did a year ago.

The 80-year-old physician and immunologist, who serves as the director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said there is an immediate problem of hospital beds, oxygen, PPE and other supplies.

Meanwhile, Fauci also said that the United States, which has reported the



Dr. Anthony Fauci

world's worst overall COVID-19 death toll, has "no doubt" been undercounting fatal cases.

The country has officially lost over 581,000 people to the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - but a University of Washington study released Thursday estimated deaths at more than 900,000.

"That's a bit more than I would have thought the undercounting was," Fauci told NBC's "Meet The Press."

"But I think there's no doubt... that we are and have been undercounting."

The United States has reported over 32.6 million cases since the virus was first identified at the end of 2019 in China.

America was battered by a spike in cases and deaths after the end-of-year holidays, but since January new infections have come down as vaccination rates have jumped.

"We are turning the corner. We have 58 percent of adult Americans with at least one shot, over 110 million Americans fully vaccinated," White House Covid-19 coordinator Jeffrey Zients told CNN's State of the Union.

President Joe Biden wants 70 percent of adults in the US to have received at least one shot of the Covid-19 vaccine by the July 4 Independence Day holiday. - NDTV

## China to create 'line of separation' at Everest summit on COVID fears

**CHINA:** China will set up "a line of separation" at the summit of Mount Everest to prevent the mingling of climbers from COVID-hit Nepal and those ascending from the Tibetan side as a precautionary measure, Chinese state media reported on Sunday.

Everest base camp on the Nepalese side has been hit by coronavirus cases since late April. The Nepalese government, starved of tourism revenue, has yet to cancel the spring climbing season, usually from April to early June before the monsoon rains.

It was not immediately clear how the line would be enforced on the summit, a tiny, perilous and inhospitable area the size of a dining table.

A small team of Tibetan climbing guides will ascend Everest and set up the "line of separation" at the summit to stop any contact

between mountaineers from both sides of the peak, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the head of Tibet's sports bureau.

A group of 21 Chinese nationals are en route to the summit on the Tibetan side, Xinhua reported.

The Tibetan guides will set up the separation line ahead of their arrival, the state-run news agency said, without describing what the line would look like.

It was also unclear whether the Tibetan guides would be the ones enforcing the "separation", or whether they would remain in the so-called death zone, where many lives have been lost due to a dearth of oxygen, to hold the line.

The top of the 8,848-metre peak is a small mound of snow with barely enough space for half a dozen climbers and guides at any one time. - INDIA TODAY



Both Nepal and China closed the mountain to foreign climbers last year because of the pandemic.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Prime suspect' in Nashedd attack arrested

Police in the Maldives say they have arrested the alleged "prime suspect" in the attempted assassination of the country's former president.

Aduham Ahmed Rasheed, 25, was arrested on Sunday, three days after Mohamed Nasheed, 53, was badly injured in an explosion outside his home in the Indian Ocean nation's capital, Male.

Nasheed's condition had improved on Saturday, according to family. A British national and two others were also injured in the 6 May bombing. The official Twitter account of the Maldives Police announced the arrest on Sunday, saying the man is believed to be the prime suspect in the attack.

They allege he is the same man seen on CCTV waiting in an alley just before a device planted on a motorbike parked near Nasheed's car exploded on Thursday evening. - BBC

### Four injured in New Zealand supermarket stabbing

At least four people have been injured, three of whom are now in critical condition, after a stabbing attack at a New Zealand supermarket.

The stabbing took place at a Countdown supermarket in central Dunedin on South Island in the afternoon. One

person has been taken into custody, authorities said.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the motivation behind the attack was not clear but that there was no indication it was a domestic terror event.

Incidents of mass violence are rare in New Zealand but the country saw the 2019 Christchurch shooting when a white supremacist killed more than 50 people at two mosques.

Local media reports say the injured are made of both supermarket employees and customers. Witnesses also described chaotic scenes at the supermarket. - BBC

### Six shot dead at Colorado birthday party

A gunman shot dead six people and then himself at a birthday party in Colorado Springs on Sunday, US police said.

The shootings took place at a mobile home park where families had gathered in one trailer to celebrate.

"The suspect, a boyfriend of one of the female victims, drove to the residence, walked inside and began shooting people at the party before taking his own life," the Colorado Springs Police Department said. The motive for the attack is not known.

The victims were all adults, but a number of children were present in the trailer at the time.

The identities of the victims and the attacker have not yet been released. - BBC

## Romania's 'Dracula's castle' offers COVID shots for tourists

**ROMANIA:** Visitors to Romania's forbidding Bran Castle, widely known as the inspiration for the lair of Dracula, are being jabbed with needles rather than vampiric fangs this weekend in a coronavirus vaccination drive.

"I came to visit the castle with my family and when I saw the poster I gathered up my courage and agreed to get the injection," said 39-year-old engineer Liviu Necula.

Those who take the jab are handed a certificate hailing their "boldness and responsibility" promising they will be welcome at the castle "for the coming 100 years" - as well as offered a free tour of the "torture chamber".

Nestled in a misty valley in the Carpathian mountains, Bran Castle

is associated with the 15th-century Romanian prince Vlad Tepes, known as "the Impaler", although he never stayed there.

Dracula author Bram Stoker is believed to have been inspired by Vlad and descriptions of Bran Castle when writing his 1897 novel that helped found the modern vampire genre.

Romania's government has turned to local vaccination drives and 24-hour "marathons" at major venues like the National Library in Bucharest to get as many citizens as possible immunised.

Almost 3.6 million Romanians of the country's 19 million people have received at least one vaccine dose, with authorities aiming for five million by June. - INDIA TODAY



Dracula's Bran Castle towers above Bran commune, in Brasov county, Romania.



## European Union seals deal for extra 1.8 billion BioNTech/Pfizer doses

**PORTUGAL:** The European Union (EU) has concluded a deal with BioNTech/Pfizer for up to 1.8 billion extra doses of their COVID-19 vaccine, European Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Saturday.

"Happy to announce that the EU Commission has just

approved a contract for guaranteed 900 million doses (+900 million options) with BioNTech/Pfizer for 2021-2023," she tweeted from an EU summit in Portugal.

"Other contracts and other vaccine technologies will follow," she promised.

The contract, on top of the 600 million BioNTech/Pfizer doses the commission has already secured, aims to supply the bloc - population 450 million - with enough jabs for booster shots, the EU said.

They could also expand vaccination to minors and for exports

to lower-income countries outside the EU, it added.

Von der Leyen has said that the mRNA technology used by BioNTech/Pfizer and other vaccine-makers has proven safe and effective.

The 27-nation bloc is on track to have 70 percent of adults fully

vaccinated by late July, and is already cautiously reopening ahead of its vital summer vacation period. The EU has so far sent more than 200 million doses to non-EU countries, while the United States has dispatched just 2.7 million to Mexico in what it describes as a "loan". - NDTV



## Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

# Susanthika - first Sri Lankan to reach IAAF World Championship podium

Mannalage Susanthika Jayasinghe was born on December 17, 1965 in the village of Uduwaka, close to Warakapola. She had her early education at Uduwaka Primary School and joined Athnawala MV for her secondary education.

She began to display her prowess at Inter-School, Zonal and District Level Meets while competing in the 50m and 75m events.

The Teacher-in-Charge of Sports at her school, Indra Padmini Perera soon realised that Susanthika had an extraordinary physical strength compared to other girls and laid the foundation to improve her athletics career.

Thereafter, Susanthika received further guidance from Sports Instructor Chithra Malli-

ka. The Sports Officer of Warakapola, Dhammika Wanigasinghe then took further action by consulting an athletic specialist realising that Susanthika has a bright future ahead at international level.

Following the instructions of the athletic specialist, Susanthika was immediately brought under the supervision of veteran Coach Dervin Perera.

Thereafter, she joined the Sri Lanka Army and began training under the guidance of Dervin Perera. She participated in her first major international event at the 1993 Dhaka South Asian Federation (SAF) Games and won the Bronze Medal while returning a time of 24.56s.

She then went on to win the 200m Gold Medal at the 1994 Asian Junior Athletics Champi-

onships in Jakarta, Indonesia with a record breaking performance of 23.16s.

She also won the 200m Gold Medal at the 1995 Asian Championships in Jakarta with another record-breaking effort of 23.00s.

She won the Silver Medal in the 100m event at the same meet with a time of 11.37s. She then won the 200m Silver Medal at the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games while returning a time of 23.57s.

She won the 100m Gold Medal at the 1995 Madras SAF Games with a new mark of 11.34s and took the Gold Medal in the 200m event as well in the same meet with another record-breaking performance of 22.95s.

She won the 200m Silver Medal at the 1997 World Athlet-

ics Championships in Athens with a time of 22.39s. This was the first occasion that a Sri Lankan athlete had won a medal at a World Championships.

In 1998, her best performance was 11.27s in the 100m and 23.28s in the 200m event. In 1997, she had the opportunity of training under veteran athletics coach Tony Campbell in the USA.

As a result, Susanthika went on to display her talent by winning the third place at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games with a time of 22.28s.

In fact, this was only the second medal for Sri Lanka at an Olympic Games. Her performance was later upgraded to a Silver Medal after the winner of the event Marian Jones was stripped of her medal following a doping test.

Susanthika also won the 100m Gold Medal at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. She won the 100m Silver Medal and the 200m Bronze Medal at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

She won the 200m Bronze Medal at the 11th World Athletics Championships in Japan with a time of 22.63s.

Susanthika had the honour of representing the country at four Olympic Games in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008. In addition, she also had the distinction of participating in SAF Games, Asian Games, Grand Prix Meets and in several Open Championships.

After retiring from the sport, she joined the Sports Ministry as the Director of Talent Search and Olympic Director High Performance. (C.D)



Susanthika Jayasinghe

## Thushara Madushan excels for Gurukula

**DILWIN MENDIS**  
Moratuwa Sports Special  
Correspondent

Third year player, right hand lower order batsman left arm leg spinner and all rounder Wanasinghe Arachchige Thushara Madushan has brought honour and fame to his Alma Mater Gurukula Vidyalaya Kelaniya one of the leading cricket playing schools in Gampaha District. Thushara was born on 27th April 2002 and he was admitted to the Grade one of his neighbouring school Sobitha Vidyalaya Sapugaskanda in 2008. He did not participate in any sports activities whilst he was in this school and his parents Daminda Deepal and Asoka Pathirana noticing his keenness for cricket he was admitted to the Cricket Academy Ragama when he was in Grade Four and he came under Sanjeeva Mendis for seven years. During this period he represented the Academy in the under 13 and 15 cricket tournaments conducted by the Mercantile Cricket Association and he was the Vice Captain of the under 15 team in 2017.

Then in 2014 he was admitted to Basilica College Ragama and in the same year repre-



senting the under 13 team he bagged 32 wickets with one ten wicket haul and two five wicket hauls and in the following year he claimed 35 scalps with three five wicket hauls and his coach was Lahiru Thiwana and Prefect of Games and Master in Charge of cricket was Mr. Manjula.

Then he joined St. Anthony's College Wattala in 2016 and his coach was Sirantha Niroshana and the Master in Charge was Rev. Fr. Sajith. In his first year he claimed 25 wickets with two five wicket hauls and played for the Prima Cup for Gampaha District and in his second year he bagged ten wickets with one five wicket haul and that year he could not gain a place in the Prima Cup Tournament. In 2018 he

shifted to Gurukula Vidyalaya Kelaniya and came under Rastha Dinesh and playing for the under 17 team in 2019 he captured 12 wickets with one five wicket haul and with these performances under his belt he gained a place in the first eleven team and in that season playing in 14 matches he captured 50 wickets with one ten wicket haul against Joseph Vaz College with 11 for 60 (3 for 33 and 8 for 27) and another five wicket haul. He played in the Big Match and the Limited Over Match against their arch rivals Dharmaloka Vidyalaya Kelaniya.

This year playing in the under 19 inter schools Limited Over Tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association in five outings he claimed 12 wickets with one five wicket haul versus D. S. Senanayake Vidyalaya Colombo and at the end of the first round he was the highest wicket taker of the Division One and after the conclusion of the tournament he was the fifth highest wicket taker of the tournament.

Their assistant coach Mr. Buddhika and the Principal Anil Geethalal was supportive of him throughout his career.



Gurukula First Eleven Cricket Team 2021 posed for a photograph after an inter school under 19 tournament match. (Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

## Thilanka Viraj Kumara a fine weightlifter

**(UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA)**  
Kandy Sports Special  
Correspondent

Twenty eight year old Thilanka Viraj Kumara is one of the finest weightlifters of Sri Lanka at present and he was adjudged the Best Lifter for four consecutive years from 2016 to 2019 at the National Weightlifting Contest as well as the National Sports festival. He had his education at Seva Muktha Maha Vidyalaya, Polonnaruwa and his weightlifting career started in the year 2010 under the coaching of the Late Kumudu Kumara Silva and Raju Wansapura, both talented weight lifters.

His first weightlifting meet was the National Meet held in the year 2010 and he secured the 56 Kg. Weight class and in the following year he was placed second in the same weight class of 56 Kg. In 2012 he secured the first place in his Weight class of 56 Kg. and again he became first at the Commonwealth Games held in Malaysia at Junior level and secured second place in the Senior level. In 2014 Thilanka participated at the Commonwealth weightlifting contest unsuccessfully but in the same meet held in India in 2015 he secured the third place in under 62 Kg. weight class.

From the year 2016 he was



Thilanka Viraj Kumara in action at the meet in Snatch. Pictures by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.corr

coached by R.B. Wickremasinghe, veteran Weightlifting Coach. In the year 2017 in the 62 Kg. weight class at the Commonwealth weightlifting Championship held in Malaysia he was placed second. In the same event held in Gold Coast Australia in 2017 and in the year 2018 at the Commonwealth Contest held at the same venue in 62 Kgweight class he was placed fourth. In 2019 at the Asian Championship held in China he got the eighth place at the 61 Kg. weight class and in the same year he was placed second at the SAF Games held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

In the year 2021 Weightlifting trials he established Three S/L Records lifting 118 Kg. in Snatch, 145 Kg. in Clean and

Jerk and a total of 268 Kg., but at the recently concluded Asian Weightlifting Championship held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan he was sadly unplaced. Thilanka's next International Weightlifting contest will be the Commonwealth Games to be held in England in the year 2022 and the Asian Weightlifting Championship to be held in the same year and the venue will be notified in due course due to the prevailing condition in the country.

He is determined to do well in these events as he was able to win a Silver Medal at the 2017 Commonwealth Weightlifting Contest held in Malaysia and he is thankful to his present Coach R.B. Wickremasinghe, a veteran Weightlifting Coach.

## Second row forward Gayan Fernando shone for CR and Sri Lanka

**ALTHAF NAWAZ**

A coach plays a pivotal role in identifying the talents and teaching the basics of the game while transforming him to a valuable player in any sporting discipline. The game of rugby too has similar circumstances and Gayan Fernando was no stranger to this as he was influenced and motivated by late Kamal Jayawardena who was instrumental in producing several outstanding players who later represented Sri Lanka.

Gayan was born in 1987 in Colombo and was called 'Gaya' in rugby circles. His father is Ravindra Fernando a former basketball player of Ananda College and was also a bodybuilder of YMCA, Colombo. He worked in Doha Qatar for quite some time. His mother is Nayana Ranasinghe a housewife. He has one sister Gayani. He started his school career at

Asoka Vidyalaya, Colombo from 1992 and continued his studies till 2002 and in 2003, he moved to Ananda College, Colombo for further studies which concluded in 2006. He was a six footer and had a playing weight of 105 kilogrammes. Gayan from his teenage years had a liking for sports on par with academic studies. He was involved in athletics and cricket apart from rugby at school.

It was one of his friends from Ispathana College who encouraged him to play rugby even though he didn't have any idea about the game. He forcefully arranged a meeting with Sanath Martis who was the Coach at Ispathana at that time (2001). Martis wanted him to join Ispathana to play rugby. However, he decided to learn the basics of rugby while being at Asoka until he completed the GCE O/L exams as per his father's advice. In 2001, he embarked on his rugby career at Asoka at the age of 14 under the coaching of late Kamal Jayawardena who was the pivotal character of Asoka College Rugby. Jayawardena identified him as an ideal second row forward for the under-15 team which played in a 10-a-side tournament. At the age of 15, he played for the Asoka first XV team as a permanent second row forward along with the senior players which provided him the necessary confidence to continue his rugby career. He was an extremely mobile player on the field due to the speed and agility skills which he gained as an athlete at school. 2002 was a remarkable year in his rugby career as he was selected to represent

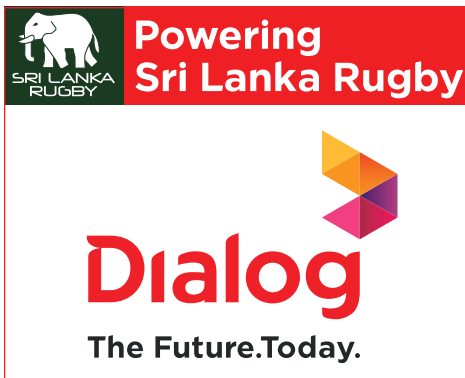
Sri Lanka under-16 team under the captaincy of Namal Rajapaksa the present Sports Minister. That team which played in the Asiad held in Chinese Taipei won the 'Plate Championship' with a remarkable performance. This tournament was an eye opener for rugby in Sri Lanka as most of the rugby greats in the country such as Fazil Marija, Achala Perera, Eranda Weerakkody were members of this team. Apart from the National level, he captained Asoka under-15 XV-a-side team. During this time, they



Gayan Fernando

beat the high riding Ispathana for the first time in the history of Asoka at the inter school Western Province Tournament.

In 2003, he joined Ananda at the age of 16 soon after O/L's to continue his studies in



Maths stream. However, Rugby being the main reason for him to join Ananda, who were competing in "A" Division Rugby arena. From 2003 to 2005, he established a permanent place in the Ananda first XV team under the captaincy of Mindika Jayasinghe, Anuradha Fonseka and Sumith Dahayake respectively. He was appointed captain of the college first XV team in 2006 which managed to remain in the 'A' Division even though they lost a few matches. He would like to extend a big thank you to his coaches Hisham Abdeen, G B Gunadasa, Shashika Cooray and Yugantha Karunaratne who coached them to remain as one of the skilled teams in the fray. He won the Ananda colours three times, the Prestigious Ananda "PADMA" Award and National Schools Colours three times for his performances during the school days.

In 2004, he represented the under-19 National Rugby team under the captaincy of

Namal Rajapaksa which was held in Kunming, China. They concluded the tournament as the fourth placed team losing to host China at the play off. In 2005, he was selected to play for Sri Lanka National team under the captaincy of Late Sajith Mallikarachchi and continued playing in several tournaments including World Cup Qualifiers in Kazakhstan, where his National Rugby career extended till 2010.

This was another golden opportunity for him to play with some of the greats of the game in that era like Sanjeeva Jayasinghe, Chamara Witanage, Amjad Buksh, Asanga Rodrigo, Pavithra Fernando few to be named, despite being a school boy. He occupied the second row berth along with another old Anandian Dinesh Sanjeeva. With the experience of training with the National team, he was identified as the Junior Rugby Captain to lead the under-19 National Rugby team in 2005 for Asian Rugby Tournament which was held in Lahore, Pakistan.

After his productive school rugby career, he resumed his club rugby in 2007 with CR and FC under the captaincy of Shamil Mohamed and coached by Tavita Tulagaese affectionately called Laga. which won the Caltex President's Trophy by beating CH and FC 22-11 in the final. It was a promising year for CR Rugby. It was a pleasure for him to play with some big names in Sri Lanka Rugby at that juncture such as Pavithra Fernando, Dushanth Lewke, Ashen Karthelis (Kara), Anuja Perera, Danushka Boteju, Radhika Hettiachchi, Mohamed Sheriff, Viraj Prasantha, Amjad Buksh, de Costa Brothers (Ashan and Lasantha) during his tenure at CR. While representing CR, he was selected for the National Rugby Squad which played at the Asia Five Nations tournament under the captaincy of Dushanth Lewke.

However, it was unfortunate that he had to withdraw from the team at the last minute due to a severe back injury. But he bounced back in 2010 and played for Sri Lanka Police as a second row forward for two consecutive years. In 2011 he hung up his boots.

In 2012 he joined Nations Trust Bank as a Banking Assistant and played Mercantile Sevens for three consecutive years. He led the Sevens team in 2014 to reach the Bowl semi-finals under the guidance of Lakala Perera who was their coach.

Currently he is working at DFCC Bank PLC in the capacity of Corporate Communications and Brand Engagement Manager. He is a passionate cyclist and an ardent Toastmaster who has excelled in Public Speaking. He holds a MBA with a commendation specialized in Marketing from the University of Bedfordshire, UK, a postgraduate diploma in Marketing from the University of Kelaniya and a Professional Certificate from Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK. His wife Lakmini works for an Engineering firm in the capacity of accounts assistant and has a child Devsith.

## Southern Province school sports stars felicitated

**NARAYANASAMY JAYARATNAM**  
Kalutara Roving Corr

The Southern Province School Sports Colours Award Ceremony was held recently at the Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium, University of Ruhuna. At this ceremony, 209 school children representing the Southern Province who won the All Island School Sports Competitions in 2019 and brought fame to the Southern Province were felicitated. In addition a nutritional allowance of Rs. 2000 per month will be provided throughout the year 2021 for the 209 school sportsmen and sportswomen.

It was also decided to provide Rs. 55 lakhs from the Provincial Council funds to each of the 55 Provincial Council schools with



Southern Province Governor Willie Gamage handing over the best sportsman trophy. Pictures by Narayanasamy Jayaratnam Kalutara Roving Corr



Southern Province Governor Willie Gamage handing over the best sportswoman trophy

the objective of promoting sports in the province. In addition, the coaches of the school athletes who obtained the colours were rewarded at the same time. Governor of Southern Province Willie Gamage, Secretary, Southern Province Minis-

try of Education Ranjith Yapa, Southern Province Director of Education, Nimal Dissanayake and all the Zonal Directors of Education of the Province as well as many distinguished guests were present at this Southern Provincial School

Sports Colours awards ceremony. This Project was launched by the Southern Province Director of Sports, RM Krishan Duminda, according to a concept of the Sports Division of the Southern Province Education Ministry.



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WORLD OF SPORTS

(May 11)

FOREIGN EVENTS

**FOOTBALL**  
(Premier League):  
Manchester United vs  
Leicester City  
Southampton vs  
Crystal Palace

(Spanish League):  
Osasuna vs Cádiz  
Elche vs Alavés  
Levante vs Barcelona

**TENNIS**  
(ATP, Outdoor, Clay)  
Internazionali BNL  
d'Italia at Foro Italico

**CYCLING**  
Giro d'Italia in Italy  
(4th stage)



Avishka Gunawardene

# Independent Tribunal CLEARS Avishka

An independent Anti-Corruption Tribunal has unanimously cleared former Sri Lanka player Avishka Gunawardene of two charges against him under the Emirates Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code, allowing him to resume participation in cricket with immediate effect.

The Tribunal, which also considered charges against Sri Lanka's Nuwan Zoysa for four counts under the same Code, has upheld one charge (2.4.6) against Zoysa while dismissing the other three charges.

The detailed decision will be

announced to the parties in due course and remains subject to appeal.

The ICC (acting on behalf of the ECB) will consider the written reasoned decision in full before making any further comment.

Gunawardene was charged with: Article 2.1.4 - Directly or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any Participant to breach Code Article 2.1.

Article 2.4.5 - Failing to disclose to the ACU (without unnecessary

delay) full details of any incident, fact, or matter that comes to the attention of a Participant that may evidence Corrupt Conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code by another Participant.

Zoysa was charged with: Article 2.1.1 - Being party to an agreement to influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other aspect(s) of a match.

Article 2.1.4 - Directly or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any

Participant to breach Code Article 2.1. Article 2.4.4 - Failing to disclose to the ACU full details of any approaches or invitations received to engage in corrupt conduct under the Code.

Article 2.4.6 - Failing or refusing, without compelling justification to cooperate with any investigation carried out by the ACU in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code

Zoysa was last month banned for six years in a different case under the ICC Anti-Corruption code. (ICC)



Oneli Vithanawasam

## Oneli secures U-18 Online Chess title

Oneli Vithanawasam of Lyceum, Wattala emerged champion at the CFSL Online Under-18 Girls' Youth Rapid Chess Championship, which concluded yesterday.

Oneli, who was sharing the lead on the previous day with four points out of four games, played exceptionally well to win the event by scoring six out of possible seven games.

Meanwhile, Esandi Newansa of Dharmasoka College who

finished at 5.5 points with Nemindi Ramanayake of Bandaranayake Central College, Veyangoda and Piyumi Uthpala of JMC International School, Kalutara, had the better in the tie-breaker to win the Silver Medal.

**Final standings:** 1. Oneli Vithanawasam (Lyceum, Wattala), 2. Esandi Newansa (Dharmasoka College), 3. Nemindi Ramanayake (Bandaranayake Central, Vey-

angoda), 4. Piyumi Amarantunga (JMC International, Kalutara), 5. Prasansa Premnath (Girls' High School, Kandy), 6. Desandhi Gamage (Sirmavo Bandaranayake BV), 7. Dulinma Rathnayake (Viharamaha Devi BMV), 8. Chanindi Attanayake (Devi Balika Vidyalaya), 9. Jayandi Bimansa (Bandaragama Central College), 10. N. T. Indrajith (St. Joseph's BMV, Kegalle). (D.R)

## India to tour Sri Lanka in July

Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI President, yesterday revealed that the Indian Team will travel to Sri Lanka for a limited-overs bilateral series in July.

The bigger talking point was that the national side will not include big names like Skipper Virat Kohli and the Vice-Captain as they will be in England, preparing for the five-match Test series against the hosts.

Ganguly went on to add that the team touring Sri Lanka will be completely different and will not involve any players involved in the England tour.

"Yes, it will be a team of white-ball specialists. It will be a different team," the former India Captain said, making it clear that the cricket board also has the preparation of white ball regulars in mind.

There will be at least five T20 Internationals and maybe three One Day Internationals (ODIs) in Sri Lanka.

The senior national team will not be playing any matches in July. However, that will provide a great opportunity for the players to play a few practice games, Ganguly added.

Moreover, if the players were to come to Sri Lanka, they would undergo hard quarantine.

Meanwhile, Shikhar Dhawan could be the captain of the Indian Team during the Sri Lanka tour.

Dhawan has been a regular member of the Indian Team in the limited-overs format for the last 7-8 years.

He is one of the most experienced players who will be available for the Sri Lanka tour. Moreover, Dhawan also impressed everyone with his performance in IPL 2021.

He was the highest run-scorer in the tournament with 380 runs in eight matches, which also consisted of three fifties.



Shikhar Dhawan likely to lead the India Team

## Pakistan thrash Zimbabwe to seal 2-0 series win

Seamer Shaheen Afridi took a career best five for 52 as Pakistan beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 147 runs early on the fourth day of the second Test at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Pakistan needed just one wicket at the start of the day and it took a little over 20 minutes for Shaheen to induce an edge from Luke Jongwe (37) to wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan, wrapping up the contest as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 231 in its second innings.

Pakistan won the first Test by an innings and 116 runs and has now

completed a comprehensive series victory, which followed limited overs success in South Africa.

The tourist had elected to bat and posted a massive 510 for eight declared, boosted by a maiden double century for opener Abid Ali, who spent almost 11 hours at the crease for his 215.

Seamer Hasan Ali claimed five for 27 in Zimbabwe's reply, skitting the home side for 132 before Nauman Ali (5/86) and Shaheen did the damage with the ball in the follow-on

innings, claiming all the wickets to fall.

Only Regis Chakabva (80) and stand-in skipper Brendan Taylor (49) offered much resistance

to the Pakistan victory charge, with most of the damage done on the third day when the visitor picked up 15 wickets. (Agencies)

SCORECARD

|                               |  |                    |    |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|----|
| <b>PAKISTAN</b>               | <b>D. Tiripano</b>                     | lbw b N. Ali       | 00 |
| <b>1ST INNINGS 510/8 DECL</b> | <b>R. Kaia</b>                         | c S. Khan b N. Ali | 00 |
| <b>ZIMBABWE</b>               | <b>T. Chisoro</b>                      | b Afridi           | 00 |
| <b>1ST INNINGS 132</b>        | <b>R. Ngarava</b>                      | b Afridi           | 08 |
| <b>ZIMBABWE</b>               | <b>B. Muzarabani</b>                   | not out            | 04 |
| <b>2ND INNINGS</b>            | <b>Extras:</b> (b1, lb5, nb1)          | 07                 |    |
| <b>K. Kasuza</b>              | <b>TOTAL:</b> (all out, 68 overs)      | 231                |    |
| b N. Ali                      | <b>Fall:</b> 1-13, 2-63, 3-142, 4-170, |                    |    |
| <b>T. Musakanda</b>           | 5-188, 6-196, 7- 196, 8-205,           |                    |    |
| c M. Rizwan b Afridi          | 9-205                                  |                    |    |
| <b>R. Chakabva</b>            | <b>BOWLING:</b> S. Afridi 20-5-52-5,   |                    |    |
| c B. Azam b N. Ali            | T. Khan 11-3-46-0, H. Ali 10-7-9-      |                    |    |
| <b>B. Taylor</b>              | 0, S. Khan 6-1-32-0, N. Ali            |                    |    |
| c M. Rizwan b Afridi          | 21-3-86-5                              |                    |    |
| <b>M. Shumba</b>              |  |                    |    |
| c Butt b N. Ali               |  |                    |    |
| <b>L. Jongwe</b>              |  |                    |    |
| c M. Rizwan b Afridi          |  |                    |    |



Shaheen Afridi in action



Josh Davey celebrates a dismissal

## Davey takes five wickets as Somerset beat Hampshire

Josh Davey's five-wicket haul helped Somerset record a fourth win in five County Championship games by seeing off stubborn Hampshire at Southampton on Sunday.

The hosts gave themselves a chance of batting out a draw as Keith Barker (52 n.o.), James Vince (42) and Felix Organ frustrated the Somerset attack.

But Davey (5/30) eventually quelled their resistance as Hampshire were dismissed not long after tea for 258.

That set Somerset a target of two runs, Eddie Byrom completing the formalities.

Hampshire ultimately paid the price for their abject first innings total of 79, a collapse which appears even stranger in hindsight given how gallantly they battled back with the bat on the final day.

When Davey ended Joe Weatherley's 209-ball, four and a half hour 44 by having him

caught behind and quickly followed up by trapping Liam Dawson lbw for nought, the game appeared up.

Having resumed on 110-4, those wickets reduced Hampshire to 134-6 but Captain Vince rallied, occupying the crease for almost three hours before becoming Craig Overton's solitary victim of the day and fifth of the innings.

Wicket-keeper Lewis McManus followed six overs later, caught off Davey by James Hildreth at slip, as Hampshire slipped to 186-8 before tea, seemingly staring an innings defeat in the face.

However, Barker and Organ, who faced 108 balls over two hours for his seven runs, put on a two-hour ninth-wicket stand of 64 to revive the hosts' hopes of salvaging a draw.

Davey finally removed Organ, caught at slip by Overton, and trapped last man Mohammad Abbas lbw without scoring

before Byrom hit the winning runs off Hampshire's first delivery to help Somerset keep pace with Group Two leaders Gloucestershire.

**Chief scores**  
**Hampshire:** 79 and 258 (Barker 52 n.o., Davey 5/30, Overton 5/66)  
**Somerset:** 336 (Overton 74, Abell 64, Barker 4/67) and 2/0. (BBC)

## Rory McIlroy wins first title since 2019

Rory McIlroy said relief and satisfaction were the overriding emotions as he ended his winless run by clinching the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow for a third time - just six weeks after starting work with coach Pete Cowen.

The world number 15, whose last success came in November 2019, shot a closing three-under 68 to win by one shot.

"Relief that I've won again... and more satisfaction at the journey I'm on and the process I've been through to try to get back to this point," he said.

"There's been a lot of hard work. I've put my head down, I haven't really looked too much in either direction, I've just tried to do what I need to do."

"This is obviously a huge confi-

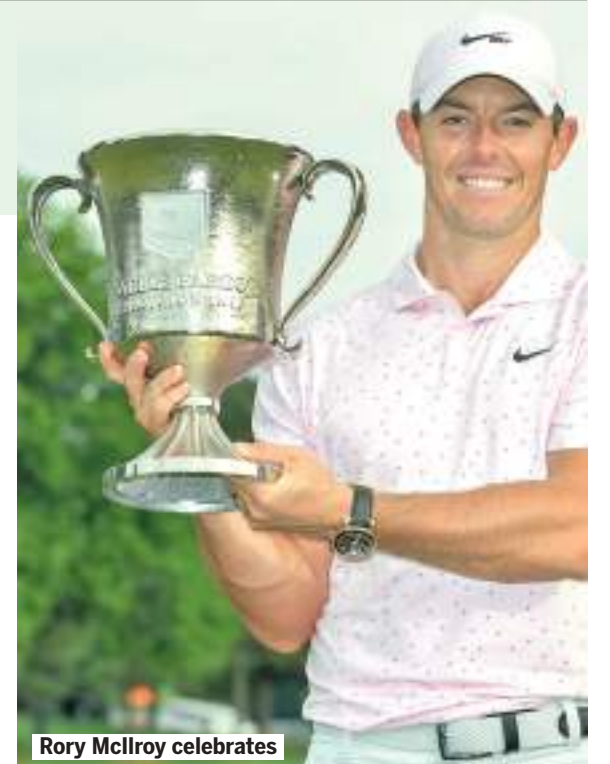
dence boost going in there knowing that my game is closer than it has been. I'll be able to poke holes in everything that I did today, it's certainly far from perfect, but this one is validation that

I'm on the right track. There was a scare for McIlroy, 32, at the final hole when he took a one-shot penalty but made a decisive bogey.

Abraham Ancer finished second with Viktor Hovland and overnight leader Keith Mitchell in a tie for third on eight under.

The victory is perfect preparation for McIlroy's bid to win a third USPGA Championship later this month, with the

Ryder Cup player aiming to secure a second success at Kiawah Island. (BBC)



Rory McIlroy celebrates



Taylor Fritz

## Dan Evans loses to Taylor Fritz in Rome

British number one Dan Evans lost in the first round of the Italian Open against American opponent Taylor Fritz.

Evans, who is ranked a career-high 26th in the world, has enjoyed success on the clay this season, but was out of sorts in a 6-3 6-2 defeat in Rome.

The 30-year-old struggled on

serve throughout and showed his annoyance at the end of the first set by breaking his racket in an angry outburst.

Evans could not recover and lost two of eight break points in the second set.

Despite this disappointment, there have been plenty of positives for Evans in the clay-court swing.

After previously having struggled on the surface, the Briton beat world number one Novak Djokovic on his way to the Monte Carlo semi-finals and then reached the last 16 in Madrid last week.

Fritz, who is ranked 31st, will meet Serbia's Djokovic in the second round. (BBC)



# Daily News Business

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## New Tourism Bill to be prepared after obtaining views of all stakeholders - Prasanna



Tourism Minister  
Prasanna Ranatunga

**DINULI FRANCISCO**

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga emphasizes that the Government's main aim is to achieve the people's objectives and that the new Tourism Bill is being prepared in accordance with the views of those engaged in the tourism industry.

Accordingly, a period of three months has been given to obtain the views of those working in the field regarding the preparation of the new Tourism Bill, the Minister said.

The Minister stated this at a discussion held at the Tourism Ministry yesterday (10) with several organizations engaged in the field of tourism regarding the preparation of the new tourism draft.

"Cabinet approval has been granted to repeal the Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005 and introduce a new Tourism Act in Parliament. According to the Act, the entire tourism sector was divided into four major institutions as Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion

Bureau, the Sri Lanka Federation Bureau, and the Sri Lanka Tourism and Hotel Management Institute.

It was suggested that the Act should be updated as there are negative effects such as delays and waste of resources in coordinating the relevant institutions.

Accordingly, it was proposed to merge the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the Sri Lanka Promotion Bureau, and Sri Lanka Federation Bureau. Different opinions popped up due to this" the Minister said.

The Minister said that more attention will be paid to minimizing the negative effects such as delays and resource wastage through the division of the tourism sector into four institutions.

The Minister also pointed out that the obsolete methodology is an obstacle to activate the tourism industry more efficiently and effectively.

He also said the government does not underestimate the contribution of the private sector to the tourism sector.



UNION ASSURANCE, 'BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE...' PAGE 19

## Bourse starts week on negative note, ASPI declines by 106 points

The bourse started the week on a negative note yesterday whilst the news of new COVID cases reached its all-time high of 2,672 yesterday. ASPI declined by 106.2 points (-1.5%) to close at 7,135.8 points, while the S&P SL20 Index also decreased by 37.5 points (-1.3%) to close at 2,838.2 points.

Total turnover stood at LKR 2,474.4 mn (USD12,386.0k) vs. 12-month average daily turnover of LKR 3,024.0 mn (USD15,137.2k)

whilst the volume traded for the day was 153,299.7k against the 12-month average daily volume of 167,719.8k.

Net foreign outflow of LKR713.3 mn (USD357.1k) was seen during the day, where foreign purchases stood at LKR 164.0 mn (USD82.1k), while foreign sales amounted to LKR877.3 mn (USD439.2k). Foreign buying was mainly witnessed in Melstacorp (LKR50.0 mn), Sampath Bank (LKR21 mn), Renuka Capital

(LKR5.5 mn) whilst foreign selling was observed in HNB (Non-Voting) (LKR756 mn), John Keells Holdings (LKR50.1 mn), Nestle Lanka (LKR4.3 mn).

Top traded counters for the day were HNB (Non-Voting) LKR845.2 mn (USD4,230.8k, 0.0%), Browns Investments LKR344.1 mn (USD1,722.6k, -4.4%), Royal Ceramics LKR209.2 mn (USD1,047.3k, -3.0%), Hayleys LKR181.2 mn (USD907.2k, -3.0%)

and Expolanka Holdings LKR74.5 mn (USD373.0, -3.1%).

Mahaweli Coconut Plantations, Piramal Glass, HNB Finance, Laugfs Power and HNB Finance (Non-Voting) recorded 52-week high prices today whilst Ceylon Cold Stores, HNB Assurance, EB Creasy and Amaya Leisure reached their 52-week low price points. Further Browns Investments, SMB Leasing (Voting & Non-Voting) and Royal Ceramics were amongst the most

actively traded counters yesterday. Interim Results of Alumex PLC (ALUM) reported was released where profits in 4QFY21 grew +100% YoY was mainly steered by higher revenue growth, improved margins and reduced net finance costs. Further ALUM's FY21 profits too rose +100% YoY to LKR841 mn mainly driven by improved revenue, better margins, increased other income and curtailed net finance costs.

Courtesy: Softlogic Stockbrokers

## Lanka's foreign reserves up to USD 4.5 bn

Sri Lanka's foreign reserves increased to USD 4.5 billion in April 2021 supported by the USD 500 million loan from China Development Bank improving reserves from USD 4.1 billion in March 2021 (lowest since Aug 2009).

Depleting foreign reserve position, high foreign currency debt repayment (USD 4 bn outstanding debt payment from Apr-Dec 2021) requirement and limited funding sources available in the market are expected to further increase pressure on yields in 2H-2021.

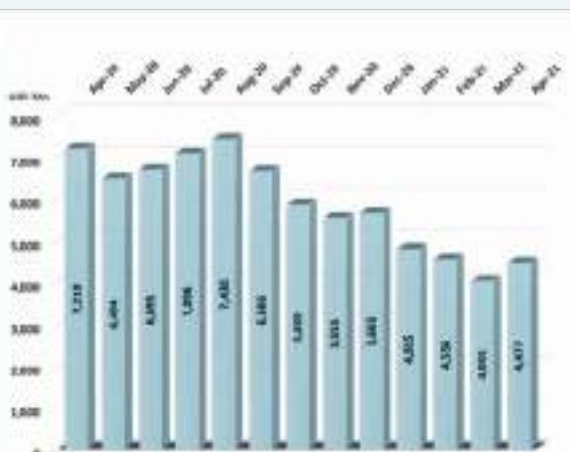
However, due to the continuous under-subscription of bill and bond auctions, the budget deficit was financed mainly via quantitative easing leading to a sharp rise in CBSL Holdings (Rs 884 billion as at May 6, 2021) which creates aggregate money supply and high liquidity.

Considering the surge in market liquidity, rate pressure may subside in the short term, but brace for bond tantrums in 2H-2021.

The inflation in April marginally dipped to 3.9% driven by decrease of prices in the food category.

Meanwhile private credit expanded by Rs. 112.2 billion in March 2021.

The Foreign exchange market remains volatile; YTD USD/LKR has depreciated by 6.5%.



Handing over donations by SriLankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatilleka

## SriLankan Cares donates ventilators to the National Hospital

SriLankan Cares, the CSR arm of SriLankan Airlines, fulfilling an acute need of the hour due to the prevailing pandemic, donated a batch of ventilators to the National Hospital, Colombo, recently.

When the country witnesses a surge in the numbers of COVID-19 patients, as the main and final referral center of the island, the National Hospital is faced with the

challenge of having sufficient resources in place to provide medical care for incoming patients.

The donation was funded purely through the contribution of SriLankan Airlines' staff members, who joined hands to help fulfill a national endeavor despite the turbulent times faced by the Airline and challenges and hardships stemming from the compulso-

ry salary reductions owing to the current circumstances. Even during the pandemic, SriLankan Cares continues to extend its helping hand to the needy and the less privileged sectors of society and some of its recent projects were, the donation of essential items to the CCC Interim Home, Maharagama and fund-raising collaboration with the Little Hearts Project.

## Lanka receives USD 500 mn concessional loan from Republic of Korea

In order to further strengthen the economic cooperation between the two countries, the Government of the Republic of Korea has agreed to provide concessional loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Export Import Bank of Korea (KEximbank).

Accordingly, the Government of Republic of Korea and Government of Sri Lanka have agreed to sign a new Framework Arrangement for the period of 2020-2022 to obtain loans through EDCF up to an aggregate commitment amount of



S. R. Attygalle, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Woonjin Jeong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

USD 500 million to finance projects mutually agreed. The loan interest rate on this concessional loan is about as low as 0.15% -0.20% and the loan has a repayment period of about 40

years with a grace period of 10 years.

In addition, the two sides agreed to continue the Korean Exim Bank Representative Office, which was opened in Colombo in January 2016 by its Chairman, to further implement the projects in a well-coordinated manner.

The Framework Arrangement was signed yesterday by S. R. Attygalle, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, and Woonjin Jeong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, representing the Republic of Korea.

## Harry Jayawardena visits Colombo Port City



Leading businessman, Harry Jayawardena of Melstacorp, recently visited Colombo Port City. He was hosted at the Port City Colombo project development site by Executive Project Management Director, Raja Edirisuriya. Jayawardena, who has held many prestigious titles in his years of service to the country, was able to view first-hand the progress and impact of Port City Colombo.

## 'Indian COVID-19 wave can affect economy'

The second Covid wave poses a downside risk to economic activity in the first quarter of 2021-22 fiscal year, even though its impact may be muted when compared with that of the first wave, according to the Finance Ministry.

As the increased vaccination is effective both in controlling the Covid spread and boosting mobility, the "need of the hour is, therefore, to expand vaccination at a fast pace", the Ministry noted in its Monthly Economic Review for April released Friday.

"The second wave in India is witnessing a much higher caseload with new peaks of daily cases, daily deaths and positivity rates and presents a challenge to ongoing economic recovery. However, there are reasons to expect a muted economic impact as compared to the first wave. The experience from other countries suggests a lower correlation between falling mobility and

growth as economic activity has learnt to operate "with Covid," it said, while noting that the momentum in economic recovery since the first wave has moderated during April.

Learning to operate with Covid, as borne by international experience, provides a silver lining of economic resilience amidst the second wave, with India emphasising on a five-fold strategy to curb the tide of new Covid cases - Test, Track, Treat, Covid Appropriate Behaviour and Vaccination, as per the review released by the Department of Economic Affairs.

Growing infections and consequent restrictions, though local/ regional in nature, have imparted a downside risk to economic activity. "The impact of restrictions is evident in a decline in the google mobility indicator to -37 percent in April 2021 from around -22 percent in the preceding month. (www.indianexpress.com)

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SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 10.05.2021

| Security                     | Volume     | **V.W.A. Previous Close | Open     | High     | Low      | **V.W.A. Yesterday's Close | Change (Rs.) |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Main Board</b>            |            |                         |          |          |          |                            |              |
| A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.             | 16,755     | 28.70                   | 28.70    | 29.40    | 27.00    | 27.50                      | (1.20)       |
| ABANS                        | 125        | 145.00                  | 145.00   | 145.00   | 144.00   | 144.75                     | (0.25)       |
| ACCESS ENG SL                | 129,595    | 23.00                   | 23.00    | 23.00    | 22.20    | 22.40                      | (0.60)       |
| ACL                          | 178,865    | 37.90                   | 38.50    | 38.50    | 36.50    | 36.70                      | (1.20)       |
| ACL PLASTICS                 | 4,627      | 253.00                  | 253.50   | 253.50   | 240.00   | 240.75                     | (12.25)      |
| ACME                         | 68,482     | 6.50                    | 6.70     | 6.70     | 6.50     | 6.70                       | 0.20         |
| AGALAWATTE                   | 2,200      | 25.10                   | 25.10    | 25.10    | 24.50    | 24.50                      | (0.60)       |
| AHOT PROPERTIES              | 9          | 35.20                   | 35.10    | 35.10    | 35.10    | 35.20                      | 0.00         |
| AITKEN SPENCE                | 16,656     | 50.00                   | 50.00    | 50.00    | 49.50    | 49.50                      | (0.50)       |
| ALLIANCE                     | 6,965      | 48.00                   | 48.00    | 48.00    | 46.10    | 46.50                      | (1.50)       |
| AMANA BANK                   | 17,153     | 3.10                    | 3.10     | 3.10     | 3.10     | 3.10                       | 0.00         |
| AMAYA LEISURE                | 13,828     | 16.80                   | 16.90    | 16.90    | 16.10    | 16.50                      | (0.30)       |
| ASIA ASSET                   | 479,654    | 7.00                    | 7.10     | 7.20     | 7.00     | 7.00                       | 0.00         |
| ASIRI                        | 313,177    | 27.60                   | 28.00    | 28.60    | 28.00    | 28.50                      | 0.90         |
| ASIRI SURG                   | 4,509      | 14.40                   | 14.40    | 14.40    | 14.00    | 14.00                      | (0.40)       |
| AUTODROME                    | 1          | 67.50                   | 68.10    | 68.10    | 68.10    | 67.50                      | 0.00         |
| BAIRAHA FARMS                | 3,150      | 127.75                  | 128.00   | 128.00   | 125.00   | 125.00                     | (2.75)       |
| BALANGODA                    | 14,003     | 13.40                   | 13.20    | 13.30    | 12.60    | 13.20                      | (0.20)       |
| BUKIT DARAH                  | 652        | 290.00                  | 286.00   | 286.00   | 281.00   | 281.00                     | (9.00)       |
| C M HOLDINGS                 | 227        | 79.00                   | 78.00    | 79.80    | 76.00    | 76.40                      | (2.60)       |
| C T HOLDINGS                 | 1,660      | 172.50                  | 172.00   | 172.00   | 172.00   | 172.00                     | 0.00         |
| CARGILLS                     | 32         | 230.50                  | 228.00   | 228.00   | 226.00   | 230.50                     | 0.00         |
| CARGO BOAT                   | 6,121      | 65.90                   | 65.90    | 65.90    | 65.90    | 67.40                      | 1.50         |
| CARSONS                      | 4,480      | 275.00                  | 275.25   | 275.25   | 275.00   | 275.00                     | 0.00         |
| CDB                          | 110        | 111.75                  | 108.25   | 108.25   | 108.25   | 108.25                     | (3.50)       |
| CDB [CDB.X0000]              | 5,658      | 72.00                   | 77.30    | 77.30    | 72.00    | 72.00                      | 0.00         |
| CENTRAL FINANCE              | 54,755     | 82.60                   | 81.50    | 81.50    | 80.30    | 80.70                      | (1.90)       |
| CENTRAL IND.                 | 17,003     | 106.25                  | 106.25   | 106.50   | 104.00   | 104.00                     | (2.25)       |
| CEYLINCO INS. XD             | 4,569      | 1,938.00                | 1,935.00 | 1,935.00 | 1,852.00 | 1,852.25                   | (85.75)      |
| CEYLON GUARDIAN              | 6,125      | 111.00                  | 111.00   | 111.00   | 108.50   | 109.00                     | (2.00)       |
| CEYLON INV                   | 7,604      | 56.80                   | 56.90    | 56.90    | 55.00    | 55.00                      | (1.80)       |
| CEYLON TOBACCO               | 1,386      | 974.50                  | 970.00   | 970.00   | 970.00   | 970.00                     | 0.00         |
| CHEMANEX                     | 2,523      | 74.10                   | 74.90    | 75.00    | 72.00    | 72.00                      | (2.10)       |
| CHEVRON                      | 27,047     | 94.00                   | 93.90    | 93.90    | 91.50    | 92.00                      | (2.00)       |
| CIC                          | 59,039     | 46.40                   | 46.40    | 46.40    | 44.90    | 45.00                      | (1.40)       |
| CIC [CIC.X0000]              | 161,674    | 37.80                   | 38.00    | 38.10    | 36.50    | 36.80                      | (1.00)       |
| CITRUS LEISURE               | 6,986      | 8.50                    | 8.50     | 8.50     | 8.20     | 8.20                       | (0.30)       |
| COLD STORES                  | 2,883      | 579.75                  | 580.00   | 580.00   | 575.00   | 575.50                     | (4.25)       |
| COLOMBO CITY                 | 10         | 812.00                  | 830.00   | 830.00   | 830.00   | 812.00                     | 0.00         |
| COLOMBO LAND                 | 11         | 22.00                   | 21.70    | 21.70    | 21.70    | 22.00                      | 0.00         |
| COMMERCIAL BANK              | 451,866    | 80.10                   | 81.50    | 81.50    | 79.60    | 80.40                      | 0.30         |
| COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000] | 13,737     | 73.80                   | 73.20    | 73.20    | 72.40    | 72.90                      | (0.90)       |
| CONVENIENCE FOOD             | 39         | 1,210.00                | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,162.00 | 1,210.00                   | 0.00         |
| DANKOTUWA PORCEL             | 57,173     | 11.50                   | 11.70    | 11.70    | 11.10    | 11.20                      | (0.30)       |
| DFCC BANK PLC                | 19,958     | 58.10                   | 58.60    | 58.60    | 57.10    | 57.60                      | (0.50)       |
| DIALOG                       | 800,361    | 12.70                   | 12.70    | 12.80    | 12.60    | 12.60                      | (0.10)       |
| DIMO                         | 1,346      | 559.75                  | 570.00   | 575.00   | 555.00   | 563.50                     | 3.75         |
| DIPPED PRODUCTS              | 1,233,786  | 56.60                   | 56.70    | 56.70    | 54.30    | 54.50                      | (2.10)       |
| DOCKYARD                     | 1,555      | 71.50                   | 72.00    | 72.00    | 67.00    | 69.30                      | (2.20)       |
| DOLPHIN HOTELS               | 5,906      | 21.10                   | 23.40    | 23.40    | 21.30    | 22.20                      | 1.10         |
| DURDANS                      | 811        | 103.00                  | 103.00   | 103.00   | 99.00    | 99.00                      | (4.00)       |
| E B CREASY                   | 22,551     | 27.30                   | 27.20    | 27.20    | 26.00    | 26.10                      | (1.20)       |
| EAST WEST                    | 27,375     | 9.90                    | 9.90     | 10.00    | 9.80     | 9.80                       | (0.10)       |
| EASTERN MERCHANT             | 128,347    | 5.60                    | 5.80     | 5.80     | 5.00     | 5.10                       | (0.50)       |
| EXPOLANKA                    | 1,670,264  | 45.60                   | 45.40    | 45.40    | 44.10    | 44.20                      | (1.40)       |
| FORT LAND                    | 450        | 12.30                   | 12.10    | 12.20    | 12.10    | 12.20                      | (0.10)       |
| GESTETNER                    | 1,110      | 84.10                   | 84.10    | 84.10    | 84.00    | 84.00                      | (0.10)       |
| GRAIN ELEVATORS              | 67,440     | 128.00                  | 127.50   | 128.50   | 126.00   | 126.00                     | (2.00)       |
| HAYCARB                      | 263,463    | 105.75                  | 105.00   | 105.00   | 101.00   | 102.00                     | (3.75)       |
| HAYLEYS                      | 2,301,293  | 79.60                   | 80.00    | 80.50    | 76.10    | 77.20                      | (2.40)       |
| HAYLEYS FABRIC               | 1,457,699  | 17.90                   | 17.90    | 18.10    | 17.30    | 17.40                      | (0.50)       |
| HAYLEYS FIBRE                | 17,689     | 49.20                   | 48.00    | 48.00    | 46.90    | 47.10                      | (2.10)       |
| HDFC                         | 1,139      | 36.00                   | 35.00    | 36.50    | 35.00    | 35.00                      | (1.00)       |
| HEMAS HOLDINGS               | 102,968    | 80.20                   | 80.30    | 81.00    | 79.60    | 80.00                      | (0.20)       |
| HNB                          | 60,408     | 130.00                  | 129.50   | 129.75   | 128.00   | 128.00                     | (2.00)       |
| HNB ASSURANCE                | 27,504     | 55.00                   | 55.10    | 55.80    | 52.50    | 54.10                      | (0.90)       |
| HNB [HNB.X0000]              | 8,869,847  | 95.00                   | 95.00    | 95.50    | 94.10    | 95.00                      | 0.00         |
| HORANA                       | 2,305      | 20.20                   | 21.50    | 21.50    | 20.00    | 20.00                      | (0.20)       |
| HOTELS CORP.                 | 255        | 10.80                   | 10.90    | 10.90    | 10.70    | 10.90                      | 0.10         |
| INDUSTRIAL ASPH.             | 2,259,518  | 0.40                    | 0.40     | 0.50     | 0.40     | 0.40                       | 0.00         |
| JKH                          | 544,172    | 135.00                  | 136.00   | 139.50   | 135.00   | 135.25                     | 0.25         |
| KANDY HOTELS                 | 5,250      | 4.60                    | 4.70     | 4.70     | 4.60     | 4.60                       | 0.00         |
| KEGALLE                      | 14,744     | 101.00                  | 103.00   | 103.50   | 99.40    | 103.00                     | 2.00         |
| KELANI CABLES                | 1,295      | 115.50                  | 118.00   | 118.00   | 112.00   | 112.75                     | (2.75)       |
| KELANI TYRES                 | 25,682     | 84.30                   | 84.10    | 85.00    | 82.80    | 83.10                      | (1.20)       |
| KELANI VALLEY                | 4,624      | 38.00                   | 38.00    | 38.50    | 37.20    | 37.80                      | (0.20)       |
| KINGSBURY                    | 21,890     | 6.00                    | 6.00     | 6.10     | 6.00     | 6.00                       | 0.00         |
| KOTAGALA                     | 70         | 5.60                    | 5.70     | 5.70     | 5.40     | 5.60                       | 0.00         |
| L O L C HOLDINGS             | 149,344    | 328.25                  | 330.00   | 330.00   | 316.25   | 318.00                     | (10.25)      |
| LANKA ALUMINIUM              | 141,246    | 19.20                   | 19.00    | 19.30    | 18.50    | 18.60                      | (0.60)       |
| LANKA ASHOK                  | 99         | 713.50                  | 779.75   | 779.75   | 710.00   | 713.50                     | 0.00         |
| LANKA HOSPITALS              | 312        | 42.00                   | 42.00    | 42.00    | 41.10    | 41.10                      | (0.90)       |
| LANKA IOC                    | 101,981    | 19.10                   | 19.30    | 19.30    | 18.50    | 18.50                      | (0.60)       |
| LANKA TILES                  | 276,016    | 48.40                   | 48.00    | 48.50    | 46.50    | 46.90                      | (1.50)       |
| LANKA VENTURES               | 572        | 47.80                   | 48.00    | 48.00    | 48.00    | 48.00                      | 0.20         |
| LANKA WALLTILE               | 464,381    | 49.30                   | 49.60    | 49.70    | 47.50    | 47.80                      | (1.50)       |
| LAUGFS GAS                   | 5,322      | 19.30                   | 19.50    | 19.50    | 18.90    | 19.00                      | (0.30)       |
| LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]       | 1,186      | 12.90                   | 13.00    | 13.00    | 12.80    | 12.80                      | (0.10)       |
| LAXAPANA                     | 1,418      | 13.90                   | 13.70    | 14.00    | 13.70    | 13.80                      | (0.10)       |
| LB FINANCE                   | 160,677    | 54.40                   | 54.60    | 54.60    | 51.90    | 52.30                      | (2.10)       |
| LEE HEDGES                   | 890        | 60.00                   | 60.00    | 60.00    | 58.30    | 58.50                      | (1.50)       |
| LMF                          | 39,938     | 167.25                  | 166.00   | 166.00   | 157.00   | 158.75                     | (8.50)       |
| LVL ENERGY                   | 78,922     | 9.60                    | 9.50     | 9.50     | 9.20     | 9.50                       | (0.10)       |
| MALWATTE                     | 1,350      | 11.90                   | 11.50    | 11.90    | 11.50    | 11.90                      | 0.00         |
| MALWATTE [MAL.X0000]         | 11,108     | 7.70                    | 7.70     | 7.90     | 7.30     | 7.30                       | (0.40)       |
| MELSTACORP                   | 1,140,920  | 44.90                   | 45.00    | 45.00    | 44.30    | 44.50                      | (0.40)       |
| MULLERS                      | 62,995     | 1.10                    | 1.20     | 1.20     | 1.00     | 1.10                       | 0.00         |
| NAMUNUKULA                   | 2          | 164.50                  | 164.00   | 164.00   | 164.00   | 164.50                     | 0.00         |
| NAT. DEV. BANK               | 32,421     | 75.30                   | 75.30    | 75.30    | 75.00    | 75.00                      | (0.30)       |
| NATIONS TRUST                | 3,363      | 53.90                   | 54.00    | 54.00    | 53.60    | 53.80                      | (0.10)       |
| NAWALOKA                     | 1,567      | 5.00                    | 4.90     | 5.10     | 4.90     | 5.00                       | 0.00         |
| NESTLE                       | 10,620     | 1,030.00                | 1,020.00 | 1,034.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,003.00                   | (27.00)      |
| OVERSEAS REALTY              | 168,100    | 15.60                   | 15.50    | 15.50    | 15.30    | 15.50                      | (0.10)       |
| PAN ASIA                     | 557,153    | 16.00                   | 16.00    | 16.00    | 15.10    | 15.30                      | (0.70)       |
| PANASIAN POWER               | 1,818,412  | 3.80                    | 3.80     | 3.90     | 3.70     | 3.80                       | 0.00         |
| PEOPLE'S INS                 | 205,266    | 33.80                   | 34.00    | 34.00    | 33.00    | 33.00                      | (0.80)       |
| PEOPLES LEASING              | 113,632    | 12.20                   | 12.20    | 12.20    | 11.90    | 12.00                      | (0.20)       |
| PIRAMAL GLASS                | 2,486,694  | 11.20                   | 12.00    | 12.70    | 11.50    | 11.80                      | 0.60         |
| PRINTCARE PLC                | 12,406     | 27.00                   | 27.00    | 27.00    | 26.00    | 26.00                      | (1.00)       |
| R I L PROPERTY               | 165,636    | 6.00                    | 6.10     | 6.10     | 5.90     | 5.90                       | (0.10)       |
| RADIANT GEMS                 | 5          | 27.70                   | 27.70    | 27.70    | 27.70    | 27.70                      | 0.00         |
| REGNIS                       | 5,624      | 47.10                   | 46.50    | 46.50    | 45.50    | 45.50                      | (1.60)       |
| RENUKA AGRI                  | 218,340    | 3.70                    | 3.70     | 3.70     | 3.60     | 3.60                       | (0.10)       |
| RENUKA FOODS                 | 7,297      | 12.50                   | 12.50    | 12.80    | 12.40    | 12.50                      | 0.00         |
| RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]    | 1,580      | 10.40                   | 10.40    | 10.90    | 10.40    | 10.40                      | 0.00         |
| RENUKA HOLDINGS              | 15,099     | 14.30                   | 14.20    | 14.20    | 14.00    | 14.10                      | (0.20)       |
| RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]  | 15,610     | 10.90                   | 10.60    | 11.00    | 10.40    | 10.50                      | (0.40)       |
| RESUS ENERGY                 | 6          | 24.30                   | 24.40    | 24.40    | 24.10    | 24.30                      | 0.00         |
| RICHARD PIERIS               | 115,841    | 15.70                   | 15.70    | 15.90    | 15.60    | 15.70                      | 0.00         |
| ROYAL CERAMIC                | 5,742,058  | 37.00                   | 37.00    | 37.50    | 35.60    | 35.90                      | (1.10)       |
| S M B LEASING                | 7,037,265  | 0.40                    | 0.40     | 0.50     | 0.30     | 0.40                       | 0.00         |
| S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]   | 45,389,799 | 0.30                    | 0.20     | 0.40     | 0.20     | 0.30                       | 0.00         |
| SAMPATH                      | 951,202    | 51.00                   | 51.10    | 51.10    | 49.80    | 49.90                      | (1.10)       |
| SAMSON INTERNAT.             | 20         | 148.75                  | 147.75   | 147.75   | 147.75   | 148.75                     | 0.00         |
| SANASA DEV. BANK             | 29,081     | 52.00                   | 52.80    | 52.80    | 51.00    | 51.40                      | (0.60)       |
| SEYLAN BANK                  | 285,350    | 50.00                   | 50.00    | 50.10    | 49.50    | 50.00                      | 0.00         |
| SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]     | 72,358     | 38.10                   | 38.10    | 38.20    |          |                            |              |



# Union Assurance named 'Best Customer Service Insurance Provider'

Union Assurance PLC has been named the Best Customer Service Insurance Provider in Sri Lanka for 2021 by the International Finance Awards.

This prestigious recognition was awarded to Union Assurance after a detailed assessment of organizations world-over, that are committed to safeguarding customer interests through solutions that are competitive, and address customer needs.

Commenting on this coveted recognition, Jude Gomes, the CEO of Union Assurance stated, "Customer-centric innovation is a priority for us and we ensure we nurture an environment where employees feel safe and trusted to deliver customer-centric solutions through our products, processes, and technology. This



Jude Gomes

approach gave us a competitive edge during the pandemic, to vigorously adapt to a changing environment, and pre-empt the needs of our customers."

Union Assurance was prompt to launch a versatile digital payment link enabling customers to settle their

new business and renewal premiums from the safety of their homes during the pandemic. This enabled over 90% of renewals to take place via digital payment platforms and bank transfers. The Company's readiness in digitization also augured well for promptly adapting online training for the agency force to service customers using digital platforms.

The Company went the extra mile installing a fully-fledged complaint management system to ensure customer queries were resolved within a record period of time, and set a benchmark by maintaining an 85% success rate for one-day servicing of policyholders.

"We made every challenge a formidable opportunity to live by our promise of protecting ambitions, life-

styles and relationships, offering much needed support and staying connected to our customers, demonstrating that being a responsible insurer can be much more than a tagline," Gomes concluded.

Union Assurance is a part of the John Keells Group, Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate.

It is among the most awarded Insurance companies in Sri Lanka, completing over three decades of success with a market capitalization of Rs. 18.2 billion, a Life Fund of Rs. 43.8 billion and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 326% as at March 2021. Set to empower the Sri Lankan Dream, Union Assurance offers Life Insurance solutions that cover education, health, investment, protection, and retirement needs of Sri Lankans.



NIOE and CSBM officials at the MOU signing ceremony

## CSBM partners NIOE to award Professional Qualifications in Int'l Trade Management

The Colombo School of Business Management (CSBM) partnered with the National Institute of Exports (NIOE) to launch a professional qualification in International Trade Management which will commence in June this year. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding on May 3, 2021 that marked the launch of the programmes, under new partnership.

These programmes which were designed and delivered by NIOE previously, will now be conducted by Colombo School of Business Management (CSBM). The Diploma in International Trade Management, which is the first programme to be offered under the new partnership, will be conducted in three tiers, offering students the opportunity to obtain a recognized professional qualification that is endorsed by the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE).

The program is structured in a manner that will expose participants to a seamless flow of knowledge, industry know-how, practical experiences and skills development, in all aspects within the scope of International Trade and including the local perspectives.

The curriculum of this programme has been developed in consultation with the veterans of the international trading industry and will be delivered by renowned industry professionals. The programme also carries a practical component that includes several field visits which will provide the students with a holistic perspective to the workings of this ever evolving industry.

At present those who successfully engage

in the import/export industry are mostly self-made, and have limited recognition as Professionals in International Trade. The qualification will provide students with recognition in the field of International Trade, and enable them to successfully engage in export oriented enterprises, both locally and overseas.

Whether one is new to International Trade, looking for a refresher course, proposing to enter new markets or is looking to build skills and knowledge, successfully completing the Diploma in International Trade Management will provide them the essential skills to successfully compete in this global trade.

The programmes have been designed and developed to suit Employees of Export/Import Organizations, Graduates, Undergraduates, as well as School Leavers who wish to pursue a career in global trade.

Those who successfully complete the programme will be able to confidently handle day to day operations connected to export/import procedures, export/import documentation, export/import financing, entering global markets, building customer relationships, branding, pricing, participation at International Trade fairs, and market promotional activities. Irrespective of whether the above functions are carried out in-house, or are outsourced to Freight Forwarders and other agencies, it is vital that internal staff possess the knowledge required to manage these important elements of International Business, as it is the resources of the enterprise that are at risk.

## Bank of Ceylon's Maldives Branch celebrates 40 years

One of Sri Lanka's premier banks, Bank of Ceylon completed 40 years of service to the community in Maldives on May 7.

As a leading bank, BOC Malé continues to play a significant role as a banking and financial services provider to the Maldives and an important offshore branch of Sri Lankan origin that is of greater significance to uplifting Sri Lanka's economic profile.

Marking its global presence, since the inauguration of the London Branch, BOC opened its first branch in Malé in 1981, making it the second foreign branch of the bank. BOC continued to expand its reach with branches in Chennai and Seychelles.

Having firmly established operations in Malé, Bank of Ceylon went on to open its second Maldivian branch in Hulhumalé in 2019. This initiative was an extension of the bank's vision to build a strong global presence, with its own branch network, that could generate foreign income flows to Sri Lanka. To date Bank of Ceylon has expanded its overseas operations to London, Maldives (Malé and Hulhumalé), Chennai and Seychelles, with five foreign counterparts under the Bank of Ceylon brand.

Since its establishment Bank of Ceylon, Maldives has been a partner in developing the economy of the



DGM International, Treasury and Investments R.M.N. Jeewantha and AGM Overseas Branches H.M.M.D. Herath. Group photograph - Country Manager of BOC Malé and Hulhumalé, S.B.A.M.G.S. Arampath and staff of Male Branch.

Republic of Maldives over the last four decades. BOC actively contributed by funding the Hulhumalé Reclamation Project Phase II, which is one of the largest projects ever undertaken in Maldives to date.

"BOC Maldives is a pioneer in the Maldives banking sector, with an unprecedented digital drive to fulfill the evolving aspirations of our valued customers. We continue to develop strategies to strengthen our digital backbone, while enhancing customer service excellence," said R.M.N. Jeewantha, Deputy General Manager International, Treasury and Invest-

ments. "Our focus in the coming years is to help reinstate the Maldives tourism industry, which is severely affected due to the Covid-19 global Pandemic. We will continue to strengthen our relationships and grow our private sector corporate portfolio to achieve a balance as we have so far focused to serve the economy of the Maldives primarily by funding Government and State-Owned Enterprises," said the Chairman Bank of Ceylon, Kanchana Ratwatte.

Commenting on the milestone, the General Manager of Bank of

Ceylon, D.P.K. Gunasekera added, "Managing different regulatory frameworks in several foreign banking landscapes, BOC has proven its resilience in its operations amidst many challenges, while complying with all regulatory requirements."

"Behind the success of the 40-year journey, the significant role of our valued customers, who continue to keep their trust with BOC Malé is remarkable," added the Country Manager of BOC Malé and Hulhumalé, S.B.A.M.G.S. Arampath.

## EY, HSBC hosts virtual investor forum on 'doing business in Sri Lanka'

EY and HSBC collectively hosted a virtual investment forum for Chinese businesses seeking investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Palitha Kohona, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to China delivering his keynote speech stated Sri Lanka must identify strategic opportunities and market them under the concept of 'Sri Lanka as an Investment Destination' not merely as being the pearl of the Indian Ocean.

He explained how Sri Lanka's green credentials could help attract more versatile investors alongside BRI (Belt and Road initiative) and other initiatives such as development of infrastructure.

Delivering the opening remarks Eddie Ching, Senior Executive Vice President and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of HSBC China expressed how HSBC has overtime extended support to Chinese investors through its business portfolio and would continue to innovate to meet market needs. HSBC is the 1st bank to dedicate a unit to BRI in Asia and HSBC's strategic relationship for the BRI council helps them to bring about a wealth of expertise within the domain.

Speaking at the Forum Mukhtar Hussain, Group General Manager, Head of BRI & Business Corridors, Asia Pacific of HSBC elaborated more on the importance of BRI ini-

tiatives and HSBC role in BRI strategy. Sanjaya Mohottala, Director General, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka as guest speaker illustrated the macroeconomic update and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka. He reiterated that the tax regime will remain consistent for the next five years and that many policy reforms are underway to help improve the ease of doing business in the country."

Duminda Hulangamuwa, Partner and Head of Tax, EY Sri Lanka & Maldives and Julie Hao, Partner, TAX, EY (China) Advisory Ltd together presented the regulatory, legal and tax framework in Sri Lanka. Commenting on the initiative Duminda stated "the forum was well received by nearly 170 participants which was organized in view of showcasing Sri Lanka as an attractive friendly investment destination. We look forward to organizing similar investor forums with other countries as we move forward."

Li Xing, Head of Sales and Marketing, CHEC Port City Colombo Pvt Ltd and Tim Xiao, Senior General Manager - Port Investment Services, Legal and Corporate affairs, Hambantota International Port Group and Secretary General, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka also joined in conversation sharing their investor success stories.

## Sampath Bank partners Big Bad Wolf, promotes habit of reading

Sampath Bank joined hands with one of the country's most anticipated mega book sale events, Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale, yet again.

This partnership is part of the Bank's continued efforts to promote the habit of reading and nurture a new generation of readers by making books more affordable and accessible.

The Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale is being held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Book lovers across the island can avail themselves of discounts of up to 90% as well as a host of other benefits when making their purchases on www.bigbad-wolfbooks.lk from May 5-12.

Coming in as the event's Official Banker, Sampath Bank seeks to help readers make the best of the massive discounts on offer and purchase their favorite books through its 'Read now and pay later with SampathCards' initiative.

"We are delighted to extend our longstanding partnership with the Big Bad Wolf to this year's Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale," said Darshin Pathinayake, Head of Card Centre, Sampath Bank PLC.

"Going beyond delivering value to the nation through our innovative financial solutions, we seek to play a larger, more active role in society. We firmly believe that nurturing the habit of reading will help stimulate the minds of all Sri Lankans, especially our younger generation, and broaden their horizons. In line with this, we will continue to support events such as this that make books more affordable and accessible."

Launched in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2009, Big Bad Wolf has come to be known as the World's Biggest Book Sale.

Sampath Bank is a 100% local bank that has deeply rooted itself in the lives of the people of Sri Lanka.



Darshin Pathinayake

## Multilac expands social endeavours

Multilac recently came to the fore in sponsoring a Blood donation campaign which was organized for the fourth time by the State Timber Corporation.

The campaign which concluded at the Kaldemulla complex of State Timber Corporation was organized to support the National Blood Centre at a time when the need for blood is on the rise due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a brand that has won the hearts of many and soars through ranks of success, Multilac has been constantly engaging in social endeavours of this nature while fulfilling its share of responsibilities to the entire nation.

Multilac extended its support with the theme of "Let's develop the country - in progress" while acknowledging the government's measures to promote local products and drive the country towards prosperity.

With this initiative, Multilac sets a fine example for local entrepreneurs who have the potential to develop their businesses and support the government's vision.



Multilac ensures that it serves beyond a corporate mindset to shoulder social endeavours and empower the nation as a socially responsible brand.

Having set the stage for generous people of Sri Lanka to engage in this worthy course and collect merits, as few drops of blood have the potential to save a life, Multilac expects to extend its support to more of these initiatives in the future.

**CONSTRUCTION OF GRAND HYATT COLOMBO**

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION SUIT BIDS FROM AUTHORIZED/LICENSED SUPPLIERS FOR GRAND HYATT COLOMBO PROJECT**

The Chairman Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of The Employer, Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Pvt) Ltd, No. 116, Galle Road, Colombo 3 (Subsidiary of Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation), invites prospective suppliers (Bidders) to participate in the pre-qualification process for SUPPLY OF TV/MINI-BAR/SAFE/WASHER/DRYER for Grand Hyatt Colombo Project;

The scope of work covers the SUPPLY OF TV/MINI-BAR/SAFE/WASHER/DRYER which fall into the category of Owner Supplied Materials. The supplied items will be installed by the Contractor on already on board.

Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure.

The eligibility criteria in order to Pre-qualify for the due tender procedure is specified in the Pre-qualification document in detail. This document can be inspected at the aforementioned office free of cost during working hours (from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.)

Bidders non-compliant with any of the items specified in the pre-qualification document shall be deemed as a non-responsive bidder and rejected.

The pre-qualification documents can be purchased upon written request from Sinolanka Hotels and Spa (Pvt) Ltd at Level 32, No. 116, Galle Road, Colombo 3 from 11th May 2021 to 4th June 2021 during working hours (from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) on payment of non-refundable sums of Rs. 2,500 in cash.

The Employer shall not be responsible for any expenses or losses which may be incurred by the bidder related to preparation, submission and participation in this process. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any document at any time prior to issue the Pre-qualification document.

The deadline for submission of completed and sealed Pre-qualification documents shall be on or before 3.00p.m. on 7th June 2021 and the venue for submission of bids is the office of Sinolanka Hotels and Spa (Pvt) Ltd at Level 32, No. 116, Galle Road, Colombo 3

**For further information please write to;**

**Managing Director,  
Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Pvt) Ltd,  
116, Galle Road,  
Colombo 3.**

**Fax: + 0112446719  
TP: + 0112249288/0112446705  
E-mail: md@canwillholdings.com and tony@canwillholdings.com**

**Chairman,  
Ministry Procurement Committee,  
Ministry of Finance,  
The Secretariat,  
Colombo 1**



# Lankan company Agro Nutrition develops bio pesticide for Ectoparasites

## A 100% natural therapeutic for treating mites, fleas, ticks in chicken and cattle in the livestock industry

An innovative Sri Lankan company, Agro Nutrition Pvt Ltd has successfully developed a bio pesticide for Ectoparasites in farm animals proving that ban of pesticides for agriculture, is a timely move.

"At a time when most people are over reacting against the import of pesticide we have proved that locally researched and developed organic products are of international standards," said Managing Director, Agro Nutrition (Pvt) Limited, Prabhath Fonseka.

Fonseka, a hotelier and a chemist said he has already developed a 100% natural therapeutic for treating mites, fleas and ticks in chicken and cattle in the livestock industry. "This product is clinically tested, evaluated for toxicity at the veterinary Faculty of University of Peradeniya under the supervision of prof. Jayantha Rajapaksha."

It has also been registered as a



**Prabhath Fonseka**

company to distribute to other parts of the world. One must remember that centuries ago the world survived without synthetic drugs, agro chemicals and pesticides. Extensive use of chemicals, resulted in the world being chemically altered which has become a threat to human health. "Today the world has realized the ill effects of chemical products and started going back to basics as I see a huge increasing demand from the developed countries for organic products and medicine."

Many criticize the government for banning pesticides. "It's a bold decision taken by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a time when human health is blinking due to extensive use of chemicals and drugs. The move will also save billions of rupees from the fertilizer import bill."

Potent pesticides can be made from Neem, essential oils and many other natural products but

the western chemical manufacturers discourage products derived from these naturals, because they are detrimental to their billion dollar businesses. He disclosed that inspired by the ban of import of pesticides Agro Nutrition is in the process of testing new natural remedies to replace chemical pesticides. "Sri Lanka has rich biodiversity but sadly authorities are paying less attention to R&D. However in contrast our company has taken an initiative and hired University graduates and as a result we have come out with new products sources from local natural ingredients."

"Our R&D and tests show promising results and now we are in the process of gaining approvals which takes time. The lack of facilities to do extensive clinical research in our laboratories has resulted in our losing many opportunities to tap unexploited areas in herbal exports,"

he said. The conventional pesticide registration procedure may not align with natural products hence authorities must look at other avenues for new natural pesticide product registrations and approvals.

"We can develop new herbal products but the biggest problem is getting validations for our researched products from local research institutions. Therefore, we have to either go to Singapore, Australia or to Europe for such certification, which is very costly and almost impossible due to the pandemic", Fonseka added.

His products include, vitamin mineral premixes, water soluble powders, oral liquids, wound healing spray, multivitamin Amino oral liquids, antibiotics, acidifiers, dewormers and toxin binder and will soon have liquid pesticides. Manufactured at its modern GMP standardized factory, the company's range of



**Some of the products and staff at the factory**

products are widely acknowledged as effective and profitable solutions by those involved in the industry. Agro Nutrition has received several prestigious awards in recognition of its contribution towards the development of the national economy.



## Divine Marketing introduces locally made disposable bed sheets

### Bid to minimize cost in re-using after sanitization

**PIC. AND TEXT BY SUMACNACHANDRA ARIYAWANSA**

In a bid to minimize cost in re using bed sheets after sanitization Divine Marketing (Pvt) Ltd Kandana is introducing locally made disposable bed sheets.

Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the bedsheets that are used for a patient in the hospital strictly cannot be reused for another patient without proper sterilization. The impractical situation of using cloth bed sheets is the hassle and the time taken to sterilize them as well as the need of a considerable amount of cloth bed sheets. This is something that exceeds the current capacity of the infection control system of a typical hospital in Sri Lanka," said Managing Director and CEO Divine Marketing, Rienzie Nanayakkara.

"It's to solve this issue that we invested over Rs. 120 million and designed and commenced the distribution of these disposable bed sheets."

These disposable bed sheets are used in very prominent hospitals in the OPD rooms, doctor rooms, channeling rooms, laboratories, X-Ray theatres as well as in ICUs.

"These disposable bed sheets are now used when treating and



**Rienzie Nanayakkara Managing Director and CEO, Nirmalee Cruzs Director, Sujith Hettiarachchi General Manager, Anthony Marcus Operations Manager, Dilmith Nanayakkara Marketing Manager, displaying their product**



**Staff at the factory**

diagnosing patients on hospital beds to minimize the transmission of the coronavirus from patient to patient."

He also recalled that most of these bed sheets are directly imported to Sri Lanka and due

to their locally made product Sri Lanka is able to save a huge foreign exchange bill. Divine Marketing only imports raw materials and manufactures disposable bed sheets in their facility in Kandana.

"These bedsheets are 100% virgin pulp products and manufactured using wood pulp, which makes this an eco-friendly product. Besides wood pulp is used in developed countries to manufacture similar products."

In order to meet the huge demand for this specific product, Divine Marketing has also invested in constructing a new facility in Kelaniya. "The main objective of this new facility is to enhance the manufacturing capacity of disposable bed sheets."

He also said that this new facility will be opened within this year. Besides these disposable bed sheets, Divine Marketing manufactures and distributes several other products such as facial tissues, paper serviettes, mini paper towels, kitchen towels, center pull rolls, and many more, targeting hospitals, factories, restaurants, and also offices. These products are marketed under their main brand "Sanet" and their other brand "Go Green". They also provide necessary customization of their products according to their customers' preferences.

"Sanet Premium" which is their newest brand will also be launched along with some premium products.

## SLT-MOBITEL transforms Colombo City Center apartment complex with advanced smart home living experience

SLT-MOBITEL, recognised as a driving force of innovation, has transformed the Colombo City Center apartment complex, the pinnacle of city living, offering discerning residents, the technologically advanced Smart Living experience through SLTMobitel Smart Home service.

The SLTMobitel Smart Home service, offers clients a revolutionary digital lifestyle. The possibilities are endless with the ability to enjoy an unparalleled level of luxury, remotely monitoring, controlling and managing home or office electronic appliances. Through the use of a simple mobile app, customers can save a great deal of both time and energy, enjoy peace of mind and know their home is in safe hands.

SLTMobitel Smart Home gateway works with Smart Home devices leveraging an array of IoT (Internet of Things) devices, to ensure the home can be controlled from any location. This includes remote surveillance, heat ventilation, air-conditioning and lighting, while customizing features to suit the home-owner's lifestyle, creating new experiences.

Colombo City Centre is the ultimate venue in luxury living that comprises a total of 192 luxury apartments of 2 BR, 3 BR and Penthouses, an international standard shopping mall and an upcoming international



hotel. The Residences at Colombo City Centre offer the best value proposition for investors, as customers can experience the benefits of investing in a multidimensional way of life all under one roof. It's the most practically designed mixed development in Sri Lanka.

Sharing his thoughts on the new collaboration, Hrushka Fernando, The Director Residential Sales of Colombo City Centre, stated "The Residences at Colombo City Centre offers the best value proposition that residents can experience while bringing in a new level of luxury to the city. We are pleased that together with SLT-MOBITEL we can offer our home-owners with world-class connectivity as well as a superior home entertainment and home automation experiences. SLT-Mobitel Smart Home service will ensure our residents are part of a smart building ecosystem, the smart home of the future that many aspire to own and live in."

Commenting on the initiative, Chief Marketing Officer of SLT, Prabhath Dahanayake, stated, "We believe smart home technology in apartments and homes is the way of the future. We are excited to partner the Colombo City Centre and not only offer their residents greater comfort and peace of mind but also to enhance their everyday world to be more convenient, intelligent, safe, and efficient transforming their lifestyles."

The SLTMobitel Smart Home service also enables customers to enjoy communication and entertainment of their choice via an app/web or Alexa, in addition to wireless connectivity. Light control and smart lighting functionalities are enabled with smart wall socket/appliance control. Round the clock home security is guaranteed and monitored through motion detection/smart cameras which are multi-functional together with advanced doorbell systems, including smart door locks with fingerprints and passwords.

## OPPO launches OPPO Enco Air

World's First True Wireless Earphones with a high-performance/low latency

OPPO Acoustics, part of the leading global smart device brand OPPO, unveiled its latest addition to the OPPO Enco line with the new OPPO Enco Air True Wireless Earphones.

The OPPO Enco Air is the world's first true wireless earphones to receive a High-Performance/Low Latency Certificate for True Wireless Earphones from the world-renowned German technical testing company TÜV Rheinland—successfully passing the company's comprehensive earphone testing and certification system. OPPO Enco Air's ability to be the first of its kind to obtain this certificate proves the earphone's remarkable performance is beyond mere claims, but also independently verifiable.

OPPO Enco Airs charging case features a visually pleasing matte texture that feels pleasing and luxurious to the touch, while the top cover catches eyes with its creative translucent design. The earphones are available in two colors – misty white and misty black — all equal parts refreshing and good-looking.

To ensure comfortable wear, OPPO Enco Air applies a semi in-ear design



tested and optimized to fit the human ear firmly and comfortably. At an ultra-light 3.75 g, users could potentially forget they're wearing audio equipment at all. The earphones are also IPX4 water-resistant — certified to withstand day-to-day splashes, ideal for any occasion.

Built with special bass-enhancing ducts and 12 mm composite titanium drivers, the earphones are designed to deliver a balanced combination of thick, strong bass and pristine midrange to treble tones. The balance in this acoustic structure was made possible thanks to the OPPO Blu-ray Team's expert tuning work. OPPO Enco Air supports advanced audio coding (AAC) and subband codec (SBC) — both designed to provide users a more detailed, authentic, and high-quality audio experience.

With the charging case, users can get up to 8 hours of playback on just a 10-minute charge, and up to 24 hours on a full charge, making them perfect for all-day listening.

OPPO Enco Air also is integrated with intensive AI call noise-cancellation technology — a smart function that helps to deliver a crystal-clear call experience every user will appreciate.

## Huawei releases six groundbreaking products

### To supercharge Cloud and intelligent transformation of business

At the Huawei Developer Conference (HDC.Cloud) 2021, Huawei launched six innovative products and services, including HUAWEI CLOUD CCE Turbo cloud container cluster, CloudIDE intelligent programming assistant, GaussDB (for openGauss) database, Trusted Intelligent Computing Service (TICS), Pangu Model (including the world's largest Chinese NLP model and CV model), and infrastructure software for diversified computing.

These six products deliver new levels of efficiency and quality to help developers push new frontiers. Huawei also announced a US\$220 million investment into its Huawei



**Huawei and partners launching the HUAWEI CLOUD Partner Innovation Program**

Developer Program 2.0 this year.

The Huawei Developer Program 2.0 will include the newly announced HUAWEI CLOUD Partner Innovation Program, Kunpeng OpenMind Project, and Ascend OpenMind

Project. This rich package of support will help to continuously foster a robust ecosystem around HUAWEI CLOUD, Kunpeng, and Ascend.

HDC.Cloud 2021 takes place in the University Town in Shenzhen, China. The three-

day event will feature keynote speeches, technical summits, training camps, code labs, developer carnivals, and a variety of forums featuring teachers, young talents, and Huawei luminaries. This event brings together the industry's top minds, talent from academia, as well as leaders from the developer ecosystem, together to discuss the latest trends in cloud, AI, computing, and open source.

Richard Yu, Executive Director of Huawei, and CEO of Huawei's Cloud BU and Consumer Business Group, opened the event with a keynote speech. Yu said, "By 2025, 100% of enterprises around the globe will be utiliz-

ing cloud technology. Cloud is the future of the ICT industry and the foundation for enterprises' digital transformation. Developers are the soul of the industry."

HUAWEI CLOUD IaaS ranks No. 2 in China and No. 5 in the world, making it the fastest-growing mainstream cloud vendor. Partner-shipped products based on the Kunpeng motherboard accounted for 52% of the total Kunpeng-based product shipment in 2020.

Three open source communities, openEuler, openGauss, and MindSpore, have been built around operating systems, databases, and AI frameworks.

## Realme to launch the latest smartphone

One of the world's fastest-growing smartphone brand, realme is set to launch the latest smartphone of realme number series lineup in Sri Lanka in mid May 2021.

One of the most popular smartphone series with more than 30 million users around the globe, the realme number series has been a democratizer of flagship technology for local youth, allowing them to enjoy premium features at affordable price points. The mobile device is

speculated to launch along with a trailblazing camera that would pivot itself from the existing midrange mobile devices in the industry, as it's described to be a leap-forward in its phone-range.

As such, the device is slated to replicate hallmark high end features such as an AI powered quad camera and top of the line photography features that youth everywhere now call for. The device will also feature a futuristic design inspired by the digital

world, dynamically integrating the real and magical digital world elements to create a fusion of the real and the illusory in a wondrous visual style. Ranura Kaduwela, Brand Manager realme Sri Lanka elaborates: "realme is fresh, a youth focused smartphone brand that has entered global market within three years of its initial arrival. Latest mid-range smartphone will be highly affordable edition despite its high end features." realme is a technology brand that

provides leapfrog quality and trendsetting smartphones and AIoT products to the global market. realme users are young and globally-minded. realme products empower young people to 'Dare to Leap' using the latest technology and design. realme is the 7th top smartphone brand in the world and was recognized as one of the mainstream smartphone brands according to Counterpoint's statistics of global smartphone shipments in Q3 2020.



# TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

FEATURES EDITOR : (011) 242 9216 Fax : (011) 234 3694 E mail : features.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

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Prefects Guild 2021



At Wesley College Vs Isipathana

## LED BY THE SPIRIT

### Wesley College, Colombo

ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Through his suffering we receive our salvation. Perfect Prefects features Head Boy of Wesley College, Colombo, Shannan Gunasekara who is led by the spirit.

Gunasekara points out that at the end of the day God won't ask us 'How many rooms were there in your house?' but rather 'How many people did you welcome into your home?'. God won't ask you 'what the brand of your car was?' but rather 'How did you use it to help others along in their journey?' God won't ask you 'how much money did you make each month?' but he will ask 'how did you use it to help others?'

"To all those reading this article, I want to encourage all of you to do good, be kind to everyone and be humble so you can spend the rest of your life freely in the presence of God Almighty. My Father is my biggest inspiration in life during these past 19 years. I certainly learned a lot of things from my dad. He is an exceptional person. One thing he has taught me in life is that relationships are important. You bring nothing in to this world and you will take nothing out of it. A true friend will always be there for you in times of need," said Gunasekara.

John 19: 1 - 3 : "Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead tipped whip. The Soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him. 'Hail! King of the Jews!' they mocked, and they hit him with their fists."

Gunasekara reminds us that those inculcated with Christian values must never forget the gravity of the great sacrifice that was made over 2000 years ago. Instead they must always focus on God as many of us struggle and are weighed down by the trials in life. In actuality these things are so little compared to him.

"The motto 'Ora et Labora' on our college crest, was introduced during the Principalship of Rev. Arthur Shipham (1880-1883). 'Ora et Labora' means 'Pray and Labor on'. As a Christian school, we inculcate students with Christian values and provide opportunities to develop latent potential for each and every student. 'Pray and labor on' is very important in our day to day life because we should not forget God. God will be with us in our good

times as well as in our bad times. He will never leave us unless we leave him. Students in Wesley college are reminded of this whenever we look at the college motto 'Pray and labor on'. And it gives us great encouragement," explained Gunasekara.

Luke 23:44 - "By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o' clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the thick veil hanging in the temple was torn apart."

A few years back, Gunasekara went through some health issues and his only hope was God. His parents were there to guide him through that time. They all had faith in God despite the desperate circumstances.

"On that day, I witnessed the power of prayer. Today my secret to success is remaining faithful to God. I try to be a humble, kind and loving person to each and everyone. James 4:10 says, 'Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up.' I always try to humble myself before God. I believe being the senior prefect of Wesley college is a great blessing from God. I am grateful to my parents, my brother, my sister and teachers for the sacrifices they made for me. They had this precious gift which I call, the fear of the lord," pointed out Gunasekara.

Gunasekara has always believed in never giving up. He states that every single one of us will inevitably face difficult situations in life. However, if we want to succeed in life we have to overcome. For him every day brings new challenges. Every day is a new chapter in his life. If you ask Gunasekara what his passion is, he would answer - 'facing challenges.'

"It's up to each person whether he/she wants to face the challenges in life, gain experience or to run away from these challenges. Mike Tyson once said - 'If you try and fail, Congratulations. Because some don't even try.' Mostly I admire leaders who have qualities such as humility, dedication, passion, and sacrifice. I think anyone can be a leader if he or she has these qualities. Nelson Mandela and Richie McCaw are great examples that we can learn from. Richie McCaw is the All Blacks former captain. He did not give up on what he was doing because he did what he was passionate about. When he was young, he had the dream to represent his country as a rugby player



At the Wesley College vs Kingswood College 2019

and he did it! He became one of the greatest players of all time. Nelson Mandela suffered a lot in prison but he did not give up. He ended up becoming one of the strongest leaders in the world. There is not much we are born with. It's all about learning and growing as a person."

Mike Tyson dominated the ring and over time gained notoriety. Nelson Mandela and Richie McCaw were men of nobility. One a humanitarian and the other a sportsman. Both in their own way made a difference in the lives of so many adolescents.

"Since we are only human, we cannot change the whole world, but in our own way we can make a small but significant difference. We are now living in a world with so much corruption. No one can change what has happened already in the world and no one can change the world alone either. What I believe is we should try and be the change we want to see in society. I believe we can change attitudes in society. It is difficult but it can be done. I believe that together we can make a better world. Behavior is contagious. The behavior of a single person can change the behavior of another person. If negativity can spread so fast, then so can positivity. If we can spread love, then we can build a peaceful society," added Gunasekara.

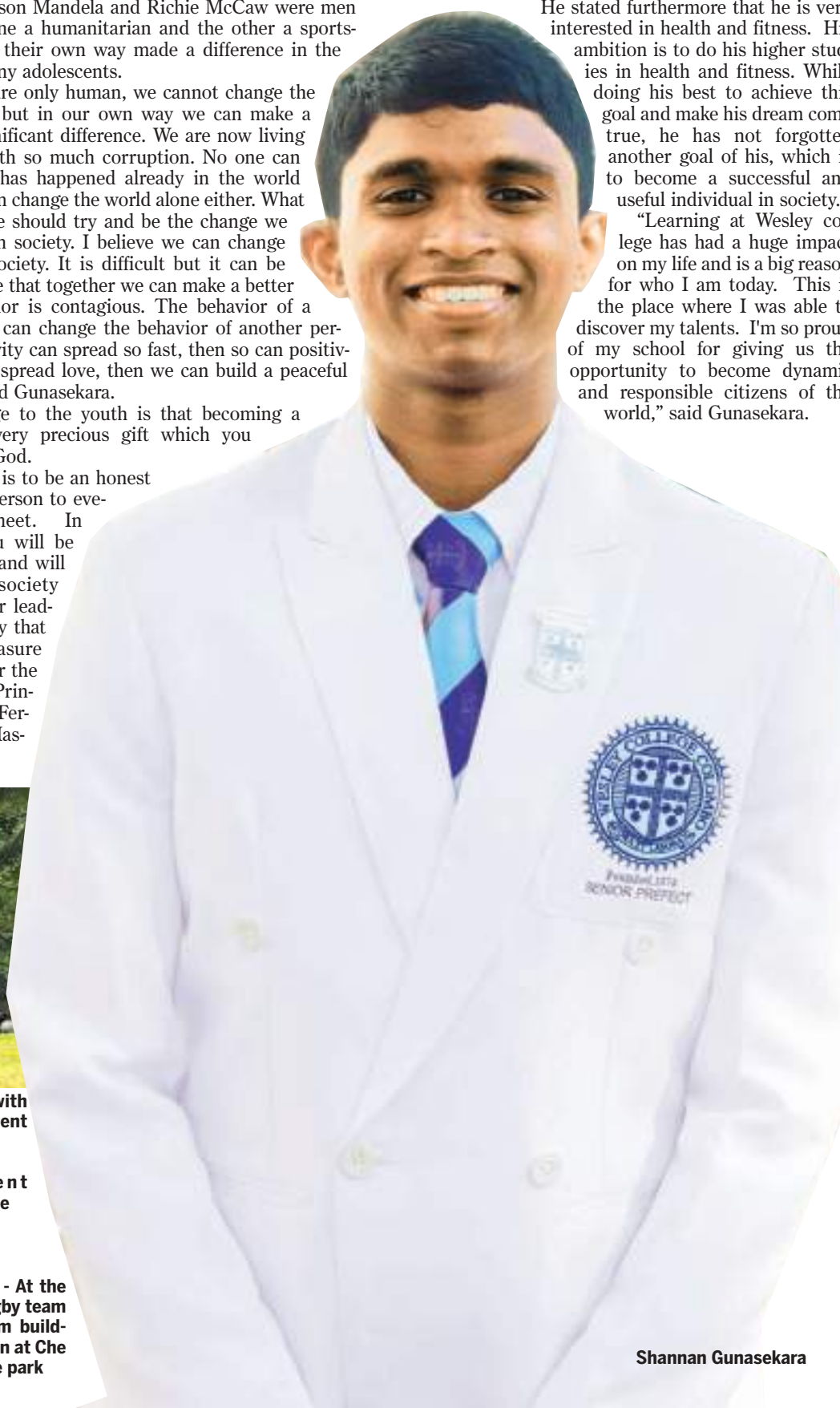
His message to the youth is that becoming a leader is a very precious gift which you receive from God.

"My advice is to be an honest and humble person to everyone you meet. In doing so, you will be truly blessed and will shine in society amongst other leaders. I must say that it is a pleasure working under the leadership of Principal Avanka Fernando and Mas-

ter in charge of prefects Mr. J.P. Jayarathnerajha. I'm doing my best to make my Alma mater a better place for students. I also want to mention my deputy senior prefects and my entire guild for their tremendous support. The commitment and dedication that we have for the school, for each other, and for students is exceptional," stated Gunasekara.

He stated furthermore that he is very interested in health and fitness. His ambition is to do his higher studies in health and fitness. While doing his best to achieve this goal and make his dream come true, he has not forgotten another goal of his, which is to become a successful and useful individual in society.

"Learning at Wesley college has had a huge impact on my life and is a big reason for who I am today. This is the place where I was able to discover my talents. I'm so proud of my school for giving us the opportunity to become dynamic and responsible citizens of the world," said Gunasekara.



Shannan Gunasekara



With his family



Outing with the Student Christian



Movement Committee

Wesley 11 - At the 1st xv Rugby team building session at Che Adventure park





# MANGO MUSEUM in Lucknow



## A NOVEL WAY TO DETECT COVID-19 INFECTIONS

Dutch researchers have trained bees, which have an unusually keen sense of smell, to identify samples infected with COVID-19, a finding they said could cut waiting times for test results to just seconds.

To train the bees, scientists in the bio-veterinary research laboratory at Wageningen University gave them sugary water as a reward after showing them samples infected with COVID-19. They would get no reward after being shown a non-infected sample.

Having got used to the system, the bees were able to spontaneously extend their tongues to receive a reward when presented with an infected sample, said Wim van der Poel, a professor of virology who took part in the project.

"We collect normal honeybees from a beekeeper and we put the bees in harnesses," he said. "Right after presenting a positive sample we also present them with sugar water. And what the bees do is they extend their proboscis to take the sugar water."

The extending of the bees' straw-like tongues to drink is confirmation of a positive coronavirus test result, according to the researchers.

It can take hours or days to get a COVID-19 test result, but the response from the bees is immediate. The method is also cheap, potentially making it useful for countries where tests are scarce, they said.

But Dirk de Graaf, a professor who studies bees, insects and animal immunology at Ghent University in Belgium, said he

did not see the technique replacing more conventional forms of COVID-19 testing in the near future. "It is a good idea, but I would prefer to carry out tests using the classic diagnostic tools rather than using honeybees for this. I am a huge bee lover, but I would use the bees for other purposes than detecting COVID-19," he said.

The technique of "insect sniffing" was effectively tested by the U.S. Dept. of Defence to detect explosives and toxins in the 1990s, De Graaf said.

Moths, bees and wasps were used "for safety purposes to detect explosives as well as for medical diagnosis," he said.

But too little is known about the Wageningen testing to determine its true effectiveness, he said, although he was open to the idea of bee testing providing an indication of illness when PCR tests were unavailable.

Reuters

terial, anti-carcinogenic bioactive compounds and a few of them have been found to be reported effective in immunity-boosting against the Corona virus," he said.

"A database containing details of the medicinal properties of phytochemicals can be accessed in the museum. A description of important products made from mango and the nutritive value of the king of fruits will also be depicted," Rajan said.

India is considered to be the richest in mango varieties and efforts made by farmers, nurserymen and mango lovers have helped in conserving varieties.

About 80 countries have issued stamps on mangoes. The upcoming museum will also have a corner showcasing stamps for people interested in philately.

The museum will provide information on such products and their nutritive value along with details of recipes made from raw or ripe mangoes.

"Mango is the heritage tree of India. It has historical and mythological relevance and enjoys a connect with social, religious and cultural ethos of the country. The museum will also have material on this aspect," he added.

Using audio-visual means, CISH will develop the museum as a storehouse of information on major mango-producing areas of the country and the world.

A portion of the museum will depict the numerous pests and diseases that attack the mango.

The CISH Director further said that the museum will be of interest, not only to children, but also to the farmers.

Gulf News

India is getting a mango museum. The Mango Museum is coming up at the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) office at Rehmankhera in the Kakori block of Lucknow.

It is likely to be ready by the end of the mango season.

The museum will help the visitors learn about the varieties, medicinal value, products, history and other little-known facts about the fruit.

According to Shailendra Rajan, CISH Director, "The museum will have more than 800 varieties as a model or a photograph with interesting descriptions. Not only Indian, but also the varieties dominating the international market will be displayed at the museum."

The institute has one of the largest live collections of mango varieties, but one cannot see them after the fruiting season.

"Mango (tree) is considered to provide certain anti-viral, anti-bac-



### MARMADUKE



"Marm is jealous because you have that thing in your lap all the time."

### MUTT AND JEFF



### ARCHIE



### FISH TALES



### UP & RUNNING



WHEN THE CAT GETS IN TROUBLE FOR SOMETHING YOU DID.







# JOY OF THE SEASON

**Y**ork International School, Kadawatha branch, celebrated the New Year at school premises on a grand scale. Titled 'York Soorya Udanaya' the event included New Year games and a fair on April 9. Students performed cultural dances and events.

'York Soorya Udanaya' consisted of stalls of home needs, food and drinks, New Year sweetmeats, textiles, flora, computer hardware, sanitary items, home decors etc. A space was allocated to the little ones to enjoy the bouncers and game zone too.

The school began its first term

online, on January 4 and continued up to April 9 continuously and ended with a note of relaxation and enjoyment. Students started physical schooling on March 29 as approved by the Government. They were enthusiastically participating in the New Year programme with their parents at this event.

The celebration was an appropriate way of refreshing young minds which were deprived of student life as schools were closed for more than one year due to the pandemic.

Chairman York International School and York Graduate Campus, Rohan Perera and CEO - Rohan L,

Perera, Sudarshi Jayarathne - Manager Commercial Bank Enderamulla branch and D A Sagarika Priyadharshani Athukorala - Principal of Challenge Kids Pre - School graced the occasion as guests. K H Duminda Harshana Srikantha (Sikamai) was a special guest in the programme and compered adding more colour to it.

It was noteworthy that the new normal rules were followed by the crowd.

The programme was organized by the Principal Wathsala Senanayake and the academic and administrative staff of the school.

*Pictures by Sudath Malawera*



## WINDS OF CHANGE



*Text and pictures by M U M SANOON, Puttalam TKN Corr*

**A** special discussion was held recently in the auditorium of the National Institute of Education (NIE) regarding the formulation of a new curriculum frame work for the aesthetic subjects, that are to be revised in the Sri Lankan school curriculum by the year 2023.

The Director of Education for the Aesthetic subject,

who had been appointed for the national level curriculum revision process by the Ministry of Education, the Director of Education of the National Institute of Education, and lecturers for the subjects of aesthetic, drawing, dance and music participated and discussed the changes that are to be made in the curriculum.

Several suggestions were made to implement this effort at the district level, initially.

## Celebrating togetherness



*Text and pictures by M S M MUNTHASIR, Panadura Central Group Corr*

**S**tate Minister of Women and Child Development, Pre School and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and School Services and Kalutara District Parliamentarian Piyal Nishantha embarked on an inspection visit to Kalamulla

Roman Catholic Vidyalaya in the Kalutara Educational Zone on the request of the Principal and Deputy Principal of the School recently.

The Minister also presented face masks to the students and staff in memory of the school visit. C Gunaratne, Principal of the School, submitted a list of requirements to the minister.



## PROMOTING GERMAN LANGUAGE

**T**he Jennings International College Ninamadama which is well known as the First PASCH school in Sri Lanka develops the German Language skills of students with the support and professional guidance of the Goethe-Institute, Colombo to create and inculcate the best environment for German classes. Jennings and other PASCH- schools offer the internationally important language of German on a high didactic level monitored by the German language experts at the German Cultural Centre in Colombo.

Jennings will be renewing their agreement with the Goethe Institute in Colombo this year.

With great honor, Jennings remembers the initiative PASCH program which was established as a result of the innovative idea of federal Foreign Minister of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmiller. As Jennings became the First Partner school of Sri Lanka, its students and teachers have been given many opportunities to participate in many events.

These events include teacher training programs, PASCH Days, Youth Summer Camps, Food Festivals, Photo Competitions and so on. In remembrance of all these events a plaque was unveiled by the acting German Ambassador of our college, Dr. Steffan Wechbach to mark our school as the First PASCH school in Sri Lanka on February 2, 2009. To celebrate this event Jennings organized a Street Festival "Straßen Fest" including a number of games, dances and songs.

Starting from 2009, Jennings Inter-



**W S Tharanganie Ranatunge, The Principal of Jennings International College**



**Amila Rodrigo, German language Teacher (Senior section) of Jennings International College.**



**Sri Lankan German teachers, at a three day residential German language teachers' workshop at Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya, organized by Goethe Institute, Colombo**

national has evolved through the years as one of the best partner schools by maintaining its good name and achieving its targets. Both students and teachers have unforgettable memories of their time at Jennings International. Jennings value its students' unique talents and

believes in nurturing these students, helping them to blossom through a perfect blend of the traditional and contemporary methods. Jennings has produced outstanding individuals with various capabilities in different fields.

Jennings wishes to extend its grati-

tude to the government of Germany, Stefan Winkler, the Director of Goethe institute and Rackitha Karunathna, Head of the language department of Goethe Institute and the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany, Sri Lanka for their guidance and co-operation.

It is because of the love and untiring efforts of Director of Jennings Srihan Samaranayaka, Principal Tharangani Ranathunga, German teachers Amila Rodrigo and Suwindya Chrismarini, and all the past directors, Principals and German teachers, that Jennings is now at its pinnacle of success.

Even with the prevailing situation in the country today due to the pandemic, Goethe institute continues to support and guide its students, organizing online language teaching workshops to prepare them for the advanced exams in German such as German Fit A1, A2, B1, B2, and so on.

Fifteen Students of Jennings also participated in various skill based competitions such as, the "FOTO COMP" by SriDaF and nine students of Jennings joined the Germany Food Festival online. The teachers of Jennings attended the three day residential German Language teachers' workshop at the Grand hotel Nuwara Eliya organized by the Goethe Institute - language department.

Jennings International College has been a proud partner school for over a decade now creating various opportunities in various German language related fields for more than 1000 students. Jennings has seen successes and failures and highs and lows,



**German Language books are being offered to children from Jennings, German Department, first term in January**

but one thing that was never accepted at Jennings was 'defeat'. Jennings are proud to be a part of this amazing college that offer so many valuable opportunities to everyone who is fortunate enough to walk through its doors.

Goethe's next initiative is to introduce a dual education system to Sri Lanka with the assistance of their partner schools which is very popular in Germany. The main idea is to provide academic & vocational education to students opening pathways to study and



**German language is included as a subject in the school curriculum**

explore the beauty and culture in Germany while making his or her living.



# JAYASRI: Good vibes, peace and love!



SURESHNI PILAPITIYA

**T**hey need no introduction. They are not just a musical group, but a musical phenomenon, which changed the Sri Lankan music culture, made history, and took it to a new dimension.

They are not just a band, but also a global ambassador for Sri Lanka, taking Sri Lankan culture and rhythm all across the world – and thus doing mother Lanka proud.

I still remember when one of their number one hits "Mod Goviya" came out in the 2000's. We were just doing our A/L's at that time - a crazy bunch of students grooving to the song whenever it was aired on Radio or TV. It was a favorite at any event, family gathering or a party. We were impatient to know who these guys were with an "odd singing style" and later found out it was called "Jayasri".

Up to now, the music they have created has been amazing. Having an amazing ability to send "good vibes and positive energy" wherever they perform, it's always a pleasure to have a chat with the Legendary Jayasri twins, Rohitha and Rohan Jayalath, being the brainwaves behind the whole process.

The whole world is going through a terrible pandemic today. It has also created a global economic crisis. Needless to say, just like any other sector, the music industry has been hit as well. It's almost like a transition period of our lives – to make us think of how we should change. These are challenging times, but the Jayasri twins are able to look at it with a positive attitude, sending good vibes, and hoping everything will change for the better.

Being back at home, the Jayasri twins seem to be making the best out of their break apart from music work – Rohitha with his painting (amazing ones at that!), Sculpture and Architecture Design Work, while Rohan is busy with his Agriculture garden work, plus having studio work and appearing on TV programmes. To learn more about their latest progress, we sat down for a chat with the "Big bro" Rohitha, who is also a creative architect by profession. So it's all Good Vibes, Peace and Love with Jayasri on TnC this week!

Excerpts:

**Q:** So Rohitha, how does it feel to be back in Sri Lanka with Rohan and taking a break?

To be back in Lanka and to be at home with ammi is always nice. Including this season, now for nearly two years without really being on stage is very difficult and disappointing... we miss that live closeness with people... but life must go on with positive thinking and hope the good times will follow, so let's stay safe!!

**Q:** Tell us about what you're up to these days - music and otherwise.

Music wise nothing much, just some weddings and events. We took time for more TV programmes too to be in touch with our fans. Also some studio work is planned. Apart from that Rohan spends time with his Agriculture garden work and I do some paintings, sculpture and architecture design work.

**Q:** How did you and Rohan first establish yourselves in the music scene?

We were crazy about music from childhood... to

form a band and play music, tour the world ..... and we worked hard for our dream, learning instruments and after O/L s our father bought the sound system for us and managed the band, that time it was SERENDIB.

**Q:** Performing both at local and international platforms - what was Jayasri's best musical moment?

There are many such moments in our career! In 1993 signing with SONY MUSIC Europe and the first single with project CON-DOM tops selling charts TOP 10 around many countries and to be the first Sri Lankans to be in European Charts was a great moment, as we come from a tiny island and to be among the huge names in the music business.

Later followed by many such successful projects, in 1999 we formed the band JAYASRI and 2003 we won the AUSTRIAN WORLD MUSIC AWARD, was a great achievement, out of many bands around the world.

Also that gave us the boost and we had the chance to perform with many international Bands and artists, sharing the backstage together... with whom we dreamt to see live when we were in Sri Lanka.

**Q:** Can you recall your first experience as a band, and the challenges you had to face?

As SERENDIB we played in hotel circuits, we worked hard, not like nowadays... we had to fix our own sound and play and pack again and drive home. Lots of practices to be updated with repertoire and also to cope up with my architecture studies and work... hard times, but we were energized and had loads of fun too.

**Q:** You have performed with a large number of international artists and bands, plus international music festivals. How has the experience been?

Yes! I believe this was a great blessing! Just imagine, a long time back you have a cassette of such International artists in hand and now suddenly you meet and greet them and play on the same stage with them... Those were dreams which came real in our lives. Also playing our original songs in sinhala and english on international music festivals made us unique as an Asian Reggae + World music band.

**Q:** What's the difference you see between international and local audiences?

Most of the international festivals, shows we perform are packed in particular genres. Let's say in a Reggae or world music festival, you have the majority audience who understands that music and once you come on stage all of them are 100% in your vibe. You don't need extra effort to emphasize them. In local audiences you have a mixed crowd...some understand the music, some are after a hard day's work and there to enjoy and forget the worries... We enjoy performing to both these audiences and share love.

**Q:** Jayasri has contributed its musical talent for the cinema field as well.

Yes. We did a lot of theme songs and music for many Films and Tele dramas. Starting from Boodee's Mille Soya (Nimayaka hudakalawa, Sathya, Rumassala etc.), Oscar nominated Uberto Passolini's Machan, Chamara Janaraj's Piyavi, Raahu, etc. It's great to work with such talented people.

**Q:** What does it mean to you, winning so many international and local awards, numerous accolades for your contribution in music?

First of all, I should say... We don't do music to win awards. But it's great to get recognition for a

creation done by you and it motivates you to continue your doings. Firstly, we won some international awards such as Austrian World Music Award 2003 and also Austrian Grammy Amadeus for Ravers on Dope (Global Deejays) best dance single, then later we had numerous local awards. All those are really appreciated and some turning points in our musical journey.

**Q:** What do you think of the current Sri Lankan music industry?

There are some positive things and also some areas to be developed. There are very good musicians, bands in different genres. Many are technically very good and the feel can be improved. Internet and media plays a big role for learning, producing and presenting than our times. Also chances to watch and listen to the world. But as a music industry, for the Authors, Composers, Performers Copyrights and royalties, media station payments etc... the whole system should improve a lot up to international standards.

**Q:** How is the response from the international music crowd?

Based in Vienna, JAYASRI we have come a long way with our own unique style and giving our best to our audiences. The international crowds appreciate our blend of 3 continents Asia, Africa, Europe and share the positive vibes we give... Also sing along our sinhala songs as well. We have come down to Sri Lanka 3 times with the full band too and performed at Rock Meets Reggae Concert.

**Q:** How has Rohan's and the rest of the band's support been?

We are a 7-piece band ... playing together for more than 20 years!! Sumal, Moses, Parvez, Bidu, Herb, Rohan and me... some members were long time together with us from our earlier projects. So it's really a great brotherhood, we share equal and everyone knows who is capable of what and their position and we have no leaders!! We just enjoy going on stage and give our best with a good vibe...and we transfer that vibe to the crowd.

**Q:** What do you think of the current pandemic situation? How has it affected the local and global music industry?

Crazy n Dangerous!!! I think the Nature gives us back... The Return...!! Karma... what we have done bad to Mama Earth. We have told this in our songs Mama Earth, Hanumantha, Keep Lanka clean. A very serious situation that we all must take care of us. The entertainment industry globally shutdown. Local and globally musicians and all who are attached to the music industry going through hardships. From a small gathering to some thousands of audiences closed with no idea, what's next?

**Q:** Any message which you can give to our upcoming musicians?

Spend time for what you love... make it your passion, practice n Learn well... master your instrument... learn from the Legends n best from the world ... don't copy... be unique... jump out of the box... stay humble on the floor... keep the headroom... Respect each other... chase your dreams... never give up...!!!

**Q:** Looking back at Jayasri's musical journey, how do you feel?

We are very happy and thankful to everyone who helped and join hands us in this journey !! we have come a long way and achieved a lot... a long way to go. It's not money or fame what we are interested, We love to live inside people and to be with them in need, with music, words, positive messages, good thoughts, love to nature, live in harmony... simply sharing PEACE and LOVE !! We are on a mission and feeling good... like Bob said...ONE LOVE, ONE HEART, Let's get together and feel alright !!

You can get more information or listen to Jayasri tunes on [www.jayasrimusic.com](http://www.jayasrimusic.com) [www.youtube.com/user/jayasri](http://www.youtube.com/user/jayasri) [www.instagram.com/jayasri](http://www.instagram.com/jayasri) [www.facebook.com/jayasrimusic](http://www.facebook.com/jayasrimusic)

## Justice tour rescheduled

**J**ustin Bieber has announced new dates for his rescheduled Justice World Tour. The live shows were scheduled to kick off this summer but due to Covid-19 restrictions, all dates have been moved to next year. Justin has now confirmed he will be playing an impressive 52 North American shows in 2022, adding an extra seven arena shows.

"We're working hard to make this tour the best one yet," the Peaches singer says in a press release. "I'm excited to get out there and engage with my fans again."

The tour will now kick off in San Diego, California on 18 February and end in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in late June.



## Lockdown songs



**N**oel Gallagher says the "biggest benefit" of the coronavirus lockdown was the time he had to write new songs.

The former Oasis guitarist - who lives with his wife Sara MacDonald and their two sons,

Donovan, 13, and 10-year-old Sonny - has "hated every single day of lockdown" in the UK but he admits being stuck at home was good for him creatively because it gave him a chance to re-visit ideas that he had lying around for fresh tracks.

And that extra time inspired him to release a Best Of album, 'Back the Way We Came: Vol 1 (2011-2021)', which celebrates the 10th anniversary of his solo career and contains two new songs, 'We're On Our Way Now' and 'Flying On The Ground'.

In an interview with BBC Radio 6 Music, he said: "I've hated every single day of lockdown and what it's done to society and people and children, and all that, it's been dreadful.

"But at the end of 2019 when I got back off the end of that tour from Mumbai, I'd given myself till 2023 off, anyway, before the pandemic.

"I went away on tour, I had two little sons. I got back and one of them has got a tache and the other one is wearing jewellery and they're calling me 'bruv'. I was saying to Sarah, 'How long have I been away?' And she goes, 'Well, too long.' So I was kind of like, 'Right I need to be around for a bit,' so I'd given myself a couple years out anyway. Then the pandemic came along and what that did for me creatively, was made me a finish off these songs that are on the Best Of, and have a look at everything that I had lying around, half songs that were finished and half-baked, new ideas, and I started to kick them into shape.

"The biggest benefit was my own music. I've got more songs that I would ordinarily have now."

Noel, 53, also agreed to work with several other artists on new music in lockdown, including a collaboration with British rapper Dizzee Rascal, something he is usually reluctant to do.

The 'Wonderwall' hitmaker has been disappointed that not all of the songs he co-wrote have been released yet.

He said: "I've co-written a lot of songs, ironically, none of which seem to have seen the light of day.

"I did that thing with CamelPhat, which did come out, I did a thing with Dizzee, which never came up. I did a thing with [Paul] Weller which never got finished. I did do something with Imelda May that did come out, actually.

"Lots of people were doing it, I got so many emails saying, 'Hey, I've got nothing to do, if you've got nothing to do we should write something.'"

Music News

## Britneys slams documentaries made about her

**B**ritney Spears is tired of all the documentaries being made about her life, specifically when it comes to her court-ordered conservatorship.

The singer posted a lengthy message to her more than 29 million Instagram followers Monday night writing in part, "So many documentaries about me this year with other people's takes on my life ... These documentaries are so hypocritical ... they criticize the media and then do the same thing ?????"

Spears went on to write: "I don't know y'all but I'm thrilled to remind you all that although I've had some pretty tough times in my life ... I've had waaaaayyyy more amazing times in my life and unfortunately my friends ... I think the world is more interested in the negative..."

Shortly after The New York Times released "Framing Britney Spears," the singer said that although she didn't watch it, she cried for two weeks after its release. Now, the BBC has released their own documentary titled "The Battle For Britney."

The next hearing regarding her conservatorship will take place in LA on June 23, and Spears is expected to speak for the first time. CNN







## TENDER NOTICE

### STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 05 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. (E.mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)

| Item  | Quantity       | Tender No.       | Closing on |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------|
| Item Code No: 100301D31<br>Gemfibrozil Capsules BP/USP 300mg<br>In 10x10 Capsules (Blister) | 3,000<br>Packs | RES/07/06/A/2021 | 07.06.2021 |
| Item Code No: 060601G94<br>Netilmicin Sulfate Injection USP 100mg<br>In 2ml vial            | 1,500<br>vials | RES/07/06/B/2021 | 07.06.2021 |
| Item Code No: 330202699<br>Stethoscope for Doctors with Standard<br>Accessories             | 2,000<br>Nos.  | RES/10/06/A/2021 | 10.06.2021 |

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of tenderer shall register himself and such Public Contract in accordance with the Section 10 of the Public Contracts Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act at any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

**The Chairman – Procurement Committee**  
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka  
No. 41, 16th Floor, Mehewara Piyasa,  
Kirula Road, Narahenpita,  
Colombo 05.



## MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn  
Farming, Fishery Harbour Development,  
Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports



### NATIONAL AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) is a body corporate established under National Aquaculture Development Authority Act No. 53 of 1998 for the Development and Management of Aquatic Resources and Aquaculture Industry.

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the execution and completion of the following works.

| Name of the Contract, Contract No. & Construction Period   | Source of Funds | Minimum CIDA Grade  | Bid Security & Validity (Rs.) | Bid Security Validity period (Up to) | Non Refundable Fees (Rs.) | Amount of Engineer's Estimate excluding contingencies & VAT (Rs. Million) |
|--|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Improvement Works for Aquaculture Development Centre at Dambulla in Matale District.<br>2021/SP/DAM/01(6 Months) | GOSL            | C3 or C4<br>Only Irrigation or Water Supply Constructions | 1,000,000.00<br>121 Days      | 01-10-2021                           | 14,000/-                  | 61.29   |

For further Details please visit [www.naqda.gov.lk](http://www.naqda.gov.lk)

**Chairman,**  
Department Procurement Committee (Major),  
National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka,  
41/1, New Parliament Rd, Pelawatta,  
Battaramulla.

# HOMAGAMA PRADESHIYA SABHA

## REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS / CONTRACTORS FOR YEAR 2021

Applications are invited up to 3.00 p.m. on 01.06.2021 from Contractors / approved Volunteer Organizations / Suppliers and Manufacturers who wish to register for the supply of undermentioned goods and services for year 2021. **Note: Institutions that are registered for year 2021 earlier need not register again.**

All applications consisting of address of the institution (if available) and all details should be sent by registered post. Application should be prepared as per the specimen given below. The caption "Registration of Suppliers and Contractors - 2021" should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

A registration application fee of Rs. 1000.00 should be paid for all supplies and services and that may be paid either by cash or you may send a cheque drawn in favour of "Chairman, Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha" along with the application.

All contractors should pay a registration application fee of Rs. 1000.00. Documentary proof should be submitted to prove to be successful contractors. Contractors registered with ICTAD need not submit Assets Certificate.

#### SUPPLY OF GOODS

- Computers and Accessories, Printers and Fax Machines and Time Recording Machines
- Office Equipment, Typewriters, Roneo Machines, Photocopiers, Calculators and Adding Machines
- Office Tables, Chairs and Equipment (Wooden, Iron, Plastic and Steel)
- Spare Parts for Heavy Duty Machines (Backhoe Loaders / Motor Graders)
- Sports Equipment to Children's Parks
- Body Building Equipment
- Sports Equipment
- Commemorative Plaques (including Granite creations)
- Flags, artificial decorations etc
- Curtains, Table Cloths and Mosquito Nets
- Office Hand Bags, Raincoats and Umbrellas
- Shoes / Safety Shoes, Gumboots, Rain Coats
- Stitching and supplying of Preschool Uniforms
- Textile Materials for Uniforms
- Stitching and Supplying of Staff Uniforms, T-Shirts and Uniform Badges etc
- Water Bottles, Lunch Boxes, School Bags, Umbrellas for school children
- Making Rubber Seals
- Supply of Bicycle Licence Plates
- Ekel Brooms, Brooms, Buckets, Baskets, Mops and Poly Sack Bags
- Supply of Insecticides, Weedicides and Pesticides
- Stitching and supplying of Office Curtains / Cushioning Work
- Grass Sods, Coir Dust and Fertilizer
- Equipment such as Mosquito Liquid Spraying Machines, Fumigating Machines
- Landscaping Machines including Grass Cutting Machines and Accessories
- Soaps, Cleaning Agents and Cleaning Materials
- Water Purifying Agents and Water Purifiers
- Drinking Water Bottles
- Machinery and Vehicle Spare Parts
- Fire Extinguishers and Equipment, Safety Equipment, Goggles, Rubber Gloves
- All kinds of Timber
- Metal and Smoothed Granite (Chillie Grinder Stones)
- Hardware Items, Building Materials
- PVC Coated Nets
- Plumbing Equipment and Accessories
- Tiles
- All kinds of Paints
- Bicycles
- Tractor Spare Parts
- Tyres and Tubes
- Vehicle Spare Parts
- Hand Carts
- Medical Equipment
- Domestic Electrical Equipment

#### SUPPLY OF SERVICES

- Printing Works and Book Binding
- Servicing of Vehicles
- i. Repairing of Vehicles  
ii. Repairing of Three Wheelers
- Welding and Fitting Works
- Labour Services (Skilled and Unskilled)
- Maintenance and Repairing of Computers
- For Surveying Services
- Development, Installation and Maintenance of Computer Software
- Preparation of Food and Beverages for events and whenever required by the Pradeshiya Sabha
- Repairing the Heavy Duty Machinery (Backhoe Loaders, Road Rollers, Motor Graders etc.)
- Landscaping
- Cutting and Removal of Trees
- Repairing the Tree Cutting and Grass Cutting Machines
- Repairing of Photocopiers, Fax Machines, Computers
- Supply of Festival Goods including platforms
- Supply of Generators on hire basis (10 K.W.)
- Electrical Works, Masonry Works, Plumbing Works, Carpentry
- Repairing of Tractors and Trailers / Supply of Spare Parts
- Provision of Crematorium Maintenance Services
- Provision of Legal Consultancy Services
- Household Equipment Planning Services, Provision of services (Should be a Chartered Architect)
- Provision of Structural and Chartered Engineering Services
- Construction of Buildings and Roads and Maintenance Services
- Stage Decorations for Events
- Rattaning of Chairs
- Repairing of Office Steel Furniture
- Supply of Dog Collars
- Development and Installation of Computer Software and Provision of relevant Consultancy Services
- Repairing and Maintenance of Office Equipment
- Repairing of Typewriters, Calculators, Duplicating and Adding Machine
- Photographing and Videoining
- Printing of Digital Banners and Stickers
- Framing of Photographs and Pictures and Making Notice Boards
- Supply of Loudspeakers and Lighting Services on hire basis
- Supply of Festival Goods on hire basis
- Repairing and Maintenance of Sports Equipment and Pre School Equipment
- Maintenance of Fire Extinguishing System and Automated and Hand Operated Fire Signalling Systems
- Repairing of Safety Equipment and Fire Extinguishing Equipment
- Supply and Installation of Air Conditioners
- Repairing and Maintenance of Split Type Air Conditioners and Refrigerators
- Purchase of Old Newspapers
- Processing of Official Identity Cards
- Stitching and finishing of Uniforms (overall)
- Engine Repairs carried out mechanically (Fixing of Sleeves, Grinding of Crankshafts, Boring and other repairing works)
- Repairing of Hydraulic Hoses / Equipment
- Cushioning of Vehicles
- Repairing of Vehicle Glasses and Door Locks and Winders
- Repairing of Vehicle Air Conditioners
- Repairing of Vehicle Radiators
- Repairing of Injector Pumps
- Binding of Clutch Plates and Break Liners
- Retreading of tyres for all vehicles
- Speedometer Repairs
- Repairing of Vehicle Cables
- Bending and Cutting of Iron Plates

#### CONDITIONS

- Separate application should be submitted for each kind of above supply and service / contract and separate application fees should be paid.
- Any supplier / contractor who is registered and qualified may apply and the quoted prices should be kept firm generally for six (06) months.
- Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha reserves the right to obtain quotations for goods and services from other suppliers and contractors other than the registered suppliers and contractors whenever necessary. Further, the suppliers should agree to supply materials and services on 30 days credit period.

#### Criteria required of Suppliers / Contractors for registration with the Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha

- Suppliers / Contractors will be registered separately for each service
- If one supplier / contractor requires registration for more than one service application fee for each registration should be paid for each of such service.
- There is no right to the suppliers / contractors registered with this Pradeshiya Sabha to claim that the services required by the Pradeshiya Sabha should be performed only by them.
- When obtaining goods and services, Tender Board and the Chairman would decide as per the circumstance from whom to obtain the goods or services based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee.
- If a Corporation, certificate to prove it has been legally incorporated.
- If a sole proprietorship, should possess the Business Registration Certificate.
- If a company, should possess the certificate under the Companies Act.

### HOMAGAMA PRADESHIYA SABHA

#### APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A SUPPLIER/CONTRACTOR FOR YEAR 2021

- Name of the Institution of Supplier / Contract:.....
- Address of the Institution of Supplier / Contractor:.....
- Telephone No.  
i. Standard (Fixed Line) Tel. No. ....  
ii. Mobile No. ....
- Email Address: .....
- Fax No. ....
- Business Registration Certificate No. ....
- Nature of Business: .....
- Category of Goods / Services for which registration is sought: .....
- Name of Banker with whom accounts are maintained:.....
- Period of Credit facilities:.....
- Documentary Proof that is submitted to prove as a successful contractor: .....
- ICTAD Registration No., if registered with ICTAD: .....
- VAT Registration No. (If any): .....
- Fee paid for Registration as a Supplier / Contractor Rs. 1000/-

Above fee has been paid in cash/cheque bearing No. .... and hereby certify that all the details given above are true and correct and I/we would abide by the rules and regulations imposed by the Chairman of the Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha and would kindly request to register me/us as a supplier / contractor.

Date: .....

Name of Applicant: .....

Signature of Applicant and Official Seal :

**Sampath Chaminda Jayasinghe**  
Chairman  
Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama

Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha  
11.05.2021





327  
Positions Wanted

I, involved in household work following ancestors throughout generations, seek employment in a respectable home from Colombo suburbs. Kamal 0764301834. 034933

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Chairman, Tender Board on behalf of the Colombo South Cooperative Society invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for following works.

| No. | Contract No. | Contract Name                            | Refundable Deposit Amount (Rs.) | Non Refundable Fees (Rs.) | Registration of ICTAD (Minimum Requirement) |
|-----|--------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 01  | 21/5/(1)     | Renovation of Borella Co-opcity Building | 25,000.00                       | 5,000.00                  | C7  |

- (01) The Bidding will be conducted through National Bidding procedure. To be eligible for submission of Bids, the Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and meet the requirement of ICTAD Registration as mentioned above.
- (02) Bidding documents prepared in English and Sinhala Languages and duly filled bidding documents in duplicate, marked "Original" & "Duplicate" in two separate sealed envelopes, inserted in one sealed envelope, marked the name of the contract on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, should either be sent by Registered Post to the address given below, or deposited in the Tender Box at Administration Division of Colombo South Cooperative Society Head Office to be received before 2.00 p.m. on 21st May 2021. Late Bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 21st May 2021 at the Board Room of the Colombo South Cooperative Society.
- (03) Further information can be obtained from the Chairman - 011-2593592.

**The Chairman  
Colombo South Cooperative Society Ltd.,  
No. 562,  
Galle Road,  
Colombo 03.**



**STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING, AND CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES PROMOTION**

**DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT FACTORY - KOLONNAWA**

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training, and Handing Over of a Brand New CNC Lathe Machine, and Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training and Handing Over of a Brand New Centre Lathe Machine**

Procurement Nos: 3/1/4/21Q/01/CE/FA/491 and 3/1/4/21Q/01/CE/FA/492

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Department of Government Factory invites sealed bids from eligible & reputed suppliers for the Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training and Handing Over of a Brand New CNC Lathe Machine and Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training and Handing Over of a Brand New Centre Lathe Machine. Completion period shall be within 12 weeks after placing the order.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Technical Specifications, delivery Schedule, and other additional details are indicated in the Bidding Document.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Chief Engineer (Engineering Logistics)/ Mechanical Engineer (Supplies), Department of Government Factory, Kolonnawa, (Tel:- (011) 2534579/ (011) 2572351/2 Ext. 150/ Fax :- (011) 2572254) and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 9.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs from **11.05.2021 up to 02.06.2021**.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director General, Department of Government Factory, from **11.05.2021 up to 02.06.2021** on working days from 9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 1000/= . The method of payment should be by cash.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Director General's Office, 3rd Floor, Department of Government Factory, Kolonnawa on or before **11.00 hrs. on 03.06.2021**. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be rejected.
- Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by Bid Securities of **Rs. 150,000.00** and **Rs. 40,000.00** for the CNC Lathe Machine, and Centre Lathe Machine respectively, obtainable from a bank in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as per the correct format, or Bank Draft in favour of "Director General", or receipt for payment in cash made before 3.00 pm on any working day to the Shroff, Department of Government Factory. Validities of Bid securities shall be up to **02.09.2021 and 19.08.2021** for the CNC lathe Machine and Centre Lathe Machine respectively.
- Local agent who represents foreign principal should register themselves under the Public Contract Act (PCA) No. 03 of 1987 and shall submit the relevant PCA form with the offer when the value of the procurement exceeds Rs. 5,000,000.00.
- Pre- bid meeting will be held on 20.05.2021 at 11.00 hrs at Director General's Office, 3rd Floor, Department of Government Factory, Kolonnawa.

| No. | Procurement No.        | Description of Work  | Bid Security Amount (Rs.) | Bid Opening Date & Time |
|-----|------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01  | 3/1/4/21Q/01/CE/FA/491 | Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training and Handing Over of a Brand New CNC Lathe Machine     | 150,000.00                | 03.06.2021              |
| 02  | 3/1/4/21Q/01/CE/FA/492 | Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training and Handing Over of a Brand New Centre Lathe Machine. | 40,000.00                 | 03.06.2021              |

**Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Director General's Office,  
3rd Floor,  
Department of Government Factory,  
Kolonnawa.  
11.05.2021**

**INVITATION FOR BID 2021/03**

**Regional Directorate of Health Services  
Jaffna**

- The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Regional Directorate of Health Services, Jaffna, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction works described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding procedure (NCB)**.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule (Section 5) for SBD 3 documents and in the bidding Data & Contract Data (Section 5) for SBD 1 Documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **address given below in 6** and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the date mentioned in the table below. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids (Original & Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Regional Directorate of Health Services, No. 572/3, Hospital Road, Jaffna on or before 10.30 a.m. on the date mentioned in the table below. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Conference Hall, Regional Directorate of Health Services, 572/3, Hospital Road, Jaffna commencing at 02.30 p.m. on the date mentioned in the table.
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as per the information given in the table

| CATEGORY I              | Document Issuing/Purchasing Period  |   |                 |                        | From 12.05.2021 until 25.05.2021 |   |                 |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
|                         | Pre-Bid Conference  |   |                 |                        | At 02.30 p.m. on 18.05.2021      |   |                 |
|                         | Closing and Opening of Bids   |   |                 |                        | At 10.30 a.m. on 28.05.2021      |   |                 |
| Bid ID                  | Description of Work   | Estimated Cost (Rs.) In Million (without VAT) | Contract Period | Grade Required         | Non-Refundable Fees (Rs.)        | Required Bid Security Security Amount (Rs.) | Validity Period |
| NP/04/41/2021/PSSP/W/05 | Construction of Ambulance Garage at BH Chavakachcheri, Jaffna.            | 3.14  | 89 Days         | C 8 and C7 (Buildings) | 1,500.00                         | 32,000.00                                   | Till 27.08.2021 |
| NP/04/41/2021/PSSP/W/06 | Improvement Work Mortuary at Base Hospital, Point Pedro.                  | 11.11   | 138 Days        | C6 or C5 (Buildings)   | 3,500.00                         | 112,000.00                                  | Till 10.09.2021 |
| NP/04/41/2021/LM/W/01   | Construction of Thripasha Store at Myliddy, Jaffna.                       | 5.75  | 109 Days        | C7 and C6 (Buildings)  | 3,500.00                         | 75,000.00                                   | Till 10.09.2021 |
| NP/04/41/2021/LM/W/02   | Construction of Staff Quarters at Divisional Hospital, Alaveddy, Jaffna   | 3.39  | 91 Days         | C 8 and C7 (Buildings) | 1,500.00                         | 35,000.00                                   | Till 27.08.2021 |
| NP/04/41/2021/LM/W/03   | Improvement Work (Fencing Work) at Myliddy, Jaffna.                       | 2.31  | 82 Days         | C 8 and C7 (Buildings) | 1,000.00                         | 24,000.00                                   | Till 27.08.2021 |
| CATEGORY II             | Document Issuing/Purchasing Period  |   |                 |                        | From 12.05.2021 until 25.05.2021 |   |                 |
|                         | Pre-Bid Conference  |   |                 |                        | At 10.30 a.m. on 18.05.2021      |   |                 |
|                         | Closing and Opening of Bids   |   |                 |                        | At 10.30 a.m. on 28.05.2021      |   |                 |
| Bid ID                  | Description of Work   | Estimated Cost (Rs.) In Million (without VAT) | Contract Period | Grade Required         | Non-Refundable Fees (Rs.)        | Required Bid Security Security Amount (Rs.) | Validity Period |
| NP/04/41/2021/PSDG/W/04 | Improvement Work at Base Hospital Tellippalai, Jaffna-Kitchen, OPD and EU | 0.926   | 68              | C 9 and C8 (Buildings) | 1,000.00                         | 10,000.00                                   | 13.08.2021      |
| NP/04/41/2021/MSD/W/01  | Improving Store Facilities for RMSD at Jaffna.                            | 1.657   | 76              | C 9 and C8 (Buildings) | 1,000.00                         | 17,000.00                                   | 13.08.2021      |
| NP/04/41/2021/PSSP/W/05 | Repair and Renovation of Kitchen at Divisional Hospital Kurunagar, Jaffna | 0.536   | 57              | C 9 and C8 (Buildings) | 1,000.00                         | 6,000.00                                    | 13.08.2021      |

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

**Chairman  
Regional Procurement Committee  
Regional Directorate of Health Services,  
Jaffna.**

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registered cover  
will not be  
accepted.

## Notice

### Annual Election 2021/2022

#### The Government Medical Officers' Association

This is to inform all GMOA members that the annual election 2021/2022 will be held on 26th June 2021. Notice of Election and the postal ballot request forms have already been posted to members.

Election notification covering letter, application for nomination and postal ballot request forms can be downloaded from the GMOA website. Originally signed nomination forms and ballot requests will only be accepted.

If you have not received these documents by 15th May 2021 please inform GMOA Office (0112580886) for further action.

Postal ballots can be obtained by the attached request form sent by GMOA or downloaded from the GMOA web site. The signed and completed forms should reach the Chairman, GMOA Election Committee by 4.00 p.m. on 28.05.2021 by post or in person.

Request forms for postal ballot can be obtained in person from the GMOA Head Office before 3.00 p.m. on 28.05.2021.

Photocopies or collective applications will not be entertained.

Ballot papers will not be issued to those whose subscriptions are due for 2019.

For further details refer to our notice of election.

**Dr. Maithri Chandraratne**  
Chairman, GMOA Election Committee

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited

(Ref. ERD/SDD/PROC/2021/240/T013)

Sealed Bids are invited from the prospective Suppliers for supply & delivery of

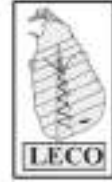
#### CU/PVC/PVC Control Cables - 3,000 Meters.

Bidding Documents could be obtained from the Procurement Department, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited, 4th Floor, No. 411, E.H. Cooray Building, Galle Road, Colombo 03, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days, on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00. Bidding documents will be issued from 11th May, 2021 to 24th May, 2021.

Due to prevailing situation, Suppliers are requested to make an appointment to collect the Bid Documents by contacting 011-2371640.

Draft Bid Document (Not for Bid) is available on www.promise.lk or www.leco.lk websites for reference purpose.

Completed Bid documents shall be addressed to General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited under sealed cover. Bid Documents shall be placed in the Tender Box at the Ground Floor of the address below, not later than 3.00 p.m. on 25th May, 2021. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.



**General Manager**  
**Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited,**  
**411, Galle Road,**  
**Colombo 03.**  
**Tel : 011 2371660 / 2371637**

LANKA ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PVT) LIMITED



## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA

#### CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED BUILDING, SERVICES AND RELATED STRUCTURES FOR ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND BIO SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA AT ARIVIYAL NAGAR, KILINOCCHI- PHASE II (Stage I)

**BID No. YA/CWP/TECH/2020-01**

- The **Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC) on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna**, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Construction of Proposed Building, Services and related structures for Engineering Technology and Bio Systems Technology, University of Jaffna at Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi - Phase II (Stage 01)**, as described below and estimated cost is approximately **Rs.470.0 million** excluding VAT.

**The Work consists of:** Excavation & Earth filling, RCC Sub-structure & Super-structure work for the total building consisting of Three Stories with the Roof and Completion of Ground Floor, First Floor, water tank and staircase area with all Finishes inclusive of Water Supply & Drainage System, Air Conditioning to Computer lab, Fire Protection System, Electrical System and Lightning Protection System, ELV system & LPG. Gross floor area is 6339 m<sup>2</sup> (excluding External corridor and terrace areas). It is **expected to obtain Green Certificate** for this building.

The **Site is situated at** Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi.

The Construction period is 540 Days from the date of commencement of work.

- Procurement Method is **Competitive Bidding Procedure within Sri Lanka. Contract Type is Measure & Pay.**
- To be eligible for Contract award, the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.

Registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) as **Grade C2 and C1 in the field of Building Construction.**

- Qualification requirements to qualify for Contract award include;
  - Average annual volume of construction works performed in last Five (5) years shall be at least **Rs.470.0 million** excluding VAT.
  - Experience in the construction contracts of at least one RCC building (1) of similar nature, value and complexity equivalent to the proposed building work and value at least **Rs.300.0 million** excluding VAT, within the approved contract period.
  - The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities net of the contractual commitment and exclusive of any advance payment under this Contract shall not be less than **Rs.78.0 million** excluding VAT.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Deputy Registrar, Capital Works and Planning, University of Jaffna, Tel: 021-2219201 Fax: 021-2219201, email: drcapitalworks@gmail.com** and inspected the Bidding documents free of charge at the same address from 10th May 2021 until 28th May 2021, from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs during working days.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the **Deputy Registrar, Capital Works and Planning, University of Jaffna** From 10th May 2021 until 28th May 2021, from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 55,000.00** to be deposited to the Peoples Bank, University of Jaffna with the Reference No "970000060000276" should be filled in the Account Number column in the Deposit Slip.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered to the **Office of Director/Procurement, Ministry of Education (Higher Education), No 18, Ward Place, Colombo 07** or sent by registered post addressed to the **Director/Procurement, Ministry of Education (Higher Education)** of the above address to reach him on or before 1100 hrs on 08th June 2021. Late Bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 5th November 2021.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security" in the form of bank guarantee of **Rupees Four Million Seven Hundred Thousand (Rs. 4.7 million) only** valid up to 3rd December 2021 obtained from a licensed commercial bank registered with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/or Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF), using the Form of Bid Security (irrevocable unconditional and on demand guarantee) included in section 11- Standard Forms (Bid) or cash deposit slip / Bank Draft for same amount.
- The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on **18th May 2021 at Board Room, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Ariviyal Nagar, Killinochchi.**

**Vice Chancellor,**  
**University of Jaffna.**

06.05.2021

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

#### DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND LAYING OF 130m - 4 LANE FULL PUR SYNTHETIC TRAINING TRACK FACILITY FOR TWO SCHOOLS AND THREE SPORTS COMPLEXES

**CONTRACT NO : MOYS/PCM/PRO/10-2021**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Youth and Sports now invites sealed technical and price proposals (Design & Build) from joint venture of eligible and qualified Synthetic Track manufacturer (Full PUR) with local contractor for the **Design, Construction and Laying of 130m - 4 Lane full PUR Synthetic training track facility for two Schools and three Sports Complexes**

Two schools and three sports complexes are namely;

- Anuradhapura Central College, Anuradhapura
- D.S Senanayake College, Ampara
- District Sports Complex, Kotawila, Kamburugamuwa, Matara
- Sabaragamuwa Provisional Level Sports Complex, Ratnapura
- Sirimavo Bandaranayake Sports Complex, Gampaha

The project scope includes design and laying of 4 lane, 130m Full PUR (Polyurethane) Cast Elastomers Synthetic training track and Long and Triple Jump facility with a Full PUR synthetic runaway. The major items of Work consists of design and installation of foundation base including sub base and sub grade; design and installation of new drainage system, installation of full PUR 4 lane synthetic 130m track, class I tests for synthetic track, construction of Long and Triple Jump facility with a Full PUR synthetic runaway and maintain until the completion of Defects Notification Period, Installation of general purpose lighting, Chain-link fence and Landscaping work.

The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be **150 calendar Days.**

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure
- The eligible Bidders shall comply with the following qualification criteria.
  - Synthetic track manufacturer shall have experience in installing minimum number of ten (10) IAAF class II or IAAF class I or both, In situ (full PUR) tracks.
  - Synthetic track manufacturer shall have IAAF certification of Full PUR track product with minimum of 13mm or above thickness
  - Synthetic track manufacturer shall have minimum of ten (10) years experience in the field of synthetic track manufacturing in full PUR system
  - The local contractor (partner in charge of the joint venture) shall have ten(10) years' experience in road construction.
  - Partner in charge of the joint venture shall be the Local Partner.
  - Local partner of the joint venture shall have Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) (Former Institute of Construction Training And Development (ICTAD)) registration Grade C2 or above for highway construction. Local partner shall participate to the Bid as joint venture with synthetic track manufacturer (Full PUR).
  - Joint venture agreement shall be attested by an authorized person (Attorney at Law or Notary Public) at the time of Bidding; and joint venture shall be registered at Registrar General's Department after awarding the Contract and before the commencement of the Works.
  - Synthetic track manufacturer (Full PUR) and local partner shall not have been blacklisted and local partner shall have valid registration during the bid validity period under CIDA.
  - Average annual turnover of Construction Work performed during the last seven years shall be at least Sri Lankan Rupees 368 Million.
  - The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities net other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under this Contract shall be not less than Sri Lankan Rupees 147 Million.
  - The Bidder should possess a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contract in accordance with the Section 8 of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 ; To be submitted with Bid document and upon the recipient of the letter of intent.
  - The Foreign party to the joint venture shall obtain "temporary registration of foreign contractors" as per the Sub Section 39 (1) of the Construction Industry Development Act, No.33 of 2014; 0.01% of the contract value of the project is considered as fees for temporary registration, as given under instructions by the CIDA.
- You may obtain further information and inspect the Bid documents at The Assistant Secretary (Procurement), 3rd floor, Procurement Division, Ministry of Youth and Sports , No. 09, Philip Gunawardane Mawatha, Colombo 07 during normal working hours from **11.05.2021 until 07.06.2021** (Tel: 011-2680172 / 011-2670028 Fax: 011-2678926 E-mail - procurement02@gmail.com ). Bid Documents may be inspected free of charge at above address during normal working hours.
- A complete set of Bid documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application, to the The Additional Secretary (Admin & Procurement), Ministry of Youth and Sports, No.09, Philip Gunawardane Mawatha, Colombo 07 from **11.05.2021 until 07.06.2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Five Thousand (Rs.35,000.00) to the Shroff (2nd Floor, Ministry of Youth and Sports). The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids shall be valid up to 119 days from the date of Bid closing (Date up to 05.10.2021).
- All Bid documents must be accompanied by an unconditional, on demand Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand (**Rs. 3,650,000.00**) obtained and issued by a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Bid security shall be valid up to 147 days from the date of Bid closing (Date up to 02.11.2021).
- Sealed completed Bids shall be deposited in Envelope 1 (General Information), Envelope 2 (Design/ Technical Proposal) and Envelop 3 (Price Proposal) in duplicate to the Bid Box available at the Additional Secretary (Admin and Procurement), 3rd Floor, Procurement Division, Ministry of Youth and Sports, No.09, Philip Gunawardane Mawatha, Colombo 07, addressed to the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, at the above address to reach him on or before 12.30 hrs on **08.06.2021**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled to be held on **21.05.2021 at 10.00 am** at the Duncan White Auditorium, 4th Floor, Ministry of Youth and Sports, No. 09, Philip Gunawardane Mawatha, Colombo 07. Maximum 5 number of representatives are allowed from each bidder.
- Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of the Bids. Maximum 5 number of representatives are allowed from each bidder.

**The Chairman,**  
**Ministry Procurement Committee,**  
**Ministry of Youth and Sports,**  
**No.09,**  
**Philip Gunawardane Mawatha,**  
**Colombo 07.**

**BE BETTER INFORMED!**

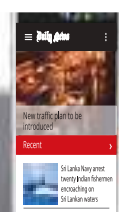
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# Pradeshiya Sabha – Welimada

## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF SKID STEER LOADER

(BD/WPS/GOODS/2021/1)

- Under the **WELIMADA PRADESHIYA SABHA FOR The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Government to the Uva Provincial Council**, it has been decided to purchase a Skid Steer Loader.
- Hence **The chairman Procurement Committee, Welimada Pradeshiya Shaba on behalf of Chairman Welimada Pradeshiya Sabha now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Supply & Delivery of a Skid Steer Loader as described below.**

| No  | description       | Quantity (units) | Required Bid Security Amount (LKR) | Bid Security Validity Period |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A-1 | Skid Steer Loader | 01               | 55000.00                           | 02/09/2021                   |

- Delivery Location : Welimada Pradeshiya Sabha.
  - Delivery Date: Within 60 days from the date of issuing letter of Acceptance.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
  - Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Secretary Welimada Pradeshiya Sabha. (057-2245973) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the aforesaid address during the office hours (09.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs) up to 2nd of June 2021.
  - Supplier should have been registered by the Government Public Contract Act No.03 of 1987 for the bid which applicable for over 5 million rupees.
  - A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Secretary Welimada Pradeshiya Sabha up to 2nd June 2021 from 09.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs on working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand Rupees (LKR 2000.00). The method of payment will be by cash.
  - Bids must be delivered under Registered cover in duplicate to the above (Para 4) address or deposited in the Tender Box, kept at the address given (Para 4) on or before 3rd June 2021 at 14.00 hrs. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, who have been authorized in written on behalf of the bidder.
  - Bid shall be valid until 5th August 2021.
  - All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the Form of Bank Guarantee from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Bid Security should be valid until 2nd of September 2021.

**Chairman,  
Procurement Committee,  
Welimada Pradeshiya Sabha.  
057-2245973  
2021.05.10**

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### Provincial General Hospital – Badulla

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla from qualified bidders for obtaining the following supplies.

| Ser. No.                    | Bid No.             | Supplies   | Qty | Non Refundable Bid Document Fee (Rs.) | Refundable Bid Security (Rs.) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Laboratory equipment</b> |                     |  |     |                                       |                               |
| 01                          | PGHB/FV/02/21       | Supply and Installation of Immunohistochemistry Machine  | 01  | 3,500.00                              | 200,000.00                    |
| 02                          | PGHB/FV/03/21       | Supply and Installation of Grossing Station with Fully Automated Neutralization Device   | 01  | 2,400.00                              | 130,000.00                    |
| 03                          | PGHB/FV/04/21       | Supply and Installation of Binocular Microscope  | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 10,000.00                     |
| 04                          | PGHB/FV/05/21       | Supply and Installation of Laboratory Centrifuge   | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 20,000.00                     |
| 05                          | PGHB/FV/06/21       | Supply and Installation of Micro Centrifuge  | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 14,000.00                     |
| 06                          | PGHB/FV/07/21       | Supply and Installation of Fully Automated HPLC Analyzer for HBAIC   | 01  | 2,200.00                              | 120,000.00                    |
| 07                          | PGHB/FV/08/21       | Supply and Installation of Water Purification System   | 01  | 1,300.00                              | 60,000.00                     |
| 08                          | PGHB/FV/09/21       | Supply and Installation of Reagent Storage Refrigerator  | 01  | 1,300.00                              | 60,000.00                     |
| 09                          | PGHB/FV/10/21       | Supply and Installation of Refrigerated Centrifuge   | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 40,000.00                     |
| 10                          | PGHB/FV/11/21       | Supply and Installation of Serology & Immunology Analyzer  | 01  | 1,600.00                              | 90,000.00                     |
| 12                          | PGHB/FV/12/21       | Supply and Installation of Biosafety Cabinet   | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 40,000.00                     |
| 13                          | PGHB/FV/13/21       | Supply and Installation of – 80C Freezer   | 02  | 1,600.00                              | 80,000.00                     |
| 14                          | PGHB/FV/14/21       | Supply and Installation of – 20C Freezer   | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 30,000.00                     |
| <b>Other Equipment</b>      |                     |  |     |                                       |                               |
| 15                          | PGHB/FC/01/21       | Supply and Installation of Digital Duplicator  | 01  | 1,000.00                              | 10,000.00                     |
| 16                          | PGHB/FC/02/21       | Supply and Installation of Humidifier for ICU Ventilators  | 05  | 1,000.00                              | 40,000.00                     |
| <b>Works</b>                |                     |  |     |                                       |                               |
| 17                          | PGHB/AF/05/2021     | Central Air Conditioner Maintenance and Repair Services for the year 2021 / 2022 at Provincial General Hospital, Badulla                                   | 12  | 1,000.00                              | 20,000.00                     |
| 18                          | PGHB/AC/NCB/2020/08 | Supply and establishing of Two 40 x 9.5 feet and Two 20 x 8 x 9.5 feet Converted Shipping Containers for Biomedical Engineering Unit (Workshop and Office) | 04  | 1,500.00                              | 180,000.00                    |

- Bids will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Further details regarding this may be obtained during office hours on working days by calling the Accountant (Extension 1103) or from the hospital website.
- Bid documents may be obtained by qualified bidders from 10.05.2021 until 28.05.2021 upon payment of the non refundable bid document fee for each bid as mentioned in the table above to the Shroff Division of the hospital between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days.
- It is mandatory to submit a letter of request for documents along with a copy of the NMRA (CDDA) Certificate separately for each equipment along with a copy of the Company Registration Certificate.
- Duly perfected sealed bids may either be sent by registered post to the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla or deposited in the Tender Box to receive before 10.00 a.m. on 31.05.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on the same day and the bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
- Regional Procurement Committee of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla reserves the right to take the final decision regarding this bid.

**Chairman  
Regional Procurement Committee  
Provincial General Hospital,  
Badulla**

Tel. No. 055-2222261 Fax: 055-2231205  
Email: [info@badullapgh.org](mailto:info@badullapgh.org) Website: [www.badullapgh.org](http://www.badullapgh.org)  
15.06.2020

# Employment Opportunities



## Ceylon Fertilizer Company Ltd

Ministry of Agriculture  
(State Ministry of Production and supply of fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizers and Insecticide Use)



Ceylon Fertilizer company is a fully government owned company operating for more than 50 years in Sri Lanka, coming under purview of the ministry of Agriculture. Ceylon Fertilizer Company is engaged in importation of chemical fertilizer, producing quality fertilizer mixtures and marketing, distributing through island wide network of warehouses and thereby catering to the fertilizer needs of Sri Lankan farmers.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons who with achieving dynamic results for the following positions;

### Chief Internal Auditor (Senior Manager – HM1-1)

#### Job Profile:

- Initiating and developing system administrative processors and procedures.
- Reviewing the existing systems, processors and procedures.
- Regular checks if internal staff adhere to internal rules, regulations and policies.
- Regular audit rounds and report progress on time.
- Recommending on improvements as per the finding.
- Stock verification at regular intervals.
- Special audit checks as per Chairman's instructions for any verification.
- Working accordance with government audit, line ministry, and external auditors.
- Organizing regular audit and management committee meetings with relevant departments to optimize and achieve organizational success.

#### Qualifications and experience:

##### For External candidates

- Should possess a Degree from a University recognized by University Grants Commission with a Masters Degree should be an associate member of professional institute and
- 20 years of post qualifying managerial experience including 05 years experience in senior managerial level in the field of production, marketing and distributing a government institute or recognized private sector organization.
- Excellent computer literacy and English language skills will be an advantage

##### For Internal candidates

- Minimum of 05 years satisfactory Service in middle manager (MM1-2) grade 1 in the field of audit

Age limit : Between 35 – 55 years  
(Maximum age limit will not applicable for internal candidates)

Salary scale : Rs. 80,295/- 2,270 x 15 = Rs. 114,345/- (HM 1-1 - 2016)  
(As per the MSD circular 02/2016 (1))

#### Others:

##### All candidates:

- Should be a Sri Lankan citizen
- Should have mental and physical capability to work at any given working condition at any part of the country with an active personality
- Should have an excellent character

The following allowances are applicable in addition to the salary for the above position;

- Government approved allowances

#### Other fringe benefits:

- Contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund will be at the rate of 15% from the company and 10% from the employee. The company will also make a contribution equivalent to 3% of the Employees' Trust Fund
- Medical insurance scheme covering the employee and the family
- Transport and fuel allowance (as per the Public Enterprises Department circular no. 1/2015)
- Professional allowance (as per the MSD circular 05/2017)
- Re-imbursment of telephone bills (as per the PED circular 2/2015)

#### How to apply

- Internal candidates should handover the applications on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to the following address.
- Applicants from state owned organisations should submit their applications through the head of the respective organisation.
- Please apply on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 with a detailed CV including certified copies of educational and professional. Also state the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelop and forward through registered post to the following address and copies of your application and certificates E -mail to [Chairman@lakpohora.lk](mailto:Chairman@lakpohora.lk) and mention applied post as subject.

Chairman,  
Ceylon Fertilizer Co.LTD,  
Lakpohora Swarna Jayanthi Mawatha,  
Hunupitiya, Wattala

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