



YOUR PAPER TODAY 18 PAGES

MOBILE APPLICATION INTRODUCED TO KEEP TRACK OF PEOPLE'S HEALTH

The application can be accessed via www.sshield.org

A new mobile application has been introduced by the Health Ministry to help the general public to get an understanding about their health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LADY RIDGEWAY RUNS OUT OF CAPACITY TO TREAT COVID-19 INFECTED CHILDREN

- Children infected with the virus is on the rise
70 children currently receiving treatment at LRH
A separate building in Rajagiriya to accommodate treatment facilities for children

The COVID-19 ward at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH) in Colombo designated to treat COVID-19 infected children has reached its maximum

capacity, Hospital Director Dr G. Wijesuriya said. He said the rate of children getting infected with the virus is on the rise. "Around 70 children infected with COVID

are currently receiving in-house treatment at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital while around 15 cases are reported daily from the hospital," he said.

COVID-19 Vaccination:

FIRST DOSE RECIPIENTS CROSS TEN MILLION MARK

- Second dose of Sinopharm jab to be given after three weeks
Total population of people above 30 is 11.5 million
Target set to vaccinate all above 30 years before end August

The number of individuals who have received their first dose of vaccination against COVID-19 in the country has surpassed ten million, State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana said yesterday.

US assures more support to combat Covid-19 through Covax facility

- The future intended investments by the United States in Sri Lanka's energy sector were also discussed

The US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Ms. Alaina B. Teplitz said today that the United States will continue to support Sri Lanka's fight against Covid-19 by providing ongoing support to the COVAX facility

- an international mechanism distributing life saving vaccines to countries throughout the world, including Sri Lanka, Communications Department of Parliament said.

Ex-HRCSL Commissioner files FR challenging the legality of pardoning Duminda Silva

- Hirunika Premachandra had also filed a Fundamental Rights petition challenging the decision to pardon Duminda Silva

A former Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the

Supreme Court challenging the legality of the Presidential Pardon granted by the President to former Parliamentarian Duminda Silva.

No one should employ minors as domestic servants: Ruwan

- Action should be taken against those who employ minors



UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene visited Muniyanga Rajamaha Vihara in Badulla and received blessings from the monks. Thereafter, he met UNP activists in Badulla, Viyaluwa and Mahiyangana constituencies.

No one should be allowed to employ minors as domestic servants, no matter whether he or she is a politician or not, UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene said yesterday.

Qatar sets rules for arrivals from six Asian countries including SL

- Passengers will be allowed to leave if the PCR testing is negative

Qatar has updated its travel policy for passengers arriving from six Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, instituting mandatory hotel quarantine for them, Gulf News reported.

Defence Secretary praises China for help during trying times

A grand reception was held in Colombo by the Sri Lanka National University of Defence Alumni Association (NDUAASL) to celebrate its first anniversary and the 94th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Around 30 representatives of the Alumni Association attended the reception, with Defence Secretary General Kamal Gunaratne as the Chief Guest.

AROUND 200 POST COVID-19 SYMPTOMS: WHO EXPERT

- It is a condition where people have symptoms after recovery from COVID-19
Treatment is multidisciplinary
The symptoms would last for three to nine months
Chest pain, trouble speaking, anxiety, depression, muscle aches, fever, loss of smell and taste are among other symptoms

An expert of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said a post COVID-19 condition which is also called long COVID-19 had around 200 symptoms, but shortness of breath, cognitive dysfunction and fatigue were the most common ones.

New jabs paused until 2nd dose of AZ, Sinopharm completed: CMC

- Second doses of Sinopharm and AstraZeneca administered at Sugathadasa outdoor stadium, P. D. Sirisena grounds and BMICH

- Hope to provide 88,000 vaccines during the coming days

Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) has decided not to administer the first dose of Sinopharm vaccine to city dwellers till the completion of administering second doses of AstraZeneca and Sinopharm, Mayor Rosy Senanayake said yesterday.

Next batch of AstraZeneca donated by Japan will arrive next Saturday: PMD

- Japanese PM decided to provide 1.456Mn doses as per President's personal request

Japanese Ambassador Akira Sugiyama says following the personal request of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to the Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga, the next batch of AstraZeneca vaccines donated by the Government of Japan will arrive in the island next Saturday, a statement from the President's Media Division (PMD) said.

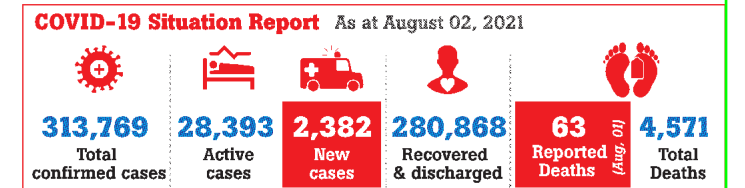
Ranil files writ petition against PCol recommendations

Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday filed a writ petition in the Court of Appeal seeking an order to stay the operation of finding and recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe incidents of political victimisation.

COVID-19: TWO DOSES KEY TO PROTECT FROM DELTA: EXPERT

- People asked not to get confused with AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD as both are of the same brand

It is of utmost importance to get both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in order to protect from the dreaded and highly contagious Indian variant known as Delta, Sri Jayawardeneperura University's Immunology and Molecular Medicine Department Director Dr. Chandima Jeewandara stressed.



WHO Head praises Sri Lanka on successful vaccination drive

Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Tedros Adhanom praised Sri Lanka over a successful vaccination drive.

Copies of birth, death and marriage certificates issued online

Copies of birth, death and marriage certificates will be issued online commencing August 2, the Registrar General's Department said. Certificates can be applied for using mobile phones and computers, and payments can be made using Visa and MasterCard.

Sri Lanka seeks greater market access for agricultural products to China

Sri Lankan Ambassador to China Dr. Palitha Kohona has called for greater access for Sri Lankan agricultural products to China. The ambassador made these remarks while addressing the 12th China International Infrastructure and Investments Forum, Development of External Design Consulting and Contracting session.

Electrical grid connectivity between SL-India proposed

- High Commissioner-designate to India Moragoda Says it will enable SL to obtain electricity during operational maintenance and droughts
Can export excess generation to India
Proposed digital connectivity

Sri Lankan High Commissioner-designate to India Milinda Moragoda, in his blueprint for fostering bilateral ties with India, has proposed electrical grid connectivity between the two countries, highlighting that it would be mutually beneficial. In his 27-page Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) for Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions in India for 2021/2023, he outlines the importance of connectivity between the two countries. The report, handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, says grid connectivity would enable Sri Lanka

to obtain electricity during operational maintenance and droughts, and also to export excess generation to India. The report also says it will also allow greater space for renewables. Digital connectivity between Sri Lanka and India is another proposal in the roadmap. The blueprint says Sri Lanka has reportedly underutilised potential for E-Commerce platforms, E-payment gateways, and more PPP activity in this area can spur a surge of business beneficial to both countries, especially in the post-Covid scenario.

Daily Mirror

www.dailymirror.lk

MOBILE APPLICATION INTRODUCED TO KEEP TRACK OF PEOPLE'S HEALTH

The application which is called 'Self Shield' has been launched in collaboration with the Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka (HISSL) and the Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health (CWCDH). "The app will help users to check their health condition within a few minutes, obtain medical reports and thereby, prompt them to seek medical assistance," the Health Ministry said. "The app will also provide room for users to connect with the Health Ministry's COVID-19 programme where the browser data will be examined by a group of medical officers. They will provide necessary medical advice to users accordingly," it added. Therefore, the Ministry requests the public to register with this to keep track of their health at home. The application can be accessed via www.sshield.org

LADY RIDGEWAY RUNS OUT OF CAPACITY TO TREAT COVID-19 INFECTED CHILDREN

"However, the maximum capacity in the ward where COVID-19 infected children are treated, has been exceeded and therefore, some children are transferred to other hospitals," the Director pointed out. Therefore, he said they had taken steps to obtain a separate

building in Rajagiriya through the Ministry of Health to accommodate treatment facilities for children. Dr. Wijesuriya proceeded to say that as the cases related to children could increase further in the future, the parents are requested to take more precautions with their children's health.

AROUND 200 POST COVID-19 SYMPTOMS: WHO EXPERT

It is a programme for WHO experts to explain the science related to COVID-19

Post COVID-19 condition is the situation where a patient continues to have symptoms after recovery. Participating in WHO's Science in 5 programme with Vismitha Gupta-Smith, WHO lead-clinical management Dr. Janet Diaz said chest pain, trouble speaking, anxiety, depression, muscle aches, fever, loss of smell and taste are among other symptoms in post-COVID-19 condition as described by patients. It is a programme for WHO experts to explain the science related to COVID-19. She said there were reports about this condition lasting for three to nine months in different

instances, but more studies should be done to understand when these symptoms would resolve. Commenting on treatment, she said care should be multidisciplinary in nature involving primary caretaker, relevant specialists, rehab professionals, social care workers, psychosocial workers, and mental health professionals. Asserting that the reason for the development of such symptoms is yet to be studied, she said specific treatment could not be found until that was done. She said that prevention of the disease was the key by mask-wearing, cleaning hands and physical distancing.

US assures more support to combat Covid-19 through Covax facility

She made this statement when she made a courtesy call on Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana yesterday (02). Marcus Carpenter, Deputy Chief of political division and Ms. Kushani Rohanadeera, Deputy Secretary General of Parliament and Chief of Staff were also present at the meeting which was held at the Speaker's Office in Parliament. A number of issues of mutual interest were discussed between Sri Lanka and the United States, including diplomatic and economic matters. Furthermore, the future intended investments by the United States

in Sri Lanka's energy sector were also discussed. The US Ambassador to Sri Lanka expressed satisfaction over the steps taken to establish a Special Committee for the purpose of reforming the current electoral system in Sri Lanka and the steps taken by Parliament to re-establish the Sectoral Oversight Committees of Parliament. The Ambassador also expressed to the Speaker that the United States continues to support the development of Sri Lanka and protecting of the democracy in the face of COVID faced by the whole world.

Qatar sets rules for arrivals from six Asian countries including SL

Starting from Monday, arrivals from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka who have got vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 in Qatar will go into two-day hotel quarantine, the Health Ministry said. Those passengers will be allowed to leave the quarantine if the result of the virus-detecting PCR testing is negative. Other arrivals from these countries will have to go into hotel

quarantine for 10 days, according to the ministry. Qatar, a country of 2.7 million people, including 2.3 million expatriates, initiated mass vaccinations against the virus on December 23. Health authorities there have authorised using vaccines of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm. Last month, Qatar's Interior Ministry announced resuming the issuance of tourist and family entry visas.

Defence Secretary praises China for help during trying times

General G.D.H. Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) extended sincere congratulations on the first Anniversary of NDUAASL and the forthcoming 94th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). He said China and Sri Lanka are maintaining cordial bilateral relations, which dates back to the 4th century AD. Mutual understanding and support given by each other has been a tradition since ancient times. "We consider China as a superpower. Being a superpower, China does not interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka or other countries, which is highly appreciated. Smaller countries, including us, are burning with certain problems, maybe economic crisis, natural disasters, or environmental calamities. China has always been there to help, with timely assistance. When we were challenged by the United Nations Human Rights Council on war crimes and crimes against humanity, China supported us by exercising the veto power against the UNHRC Resolution against Sri Lanka, which will never be forgotten even by our future generations." "China has been supporting Sri

Lanka during the 30 year-long conflict. China was the frontline country that came to help and showed real friendship," he added. There are lots of serving and retired military officers from tri-services of Sri Lanka who attended NDU. After the courses, they have served this country in tri forces and some are retired now. They don't forget the good old days in NDU China. "The specialised personal training and professional military education they have gained make them respect NDU. That is the reason why they want to form an Alumni Association." In 2010, General G.D.H. Kamal Gunaratne inaugurated the NDU Alumni Association of Sri Lanka as the Chief Guest. Sri Lanka Customs General Director, Major General (Retd) G.V. Ravipriya, President of NDUAASL delivered his message in both English and Chinese. He said, "Long live China-Sri Lanka friendship." He is also the one who started the association, which would serve as a bridge to connect NDU alumni in Sri Lanka with its Alma mater in China and help continue the centuries-long friendship between the two countries.

FIRST DOSE RECIPIENTS CROSS TEN MILLION MARK

Although it was said earlier that the second dose of the Sinopharm should be given after a lapse of four weeks, it has now been recommended that the second dose could be given after three weeks

He told reporters that the total population of people above 30 is 11.5 million and added the remaining 1.5 million are to be given the vaccine. "The target set by the President is to vaccinate all those who are above 30 years before the end of August. However, we are now confident and have the potential to achieve that task even before the given time," he said.

"As we have accelerated the vaccination drive in the country, we are hopeful that the individuals between 18 and 30 years would also be vaccinated once the task set by the President is over, he added. The State Minister said around four million vials of Sinopharm vaccines would be delivered to Sri Lanka next week for the purpose of vaccinating those between 18 and 30.

Meanwhile, he said the attention had been drawn to offer the second dose of the Sinopharm vaccine after three weeks according to instructions by experts and the vaccine manufacturer. "Although it was said earlier that the second dose of the Sinopharm should be given after a lapse of four weeks, it has now been recommended that the second dose could be given after three weeks," State Minister Jayasumana added.



No one should employ minors as domestic servants: Ruwan

UNP never nurtured Mr. Bathiudeen as he began politics with the politicians of the present government

Mr. Wijewardene who met the UNP activists in Wiyaluwa, Badulla said action should be taken against anyone who employs minors. "No one should be allowed to employ minors, no matter a person is a politician or not. Mr. Bathiudeen is however being held as a suspect. He is yet to be found guilty. He should be

punished if found guilty," Mr. Wijewardene said. "UNP never nurtured Mr. Bathiudeen as he began politics with the politicians of the present government. It is true that he joined us to form the Yahapalana government in 2015. However, he joined the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB)," he added.

"A total number of people who had died of COVID-19 is 4380 as of today. It would have been possible to save these lives if the government booked vaccines on time. The number of cases is surging once again. One wonders whether there would be another lockdown. The advice of medical experts should be sought to resolve this crisis," Mr. Wijewardene also said. Asked whether anyone from SJB is currently engaged in a dialogue with UNP, Mr.

Wijewardene said a few SJB MPs had engaged in such a rendezvous lately. Some want to come back to UNP while there are others who want both parties to merge," he said.



Ex-HRCSL Commissioner files FR challenging the legality of pardoning Duminda Silva

Through his petition, the petitioner Ghazali Hussain, an Attorney-at-law by profession is seeking a declaration that his fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 12(1) for equal protection of the law has been violated through this action. The petitioner is also seeking an interim order preventing Duminda Silva from leaving the country until the final determination of the application.

make the public aware of the basis on which Duminda Silva was selected to grant a pardon under Article 34 (1) of the Constitution. On September 8, 2016, five accused including former Defence Ministry Monitoring MP Duminda Silva were sentenced to death by the Colombo High Court for committing the murder of four persons including former MP Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra on or around October 8, 2011.

The petitioner maintained that any pardon to be granted under Article 34 of the Constitution should be made after a careful analysis of the necessity to grant such a pardon as stipulated in the proviso to Article 34 (1) of the Constitution. The petitioner said a report has to be called from the Trial Judges as required by the Proviso to Article 34 (1) before granting the pardon to Duminda Silva. He further said the Minister of Justice is also required to submit a recommendation to the President.

On October 11, 2018, Supreme Court five-judge-bench headed by then Chief Justice Priyath Dep unaniously decided to dismiss appeal petitions filed by former MP Duminda Silva and two others who challenged the judgment of Colombo High Court that found them guilty for conspiring to murder four persons including former MP Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra. Former Parliamentarian Hirunika Premachandra had also filed a Fundamental Rights petition challenging the President's decision to pardon Duminda Silva.

The petitioner said that to his knowledge, the President has not made an explanation to the Bar Association of Sri Lanka which requested to

New jobs paused until second dose of AstraZeneca, Sinopharm completed: CMC

Ms. Senanayake said second doses of Sinopharm and AstraZeneca will be administered at Sugathadasa outdoor stadium, P.D. Sirisena grounds and BMICH. "CMC vaccination sites for the second dose of Sinopharm will

include Campbell Park, Kichilan Reception Hall Slave Island, Colombo Central MOH office and MOH office of Colombo North," she said. "We hope to provide 88,000 vaccines during the coming days," she added.

Ranil files writ petition against PCol recommendations

Filing this petition through Attorney-at-law Dinesh Vidanapathirana, UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe is seeking an Interim order suspending the operation of the findings and recommendations contained on pages 17-51 relating to the Petitioner. In his petition, Ranil Wickremesinghe had cited the commissioners of Presidential Commission retired Supreme Court Judge Upali Abeyratne, retired Court of Appeal Judge Chandrasiri Jayatilake and former IGP Chandra Fernando, Commission Secretary Pearl Weerasinghe and Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera as respondents.

Wickremesinghe states that on or about September 04, 2020 he attended the Presidential Commission and was informed by the Commission that he was not being treated as a respondent, but only as a witness. The petitioner said he led to believe that no findings and recommendations would be made against him. However, the petitioner said the Presidential Commission report contains findings and recommendations or materials about the petitioner. Former Prime Minister states that there has been a complete violation of the rules of natural justice and no proper hearing has been given to him during Presidential Commission inquiry. He further alleged that no proper rules of natural justice have been followed during the inquiry. He alleged that findings and material collected against him are unreasonable, irrational and arbitrary.

Electrical grid connectivity between SL-India proposed

Asserting that these economic development projects are important to foster relations, the Sri Lankan envoy says there is also a need to transcend this transactional approach

The report highlights that India and Sri Lanka have sought to collaborate on a series of major economic development projects in Sri Lanka, including the West Container Terminal of the Colombo Port, the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm, projects of cooperation in the power sector, Indian

cooperation and lines of credit, as well as financial cooperation. Asserting that these economic development projects are important to foster relations, the Sri Lankan envoy says there is also a need to transcend this transactional approach. "Given this backdrop, the overarching goal of the Diplomatic Representations

of Sri Lanka in India should be to contribute to the process of continuously maintaining the momentum of the existing partnership, by creating multi-faceted platforms for strategic level dialogue and cooperation, with the ultimate objective being the elevation of the partnership to a special relationship; one marked by interdependence, mutual respect and affection," he says in his report. The elevation of bilateral relationship to special partnership, the expansion of Sri Lanka's footprint in India and regular top-level visits and exchanges are among the others envisaged in the report.

of Sri Lanka in India should be to contribute to the process of continuously maintaining the momentum of the existing partnership, by creating multi-faceted platforms for strategic level dialogue and cooperation, with the ultimate objective being the elevation of the partnership to a special relationship; one marked by interdependence, mutual respect and affection," he says in his report. The elevation of bilateral relationship to special partnership, the expansion of Sri Lanka's footprint in India and regular top-level visits and exchanges are among the others envisaged in the report.

OBITUARIES

DODANWELA - GUNASRIYA (Sriya). Beloved wife of the late Marsh Dodanwela Snr, mother of Marsh, mother-in-law of Christina, sister of Piyasiri, Das, Lalitha and Nimal Edussuriya, daughter of the late Don Layaris and the late Adeline Premawathi Edussuriya, died. **The remains lie at A.F. Raymonds Funeral Parlour from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 3rd August 2021 and cremation at the General Cemetery, Borella New Crematorium at 4.30 p.m. Love and Blessings. 270906**

VANGRAMBERG - DENHAM. (Formerly at Film Location Services), was called to Rest in God's precious arms on Sunday 1st of August 2021. Beloved son of Gordon (late) Mavis Vangramberg, caring brother of big Denham (late) Murray, Warren, Danielle, Jimmy (late) and Mickey, loving brother-in-law of Vilma and Rodney much loved father of Keshia, Natalie, Thiasha and Arrienne, darling papa of Katara and Yelena. **Viewing will be between 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. 3rd August at A.F. Funeral Parlour 1. Cremation at General Cemetery, (New Crematorium), Kanatte at 10.30 a.m. on 3rd August. 270892**

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26th Death Anniversary

03.08.2021

Late Mr. B. J. G. Abeysekera



Affectionately remembered by wife Freda Daughters Preethimali & Darshani Grand daughters Sulakshana & Kavindya

CONTD.
FROM PAGE 1

TWO DOSES KEY TO PROTECT FROM DELTA: EXPERT

- There is uncertainty and confusion amongst people with regard to the time period of receiving the second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine following the delay in getting the vaccine stocks

He said there is uncertainty and confusion amongst people with regard to the time period of receiving the second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine following the delay in getting the vaccine stocks.

"Despite the relevant time period having exceeded, it is essential to get the second dose without further delay or hesitation," he said.

He also asked people not to get confused with AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD as both are of the same brand and carry the same properties and requested to get the vaccine no sooner.

"There is no issue in getting any kind of vaccine as far as people are keen to get both doses," he added.

COPIES OF BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES ISSUED ONLINE

The department said that copies of the application can be obtained at the nearest Divisional Secretariat. Further information can be obtained from the website www.rgd.gov.lk or by calling 011 288 95 18 hotline.

Next batch of AstraZeneca donated by Japan will arrive next Saturday: PMD

The Japanese Ambassador made this remark while officially handing over the stock of AstraZeneca, which was brought down to Sri Lanka last Saturday (July 31), to the President at the Presidential Secretariat last morning.

Mr. Sugiyama added that the Japanese Prime Minister decided to provide 1.456 million doses of the vaccine to Sri Lanka after paying special attention to the President's personal request to the Prime Minister to fulfil the need for the second dose of AstraZeneca in Sri Lanka, and in recognition of long-standing friendship between the two countries.

The first consignment of 728,460 vaccine doses was sent to the Bandaranaika International Airport, Katunayake by SriLankan Airlines flight UL-455. The administering of AstraZeneca second dose began at 20 selected centres in the Western Province on Sunday.

The Japanese Ambassador and the Country Representatives of the World Health Organisation and UNICEF commended the entire vaccination

programme in Sri Lanka, the commencement of the vaccination drive within a few hours of receiving the vaccine consignment, and the President's direct involvement, guidance and leadership in the vaccination programme.

The President expressed special thanks to the Japanese Prime Minister, the Government of Japan and the Ambassador of Japan on behalf of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka, for donating the stock of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, in response to a request made by him personally to the Prime Minister of Japan last May.

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) Representative in Sri Lanka, Dr Alaka Singh, UNICEF Representative Emma Brigham, the First Secretary to the Embassy of Japan, Chiharu Hoshiai, Second Secretary Seiya Ninomiya, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera, Senior Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratunga and Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage were also present.

Sri Lanka seeks greater market access for agricultural products to China

He called for more investments by Chinese companies in the Colombo Port City and the Hambantota Industrial Processing Zone as well as greater access for Sri Lankan agricultural products to China. "Like China,

Sri Lanka has the goal of eliminating poverty. Expanding access to the lucrative Chinese Market for Sri Lanka agricultural products would be a critical step to realise this goal," he said.



Another edition of "Haritha Saviya" tree planting

The fifth edition of the Haritha Saviya tree planting project was conducted at Milton Liyanage Community Hall premises in Colombo recently. This event was held in conjunction with the Thimbrigasaya Divisional Secretariat, Hulstsdorp Community Correctional Office and the staff of Global Lifestyle Lanka. The event was celebrated with the planting of trees around the community hall.

WHO Head praises Sri Lanka on successful vaccination drive

- Sri Lanka is on track to fully vaccinate 10 per cent of its population ahead of the vaccine equity target in September

In a tweet, he said he was glad to see that Sri Lanka is on track to fully vaccinate 10 per cent of its population ahead of the vaccine equity target in September.

He thanked the Government and people of Sri Lanka for their efforts, and continued vigilance on proven public health and social measures to suppress the virus.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in a Twitter reply, thanked the WHO head and informed him that Sri Lanka is committed to ensuring immunity for all people of Sri Lanka.

"Together we shall emerge victorious," he tweeted.

Indian HC responds to requests from Sri Lankans related to visa & consular services

- Public services, including those related to consular and visa matters in Sri Lanka had been affected due to COVID-19

The High Commission of India in Colombo said that it had received several requests from Sri Lankan citizens in respect of visa and consular services.

The Commission in a statement said despite the High Commission and its staff being committed to service these requests in the best possible way, delivery of public services, including those related to consular and visa matters in Sri Lanka had been affected due to the COVID-19 situation in Sri Lanka.

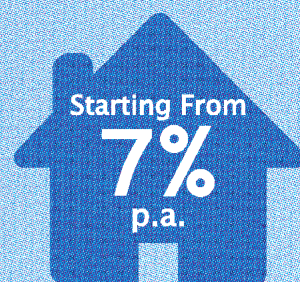
"In view of the current situation in Sri Lanka, where, according to official health ministry sources, the number of COVID related cases and fatalities have unfortunately seen an increase and the presence of globally prevalent

Delta variant of the Corona Virus appears to be spreading, the High Commission has taken necessary steps to comply stringently with COVID-appropriate attendance and practices at the work place in the larger interest of public health," the High Commission said.

"Therefore, individuals wishing to avail themselves of visa and consular services from the High Commission are requested to plan accordingly, keeping the above in mind, it said.

"The High Commission would like to reiterate its strong commitment to further strengthening the age-old, close and friendly ties between the two countries by promoting people-to-people exchanges through safe and COVID-appropriate travel," it added.

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NEWS FEATURE

Proposed Kotelawala National Defense University Bill

MILITARISATION UNDER THE PRETEXT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?



By Kamanthi Wickramasinghe

Civil society groups, state university representatives, academics, leftist and socialist movements have rallied together to protest against the proposed Kotelawala National Defense University (KNDU) Bill. One of the main concerns is with regards to the militarisation of the higher education system. Various protests have been staged in all parts of the country while alliances such as the People's Movement Against the Militarisation of Education have been formed to raise a stronger voice against the Bill which will be taken up for debate in Parliament on August 6.



The KDU is a professional educational institute. KDU isn't the only defense university in the world. The KDU didn't come under the direct purview of UGC but it is under the Ministry of Defense and is mostly meant for training military personnel. University education has a particular meaning and it is not only about issuing certificates.

CRITICISMS AND COUNTER ARGUMENTS

In a letter addressed to President Rajapaksa dated July 19, 2021, The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka pointed out that the KNDU Bill 'usurps the prerogative of the University Grants Commission (UGC), by vesting similar or even stronger powers to an entity outside the Ministry dedicated for education and higher education in the country.' The letter further states that the IESL cannot endorse the involvement of the Ministry of Defense in fee-levying higher education through public funds, with questionable standards, under the pretext of a solution to the limited opportunities for university entrance. The letter also draws attention to a phrase highlighted in several places in the Bill which reads 'persons who intend to serve in the Armed Forces and in the Public Service of Sri Lanka and also to other persons' and states that the scope is going to encompass any and all civilians. The IESL claims that it is shocked to see such loose wording in a national legislation. Responding to criticisms, Defense Secretary Major General Kamal Gunaratne reiterated that the purpose of this Bill is to provide an opportunity for students who score well in their A/Ls but are not eligible for university entrance. He made this remarks during a discussion organised by the Media Centre for National Development. "Thereby we want to uplift their skills and get them engaged in the country's development agenda. The Bill will be reviewed by a committee of experts, will be sent to the Attorney General's Department before being passed. During a recent Parliamentary debate I saw various factions claiming that the KDU is a military organisation and that anybody could get a degree from KDU. But these are misconceptions. The KDU is a professional educational institute. KDU isn't the only defense university in the world. There are many other defense universities in other countries as well." He further said that this Bill will not have any impact on other state universities as it will only govern KDU. "On the other hand all academic activities will be governed by the Senate while the Board of Governors will take decisions relating to finances and infrastructure development to provide a holistic learning experience for students."

THE BILL SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

In response to protests by opposition factions, President Rajapaksa reiterated that the KNDU Bill will be incorporated in the University Grants Commission Act and that certain 'obstacles' in the UGC Act will be amended. "This doesn't solve the issue as there is no such thing as a UGC Act," opined National People's Power MP Dr. Harini Amarasuriya. "Perhaps he was referring to the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978. But the references on obstacles are still unclear. If the KDU is taken under the UGC it should abide by the provisions in the Universities Act. What we propose is that the KNDU Bill should be withdrawn. If the objective of KDU is to train military officers and give them further training and education then that is alright. But if it is going to admit civilians then it cannot remain under the Ministry of Defense."



However officials at KDU are of the view that this Bill would only govern that particular university. But Dr. Amarasuriya claims that the KDU Bill sets in place a structure that gives them same powers as the UGC. When asked about amendments that need to be made to the Universities Act, she said that several recommendations were brought forward during a discussion in 2015. "These included strengthening democracy within the University system, depoliticizing appointments and establishing education freedom. All recommendations were drafted in collaboration with the Federation of University Teachers Association and the UGC but none of them saw light of day. The problem is that higher education will not be fixed by privatization or militarisation of the higher education system."

SUCCESSIVE GOV'T.S AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF EDUCATION

Adding his comments on the matter, former FUTA President Prof. Nirmal Ranjith Devasiri said that since mid 1980s, successive governments wanted to deviate from the practice of state-funded university education. "Every government supported the commercialisation of primary and tertiary education. The KDU didn't come under the direct purview of UGC but it is under the Ministry of Defense and is mostly meant for training military personnel. Now they have expanded it to accommodate civilians as well. But if it is coming under the Universities Act it's going to be more problematic. The Universities Act also provides the room for commercialisation of Universities."



Responding to a query on reforms and amendments that need to be brought about in the Universities Act, Prof. Devasiri questioned the purpose of university education. "We need to raise some fundamental questions such as what is the specific need for university education. University education has a particular meaning and it is not only about issuing certificates."

He further said that what the government was doing is linked to its economic thinking but that he's not in agreement with the economic thinking of the government.

PROTESTS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

"The KDU Bill is over 40 years old and it has been changed and amended from time to time," opined Co-Cabinet Spokesperson and Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella. "While safeguarding free education, we also want to provide an opportunity for those who want to pursue their education elsewhere. Some parents mortgage their properties to send their children abroad for higher studies. But all types of degree programmes are now available in Sri Lanka. Nobody has an issue with that and for me, all these protests are politically motivated."



"The Bill is open to the public and anybody can look at its clauses. Initially the establishment was a defense academy but later on we introduced a few faculties. When you look at the university entrance, it was only restricted to 30,000 students. This year we increased it to 40,000 admissions but we are planning to increase it up to 100,000. People who get top scores now want to enter KDU because there's no ragging, strikes and there's discipline at this University. This is an issue for the leftist movements. When there's indiscipline, a four-year degree will drag for eight years. It is in fact a curse."

The Daily Mirror requested social media users to share their opinions about the proposed KDU Bill. Here's what they had to say :

Free education and paid education can co-exist

"First of all there should be a proper regulatory mechanism and body to properly regulate all universities. Free Education and paid education can successfully co-exist without any discrimination to the students if regulated and managed properly. Unpaid education and free education should not be confused."

- SUNIMAL WEERASOORIYA

Negating privilege of free education

"This will be the death sentence to negate the privilege of free education to the down trodden helpless children of this country who can't afford to pay. In Sri Lanka today we find enough private education Institute for the affluent. It is purely business oriented which should not be a venture of public sector."

- OLIVER NANDASIRI LIYANAGE

Supporting private universities

"I would support for more private universities including medical to stop the drain of foreign exchange to other countries."

- JAYANTHA ABEYWICKRAMA

The need for proper private education

"Same type of protests happened back in the days when Kothalawala Defence Academy (KDU) was established, even Professor Carlo Fonseka went against it, but today it operates very well. I have worked with a lot of KDU graduates, who do not have any sort of so called "militarization". These protests are another instance of not looking at the details and also trying to keep the monopoly of government doctors. What these people who protest should do is, look into ways and apply pressure on the government to make these institutions more standardized and make them produce quality graduates rather than trying to close them down. Every developed country has a strong private education system, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand etc. A government cannot take the full responsibility of educating every youth after school. Proper private education will pave the path for an educated, knowledgeable workforce which is key for development of a country."

- REHAN PERERA

Bill should be open to the public

"Unless reading the Bill one cannot just say yes or no to their comments. Government must add and delete all possible amendments to the existing Bill and forward it to the public for their comments before it's formerly approved by the Parliament."

- RATNASIRI HADIRANPELLA

Neo-Nazi regime in the making?

"Foundations are being laid for a neo-Nazi type regime. But remember even the Nazis crumbled."

- LAKSHMAN SIRIWARDANA

What about children in private schools?

"What about children who finish A/Ls in private schools? They are not accepted in local universities. Where will they go for higher studies? Then foreign curricula in private schools should be revoked. Otherwise these children will be stranded."

- HEMATHILAKE DISSANAYAKE

Draft a non-state University Act

"If the Government plans to set up new non-state Universities, it is highly commendable as it is vital for the development of the country. It will also ensure that proper free education exists where one would be able to study what he/she desires, rather than restricting yourself for the limited vacancies in state universities or resorting to migrate. If Implementation of non-state universities, is the intention, they should come up with a non-state university Act rather than amending the KDU Act to incorporate non state universities."

- ISIWARA RATNAYAKE

Wide range of higher studies options vital

"It is vital that a wider range of higher studies options are available. The intake of state universities are limited and the opportunity being available in Sri Lanka to do this at proper entry standards will uplift the education standards, facilities, save forex and brain drain."

- SONALI DE SILVA

The discipline factor

"It will instill discipline in our youth who at present are unemployable owing to lack of skills due to a grossly faulty system in our Arts and Commerce faculties. Sadly these students are mono lingual owing to the prevailing system in the State Universities."

- BRENDAN SOSA



APPRECIATION

Dr Ashley Godwin Senarath-Dassanayake “A fantastic teacher and trainer”

Today we wish to remember and pay tribute to Dr Ashley Godwin Senarath-Dassanayake who passed away on 3rd August 1997, a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists UK, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and MBBS Sri Lanka who in his long and distinguished career in the medical profession served as the Senior Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Castle Street Hospital and prior to that in Anuradhapura and Badulla during which period he rendered a major service to humanity and to expectant mothers.



Dr Nalin Rodrigo had this to say in his address at the 50th Anniversary of the Castle Street Hospital. “My colleagues during my earlier years were the late Dr. Ashley Dassanayake who was the leading figure in Obstetrics at that time with an extensive practice who in his own words worked “round the clock”.

Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, Past President of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) based in London, United Kingdom, Professor Emeritus in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St. George’s

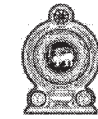
University of London declared open the photograph of Late Dr Ashley Dassanayake in 2017 at the Castle Street Hospital a matter many had forgotten which he personally revived and honoured him. He stated in his medical career at the Castle Street Hospital “while also learning the “fundamentals of obs and gyn” under Dr. Ashley Dassanayake whom he dubs “a fantastic teacher and trainer”.

He was closely involved in Buddhist religious activities and many social activities in upgrading the facilities where he served in Anuradhapura, Badulla and Castle Street Hospital. He built the Buddha Statue at the Castle Street Hospital and the Most Venerable Madihe Pannaseha Mahathera declared open the statue and delivered the Anusasana. In Anuradhapura he was closely involved with Kaludiyapokuna and the Atasmasthanaya in Buddhist activities. He was also in the Temperance Movement and joined with Dr Nandadasa Kodagoda who was heading it.

He was Past President of the Lions Club of Badulla and later a member of the Colombo Host Lions Club and rendered many social activities combined with his medical profession.

Dr Ashley hails from the village of Katuwellagama in Divulapitiya in the Gampaha District and had his early education at Maristella College and later at St. Joseph’s College Colombo before entering Medical College. He is survived by his wife Dr Swineetha Dassanayake who served as a Government Medical Doctor and now in retirement.

May he attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.
Mrs Pearl Dassanayake New Zealand and All Members of the Family



INSURANCE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA
(Regulator of the Insurance Industry)



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PUBLIC

The Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (IRCSL) is a statutory authority established to develop, supervise and regulate the insurance industry in Sri Lanka with a view to safeguarding the interests of policyholders and potential policyholders. The IRCSL issues licences to companies to carry on insurance business and register companies and persons to act as insurance brokers and loss adjusters respectively in Sri Lanka. The IRCSL cannot safeguard the interests of persons, who deal with entities, which have not obtained licence or registration from the IRCSL.

AUTHORIZED INSURANCE COMPANIES

| Life Insurance Companies | General Insurance Companies |
|--|--|
| 1. AIA Insurance Lanka Ltd. | 1. Allianz Insurance Lanka Ltd. |
| 2. Allianz Life Insurance Lanka Ltd. | 2. Amana Takaful PLC |
| 3. Amana Takaful Life PLC | 3. Ceylinco General Insurance Limited |
| 4. Arpico Insurance PLC | 4. Continental Insurance Lanka Ltd. |
| 5. Ceylinco Life Insurance Limited | 5. Cooperative Insurance Company Ltd. |
| 6. Cooplife Insurance Limited | 6. Fairfirst Insurance Limited |
| 7. HNB Assurance PLC | 7. HNB General Insurance Ltd. |
| 8. Janashakthi Insurance PLC | 8. LOLC General Insurance Limited |
| 9. Life Insurance Corporation (Lanka) Ltd. | 9. National Insurance Trust Fund |
| 10. LOLC Life Assurance Limited | 10. Orient Insurance Limited |
| 11. Sanasa Life Insurance Company Limited | 11. People’s Insurance PLC |
| 12. Softlogic Life Insurance PLC | 12. Sanasa General Insurance Company Limited |
| 13. Union Assurance PLC | |

Composite Insurance Companies

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. MBSL Insurance Company Limited* | 2. Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd. |
|------------------------------------|---|

*The MBSL has stopped underwriting new life insurance business w.e.f. 1/6/2020

Following institutions which carry on insurance business do not fall under the regulatory purview of the IRCSL:

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board | 2. Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation | 3. Social Security Board |
|--|--|--------------------------|

AUTHORISED INSURANCE BROKERING COMPANIES

Companies registered to carry on both Long Term and General Insurance Brokering Business for the period up to 31st December 2021

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. ADZ Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 25. Icon Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 2. Alfenco Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 26. IIRM Lanka Insurance Brokers (Private) Limited |
| 3. Allion Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 27. InsureMe Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 4. AMTRUST Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 28. Jay Insurance Brokers and Consultants (Pte) Ltd. |
| 5. Aquiline Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 29. L M & A Insurance Brokers & Consultants (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 6. Assetline Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 30. Lak Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 7. BIMA Lanka Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 31. Life & General Insurance Brokers Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 8. Brilliance Insurance Brokers Co. (Pvt) Ltd. | 32. Maxwell Insurance Brokers (Private) Ltd. |
| 9. Ceynergy Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 33. Mercantile Fortunes Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 10. CF Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 34. Mercantile Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 11. Colombole Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 35. Nations Insurance Brokers Limited |
| 12. Commercial Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 36. Placid Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 13. D S Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 37. Prestige Insurance Brokers Ltd. |
| 14. Delmege Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 38. Priority Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 15. Eagle Insurance Brokers (Private) Limited | 39. Procure Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 16. Equity Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 40. Protection & Assurance Insurance Brokers (Private) Ltd. |
| 17. Esna Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 41. Reliance Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Limited |
| 18. Essajee Carimjee Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 42. Senaratne Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 19. Fairway Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 43. Senkadagala Insurance Brokers (Private) Ltd. |
| 20. Find My Insurance & Reinsurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 44. Strategic Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Limited |
| 21. Foremost Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 45. Veracity Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 22. George Steuart Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Limited | 46. Victor Emmanuel Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 23. Global Insurance Brokers and Services (Pvt) Ltd. | 47. Volanka Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 24. Grand Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 48. Zenith Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |

Companies registered to carry on General Insurance Brokering Business for the period up to 31st December 2021

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. 3 D H Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 11. JF Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 2. A. M. W. Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 12. M R U S Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 3. AASIAN International Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 13. Mutual Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 4. Aitken Spence Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 14. My Insurance Brokers Private Ltd. |
| 5. Aseki Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 15. Redmo Swiss Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 6. Ax Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 16. Rinkoon Lanka Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 7. Ceyexxe Insurance Brokers Ltd. | 17. Samson Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 8. Ceylan Insurance Brokers Co. (Pvt) Ltd. | 18. Trust Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 9. Eagle DVRS Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers (Private) Limited | 19. UN Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 10. Guardian Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. | 20. United Insurance Brokers (Pvt) Ltd. |

REGISTERED LOSS ADJUSTERS as at 15th July 2021

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ms. Udithamala Jinadarie Kurukulasuriya | 11. Mr. A.W.M. Bandula Wijekoon |
| 2. Mr. Wijithasena Leelaratne Fernando | 12. Mr. Lalindra Krishantha Karunaratne |
| 3. Mr. Gamini Kinigama | 13. Mr. Jasin Basthian Arachige Ravinath Niroshana |
| 4. Mr. Ahmed Nazim Nazvi Rahman | 14. Entrust International (Pvt) Ltd. |
| 5. Mr. Gunawardena Mudiyanseelage Ananda Udaya Kumara Gunawardena | 15. Mr. Ali Mohideen Mohomad Khaleel |
| 6. Mr. Mahabalage Don Sisira Upali Perera | 16. Mr. Shelvin Maligaspe Koralage |
| 7. Mr. Nirosh Sanjeeva Wathukarawatta | 17. Mr. Anura Mahinsaka Dedigama |
| 8. Mr. Susantha Mahindaratna Weerakoon | 18. Mr. Mangala Keerthi Ashoka Kumara Dharmaratne |
| 9. Mr. Rajapaksha Pathirage Don Kanchana Surangika | 19. Mr. Sithira Pandithasundara |
| 10. The Shield Adjusters (Pvt) Ltd. | |

Note:

- Registration period of Prestige Insurance Brokers Ltd to carry on Long Term and General Insurance Brokering Businesses expires on 11th August 2021.
- “Loss Adjuster” means a person who has specialized knowledge in investigating and assessing losses arising from insurance claims. Please refer www.irsl.gov.lk for more details.

Any clarification on above or the role of the IRCSL may be obtained from the Market Development and External Relations Division

Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka

Level 11, East Tower, World Trade Centre, Colombo 01.
Telephone: (011) 2396184-9 Fax: (011) 2396190
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TRINITY COLLEGE
KANDY

TENDER NOTICE

PURCHASE OF DESKS AND CHAIRS

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed steel furniture manufacturers and distributors to supply steel Students’ and Teachers’ desks and chairs with melamine tops.

Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the Purchasing Officer for a fee of Rs. 1,000/-; enquiries pertaining to this tender can be obtained by calling **081 2222089** or **081 2232708 (ext 24 or 21)** or by email to “purchasing@trinitycollege.lk”.

Sealed tenders marked “Tender for Desks and Chairs” on the top left hand corner of the envelope should be sent under registered post OR could be deposited in the box in the College Administration Office prepared for this purpose. Tenders will be accepted up to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 11th August 2021 and will be opened immediately after 2.00 p.m. in the presence of the tenderers.

Decisions of the Tender Board shall be final and conclusive.

Principal

www.trinitycollege.lk

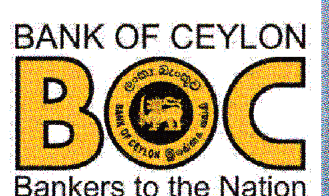
“Ranabimen Govibimata ~ Sarupase Peraliya”

A special tabloid by the Ranaviru Seva Authority (RVSA) with the Presidential Task Force for a green socio-economy on the pilot project of

“Ranabimen Govibimata ~ Sarupase Peraliya” with

සමාජය on Monday 9th August 2021

Sponsored by:



EDITORIAL

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."
- MARIE CURIE

OUR THOUGHT

GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH SECTOR AT ODDS

Is Sri Lanka at the threshold of fourth wave of COVID-19 or has it already entered through that threshold? We have to pose this question as the nature of the current surge in the number of COVID-19 patients during the past week is not clear.

During the third wave which was the result of highly increased mobility throughout the country during the Sinhala and Hindu New Year, the daily infection tally rose even up to 3500 which led the authorities to impose tough restrictions of movement on the people, further hampering economic activities. However, the measure resulted in the plummeting of the daily infections up to 1500.

With the official daily numbers so declining the authorities drastically relaxed the restrictions on July 5 allowing buses and trains to take passengers to half of their seating capacity (which was never adhered to!), meetings, markets and roadside fairs, economic centres, boutiques, supermarkets, spas and many more places where people gather, the health authorities, especially the Public Health Inspectors warned of another surge in the numbers. By the end of the month they were proved correct. The daily COVID-19 tally rose steadily again to 2500 by Sunday which was only 1666 a week ago, while the daily death toll also jumping up to 67, a relatively high number in Sri Lanka. A week ago the daily death toll was around 45.

It is against this backdrop that the government has issued circulars to the public sector calling all employees to report for work from yesterday. One can understand the government's concern over the collapse of the economy due to the health restrictions imposed in view of the COVID-19 outbreak since last year at varying degrees from time to time. However, it seems to be a far cry from the concerns of the health authorities who are toiling hard to keep the coronavirus at bay.

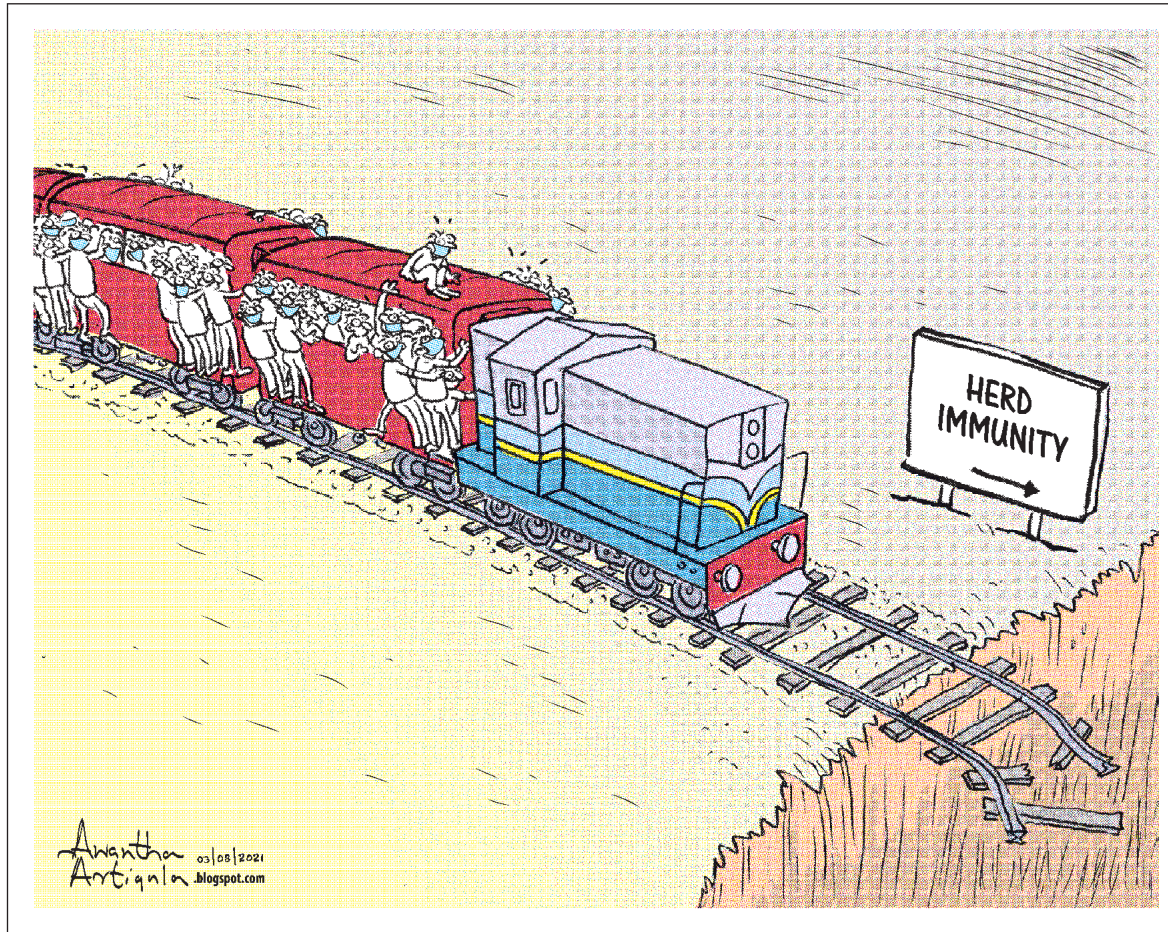
The situation is alarming with the spread of highly contagious Delta strain – also known as B.1.617.2 of COVID-19 – which is expected to rapidly out-compete other variants and become the dominant circulating lineage over the coming months, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO also said a study done in Canada showed the risk of hospitalization, ICU admission and death associated with the Delta variant compared to non-Variant of Concerns (VOCs) increased by 120%, 287% and 137% respectively.

The Delta variant has been around since late last year, but in recent months it has become speedily dominant in many countries across the globe including Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Israel, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa and the United Kingdom. It accounts for more than 80% of newly diagnosed cases in the US, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). COVID-19 cases have increased over 300% nationally from June 19 to July 23, 2021, along with parallel increases in hospitalizations and deaths, the CDC had said.

Deputy Director of Health Services Dr. Hemantha Herath said last week as per research carried out so far, the health ministry suspected 20 to 30% of Delta cases may be present in the Colombo district. He did not rule out the possibility of the Delta variant having spread in other districts as well. World-renowned Sri Lankan born virologist of Hong Kong University Prof. Malik Peiris in his virtual address for an event organized by Sri Lanka Science Foundation said on Saturday that Sri Lanka was going to have the worse COVID-19 outbreak in the months ahead.

When it has been decided to call all public sector employees to report for work, the government seems to be banking on the vaccination drive which is earned accolade from the WHO and the World Bank. However, we are being pushed again to the square one since the evidence the prevalence of vaccine-resistant strains of the coronavirus, especially the Delta variant. CNN quoting researches reported on Saturday that vaccination alone won't stop the rise of new variants and in fact could push the evolution of strains that evade their protection. AFP on the same day said, a pan-European team of experts simulated the probability of a vaccine-resistant strain emerging in a population of 10 million people over three years.

The CDC said earlier this year that fully vaccinated people are very safe from infection and can take off their masks in most situations. However, on Tuesday, it altered its guidance on mask use. Now, it says, according to CNN, even fully vaccinated people can sometimes catch the virus and if they catch the Delta variant, they are just as likely to infect someone else as an unvaccinated person would be. It advised everyone in areas of high or sustained virus transmission to wear masks when among others. So, the remedy is again the social distancing and wearing masks which is going to be a catch 22 situation for pandemic hit economies in countries like Sri Lanka, despite the success of the vaccination drive.



FOR MORE CARTOONS LOG ON www.dailymirror.lk/cartoon



By **Ranga Jayasuriya**

The suspicious death of a domestic help at the residence of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen has momentarily unmasked the ugly truth of an exploitative affair that many a Sri Lankan middle-class family takes for granted: having a maid, predominantly from upcountry Tamil origin.

16-year-old Ishalini Jude Kumar from Dayagama West Division 3 was admitted to the Colombo National Hospital on July 3, with severe burn injuries. She succumbed to injuries 12 days later and the post mortem found that the teenager had been subject to repeated sexual assault. Police investigations have led to a string of arrests including the wife and the father in law of the former minister and his brother, the latter charged with rape, after another woman who previously served at the house complained that she was subject to sexual abuse.

Bathiudeen's political status – he has been on the 'wrong side' of the political divide recently – has made the case a magnet of public interest. Allegations of former Minister's complicity – in his capacity as the head of the household-include human trafficking and child labour.

Tragic and callous, Ishalini's fate is not a one-off story. Every year, many thousands of young women and men from Upcountry plantations come to work in Middle-class households in Colombo and suburbs. Most of them, in their teens or barely out of it, effectively sign up for a life of drudgery with no sign of upward mobility.

Bathiudeen, a legislator, might have blatantly violated the basic laws that were meant to safeguard the vulnerable communities. But his callousness is microscopic of a much-generalized indifference of the upper social echelons. The tragedy of Ishalini should serve as a catalyst to change this exploitative status quo that has trapped generations after generations of the Tamils of Indian origin community.

Upcountry Tamils have suffered from an intergenerational cycle of poverty. Their status as the indentured workers in Colonial tea plantations effectively rendered them to a life of servitude, with little prospect of life beyond the plantations. Soon after the independence, the government of D.S. Senanayake disenfranchised Estate Tamils under the Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948 and the Indian-Pakistani Citizenship Act of 1949. After mass repatriation under Sirima – Shastri Pact, J.R. Jayawardene granted citizenship to Tamils of Indian Origin who stayed behind.

Backed by the newly enfranchised voters, the founder of the **Ceylon Workers Congress, Savumiamoorthy Thondaman**, emerged as the kingmaker of Sri Lankan politics. Though there had been considerable progress over time in the living standard of estate Tamil communities, they still languish a decade or two behind the rest of the country.

While many interrelated factors are at play, poor education attainment in the Upcountry Tamil communities, societal indifference to education, and political neglect to upgrade education facilities is at the heart of a vicious cycle of poverty.

For instance, according to 2009 data, almost half (46%) of 25-year-olds or above in estate the Tamil community have not schooled up to primary level (Grade 5)



THE STORY BEYOND ISHALINI'S TRAGIC DEATH

while another 32% have only completed primary level education (Sri Lanka Human Development Report 2012). That means three-quarters of the estate Tamil community have not studied beyond the primary level. The national average for those two categories is 18% (below primary) and 25% (primary).

Only three per cent of estate Tamil people have passed the GCE Ordinary Level and the GCE Advanced level examinations. The national averages are 16 and 14% respectively

While many interrelated factors are at play, poor education attainment in the Upcountry Tamil communities, societal indifference to education, and political neglect to upgrade education facilities is at the heart of a vicious cycle of poverty

Estate children are more likely not to attend primary school (4.4% vs. 1.6% of rural kids), according to another report by UNICEF. The estate dropout rate is higher than the national average. Ten per cent of estate children drop out before the junior secondary level; four times the average of rural children (2.8%).

Poverty drives away estate children from school. (For instance, 60% of children from families of the highest income quintile proceed to upper secondary education in Sri Lanka; this is twice the size of children from families of the lowest income quintile, according to a World Bank study in 2007).

However, the absence of education infrastructure in the plantation sector is also contributing to poor educational attainment. Most schools in the plantation sector are classified as **Type 3 schools** which have classes only upto the primary level. This is effectively leading to mass dropout.

The economic model of the plantation economy, which has not changed much since the turn of the last century is also a major handicap. Plantations that rely on cheap labour have little incentive to create real opportunities for upward mobility for their captive workforce.

Thus, the very structure of the plantation economy dissuades children from pursuing higher education. This pernicious impact can be seen in the low number of upper secondary education in the plantation: Only 54% of estate children were enrolled compared to 86 and 81% for urban and rural areas, respectively (Sri Lanka Human

Development Report). And only 13% of Estate Tamil children proceed to the GCE Advanced level, which is way behind the national average of 39%.

FEUDAL POLITICS

Politics does not necessarily helped. Thondaman Senior built a dynastic political empire, a mixture of trade unionism and feudalism. Its mantle has now been transferred to his great-grandson, the twenty-something Jeevan. Such political institutions do not necessarily promote upward mobility of their receptive audience for self-serving calculations. None of the upcountry Political bigwigs has shown genuine interest to create opportunities for youngmen and women beyond the plantation sector.

Given the monopolistic hold of CWC and other groups in the upcountry Tamil electorate, the central government has little incentive to improve the lot in these communities. Successive measures have been piecemeal and half-hearted.

HOW TO BREAK THE PERNICIOUS HOLD?

Poverty in Sri Lanka is concentrated in a few pockets. The plantation sector is the most pernicious of all. It should not have been this. Given the concentration in a limited geographic confine, it can be tackled much easier. Some forms of affirmative action such as a set quota for children from plantation communities to enter universities can address the disparity in higher education access.

One starting point for promoting alternative economic opportunities would be to encourage the apparel industry, which itself suffers from a labour shortage, to open up factories in these areas. A national programme to upgrade educational facilities in the plantation sector, and provide financial help for children to stay in schools would help reducing dropout rates. Vocational training opportunities would equip young men and women with employable skills and save them from the drudgery of menial work in rich households.

However, overall lower social and economic attainment could only be addressed from a concerted national programme, which tackles societal indifference to education, alcoholism, child labour and lack of productive economic opportunities beyond the plantation sector. This is not something that the government can outsource to the provincial political leadership of upcountry Tamil communities.

The tragic fate of Ishalini should be an eye-opener for the policy-makers to change the status quo of the plantation sector which breeds poverty and servitude.

The President can appoint a task force to make recommendations and follow up on them to break the hold of intergenerational poverty in the plantation sector and provide viable social and economic opportunities for a good number of young men and women from the often neglected community.

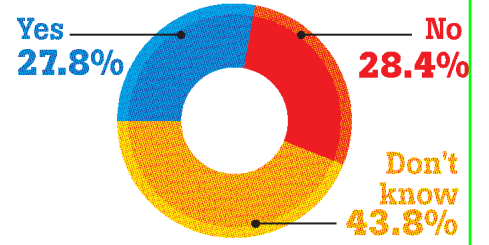
Follow @RangaJayasuriya on Twitter

DM Poll

Do you agree with the Presidential Secretary PB Jayasundara's recent claim that Sri Lanka taking some painful structural adjustments including the shift in fertiliser and fuel price hike under a climate resilience and green economy initiative is for a healthy nation?
1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't know

LAST POLL

Should the Government work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restructure debt in restoring international confidence in debt repayment to avoid an economic crisis?



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What a right royal mess!

When medical experts have warned that Sri Lanka is bracing itself for a severe COVID outbreak in days to come, the government decided to lift travel restrictions since yesterday. The government anticipates that it can recover from the prevailing debt crisis by taking ad hoc decisions overnight. Printing over a trillion rupees worth money and selling off chunks of land to settle the crisis are short-term remedies to make the country look good in the eyes of its international allies.

The ongoing teachers' protests and protests against the Kotelawala Defence University Bill speak volumes about the power of the citizenry

The government is now bringing down vaccines and vaccinating people to save face. After a lapse of five months, those awaiting the second dose of AstraZeneca are finally getting it. All these efforts are good, but it could have been done with a little more organizing. The elderly especially are at an inconvenience having to stand in long queues in the scorching heat. But many believe that the government should at least succeed in this effort as many other promises haven't been fulfilled to date.

The ongoing teachers' protests and protests against the Kotelawala Defence University Bill speak volumes about the power of the citizenry. The teachers and principals are adamant that they would continue their strikes until the salary anomalies are fixed. But the government has continued to turn a blind eye on this matter. Likewise the government has continued to turn blind eyes on many matters. The child protection crisis is just another one of them.

The 6.9 million voters who voted in this government should lift their collars up and rejoice for putting this country in a bigger mess than before!

-A DISGUSTED CITIZEN

Second autopsy; same fate as Thajudeen's?

When the body of ex-Minister Rishad Bathiudeen's domestic helper Ishalini was exhumed, I was reminded of the exhumation of rugby star Wasim Thajudeen which finally turned out to be a damp squib. I hope that it will not be eventually the same with this poor girl's case as well.

We sincerely hope that the culprit/s found responsible for the death of this servant girl, who had been sexually abused will be brought before justice and that the most severe punishment will be meted out irrespective of his/her status in the society.

-MOHAMED ZAHKAN

Bathiudeen's residence helps Another domestic aide says she was a sexual victim

WEB COMMENTS

- ARNOLD** - It won't be a shock if a thousand women claim the same, this is easy money, you know.
- BATH** - Public still pays for this man and calls an MP?
- MONSOOR** - Justice should be served if this clan is behind these cruelties to the young girls.
- ABZI** - This is a Drama, just like Dr. Shafis case... so many complaints...

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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IS SRI LANKA IN VACCINE OLYMPICS?

By
S V D
Kesarrajal
Gunasekera
(former Member of Parliament)

The euphoria that followed the sudden announcement that a 24 hour vaccination centre has been set up in the Vihara Maha Devi Park for Astra Zeneca booster vaccine, prompted me to write this. From a distance it may appear to be the most pragmatic decision taken to address the woes of about 600,000 people who have been waiting for their second dose for months. This is of course if you prefer not to see the blind spots.

REASON TO PANIC

First and foremost, why did the people panic at this announcement? Those who only received the AZ first dose were waiting in vain for many moons. They are also not sure whether there will be any other opportunity to get the booster if they did not go to the Vihara Maha Devi Park. We have seen the uncertainty leading to many people panicking. Panic buying being the most common. Even with the vaccines, the panic was due to the Government's inefficiency. If a proper system was followed from the beginning the citizens would not have to live in fear and panic.

LESS RISK AND LESS INCONVENIENCE

The question is not the vaccine roll out, but how safely this can be done. The health protocols remain unchanged that people should stay at home and avoid going out particularly to crowded places. People from the suburbs were wondering whether they need to rush to the Vihara Maha Devi Park. How are they to travel without being at risk? Even though the centre being open seem like an excellent idea, the only ones who can get there at night and beyond are only those who have vehicles. All others have to go during day time using public transport. The health authorities are still warning that the infection is still on the rise. Speed of the spread is very high. For the last few days the death toll was over 60. Can the state think of any other way to do this in a way to reduce and minimise the risk and less inconvenience to the people?

HUNTING FOR PUBLICITY?

Many are of the view that the government has suddenly realised that they are on a bad wicket. According to them this was nothing new. Public displeasure over the Government's action and inaction has been brewing for some time. When a person in death row was sworn in as a MP, when another was given a presidential pardon and given a chairmanship of a State institute, the people started regretting voting for this government. The teachers' protest really showed that thousands are making their demands on the street. Obviously the Government party is craving for some good publicity. Whoever advised the President that if we expedite the vaccine roll out everything will be hunky dory, has misled the Executive. An experienced and pragmatic leader would really consult the "right people" to come to a decision in the best interest of

If a proper system was followed from the beginning the citizens would not have to live in fear and panic

the people. Reminds me of how Late Lalith Athulathmudali as the Minister for Agriculture consulted the farmer organizations prior to making decisions with regards to issues on Agriculture. Continuous failure to see things from the people's perspective could certainly lead to the downfall of an administration.

TRYING TO SET WORLD RECORDS?

The fundamental mistake that the Government made was making promises and giving deadlines on vaccine roll out, which they cannot make. The people also should be advised that vaccine is not the means to an end. It should not give them a false sense of security like it did in April 2021. Why give a deadline, I wonder? We are not in competition

with any country to set records or say that 'we are the ones who did it the best!' We are not in Covid Olympics. We are not going to get medals for rolling out the vaccines fast. Let's not forget there are probably millions who have not even received the first dose.

FOLLOW THE EXISTING PROTOCOL

To all the administrators I want to say that just because you rush through this vaccine roll out, it does not guarantee full immunity. The world is yet to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We may not be able to open the country for another 12 months or maybe even more, as no one knows how the virus will mutate. You must and follow the existing system where through the Grama Niladhis, PHI and the MOH office to roll out the vaccines systematically. This is the most efficient method and protocol and is available island-wide. Let's at least now bring a method to this madness. The Government cannot go on terrorising the people and trying to control the people instead of the Covid-19 spread. Saying that without the vaccine card you will not be allowed to do this or that is ludicrous. COVID 19 is not a proscribed armed group. If we cannot understand this and take a healthy approach to address the pandemic, then perhaps we can see a different result.

Dialog TELEVISION 121 YouTube hi!!online

Our leopards are more than a wildlife attraction; they are the very lifeblood of our economy, contributing up to Rs. 2,858,730,894 in the year 2019 through the Yala National Park.

DailyMirror

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INTERNATIONAL

Wildfires blaze on in drought-hit Turkey as criticism grows

MARMARIS, TURKEY, AUG 2 (REUTERS) - Firefighters using planes and helicopters, and locals with buckets of water, battled wildfires raging for a sixth day near southern coastal resorts in drought-hit Turkey on Monday and the government faced fresh criticism of its handling of the disaster.

Seven fires were still burning, fanned by temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius (104°F), strong winds and low humidity, Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said.

Meteorology maps show areas affected by fires have suffered severe drought in recent months.

Drone footage filmed by Reuters showed grey hillsides near the resort of Marmaris where fires left smouldering buildings and blackened tree trunks.

While 16 planes and 51 helicopters tackled blazes across a swathe of southwest Turkey, villagers carrying water



A bulldozer opens the way to firefighters to help them to extinguish a wildfire near Marmaris, Turkey (REUTERS)

containers up a hill to fight a fire near Marmaris said the government was not doing enough to help them.

"We are here as the entire village, from the locals to others. We didn't run or anything, so the government

must see this and also not run away. It must send some of its planes here," a woman called Gulhan told Reuters.

Eight people have been killed in the wildfires, but there were no reports of further casualties on Monday.

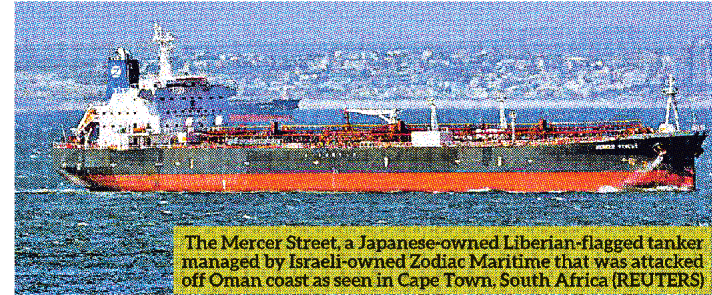
IRAN WARNS OF RESPONSE IF SECURITY THREATENED AFTER SHIP ATTACK

Iran will respond promptly to any threat against its security, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Monday, after the United States, Israel and Britain blamed Tehran for an attack on an Israeli-managed tanker off the coast of Oman.

Tehran has denied any involvement in the attack on Thursday in which two crew members - a Briton and a Romanian - were killed.

The United States and Britain said on Sunday they would work with their allies to respond to the attack on the Mercer Street, a Liberian-flagged, Japanese-owned petroleum product tanker managed by Israeli-owned Zodiac Maritime.

Britain summoned the Iranian ambassador on Monday. Later, Iran summoned the British Charge d'Affair in Tehran over London's



The Mercer Street, a Japanese-owned Liberian-flagged tanker managed by Israeli-owned Zodiac Maritime that was attacked off Oman coast as seen in Cape Town, South Africa (REUTERS)

"accusations against the Islamic Republic", Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported.

"Iran has no hesitation in protecting its security and national interests and will respond promptly and strongly to any possible adventure," Iranian state television quoted foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh as saying.

Khatibzadeh "strongly regretted the baseless accusations made

by the British foreign secretary against Iran, which were repeated by the U.S. secretary of state in the same context and contained contradictory, false and provocative accusations", it reported. Britain said on Sunday it was highly likely that Iran carried out the attack, using one or two drones. The U.S. Navy, which was escorting the tanker with the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, said



on Saturday that early indications "clearly pointed" to a drone attack.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had accused Tehran of "trying to shirk responsibility" for the attack, and called its denial "cowardly".

-DUBAI, AUG 2 (REUTERS)

German warship heads for South China Sea amid tension with Beijing

BERLIN, AUG 2 (REUTERS) - Germany on Monday sent a warship to the South China Sea for the first time in almost two decades, joining other Western nations in expanding its military presence in the region amid growing alarm over China's territorial ambitions.

China claims swathes of the South China Sea and has established military outposts on artificial islands in the waters that contain gas fields and rich fishing.

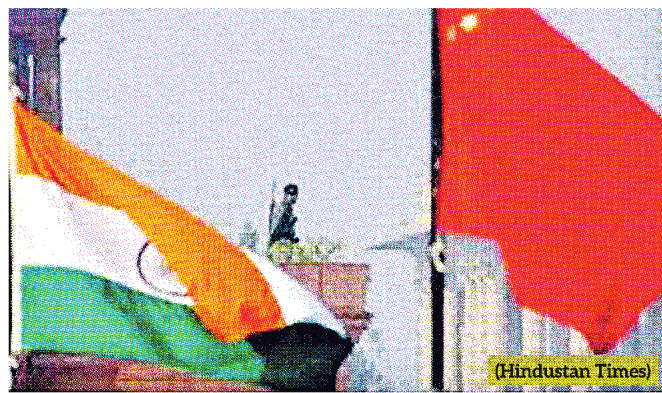
The U.S. Navy, in a show of force against the Chinese territorial claims, regularly conducts so-called "freedom of navigation" operations in which

their vessels pass close by some of the contested islands. China in turn objects to the U.S. missions, saying they do not help promote peace or stability.

Washington has put countering China at the heart of its national security policy and seeks to rally partners against what it says are

Beijing's increasingly coercive economic and foreign policies.

Officials in Berlin have said the German navy will stick to common trade routes. The frigate is not expected to sail through the Taiwan Strait either, another regular U.S. activity condemned by Beijing.



India and China to continue dialogue over disputed border

NEW DELHI, AUG 2 (REUTERS) - India and China will continue dialogue aimed at easing tensions on their disputed border, the two countries said on Monday, amid concerns over a broader conflict as troops from both economic giants continue to face off at the disputed area.

The two sides had a "candid and in-depth exchange of views", according to a joint statement by the Indian and Chinese military, agreeing to resolve differences "in an expeditious manner".

"The two sides also agreed that in the interim they will continue their effective efforts in ensuring stability... and jointly maintain peace and tranquility," the statement said.

The twelfth round of talks between the two armies - and the first meeting in three months

The twelfth round of talks between the two armies - and the first meeting in three months - was the latest attempt to ward off fears of a wider conflict between the two countries

- was the latest attempt to ward off fears of a wider conflict between the two countries.

Thousands of soldiers have been facing off since April 2020 on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), or the de facto border, including at the glacial Pangong Lake.

Afghan forces battle Taliban for control of southern city

KABUL, AUG 2 (REUTERS) - Taliban fighters pushed deeper into the southern Afghan provincial capital of Lashkargahon Monday and closed in on government buildings, a senior official said, as the insurgents pressed a rapid advance.

Heavy fighting was raging close to the National Directorate of Security, the prison and the police headquarters in the main city in Helmand province, the government official said, asking not to be named.

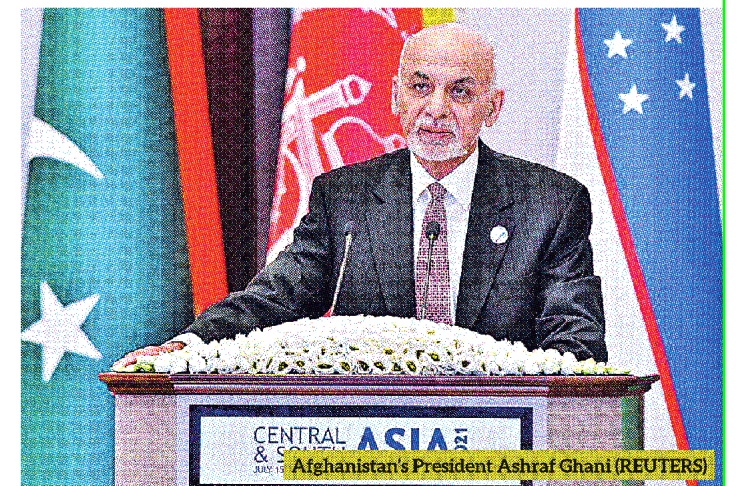
Taliban fighters have moved in on three provincial capitals in the last few days and seized territory

nationwide since Washington said it planned a complete withdrawal of troops by September.

Most of their advances have focused on rural areas and they have yet to take full control of a major city.

An Afghan military commander said the government forces managed to beat back the Taliban later in the day.

President Ashraf Ghani on Monday blamed the country's fast-deteriorating security situation on a "sudden" decision by the United States to withdraw its troops.



Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani (REUTERS)

Delta spreads 'like wildfire' as doctors study whether it makes patients sicker

LOS ANGELES, AUG 2 (REUTERS) - With a new wave of COVID-19 infections fueled by the Delta variant striking countries worldwide, disease experts are scrambling to learn whether the latest version of coronavirus is making people - mainly the unvaccinated - sicker than before.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that Delta, first identified in India and now dominant worldwide, is "likely more severe" than earlier versions of the virus, according to an internal report made public on Friday.

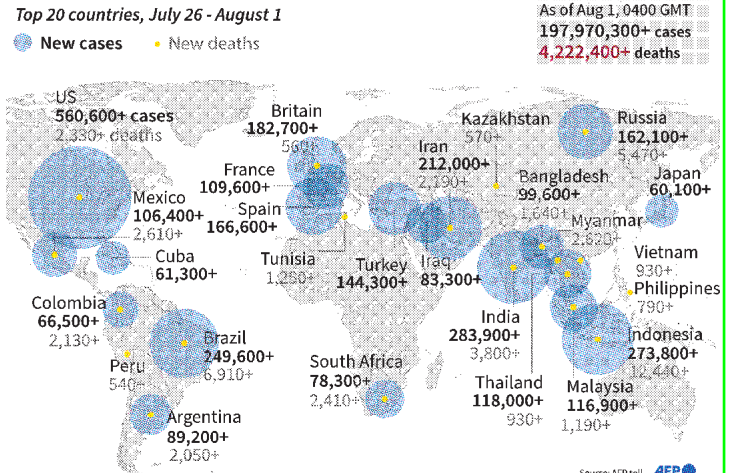
The agency cited research in Canada, Singapore and Scotland showing that people infected with the Delta variant were more likely to be hospitalized than patients

earlier in the pandemic. In interviews with Reuters, disease experts said the three papers suggest a greater risk from the variant, but the study populations are limited and the findings have not yet been reviewed by outside experts. Doctors treating patients infected with Delta described a more rapid onset of COVID-19 symptoms, and in many regions an overall increase serious cases.

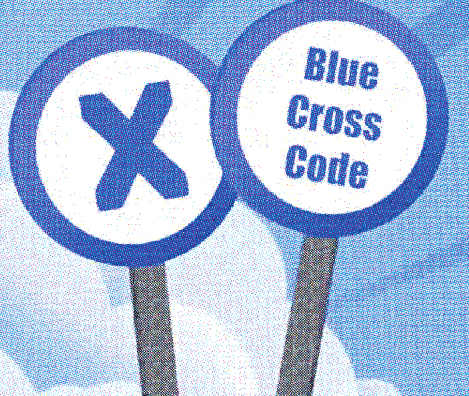
But the experts said more work is needed to compare outcomes among larger numbers of individuals in epidemiologic studies to sort out whether one variant causes more severe disease than another.

Delta is as contagious as chickenpox and far more contagious than the common cold or flu, according to the CDC report.

One week of new Covid-19 cases



LOOK LISTEN REPORT..!

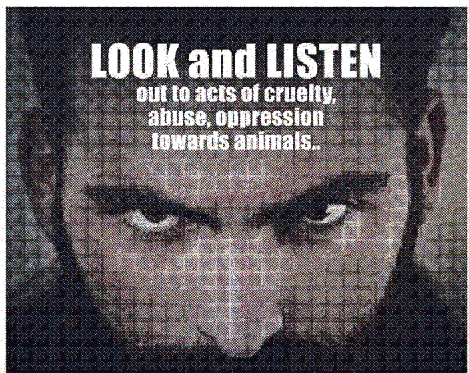


YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT..

BUT IF YOU DO,

OUR ANIMALS PAY THE PRICE..!

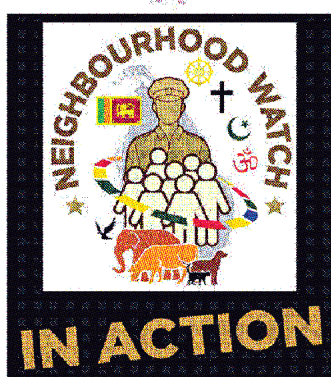
CHANGE ATTITUDES, BE INCLUSIVE AND WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE ANIMAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF OUR ANIMAL A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY,



THEN IMMEDIATELY REPORT TO

- Police 119 or direct to your Local Police
Contact numbers can be got from 1919 Government Citizen Information Line
 - Wild Life Department 1991/1992 or 011288585
 - Livestock 119 or direct to your Local Police
Contact numbers can be got from 1919 Government Citizen Information Line
- or
Direct to the relevant Province Department of Anima Production and Health (DAPH) Office
Contact numbers can be got from 1919 Government Citizen Information Line

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You raise awareness to protect our animal

LET OUT THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FORCE IN YOU..!

Chrishanthi perera
Founder
Randi Foundation



HASSAN TAKES GOLD IN WOMEN'S 5000M, CAMACHO-QUINN WINS 100M HURDLES TITLE

BY SHEHAN DANIEL REPORTING FROM TOKYO, JAPAN

Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands claimed the Women's 5,000m title at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium yesterday, having made a remarkable comeback in the 1,500m semi-finals earlier in the day. Hassan clocked a time of 14 minutes and 36.79 seconds finishing ahead of World Champion Helen Obiri of Kenya, who clocked 14:38.36 and Gudaf Tsegay of Ethiopia, five-tenths of a second behind for Bronze, to claim the 5,000m title.

Triple-title hunting Hassan fell on the final lap of her semi-final in the 1,500m, only to get back on her feet and show remarkable fight to go on and win the race.

She is also attempting to bag gold in the Women's 10,000m, in which she has previously held the World Record.

In the final of the Men's Steeplechase that preceded that final, Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco took gold in a time of 8 minutes and



8.90 secs, pipping 2019 World Championship silver medalist Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia, with Benjamin Kigen of Kenya finished more than a second behind, to take bronze. The United States won their first gold in track

and field in the Women's Discus Throw where Valerie Allman threw for a distance of 68.98m, with Germany's Kristin Pudenz winning silver with a 66.86m effort and Yaimé Pérez of Cuba taking third place.

There was a shock exit in the Men's 400m event, with World Record Holder Wayne van Niekerk finishing fifth in his semi-final to miss out on qualification to Thursday's final.

London 2012 gold medalist Kirani James had the fastest time of 43.88 seconds in the semi-finals, and will now start as favourite to add a second Olympic crown.

In the first session of the day, Greece's Miltiadis Tentoglou won gold in the Men's Long Jump final with a leap of 8.41m in his last effort of the competition, that tied Cuba's Juan Miguel Echevarria, and scored the Greek top spot thanks to a superior second-best effort.

Cuba's Maykel Masso had the third-best jump of 8.21m to take bronze.

Puerto Rico's Jasmine Camacho-Quinn beat the World Record Holder Kendra Harrison of the United States to take Gold in the Women's 100m Hurdles final, with an effort that didn't quite match the Olympic Record she broke on Sunday but was good enough to give her country their first ever Athletics Gold.



Sifan Hassan in action (File Photo)

CH and Air Force to play friendly rugby matches

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sri Lanka Air Force and the CH and FC will play two friendly rugby matches on August 13 and 21 at the Maligapitiya Stadium in Kurunegala and at the Air Force Rugby Grounds in Ratmalana respectively. The two matches will be played under the directive of the Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana, following the instructions

from the Minister of Youth and Sports, Namal Rajapaksa. The matches are organised to promote the sport of rugby which has been subdued for a long duration of time. The Maligapitiya Stadium which will be declared open after renovation on August 13 will be the venue for the first friendly encounter. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will be the Chief Guest for both matches.

Nepal, Maldives top contenders to host SA Football tournament

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The All-Nepal Football Association (ANFA) and the Maldives Football Federation (MFF) have shown their willingness to host the 13th South Asian Football Championship.

Nepal has hosted the event twice in 1997 and 2013 while the Maldives jointly hosted the tournament with Sri Lanka in 2008.

"Nepal and the Maldives have come forward to host the event after the original host nation Bangladesh withdrew due to the Covid-19 pandemic," President of Football Sri Lanka (FSL) Umar Jaswar told the Daily Mirror yesterday.

Bangladesh were scheduled to organise the tournament last September in Dhaka but the pandemic situation forced them to put off the event.

"The Executive Committee of the South Asian Football Federation is scheduled to meet this week to select the new host nation for the tournament," Jaswar added.



File Photo

The ANFA has forecasted an estimated sum of Rs. 70 million for the organising of this event, out of which Rs.50m will be funded by the Nepalese Prime Minister.

The ANFA is currently looking for more sponsors to host the event but the MFF has not revealed any kind of financial constraints in hosting the tournament.

The champions of the tournament will receive a cash award of US \$50,000 and the runners-up will receive a cash award of US \$25,000. Maldives have won the title twice in 2008 and 2018 but Nepal are yet to win the tournament.

Perfect record dented as Denmark set up Norway quarter-final

Defending Olympic champions Denmark finished as Group B winners despite crashing to a shock 33-30 loss to Sweden in the men's handball competition at the Yoyogi National Stadium on Sunday and will face Norway in the quarter-finals.

In a rematch of their world championship final this year which the Danes won for their second straight title, it was Sweden who dictated terms as Jonathan Carlisbogard and Lukas Sandell scored six goals each to earn a measure of revenge.

The defeat ended Denmark's perfect record in Tokyo as they finished with eight points after four victories from their five matches, level on points with second-placed Egypt and third-placed Sweden.

Spain will face Sweden in the quarter-



Jonathan Carlisbogard of Sweden in action

finals today after the European champions finished second behind France in Group A with eight points after a 36-27 victory over winless Argentina earlier on Sunday. "Now we're at the place we wanted to

be," Spain goalkeeper Gonzalo Perez de Vargas said. "Of course the next step is going to be tougher than the group phase but we're confident and over the last five years we have created a great team spirit.

"We know how to win at key moments and we're looking forward to the quarter-finals." Rio 2016 runners-up France also ended their group campaign with eight points after a 32-29 defeat at the hands of Norway and will take on Bahrain in the last-eight stage.

"Bahrain play a different kind of handball. They're very efficient and they almost won against Sweden, who are the second best team in the world," France's Nikola Karabatic said.

"So we know it's going to be a tough game." Germany overcame Brazil 29-25

set up a meeting with dark horse Egypt.

Bahrain suffered their fourth defeat in five matches as Egypt thrashed Aron Kristjansson's side 30-20 with Ahmed Elahmar scoring five goals and Omar Elwakil, Seif Elderaa and Ahmed Mesilhy all netting four each.

"If you want to go for a medal, you're going to face the toughest opponents," Egypt's 37-year-old right back Elahmar said.

"This will be my last Olympics. I'm looking forward to ending on a high." Japan scored four goals in the final three minutes to seal a 31-30 victory over Portugal to make it a three-way tie between the two teams and Bahrain, but it was the Gulf country that sealed a last-eight spot due to a better goal difference. -REUTERS

US supports shot putter Saunders after first Olympic podium protest

The US Olympic Committee yesterday backed shot putter Raven Saunders after she made the first protest on a medal podium at the Tokyo Games.

The 25-year-old African-American athlete crossed her arms in an "X" gesture during Sunday's medal ceremony at the Olympic Stadium after claiming silver.

US media outlets reported that Saunders, who is an outspoken supporter of LGBT rights, said her gesture was made in solidarity with "oppressed people."

Updated IOC guidelines released last month say that disciplinary consequences for protests will be "proportionate to the level of disruption and the degree to which the infraction is not compatible with Olympic values"

After clinching a silver medal, she said that she wanted to represent "people all around the world who are fighting and don't have the platform to speak up for themselves."

The USOPC said it had decided the protest did not violate its own regulations and that it was in discussions with the IOC about the issue.

"The USOPC conducted its own review and determined that Raven Saunders' peaceful expression in support of racial and social justice that happened at the conclusion of the ceremony was respectful of her competitors and did not violate our rules related to demonstration," it

said in a statement.

The USOPC softened its approach to athletes protesting on the podium after a review of rules following nationwide protests in the United States last year in the wake of the killing of George Floyd.

Saunders' protest is the first test of International Olympic Committee rules which ban protests of any kind on the medal podium at the Olympics.

The IOC tweaked its rules regarding athlete protests ahead of the Games, saying that peaceful protests before competition would be allowed.

However the Olympics governing body has maintained a strict rule against protesting on the medal podium.

Asked yesterday about the protest, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said the body was in

touch with the US Olympic Committee and World Athletics.

"We are, not surprisingly, looking into the matter and we'll now consider our next steps," he added, declining to be drawn further on possible consequences.

"I think we need to fully understand what's going on and then take a decision from there," he added.

Updated IOC guidelines released last month say that disciplinary consequences for protests will be "proportionate to the level of disruption and the degree to which the infraction is not compatible with Olympic values."

It said an extensive survey of athletes showed most wanted to "protect the field of play".

Experts say the IOC is unlikely to take a heavy-handed approach against athletes for protesting in Tokyo, mindful of the possible public relations backlash that would likely follow any sanction. -AFP



Second-placed USA's Raven Saunders celebrates on the podium with her silver medal after winning the women's shot put event during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Ecuador's Barrera wins gold in women's 76 kg event

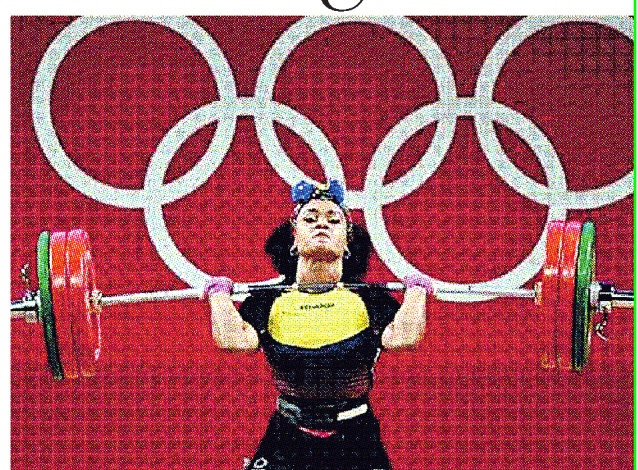
Ecuador's Neisi Patricia Dajomes Barrera became her country's first woman to win an Olympic medal when she claimed gold in the women's 76 kg weightlifting at the Tokyo Games on Sunday.

Katherine Nye of the United States won silver, the best U.S. result in the sport in two decades.

"I feel very happy and very proud," said Dajomes Barrera through an interpreter. "I guess the training regimen gave me strength and made me feel comfortable at the competition." She lifted a total weight of 263 kg, easily surpassing Nye's total of 249 kg. Mexico's Aremi Fuentes Zavala took a bronze by lifting 245 kg.

Dajomes Barrera, who brightened up the arena with a colourful hair band with a bow at the front, screamed with joy after lifting 145 kg on her third clean and jerk, the heaviest weight she had tried.

The judges initially decided the lift was not complete but they quickly overturned that decision,



Ecuador's Neisi Patricia Dajomes Barrera competes in the women's 76kg weightlifting competition during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

making all her six lifts successful.

Nye's silver is the best achievement in the sport for her country since Tara Nott Cunningham won a gold at the Sydney Games, where women's weightlifting was first introduced.

"It feels surreal, I feel like I've had such a whirlwind," Nye said, draped in a big U.S. flag. "I started lifting in 2016, so the face that I'm here in 2021 with a medal around my neck is just unreal." Nye hoped to inspire a new generation of weightlifters in the U.S., which was not able to win any medals for the sport until the Rio Games in 2016 after Sydney.

"I think USA weightlifting has been looked down on for a very long time now, and I feel like the talent and all of our hard work is finally showing up now," said Nye. -REUTERS

Sindhu awaits ice cream with Modi after second Olympic medal

Indian badminton ace P.V. Sindhu awaits a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after she became the country's first woman to win two individual Olympic medals.

"Grittiest Of All Time," the Indian Express front page read yesterday, riffing off Greatest Of All Time after Sindhu beat China's He Bingjiao in Tokyo and swooped a bronze medal. The world champion's victory on Sunday came five years after she finished second at the Rio Games.

Sindhu's father PV Ramana, a former volleyball player, said the badminton superstar will meet the Prime Minister on

her return today. "He had said, 'you go, we will have ice cream when you come back,' so she will now definitely go and have ice cream with the Prime Minister," Ramana was quoted as saying by Indian media.

In an online interaction with Sindhu ahead of the competition, Modi had said he would invite her for dessert after the badminton champion admitted she loves ice cream but stays away from it to stay fit.

"We are all elated by the stellar performance by Sindhu," Modi wrote on his official Twitter account after her win.

"She is India's pride and one of our

most outstanding Olympians," he added. Sindhu missed out on the final after losing to Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying. But she outclassed 21-13, 21-15 to become the toast of Indian sports alongside weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu who won a silver on the opening day of the Tokyo Olympics.

Sindhu's Olympic success emulates fellow Indian national and men's wrestler Sushil Kumar who won bronze in 2008 and then silver at the 2012 London Games.

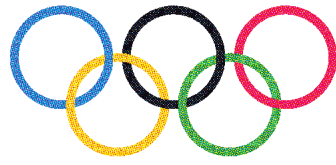
"You have made the whole nation very very proud," cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar wrote on Twitter. -AFP



China's Chen Yufei (C) poses with her women's singles badminton gold medal with Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying (L) with her silver medal and India's P.V. Sindhu with her bronze medal at a ceremony during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Musashino Forest Sports Plaza in Tokyo

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KARLSSON TO RUN THE COURSE AS SRI LANKA'S FIRST EVER OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN



Mathilda Karlsson in action (File Photo)

BY SHEHAN DANIEL REPORTING FROM TOKYO, JAPAN

Sri Lankan-born Swede Mathilda Karlsson, the country's last remaining athlete at Tokyo 2020, will take part in the Equestrian Jumping Individual Qualifier today.

She will make history as the first Equestrian to represent the country, giving light to a niche sport that has participants in the tens rather than hundreds or thousands in Sri Lanka.

Karlsson's event will begin at 3:30 p.m. Sri Lanka time, and she will compete in a field of 75 riders, both male and female, vying for one of 30 spots in the finals.

She and her horse, Chopin VA, will have to navigate a course of 12-15 knockable obstacles, with penalties incurred for each obstacle knocked down or refused, and for exceeding the allocated time.

In today's competition, Karlsson and Chopin VA will have 50 seconds to navigate a 450-metre course to qualify for the finals.

If she does qualify, she will be the only one of the nine athletes representing the country at the Olympic Games to move into the next rounds.

Karlsson was incidentally the first athlete to qualify for Tokyo 2020 in December 2019, when she accumulated the required qualification points to claim one of the two available South East Asia Oceania spots for the Olympics.

Qualification came on the back of an exceptional effort put in by Karlsson and her horse Chopin VA, after the equine contracted Lyme disease and had to miss five months of events.

With Karlsson's qualification points tied to the horse - essentially not carried forward if he rode another horse - she made the hard choice of



Presenting Partners



allowing Chopin VA to recover, leaving her with just one month to collect the 250 points she needed.

But after sealing qualification, an investigation by the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) invalidated some of the points that Karlsson scored at competitions in Villeneuve-Loubet, France, effectively dropping her down the ranks and making her ineligible for Tokyo 2020.

After an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) which ruled in her favour and reinstated her place at the Tokyo Olympics.

| TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY - TOP 10 | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| RANK | COUNTRIES | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE | TOTAL |
| 1 | China | 29 | 17 | 16 | 62 |
| 2 | USA | 22 | 25 | 17 | 64 |
| 3 | Japan | 17 | 6 | 10 | 33 |
| 4 | Australia | 14 | 4 | 15 | 33 |
| 5 | ROC | 12 | 21 | 17 | 50 |
| 6 | Great Britain | 11 | 12 | 12 | 35 |
| 7 | France | 6 | 10 | 7 | 23 |
| 8 | Germany | 6 | 6 | 11 | 23 |
| 9 | Korea | 6 | 4 | 9 | 19 |
| 10 | Netherlands | 5 | 7 | 6 | 18 |



| SPORT | VENUE | TIME |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS | Ariake Gymnastics Centre | 02.30 p.m. (SL time) |
| ARTISTIC SWIMMING | Tokyo Aquatics Centre | 04.00 p.m. |
| ATHLETICS | Musashino Forest Sport Plaza | 05.30 a.m. |
| BASEBALL/SOFTBALL | Azuma Baseball Stadium | 04.00 p.m. |
| BASKETBALL | Saitama Super Arena | 06.30 a.m. |
| BEACH VOLLEYBALL | Shiokaze Park | 05.30 a.m. |
| CANOE SPRINT | Sea Forest Waterway | 06.00 a.m. |
| CYCLING TRACK | Tokyo Aquatics Centre | 09.30 a.m. |
| DIVING | Tokyo Aquatics Centre | 07.30 p.m. |
| EQUESTRIAN | Equestrian Park | 03.30 p.m. |
| FOOTBALL | Tokyo Stadium | 02.30 p.m. |
| HANDBALL | Yoyogi National Stadium | 06.00 a.m. |
| HOCKEY | Oi Hockey Stadium | 07.30 a.m. |
| SAILING | Enoshima Yacht Harbour | 08.25 a.m. |
| SPORT CLIMBING | Aomi Urban Sports Park | 02.30 p.m. |
| TABLE TENNIS | Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium | 07.30 a.m. |
| VOLLEYBALL | Aviake Arena | 06.30 a.m. |
| WATER POLO | Tatsumi Water Polo Centre | 01.30 a.m. |
| WEIGHTLIFTING | Ariake Arena | 09.30 a.m. |
| WRESTLING | Makuhari Messe Hall | 09.30 a.m. |



- INTERNATIONAL
- Cricket: AUSTRALIA IN BANGLADESH T20I SERIES, 2021 1st T20I - (Dhaka)
 - PAKISTAN IN WEST INDIES T20I SERIES, 2021 4th T20I - (Providence)
 - Tennis: SILICON VALLEY CLASSIC (Spartan Tennis Complex)

Suryakumar and Shaw cleared to fly to UK

BY BIPIN DANI

Suryakumar Yadav and Prithvi Shaw's last PCR tests done on Sunday have turned up Covid-19 negative, allowing the two players to depart for the United Kingdom, it is learnt.

Both had to stay back in Sri Lanka after learning that they came in close contact with Krunal Pandya, who had tested positive for Covid-19. "They are waiting for their visas. Because of the two holidays (Saturday and Sunday), they could not receive the same through the United Kingdom Embassy office in Sri Lanka. The travel agent has been following up the matter and it is hoped they would leave within 24 hours to join Team India in England," one of the sources said.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have made use of a special provision to fly the athletes from Sri Lanka.

The three Indian players who contracted Covid-19, Krunal Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal and K. Gowtham are yet to be test negative.

They are staying in a hotel in Mount Lavinia where the Covid unit is being managed and handled by Nawaloka Hospital and irrespective of the number of days they spend in Sri Lanka, one negative PCR test will make them eligible to return to India.

"They are stationed in separate rooms and unlike in India where the Covid patients can mingle among themselves, Sri Lankan law does not permit," one of the sources said exclusively.

Indonesia break Chinese stranglehold in women's doubles badminton

Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu won badminton women's doubles gold yesterday, breaking a Chinese stranglehold and claiming Indonesia's first title of the Tokyo Olympics.

The pair beat China's Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan 21-19, 21-15 to pick up Indonesia's first Olympic medal in women's doubles.

"Twenty years ago, when I was 13 years old, I knew that Indonesia hadn't made any history in women's doubles," said Polii.

"I knew that I was born to be a badminton player, and I had that faith when I was 13 years old that I wanted to make history for Indonesia." China had won every women's doubles gold but two since badminton's debut at the 1992 Games, but the Indonesians came flying out of the blocks and never let up until the final point.

Jia sent the last shot of the match wide, but a challenge from the Chinese pair put Indonesian celebrations on ice until a replay confirmed the victory.

"I'm speechless right now," said Polii.



Indonesia's Greysia Polii and Indonesia's Apriyani Rahayu (R) celebrate after winning their women's doubles badminton semi-final match against South Korea's Shin Seung-chan and South Korea's Lee So-hee during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Musashino Forest Sports Plaza

The pair beat China's Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan 21-19, 21-15 to pick up Indonesia's first Olympic medal in women's doubles

"This is how it feels to get a gold medal. You cannot

describe it in words." Polii had been on the brink of retiring after the 2016 Rio Games, when she reached the quarter-finals with Nitya Krishinda Maheswari, but was persuaded to continue after teaming up with Rahayu 10 years her junior.

South Korea's Kim So-yong and Kong Hee-yong won the bronze, beating compatriots Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan 21-10, 21-17.

-AFP

'Inexperienced' Australia face Bangladesh T20 challenge

A young Australian squad faces a tough challenge maintaining an unbeaten Twenty20 record against Bangladesh in a five-match series in Dhaka starting today. This is the first bilateral series between the two sides. Their previous four meetings all won by Australia were in T20 World Cups.

The series is a chance for both teams to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates and Oman in October-November.

Despite their unbeaten record against the hosts, Australia is missing key regulars, including



Matthew Wade and Mahmudullah Riyad

the injured Steve Smith and Aaron Finch. David Warner, Glenn Maxwell and Pat Cummins are among the stars who opted out of the West Indies and Bangladesh tours.

Australia lost a five-match T20 series 4-1 to the West Indies in July.

Matthew Wade has been

named the captain for the series which will be played over just seven days in an empty Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium and concludes August 9.

"We've got a younger batting group than we've ever had on these tours, there's not a lot of international experience among our batters," he said yesterday.

"The bowling takes care of itself, with guys like (Adam) Zampa and (Mitchell) Starc and (Josh) Hazlewood. They've all played a lot of cricket together." Fast bowler Riley Meredith was ruled out yesterday after a side strain and replaced by Tasmanian quick Nathan Ellis. -AFP

Former captain Bailey replaces Hohns as Australia's Chief Selector

Former Australia captain George Bailey has been appointed chair of the National Selection Panel, replacing Trevor Hohns who is retiring after two successful stints, Cricket Australia (CA) said on Sunday.

Bailey joined the panel in February last year and takes over as Chief Selector before this year's Twenty20 World Cup, a home Ashes series against England as well as away tours to the sub-continent.



George Bailey (File Photo)

"I would like to thank Trevor for his incredible work which

has helped shape the success of Australian cricket over a long period, including during my days as a player and captain," Bailey, who played 90 one-day internationals, said.

"In what can be a challenging job, Trevor has always been calm, consistent and approachable.

"Similarly to his journey, he has made my transition from player to selector as smooth as possible. There is a lot I will take from

Trevor's style and very much look forward to the journey ahead." CA's Executive General Manager of National Teams Ben Oliver said that the recruitment process for a third selector to join Bailey and head coach Justin Langer was under way.

Hohns, 67, first joined the selection panel in 1991 after retiring as a player following the 1989 Ashes series and helped pick some of Australia's greatest teams, CA said. -REUTERS

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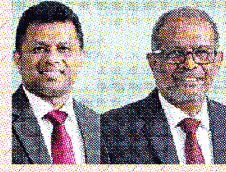


Mirror Business

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P16 Full Stock Market

P12 Growth momentum continues at Pan Asia Bank ...



P13 DIMO further expands biz portfolio with...



Certificates of Origin to be facilitated online

In an effort to speed up the authentication of goods produced in Sri Lanka, an online platform has been facilitated for exporters to obtain the Certificates of Origin (COO).

The online facilitation of the COO reduces the waiting time of obtaining the authentication, which affirms the end products of Sri Lankan origin. Facilitated by the Federation of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCI), the certification process entails an auto-generated special QR code that provides the information on the COO by a simple scan.

The FCCI has been recognised and designated to issue Non-Preferential COO to Sri Lankan exporters. The facility will be offered at a nominal fee during the one-month

trial in August to allow exporters to get familiar with the system before formally signing up for the service. Meanwhile, COO will continue to be issued manually as well.

CB could continue to stay dovish during rest of year: ICRA Lanka

- But rules out further easing due to potential excesses emerging in economy
- Beginning of current easing cycle dates back to May in 2019 but grew in intensity in 2020
- Says gradual recovery in economy and rising inflation expectations could drive treasury yields higher

being achieved by way of accelerated pace of credit to the economy, although further easing is ruled out due to the potential excesses emerging in the economy.

According to ICRA Lanka, which took a view on the future path of the interest rates in the economy, "it is very likely" that the current monetary policy to continue through the second half but denied of further scope for any more policy easing, due to the external sector vulnerabilities and expected rise in inflation.

At its fifth Monetary Policy review held on July 8, the Monetary Board took note of the spike in food inflation, caused by the supply-side disruptions and said it wouldn't be shy to intervene if it sees any signs of persistent pressures in the prices.

The private sector credit accelerated in June, defying the more moderate expectations, signalling

that such credit is on track to meet its desired year-end targets while the Colombo inflation too accelerated to 5.7 percent in July, from 12 months ago, closing in on the upper bound of the Central Bank's desired inflation range set at 6.0 percent.

"On the other hand, the CBSL has emphasised its commitment to keep interest rates at single digits. Hence, it is very likely that the CBSL will maintain its current policy window through 2H," the rating agency said in its outlook for the second half, as part of its customary mid-year economic update.

The beginning of the current easing cycle dates back to May in 2019 but grew in intensity in 2020, when the monetary policy was required to provide extensive support to blunt the impacts and provide stimulus to reboot the economy stung by the virus.

This makes this current cycle the longest, deepest and most effective in transmission into the real economy, yielding its desired outcomes.

The Monetary Board hasn't signalled a change to its current course and ICRA Lanka's expectation would further reassure markets of the policy continuity, a hallmark of this government's broader tax and money policies, which provide predictability to the economic actors, who plan ahead.

However, the rating agency said the gradual recovery in the economy and rising inflation expectations could drive treasury yields higher, which would resist the downward adjustment in the market lending rates in the medium term, which descended to their lowest levels in the history.

MORE ON P12

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June state borrowings from CB and banks surge as restrictions deprive tax incomes

The borrowings by the government from the commercial banks and Central Bank shot up in June, due to the tax-killing virus-related restrictions on economic activities, while the sale of liquor, which generates most incomes to the state coffers by way of Excise duties, was banned, throwing the government

finances into a fix. The Treasury borrowed a whopping Rs.170.6 billion in June 2021, up nearly three times from Rs.58.9 billion in a month ago and Rs.39.5 billion in April, as the restrictions, which gradually transformed into lockdowns by mid-May, kept most small businesses shuttered.

MORE ON P12

Securities market to be introduced as a subject in education curriculum from 2023

The securities market is to be introduced as a subject to the student education curriculum from the year 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced.

The initiative is being materialised as

a result of joint collaboration between the National Institute of Education (NIE) and SEC.

Accordingly, SEC Chairman Viraj Dayaratne revealed that the securities market would be included in the school curriculum from grade six onwards.

"I am pleased to state that our proposals have been well received and we have been informed that relevant content will be included in the school curriculum from grade six onwards, at the time of the revision of the school curriculum in 2023 as well as when

revising the university syllabubs," he said.

While the country has high print literacy rates equivalent to the more developed countries, financial literacy of the population remains weak in the country.

MORE ON P12

Senkadagala Finance to tap shareholder funds

Senkadagala Finance yesterday announced plans for a rights issue to raise up to Rs.474.5 million to help the company to maintain its capital adequacy requirements ordered by the Central Bank.

Accordingly, the finance company controlled by the Balasuriya family will issue 8.6 million ordinary

voting shares in the proportion of one new share for every nine existing shares, at a price of Rs.55 a share.

The current stated capital of the company is Rs.1.95 billion.

The Senkadagala Finance share was last traded at Rs.90.53.

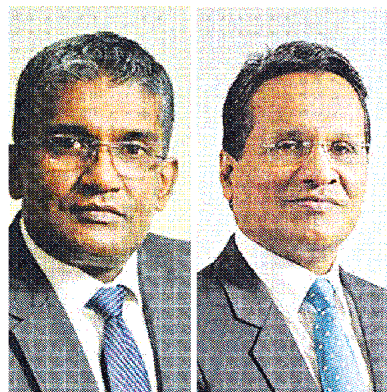
The company said the rights issue is subject to the Colombo Stock Exchange approving in principle the issue and listing of shares and obtaining the shareholder approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Final draft version of demutualisation of CSE to be submitted to Cabinet shortly

■ Consensus has been arrived with stockbrokers about ownership of demutualised CSE

■ A demutualised CSE will facilitate setting up of a central counterparty clearing house

■ Involvement of a strategic investor expected to bring about greater efficiency through its technical know-how and infrastructure



Chinthaka Mendis Viraj Dayaratne

was arrived at to distribute the apportionment of shares with the Capital Market Development Fund, at a ratio of 70:30. The proposed changes are due to be placed before the Cabinet of Ministers," it stated.

SEC Chairman Viraj Dayaratne in his address to market stakeholders highlighted that the proposed bill, which enables the demutualisation of the CSE, would allow the CSE and SEC to achieve their ultimate target of setting up a central counterparty clearing house.

Meanwhile, SEC Director General Chinthaka Mendis expects the anticipated demutualised stock exchange to bring in more fairness and efficiency to the market, in particular with the involvement of a strategic investor. "Another milestone that is on

the verge of realisation is the establishment of a demutualised stock exchange in keeping with the global trends. The demutualisation of the CSE envisages fairness in the market, while the involvement of a strategic investor is expected to bring about greater efficiency through its technical know-how and infrastructure," he elaborated.

As the CSE is shortly expected to roll out the implementation of the delivery vs payment (DvP) system, he noted that it would lay the foundation for the market to have a full-blown central counterparty system in the future, once the legislation process is completed.

The DvP system, which aims to reduce the risks and to facilitate new products/platforms to the market, is expected to reduce post-trade risks that are inherent in the market while allowing the CSE to introduce a range of new products to the investors.

In addition, Mendis noted that the switch to the DvP system would also act as a partial fulfilment of the requirements needed to elevate itself to the status of an emerging market.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet of Ministers recently approved the new SEC law, which is expected to empower the SEC to regulate a demutualised stock exchange.

MORE ON P12

Container throughput at Colombo Port almost touches pre-pandemic levels in first half

■ Cumulative container handling recovers to 3.57mn TEUs, compared to pre-pandemic 3.59mn TEUs

■ "Third wave of COVID-19 had a limited impact on port activity and demand" - SAGT

The container throughput at the Port of Colombo recovered nearly touching the pre-pandemic levels in the first half of the year, with both domestic and transshipment volumes rebounding in the second quarter, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) data showed.

The cumulative container handling at the port recovered by 9.1 percent year-on-year (YoY) to 3.57 million TEUs in the period, almost touching the pre-pandemic levels of 3.59 million TEUs.

The port handled 6.3 percent more transshipment volumes in the six-month period compared to the same period of last year. The transshipment throughput stood at 2.86 million TEUs while the domestic container volume, which was up by 19.2 percent YoY, stood at 617,353 TEUs.

The container handling at China Merchant Port (CMPort) Holdings-managed Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT) rose by 9.2 percent YoY, topping 1.5



million TEUs in the six-month period, according to the company.

The South Asia Gateway Terminals (SAGT) reported a 2.5 percent YoY increase in container throughput at 928,757 TEUs, overtaking the state-controlled Jaya Container Terminals (JCT) in the period. In particular, the container throughput at SAGT and CICT saw a 23 percent YoY increase in the second quarter of the year.

"The third wave of COVID-19 had a limited impact on the port activity and demand unlike with the onset of the pandemic in the first quarter of last year (FY 2021-22)," SAGT stated.

Meanwhile, the container handling at JCT declined by 13.4 percent YoY to 863,538 million TEUs.

East Container Terminal (ECT),

the other state-controlled terminal, which commenced operations in the fourth quarter of last year, handled 224,611 TEUs in the six-month period of the year.

In addition, restowing at the Port of Colombo rebounded by 41.2 percent YoY to 94,437 TEUs in the period.

Overall, ship traffic at Sri Lanka's ports recorded a marginal decline of 1.8 percent YoY. However, cargo handling by the country's port rose by 13.8 percent YoY to 54.78 million MT in the six-month period.

In particular, CMPort-managed Hambantota Port handled 793,000 tonnes of cargo (excluding vehicle volumes), recording an impressive 338.1 percent YoY growth in the period.

(NF)

DIMO further expands biz portfolio with DIMO Initium

DIMO, one of the leading conglomerates in Sri Lanka, has continued the expansion of its business portfolio by providing solutions to the market under Industrial, Nutrition and Construction Chemicals segments.

The new portfolio of business is established under the brand identity 'DIMO Initium'.

In line with the above, DIMO has partnered with BASF and Master Builders Solutions (MBS), two of the global leaders in the segments of Industrial & Nutrition and Construction Chemicals businesses respectively.

DIMO Initium is geared to extend performance-driven solutions that are essential across a number of industries and businesses in Sri Lanka.

Its industrial solutions segment will play a key role in providing solutions for industries such as rubber & plastics, furniture &



DIMO management and DIMO Initium staff at the Sapugaskanda site

durables, textile and automotive, while nutrition solutions will focus broadly on animal, pharma and human nutrition segments.

Further, construction chemicals segment offers products and solutions in relation to admixtures, waterproofing & sealants, repair & protection including underground construction, and performance flooring.

DIMO Chairman & Managing Director Ranjith Pandithage

said, "The creation of DIMO Initium is part of our ongoing quest for greater diversification. These new initiatives provide new avenues for growth and open the doors to new business domains. We intend to continue on this long-term diversification strategy which undoubtedly provides greater benefits to our valued customers and other stakeholders."

Furthermore, under the new business portfolio, DIMO is

committed to invest in resources to provide wider and improved solutions to customers.

Additionally, in keeping with the Government's economic policies that are aimed at boosting local manufacturing and value addition, DIMO is optimistic about its ability to contribute towards this goal, in relation to the segments such as construction and pharmaceuticals.

DIMO officially commenced operations of construction chemical business under DIMO Initium in Sapugaskanda Lindel estate recently.

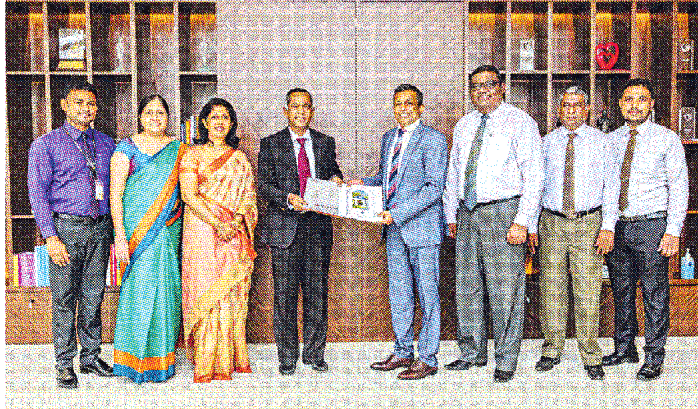
In the future, while providing the customary high level of service that DIMO has been renowned for since inception, DIMO Initium will look to expand the industry reach by introducing new, innovative solutions and greater value additions in order to meet the evolving needs of today's customers.

Sampath Bank joins hands with Home Lands Skyline as funding partner for Santorini Resort Apartments

Home Lands Skyline (Pvt) Ltd recently partnered with Sampath Bank PLC, as the exclusive project funding partner for the development of Santorini Resort Apartments and Residencies which is South Asia's first Theme Park Style Resort Apartment and Residencies.

This whole new neighbourhood opens in Negombo which is on the North edge of the Western province, with the project expected to be completed in 2023.

Commenting on the partnership, Shashi Kandambi-Senior Deputy General Manager Corporate Credit of Sampath Bank PLC said, "We are pleased to be a part of this prominent upcoming real estate project - Santorini Resort Apartments and Residencies by Home Lands Skyline, which is in the process of creating architectural history in Sri Lanka. With the current economic status of the country and the availability of housing loans at competitive rates; there is a significant and continuous



From left: Representing Sampath Bank, Amila Thilanka - Relationship Manager Corporate Credit, Piyami Wickramarachchi - Senior Manager-Corporate Credit, Shashi Kandambi - Senior Deputy General Manager Corporate Credit & Corporate Digitalization, Nanda Fernando - The Managing Director, Representing Home Land Skyline (Pvt) Ltd, Nalin Herath - Managing Director, Yasas L. Pathirana - Chief Executive Officer, Ajith Bandara - Assistant General Manager - Finance and Chinthaka Hewawidana - Finance Manager

demand to invest in real estate."

Construction of upmarket apartments such as Luxe Highway Residencies -Kottawa and Treasure Trove - Borella have been completed in affiliation with Sampath Bank PLC, while Elixia 3C's - Malabe is nearing completion.

The company foresees good prospects in the real estate industry despite several economic setbacks and shares similar interests with Sampath Bank, which has been at the forefront of reforming the national economy.

Home Lands Skyline (Pvt)

Ltd and Home Lands Holding (Pvt) Ltd have earned the highest gradings as LB1 and LI respectively as a Real Estate Property Developer by CIDA being the first company in Sri Lanka to obtain this grading for maintaining the highest standards in Commercial and Residential Real Estate.

With a long-standing reputation of breaking records and constructing properties with innovative and cutting-edge technology and revolutionary concepts in the real estate industry, Home Lands Skyline commences work on Santorini Resort Apartments and Residencies which is yet another novel concept apartment to be added to their repertoire of unique project portfolio.

Ariyana Resort Apartments - Athurugiriya, Canterbury Golf Resort Apartments -Piliyandala and Elixia 3C's - Malabe are amongst the portfolio of Resort Apartment Projects by Home Lands Skyline.

Browns General Trading Division offers array of Makita cordless garden equipment



The General Trading Division (GTD) of Browns Group offers a wide array of Makita cordless garden equipment powered by world famed Japanese technology.

The partnership between Browns and Makita began in 1986 and Browns is the sole authorised agent for Makita products in Sri Lanka.

With a host of benefits such as the absence of hassle of gas, less noise, minimal maintenance requirements, and zero emission, Makita cordless outdoor equipment are the best in the market.

With over 100 years of experience in motors and 40 years in cordless technology, Makita is a leading innovator of motor and battery technology, well ahead of the competition.

Since there is a newfound interest in gardening, which has created a surge in the demand for innovative and easy-to-use outdoor power equipment, Makita empowers this green revolution by offering an innovative array of cordless equipment to make gardening a hassle-free job.

With the shift from gas to cordless power equipment, Makita has become the number one choice in the market. Makita outdoor gardening equipment is an investment for both amateur

gardeners as well as professionals.

Makita has the world's largest professional cordless outdoor power equipment collection, with nearly 50 products. The product range continues to expand with a wide array of cordless lawn mowers, string trimmers, blowers, chain saws, hedge trimmers, pole saws and more.

The foremost manufacturer of power tools in the world, Makita offers a comprehensive array of power tools reputed for quality and versatility.

Makita products can be purchased from the flagship store of Browns GTD, which is located at T.B. Jayah Mawatha Colombo 10. The showroom facilitates the opportunity for customers to explore a vast range of Makita products with the aid of proficient customer services executives.

Sharing his thoughts, Ajith De Silva, Chief Operating Officer, Automotive & Hardware Cluster, Browns Group said, "We are proud to supply Makita to the local market as it is one of the most sought after brands in the world, which always comes up with superior quality durable power tools. Priced at reasonable rates, Browns offers Makita products along with our unmatched aftersales service and trusted Browns warranty."

Maud Meijboom-van Wel appointed Managing Director of Heineken Lanka

Maud Meijboom-van Wel has assumed duties as Managing Director of Heineken Lanka Limited, taking over the reins from her predecessor, industry veteran Dusty Alahakoon who was responsible for transforming Heineken Lanka Limited into a multinational.

With wide exposure in both Sales and Marketing across multiple markets in Europe and Asia Pacific, Maud arrived in Sri Lanka from Singapore where she last served as Brand Director Asia Pacific & Global Communication Director Heineken®. Covering Brand Development in 23 Asia Pacific markets such as China, Vietnam, Korea, Australia, India and Singapore, she has also held the position of Board Member of Thai Asia Pacific Breweries.

In 2013, Maud became a Management Team member for DB Breweries in New Zealand. As the Marketing Director, she led an extensive portfolio of cider,



Maud Meijboom-van Wel

craft, and lager brands with a focus on growth in premium, innovation and breakthrough communication. In April 2016 Maud was appointed as Marketing Director for GAB, later Heineken Malaysia Berhad, developing an innovative portfolio of global, local and license brands, as well as accelerating cider locally in Malaysia.

Speaking about her new role, Maud said, "Sri Lanka is an important market for us, and we are very excited about the times ahead for the country. Judging by the performance of the company over the past few years, it is evident that the Heineken team has worked extremely hard, guided by steady and able leadership, to ensure true transformative change that has set us up for the next phase of growth. I would like to thank Dusty for his strong inspirational leadership and people focus throughout his tenure."

Singer signs Falan Andrea as Brand Ambassador for Hi-Fi range

Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC announced the appointment of Falan Andrea as the new Brand Ambassador for Singer Hi-Fi range.

The MoU which was signed at the Singer Head Office, Colombo will see Falan Andrea collaborating with the retail giant on product launches, events and promotion campaigns for a period of two years.

Falan Andrea is a popular female artist who was crowned as the winner of Derana Dream Star season 9. She is a talented, versatile singer of many genres who represents the youth and her songs are equally embraced by Sri Lankans.

We are thrilled to have Falan Andrea onboard as the Brand Ambassador for Singer Hi-Fi for the next two years as we are set to expand our Hi-Fi range with innovative audio products," said Shanil Perera, Director Marketing - Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC.

"Her reputation as an artist and her popularity among the youth allow us to reach to a wider audience in our efforts to expand the Hi-Fi range. Our collaboration with Falan goes beyond a simple brand endorsement as we all are committed to expand a truly Sri Lankan product range that caters to the entertainment needs of our very own consumers."

Commenting on being appointed as the

SINGER



Shanil Perera with newly appointed Brand Ambassador Falan Andrea

Brand Ambassador for Singer Hi-Fi, Falan Andrea said, "I am highly excited to join the Singer family and looking forward to this collaboration. Singer has over the years brought joy to the households through innovative product offerings and especially Singer Hi-Fi range is highly sought-after among Sri Lankans and is the go-to product range when it comes to audio equipment. I am proud to be an ambassador for such a loved and reputed brand that I personally admire."

Exterminators becomes SL's first ISO 22000 Food Safety Mgt. System certified disinfection service provider

The Exterminators (Pvt) Ltd announced that the company has become Sri Lanka's 1st and probably the world's 1st ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System certified disinfection service provider.

Since 1998, for over 23 years The Exterminators (Pvt) Ltd has helped prevent diseases, control nuisances and protect homes and businesses by pioneering, developing, delivering and articulating sustainable environmental enhancement and public health protection solutions.

The company says it's the winner of 55 National/International awards



for business, brand excellence, entrepreneurship and environmental leadership and the '8-time Champion SME brand Sri Lanka. Exterminators Sri Lanka's premier environmental enhancement solutions provider is certified ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS18001, ISO 22000 way back in

2008, 2009, 2010 & 2017 respectively for pest control, termite control and mosquito control services and in 2020, 2021 for disinfection services.

"In the evolutionary arms race between humanity and microbes, microbes are making a comeback. Yes, we've conquered diseases such as smallpox and polio and deaths from communicable diseases have been falling worldwide. But since 1970, more than 1,500 new pathogens have been discovered, according to the World Health Organization, pandemics such as SARS & COVID-19 in the 21st century are

spreading faster and farther than ever.

Outbreaks that were previously localized have now become global very rapidly and today it has become reality that humans are losing the battle. Businesses today are expected to be less harmful, more transparent, and to actively participate in making positive changes to improve the environment. As a leader in the pest management industry and the SME sector in Sri Lanka, we believe that we have a moral obligation to respond to this new paradigm to adopt a business model of increased accountability," said Marlon Ferreira Founder/Managing Director

W@W

Life

P-17



THE MOTHER OF STORM FEARS P18

BLESSIE & LLOYD
 IN THE MORNING
 WEEKDAYS 6 TO 10 AM

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JUMPING FOR SRI LANKA

W
 INTERVIEW

Equestrian **Mathilda Karlsson** will make history when she competes at the **Tokyo Olympics** representing Sri Lanka in **show jumping**. This is the **first time that Sri Lanka will compete in this discipline at the Olympic Games**. In an exclusive interview with W@W Mathilda gives a glimpse of life in the Olympic Village and how she feels on the eve of her competition. Adopted by a Swiss family at just three months old, Mathilda took up horse riding as a way of making friends and spending time with her peers. Like a duck to water she took to the sport. Mathilda had competed at many events representing Sweden but after a visit to Sri Lanka in 2017 she fell in love with the land of her birth and felt a real connection to the island. This inspired Mathilda to switch to Sri Lanka and ride under the flag of her home country.

A consistent rider on the Longines Global Champions Tour, Mathilda is delighted at the opportunity given to her to make a name for herself in the sport and make her home country proud.

WHAT IS THE ATMOSPHERE LIKE IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE?

It's amazing- totally insane. I have not experienced anything like this ever!

HOW ARE THE OTHER COMPETITORS INTERACTING WITH EACH OTHER?

Everyone is adhering to the Covid guidelines issued by the organisers and everyone is wearing a mask. That said, every one is very open and happy to seek a conversation with you. We are all exchanging pins as well.

HOW IS CHOPIN ENJOYING HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS?

He loves it especially all the attention he is getting from everyone.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EMOTIONAL STATUS RIGHT NOW?

Emotionally just super excited and thankful that I have got the opportunity to participate in such a great sporting event. I'm also very proud of my team, my horse and also myself as to how far we have come.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO BE COMPETING AS A SRI LANKAN?

I'm blessed and proud to represent such a beautiful country as Sri Lanka. Every single person I have met



It's amazing- totally insane. I have not experienced anything like this ever!

from Sri Lanka have been friendly, helpful and with a very happy living spirit. Just what I like!

WHAT ARE THE EVENTS YOU ARE COMPETING IN AT THE OLYMPICS?

Show jumping on the 3rd of August and hopefully I will make it to the finals which will be held on the 4th.

HOW MANY YEARS OF TRAINING HAVE YOU DONE TO GET THIS FAR?

I have been riding for 30 years, but I became a professional very late. I have been jumping consistently at the highest level since 2017 taking part in many competitions. Before that my focus was more on training young horses in show-jumping.

HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOURSELF MENTALLY BEFORE EACH EVENT?

I surround myself with people who make me feel good and know how I work and also are very familiar

with my horse. I believe having good, dedicated and professional people around you gives you good confidence in everything.

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR TEAM?

We have a team of about 5 people who travel with Chopin and I. But we also have people who have to stay back at home and take care of the future champions at home.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RAPPORT WITH CHOPIN RIGHT NOW?

We are at a big advantage on that front because I know my horse better than most of the riders do, since I have been by his side since he was born. He doesn't know any other rider than me. Our bond is something very special and unique.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO YOUR SRI LANKAN FANS AROUND THE WORLD?

I couldn't be prouder to have such amazing people as my fans. I do appreciate every single message on social media. Please keep following us and support us! I promise I will do my very best at my event to make you all proud of me.

BY TINA EDWARD GUNAWARDHANA



Emotionally just super excited and thankful that I have got the opportunity to participate in such a great sporting event. I'm also very proud of my team, my horse and also myself as to how far we have come.

PIK COURTESY MATHILDA KARLSSON

THE MOTHER OF STORM FEARS



I have been re doing my little pocket garden and grass patch in front of my hut, as a part of healing therapy, as my belief is that plants are life, they give oxygen, thereby renewing life, and moreover the many shades, hues and colours that I could line along the brick boundary wall was to me a palette I could mix creating various patterns. I was a happy bunny, minding my own little business, doing what gave my mind an opportunity to put my creative talents to use, when some evil source smirking in a corner sent the rain, accompanied by not only thunder, but wind and lightning. It did seem uncanny watching the trees sway in such a wild manner, not in one direction but the opposite. It was as though some mischievous critter was blowing from the right on one set of tall trees, while another unseen but very much present spirit was blowing from the left on to another set of trees. The trees were frighteningly unsteady.

I REALIZE NOW IF THOSE STORMS HAPPENED IN THE SAME VELOCITY AS THEY DID WAY BACK THEN, AND MUMMY WAS HERE, SHE WOULD BEGIN A WHOLE HOUR BEFORE THE STORM CAME, TO SWITCH OFF AND UNPLUG EVERYTHING.

I watched this rooted to my seat, clutching my half empty mug of tea, too frightened to rise, and in a flash, I remembered my own mother. She was the Mother of all those storms.

We had an unusual number of storms when I was a child. I don't know if there were more storms then, or if the storms were such memorable events that they were vividly impressed in my memory. I suspect the latter.

Mummy was afraid of thunderstorms. Oh yes, I said this just a moment ago, but I had to repeat, just to make a point of it. While a normal amount of apprehension during severe weather is understandable, Mummy was afraid beyond anything close to reasonable.

We were up in the mountains at that time of our lives. Thunderstorms usually happened in the late afternoon,

after the heat of the day had built up. When the rain was coming and the sky became dark, I was called inside to wait until the storm had passed. All the appliances had to be unplugged so the lightning would not run in on them. Not that we had many back in the day, but a hot plate, an electric kettle, a radio. All switches were put off. I realize now if those storms happened in the same velocity as they did way back then, and Mummy was here, she would begin a whole hour before the storm came, to switch off and unplug everything.

I could not touch anything metal like a pair of scissors during a storm because metal conducted electricity. I could not, of course, take a bath or touch a water faucet because plumbing pipes conducted electricity. We did not have a telephone then, but I am sure if we did, we would not have been able to use it. watch TV or play the record player. The fridge would also be unplugged! I can't remember if I could go to the bathroom, but I doubt it. I could not play with the cat, because cats draw electricity. Mummy had rigid ideas about storms and didn't worry about the difference between lightning and static electricity.

Sometimes Mummy would take me to a neighbour's house when a storm was coming. I don't know why the neighbour's house was any safer than ours. Maybe there was safety in numbers, or maybe it was because the neighbour didn't panic at every crash of thunder and the socializing helped take Mummy's mind off the storm.

When we were at home during a storm, Mummy would close the curtains so she couldn't see the lightning. I don't think window curtains provided much protection, especially since they could not keep out the thunder. My mother would not cook or do any work until the storm was over. The kitchen was full of dangerous things, like appliances, plumbing, and metal. Storms that came at night were especially frightening. First, you couldn't see them coming and didn't know it was storming until the thunder, or Mummy, woke you up. The lightning was even brighter at night. Mummy made everyone get up and put clothes on or at least put on a bathrobe. I think the idea was that if the house was struck by lightning, we could run outside without the neighbours seeing us in pajamas.

If it was an especially bad storm, the electricity might go out for a while. I don't know why we didn't just stay in bed and sleep instead of sitting up by candlelight. One time the lightning did strike a transformer on the pole at the corner. Fortunately, the power surge only blew out the fuses. This proved Mummy's theory, however, that we were all going to be electrocuted by a storm one day.

I admit I'm not as bad as my Mummy but yes, I'm terrified of storms too. Stay safe, dear hearts and gentle people through all storms and turbulences. Till next time then, Cheerbye!

| TEXT ANGELA SENEVIRATNE

18
03.08.21

WHAT'S COOKING
A housewife's diary
BY THERESE MOTHA

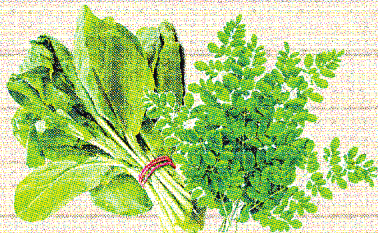
SUNDAY

Did you know that over-ripe bananas should not be eaten by Diabetics as they are high in sucrose? Also, it is better, say the researchers, not to have bananas after dinner, and to eat them, instead, in the morning.



MONDAY

Why are Murunga leaves added to a Crab Curry? To reduce the heatiness of the crab. Cooking bread fruit with spinach is believed to negate heatiness of the bread fruit. Murunga seeds have the ability to absorb poisons in your system. Pumpkin seeds are rich in Zinc. Rhubarb leaves must never be eaten, as they contain a dangerous amount of Oxalic Acid.



TUESDAY

I suppose you know that Manioc must always be cooked in an open pan, never covered? After cooking, drain off the water. It cannot be pressure cooked. Don't use ginger in the same meal.



WEDNESDAY

A quick Sunday lunch. Cook rice, place in bottom of any oven proof dish. Fry seasoned slices of Brinjal and place over rice. Make a dish of mincemeat using minced chicken or beef, with the addition of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, leeks, and celery. Place over brinjals. Sprinkle grated cheese over top, and bake 15 minutes till cheese melts.

THURSDAY

The common belief is that Chicken Soup is a good remedy for a cold. Scientists say that this is quite true. It is not an old wives tale. Research has shown that Chicken Soup helps the body's immune system to fight the early stages of flu and helps in anti-inflammatory action. Hot fluids help increase the movement of nasal mucus.



FRIDAY

Taken from the Readers Digest. Turnips are delicious, versatile and good for you. They belong to the broccoli and cabbage family, are high in anti-oxidants and fibre, and also contain useful amounts of Vit C together with some Vitamin B, Potassium and Calcium. They can be eaten raw, thinly sliced, and mixed into a salad. You can also roast them in the oven as a side dish, or use them as a base for a soup.



SATURDAY

Do you know the difference between a Rice Pillau and a Rice Buriyani? I got the answer from a T.V. programme. I watched recently. The chef said that basically, the ingredients are the same, but in the case of the Pillau, the rice is spiced very mildly, while in a buriyani, the rice is heavily spiced.

P.S. Incidentally, this is my 480th Instalment of "Whats Cooking?"

INSPIRE ME MARKS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL YEAR

SUPPORTING SRI LANKAN ENTREPRENEURS

People who convert bright product and service ideas into ventures are adding much vibrant colour to the home-based business and entrepreneurship ecosystem today! Inspire Me channel fuels such up and coming home based businesses by sharing their entrepreneurship journey and their offerings to inspire the next generation entrepreneurs. The channel completed its 1st year today, and marks a milestone by featuring 20 female entrepreneurs in the channel during the past 12 months.

Commenting on this milestone, Nayanika Wijekoon (Founder/CEO of Inspire Me) stated "I am absolutely thankful to all entrepreneurs who believed in the Inspire Me concept and shared their stories with us. The support from the Inspire Me team, and my family is also commendable and we would not have reached this milestone without them".

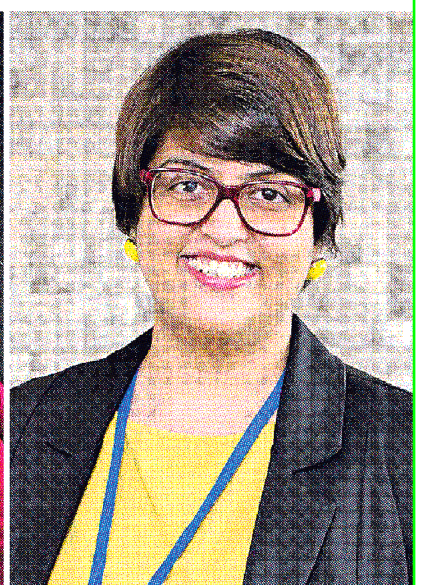
The channel was launched for two purposes: to share how these entrepreneurs built their businesses amidst painful challenges. Secondly to give branding exposure to these entrepreneurs to demonstrate their products on a video platform. "I learned the essence of an entrepreneur from the founder of the company I work for currently. I am absolutely grateful to my workplace and my superiors for being a true blessing by encouraging me with feedback and flexibility to scale Inspire Me every day" stated Nayanika.

The channel has been able to discuss 20 inspiring entrepreneurship stories whilst giving spotlight to their products during the past 12 months. The channel also launched its official website www.inspireme.lk which is the landing page for all interviews featured thus far.

Commenting on the milestone of Inspire Me, Shanuki De Alwis (Cause Marketing Consultant &Talkshow Host) said "Inspire Me is simply as its name - an inspiration to all women that entrepreneurship isn't a dream only for privileged. The success stories shared on the programme have some great insights for any woman out there who wants to put her visions into action. The programme is the embodiment



SHANUKI DE ALWIS
CAUSE MARKETING CONSULTANT
&TALKSHOW HOST



NAYANIKA WIJEKOON
FOUNDER/CEO OF INSPIRE ME

"OUR ASPIRATION IS TO SEE ANY HOME-BASED BUSINESS ANYWHERE IN THE ISLAND WOULD HAVE AN EASY-TO-ACCESS PLATFORM TO VOICE THEIR STORY, INSPIRE SOMEONE TO BE LIKE THEM, AND FIND A MARKET FOR THEIR PRODUCTS EVEN IF THE BUSINESS IS BASED IN A RURAL AREA"

of women supporting women, and we need more of that!" The channel envisions an exciting roadmap to

create a platform to encourage entrepreneurial ideas in children and to intensify the marketing support given to upcoming home-based businesses/entrepreneurs across the country to locate a market for their products and scale their business.

"Our aspiration is to see any home-based business anywhere in the island would have an easy-to-access platform to voice their story, inspire someone to be like them, and find a market for their products even if the business is based in a rural area" added Wijekoon. The channel also invites potential sponsors, influencers and contributors to help Inspire Me to groom young people in the country to plan their ventures from childhood, instead of restricting to a syllabus and limited career opportunities.

Inspire Me will continue to support every home-based business locally and support the upcoming entrepreneurs as well through several initiatives planned for the future. The world admires creators who are capable of innovating solutions/ products and support the economics, and initiatives such as Inspire Me envisions to be the supporting platform to this.