



YOUR PAPER TODAY 16 PAGES

Colombo Uni, Health Ministry, MRI to expand gene sequencing

With new variants now spreading, they were looking to expand the sequencing in more labs in the coming weeks

BY JAMILA HUSAIN

The University of Colombo, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the MRI are looking to expand gene sequencing which allows the identification of the COVID-19 variation as the Delta variant is suspected to have spread in many areas, the Daily Mirror learns.

STRINGENT MEASURES IF COVID SITUATION GOES OUT OF CONTROL: HEALTH MINISTRY

The decision to impose travel restrictions or lock-down would be decided by the government accordingly

BY SHEAIN FERNANDOPULLE

Stringent measures will be taken in due course if the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country goes out of control, Deputy Director-General of Health Services Dr. Hemantha Herath said yesterday.

SC allows Lawyers to access remanded Poet Ahnaf Jazeem

Additional Solicitor General Nerin Pulle informed Supreme Court that the suspect was currently under judicial custody

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the Prison Authorities to allow the access of Lawyers to the remanded poet Ahnaf Jazeem at Colombo Remand Prison, with the right to maintain lawyer-client privilege and confidentiality.

Maharagama OIC badly injured during IUSF protest

The badly injured OIC was admitted to the National Hospital in Colombo

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

OIC of the Maharagama Police- Chief Inspector Anakantha was critically injured when barricades were toppled by the university students during the protest held on Tuesday in Rajagiriya.

AG to refrain from filing indictments against Wasantha Karannagoda

Indictments consisting 667 counts under Penal Code were served on 13 accused. The Court was informed that Court of Appeal had already issued an Interim Order staying proceedings against Wasantha Karannagoda

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Attorney General yesterday informed Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar that the prosecution will not proceed with criminal charges against former Navy Commander Wasantha Karannagoda in connection with the abduction of eleven people in 2008 and 2009.

Protest march by teachers and principals 42 including 16 women arrested

The protesters will be produced in Court

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

A total of 42 people including 16 women have been arrested for staging a protest in front of the Presidential Secretariat yesterday on charges of violating quarantine regulations and other offences.

In the presence of President Heated argument over Rishad in Parliament

Mr. Bathiudeen has been held without any reason

When I inquired as to why I am detained, I was informed that I am held over a telephone conversation I held with my former ministry secretary Balasubramaniam

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Heated argument flared up in Parliament yesterday in the presence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday over former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen.

The argument flared up when Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella raised an issue pertaining to MP Bathiudeen. "Mr. Bathiudeen has been held without any reason. No investigation is taking place and he is

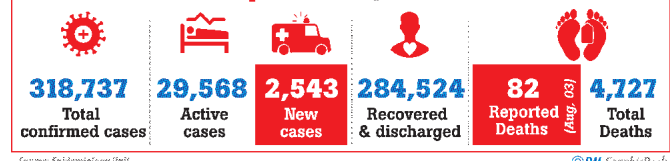
locked up," he said. Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene who responded said the police had notified him that the MP was held for investigations. "The police informed me that Mr. Bathiudeen is being taken in for investigations," he said. Mr. Bathiudeen himself who rose to speak said he had been held for more than 100 days and investigations had been made only on four days so far.

Verbal abuse made on Thalatha Athukorala MP KAVIRATNE DRAWS ATTENTION OF SPEAKER

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene advised MP Rohini Kaviratne not to insult the chair by making false allegations.

COVID-19 Situation Report As at August 04, 2021



Two major hospitals declare emergency over COVID-19 outbreak

- Karapitiya Teaching Hospital and Ratnapura General Hospital declare emergency
- Hospital staff cautioned over contracting the virus from patients
- Rarely in Sri Lanka's medical history have hospitals declared emergency
- MoH officers told to provide treatment to others who were not suffering from respiratory disorders and other complications in their homes
- Health Ministry official says all hospitals prepared to face such situations as done by the Ratnapura Hospital

Following the Daily Mirror's repeated extensive coverage, quoting health officials who have warned that the country is heading towards a medical tsunami from a Delta wave, two major hospitals yesterday declared emergency due to an overflow of COVID-19 infected patients.



Govt readies to import Oxygen supplies

to brace for worsening situation

The people's misuse of relaxation of restrictions had led to the increase in the number of cases

BY KELUM BANDARA

State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals Prof. Channa Jayasumana yesterday admitted that a health crisis was unfolding in Sri Lanka and added there was the possibility of Covid-19 cases doubling or tripling in a couple of weeks.

The CBSL has reported that the public sector debt is 109.7% of the GDP. This is the highest it has ever been in history. If we disregard the government's undervaluation of sovereign bonds, this figure will exceed 113% of the GDP.

Dinamina, 6 June, 2021

PATALI CHAMPIKA RANAWAKA
Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB)

TRUE **FACT CHECK** **PUBLIC FINANCE**

MP Ranawaka notes a hidden aspect of Sri Lanka's debt

In his statement, the MP states that (1) public sector debt as a percentage of GDP was 109.7% in 2020, (2) this is the highest public debt in Sri Lanka's history, and (3) if sovereign bonds had not been undervalued public debt would exceed 113% of GDP. To evaluate this claim, FactCheck.lk consulted the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) Annual Reports.

Actual debt of the government is more than the reported debt value

Figures as a share of GDP

Central Government Debt	Public Corporation Debt	Residual face value of ISB Debt	0%
101%	8.7%	112.4%	109.7%
		101.0%	Actual value

Sources: Data from CBSL Annual Report
* ISB - International Sovereign Bonds

The CBSL has reported that the public sector debt is 109.7% of the GDP. This is the highest it has ever been in history. If we disregard the government's undervaluation of sovereign bonds, this figure will exceed 113% of the GDP.

EXHIBIT 1: CALCULATED SRI LANKA PUBLIC DEBT 2020 AS A SHARE OF THE GDP

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CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

COLOMBO UNI, HEALTH MINISTRY, MRI TO EXPAND GENE SEQUENCING

The University of Sri Jayawardenapura was also doing gene sequencing and had detected that 75 percent of the samples taken during last week of July had tested positive for the Delta variant

The University of Colombo team led by Professor Inoka C. Perera, in collaboration with the Health Ministry and MRI had already carried out gene sequencing in the past on 35 samples, which were obtained from Colombo, Gampaha and down South. However, with new variants now spreading, they were looking to expand the sequencing in more labs in the coming weeks.

The University of Sri Jayawardenapura was also doing gene sequencing and had detected that 75 percent of the samples taken during last week of July had tested positive for the Delta variant.

Health experts were continuing their operations round the clock as the situation had been predicted to take a new turn for the worst in the coming weeks.

STRINGENT MEASURES IF COVID SITUATION GOES OUT OF CONTROL: HEALTH MINISTRY

Addressing a media briefing at the Health Promotion Bureau, he said that the decision to impose travel restrictions or lock-down would be decided by the government accordingly.

"The health authorities have been taking relevant steps after reviewing the situation from time to time," he said.

"We, at present are facing the COVID-19 situation while maintaining a balance with

economic and social aspects," Dr Herath pointed out.

However, he stressed if the authorities felt that the restrictions should be tightened or the country should go for lock-down, appropriate measures will be taken without hesitation.

Dr. Herath also reiterated the importance of strictly following the health guidelines and practices until further notice.

SC allows Lawyers to access remanded Poet Ahnaf Jazeem

The Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) had earlier arrested Ahnaf Jazeem under the Prevention of Terrorism Act over an allegation that he had promoted extremism and violence in children and aided and abetted Muslim extremism through his literary work

Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprising Justice Murdu Fernando, Justice Yasantha Kodagoda and Justice Shiran Goonaratne made this order consequent to a Fundamental Rights petition filed on behalf of 26-year-old poet Ahnaf Jazeem challenging his arrest and detention.

President's Counsel K. Kanag Easwaran with Counsel Lakshmanan Jayakumar appearing for the petitioner submitted to Court that Poet Ahnaf Jazeem had never been produced before a Magistrate since May this year. They sought meaningful access to the detainee to obtain detainee's instructions regarding the application filed before Supreme Court.

Additional Solicitor General Nerin Pulle informed Supreme Court that the suspect was currently under judicial custody and maintained that he had been produced before a Magistrate following the expiration of the detention order. He further said the Attorney General had already filed limited objections against this fundamental Rights petition.

The petition was fixed for support on September 8.

The Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) had earlier arrested Ahnaf Jazeem under the Prevention of Terrorism Act over an allegation that he had promoted extremism and violence in children and aided and abetted Muslim extremism through his literary work.

The petition has also sought an interim order to release Ahnaf Jazeem from detention.

The Poet Ahnaf Jazeem was arrested on the 16th May 2021 at his residence in Chilavathurai.

Ahnaf Jazeem had been a writer of poems and short stories since his school days,

presenting his poems to poetry competitions and had been awarded.

The petitioner stated that Poet Ahnaf Jazeem did not, by way of his artistic writings, support or incite violence or promoted extremism, racism within sections of the Muslim community, but on the contrary, exactly opposed the same.

MAHARAGAMA OIC BADLY INJURED DURING IUSF PROTEST

Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera visited the Maharagama OIC at the hospital

Tense situation prevailed near the entrance to Parliament in Battaramulla due to the protest by Inter University Students' Federation members on Tuesday.

Police Spokesman SDIG Ajith Rohana said that several police teams were deployed to control the protesters and the Maharagama OIC was in charge of one of teams.

He said the OIC was badly injured during the protest and was admitted to the National Hospital in Colombo.

SDIG Rohana said that two of the fingers of the OIC had been fractured.

Special police probe has been launched to look into the incident, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera visited the Maharagama OIC at the hospital.

The Police Spokesman said that the administrative Secretary of the Front-line Socialist Party and another individual were arrested by the police on charges of damaging public property and several offences committed during the protest. They were to be produced before the Kaduwela Magistrate.

Two major hospitals declare emergency over COVID-19 outbreak

The Ratnapura General Hospital and Karapitiya Teaching Hospital yesterday declared an emergency, which had rarely been done in the Sri Lanka's medical history, due to the sudden increase of COVID patients.

Karapitiya Teaching Hospital Acting Director Dr. Shelton Perera by letter had warned his hospital staff of the possible dangers of contracting the virus from the patients and had informed the doctors and sectional heads that he had declared an emergency situation in the hospital.

An official at the hospital said three wards allocated for COVID-19 patients were filled to their capacity and yesterday alone 140 infected individuals were admitted to the hospital.

Dr. Perera had instructed the medical staff to give priority to the patients who had developed serious complications caused by the virus and to make arrangements with the Medical Officers of Health of the respective areas to provide treatment to others who were not suffering from respiratory disorders and other complications in their respective homes, until accommodation was available in the treatment centres.

The Ratnapura General Hospital Director, Dr. M.D.A. Rodrigo also declared an emergency following an urgent COVID-19 meeting held in the hospital yesterday.

In a letter, he said the staff members of the hospital had been notified of this and they had been urged to strictly abide by the health guidelines.

When queried about the measure taken, Deputy Director-General of Health Services Dr. Hemantha Herath told Daily Mirror that it was normal for a hospital to declare an emergency situation considering the due factors.

"When there is a situation of this nature which is called Mass Casualty Incidents, we have trained our hospitals as to how they should tackle the crisis," he said.

"At a time of a bomb blast or a massive accident, there could be admissions and casualties at unprecedented numbers within a short period of time. To face such incidents, we have done drills and simulations," he pointed out.

Dr. Herath said all the hospitals were prepared to face such situations as done by the Ratnapura Hospital.

"Accordingly, they will be taking all the necessary

measures to execute their plans and expand the capacity. This hospital is also doing the same," he added.

The Daily Mirror on Wednesday, after speaking to Doctors who were in the forefront of the pandemic, reported that Sri Lanka was heading towards its worst medical disaster in the coming weeks from a possible spread of the Delta variant.

"Hospitals in the Western Province are filled to the maximum and Oxygen is soon expected to run out. People have been urged to get vaccinated, wear tight-fitting masks, avoid gathering inside closed spaces, avoid leaving their homes unnecessarily and maintain all other health guidelines," it is reported.

When questioned as to what more measures could be taken to avoid a disaster, Doctors said Sri Lanka had to face what lied ahead now since the Delta was already here.

"When there is a situation of this nature which is called Mass Casualty Incidents, we have trained our hospitals as to how they should tackle the crisis,

Reporting by Sheain Fernandopulle, Sirangika Lokukaravita, D.G. Sugathapala and Ajithlal Shanthaudaya

GOVT READIES TO IMPORT OXYGEN SUPPLIES to brace for worsening situation

- The Minister said the severity of the disease among recently identified patients had increased the demand for Oxygen
- Those who demonstrated as part of trade union actions were responsible for the spread of the disease

The Minister told Daily Mirror that the health authorities had decided to import Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), PCR, Antigen test kits and Oxygen supplies to brace for the unfolding situation.

He said the people's misuse of relaxation of restrictions had led to the increase in the number of cases. The Minister

held those who demonstrated as part of trade union actions were responsible for the spread of the disease.

"People abused the freedom given to them. We have identified cases from among those who demonstrated in large numbers. The trade unions have even brought outsiders for demonstrations and protest marches," he said.

He said people sometimes arranged wedding functions regardless of health guidelines. The Minister said the severity of the disease among recently identified patients had increased the demand for Oxygen.

"Recent patients develop severe symptoms. Also, they need Oxygen support for a longer period," he said.

MP KAVIRATNE DRAWS ATTENTION OF SPEAKER

However, Ms. Kaviratne said action should be taken against those who subjected MP Thalatha Athukorala to verbal sexual abuse.

"Be cautious when you make allegations and avoid insulting the chair. I was not at the chair when the incident you referred to was taking place," the

Speaker told Ms. Kaviratne. Responding to the Speaker, Ms. Kaviratne said, "Action should be taken against those who subjected Ms. Athukorala with sexual slurs no matter who was at the chair,"

Earlier heated arguments ensued when Ms. Kaviratne wanted to respond to

Speaker when he made the announcement with regard to the allegation made by her. "There should not be any debate on this matter," the Speaker said. However, Ms. Kaviratne made use of the time given to her to raise a supplementary question during the oral question session.

Heated argument over Rishad in Parliament

- Mr. Bathiudeen himself who rose to speak said he had been held fore more than 100 days
- The Police informed me that Mr. Bathiudeen is being taken in for investigations

"When I inquired as to why I am detained, I was informed that I am held over a telephone conversation I held with my former ministry secretary Balasubramaniam," he said. Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando who responded said that time should not be wasted on the matter. "Opposition

has raised the question over MP Bathiudeen many times and you have answered them. Do not let these MPs to waste time," he told the Speaker. "Mr. Balasubramaniam had fled the country," he added. The Speaker then advised Mr. Bathiudeen to take up the matter with the President.

MP Ranawaka notes a hidden aspect of Sri Lanka's debt

Claim 1: According to the CBSL Annual Report 2020, central government debt in 2020 amounted to 101% of GDP. In combination with SOE foreign project loans (2.1% of GDP) and government guaranteed debt (6.6% of GDP), total public sector debt amounted to 109.7% of GDP, confirming the MP's first claim.

Claim 2: FactCheck.lk consulted the CBSL Annual Reports for all years where Sri Lanka's central government debt exceeded 100% of GDP. Central government debt exceeded 100% of GDP on 7 occasions. The Annual Reports did not publish data on total public debt prior to the year 2000. As per the published data on total public debt, 109.7% of GDP in 2020 is the highest post-independence public debt reported for Sri Lanka, confirming the MP's second claim.

Claim 3: The MP alludes to the fact that CBSL uses market value to determine the outstanding external debt liability of Sri

Lanka's International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs). As of end 2020, total ISB liability (at market value) accounted for in Sri Lanka's public debt was USD 11,868 million. However, the actual liability that Sri Lanka had to repay creditors is based on the face value of the ISBs, which was USD 14,050 million (as at end 2020). If the face value (instead of current market value) of outstanding ISBs was considered Sri Lanka's total debt would increase by 2.7% of GDP. In effect, increase the total debt figure to 112.4% of GDP (see Exhibit 1). The figure 113% claimed by the MP is very close to the correct figure.

Therefore, we classify his statement as TRUE.

"FactCheck.lk's verdict is based on the most recent information that is publicly accessible. As with every fact check, if new information becomes available, FactCheck.lk will revisit the assessment.

42 INCLUDING 16 WOMEN ARRESTED



Police Spokesman SDIG Ajith Rohana said that the protesters would be produced in Court on charges of wrongful restraint, violation of quarantine regulations and illegal assembly. The police had also taken 10

motorcycles into their custody. The protest march was being orchestrated by the teachers and principals over several demands.

PIC BY PRADEEP DILRUKSHANA

AG to refrain from filing indictments against Wasantha Karannagoda

Senior State Counsel Janaka Bandara appearing for the Attorney General made these remarks when the case came up before Trial-at-Bar bench comprising High Court Judges Champa Janaki Rajarathne (President), Amal Ranaraja and Nawaratne Marasinghe.

The Court was informed that Court of Appeal had already issued an Interim Order staying proceedings against Wasantha Karannagoda. This Interim Order will be effective until the final determination of this writ petition.

Accordingly, case was fixed for September 22 in order to obtain a clarification regarding the Interim Order issued by Court of Appeal.

On January 24, 2020 the Court served indictments on 13 accused including Navy Intelligence officers in connection with the abduction, torture, extortion and conspiracy to murder eleven persons in 2008 and 2009.

Accordingly, indictments consisting 667 counts under Penal Code were served on thirteen accused except Wasantha Karannagoda.

The indictments consisting 667 counts had been filed against former Navy Commander Wasantha Karannagoda,

Navy officers D.K.P. Dasanayake, Sampath Munasinghe, Sumith Ranasinghe, Dilanka Senarathne, Nalin Prasanna Wickremasuriya, Anton Fernando, Rajapaksha Pathirannehelage Kitsiri, Aruna Thushara Mendis, Kathiriarachchilage Gaminii alias Ampara Gaminii, Chandana Prasad Hettiarachchi alias Navy Sampath, Upul Chaminda alias Annachchi, Nandapriya Hettihendi and Sampath Janaka Kumara alias Podi Kumara under Penal Code.

The Attorney General maintained that information had revealed that the accused had committed punishable offences which came under section 102, 113 A, 356, 338, 333, 198, 372, 32 and 296 of the Penal Code in respect of conspiracy, abduction with intent to secretly and wrongfully confine a person, wrongful confinement for the purpose of confinement, conspiracy to extort, extortion, giving false information and conspiracy to commit murder.

Those abducted and murdered were S.A. Leon Stanly, Roshan Leon Stanly, John Reed, Thiagaraja Jhegan, Rajiv Naganadan, Ramalingam Thilakeshwaran, Pradeep Vishwanadan, Mohammed Saajith, Mohammed Dilan, Kasthuri Arachchilage Anthony and Mohammed Anwar Mubarak.

Conducting online classes from schools EDU. MINISTER ASKS TEACHERS TO REPORT TO SCHOOLS

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA All teachers were asked to report to schools in order to use the facilities available in those institutions to provide online education, Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris told Parliament yesterday.

"Schools are the best place to conduct online education as it would be possible to hold such classes during school hours according to a time table," the Minister said in response to a question raised by Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa.

"We will reopen a total of 2,962 schools where there are less than 100 students at the end of this month or early September this year. Other schools will be opened after the teachers are

given both doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Around 87 percent of the teachers are given the first dose of the vaccine as of today. Accordingly around 253,000 teachers have been given the first dose of the vaccine," the Minister added.

The Minister said that the salary issue of teachers and school principals will be resolved in the Budget. "We are in the process of holding discussions with the Minister of Finance shortly to decide how much of funds that should be allocated for the education sector in the Budget. Why can't the Opposition and the teachers be patient till November this year?" he questioned.

He added that the Opposition should not politicise the salary issue of the teachers and principals.

**Affixing stickers on liquor bottles
AWARDING OF PRINTING CONTRACT TO INDIAN COMPANY CHALLENGED IN COURT**

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A writ petition has been filed in Court of Appeal seeking an order quashing the contract awarded to supply security stickers to an Indian printing company by the Excise Department.

The petitioner- Lasantha Kumara a resident of Colombo-05 also sought an order staying the Commissioner General of Excise Department from purchasing any sticker whatsoever or making any payment to the Madras Security Printers, an Indian security printing company.

Filing the petition through Counsel Jayamuditha Jayasooriya, the petitioner was further seeking an order directing the Commissioner General of Excise department to implement a system to prevent local manufactures of liquor from evading or avoiding the due payment of taxes or levies to the State. The Petitioner states that he expected to prevent a loss of revenue to a magnitude of several billions as a result of the illegal and unlawful decisions and practices of the Excise Department.

The petitioner further said Commissioner General of Excise Department by his letter dated 19.01.2021 addressed to the Secretary to the Treasury had informed that the affixing of stickers on foreign liquor was successfully continuing with effect from 20.07.2019 and his department could not implement the affixing of stickers on locally manufactured liquor due to practical issues and COVID-19 pandemic though it was to be commenced on 20.08.2019.

The Petitioner states that he expected to prevent a loss of revenue to a magnitude of several billions

The Petitioner states that the Excise Department was obliged to pay a sum of Rs. 32 million every month to the Madras Security Printers. The Petitioner states that according to the information he had received that the Commissioner General of Excise Department had awarded the said contract without conducting a proper technical evaluation and also without following the tender procedures.

The Petitioner states that the printing of direct codes on bottles and cans could cost only 15 cents which had been the practice adopted in many countries but the Commissioner General of Excise Department was now spending about Rs. 2 per bottle which was not a safer method than the printing of direct marking codes.

The Petitioner states that Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament raised the said issue in Parliament on 20th of April 2021 and he pointed out the corrupt practice adopted by the Excise Department by granting the said contract for the supply of security stickers and the said company was a blacklisted company in India as well as in several other countries. The Petitioner states that MP Buddhika Pathirana categorically pointed out that the State had to suffer over Rs. 1 billion as a result of the corrupt and illegal practice adopted by the Commissioner General of Excise Department.

The petitioner further states that this corrupt practice had caused a great foreign exchange loss to the Government of Sri Lanka

The petitioner had cited Minister of Finance Basil Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance S.R. Attygalle, Commissioner General of Excise Department M.J. Gunasiri, Madras Security Printers Company and Attorney General as respondents.

This petition is to be taken up for support on August 23.

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FEATURES

CHILDREN, COVID-19 AND VACCINES

EXPERTS DISCUSS THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF INOCULATING CHILDREN

By **Kalani Kumarasinghe**

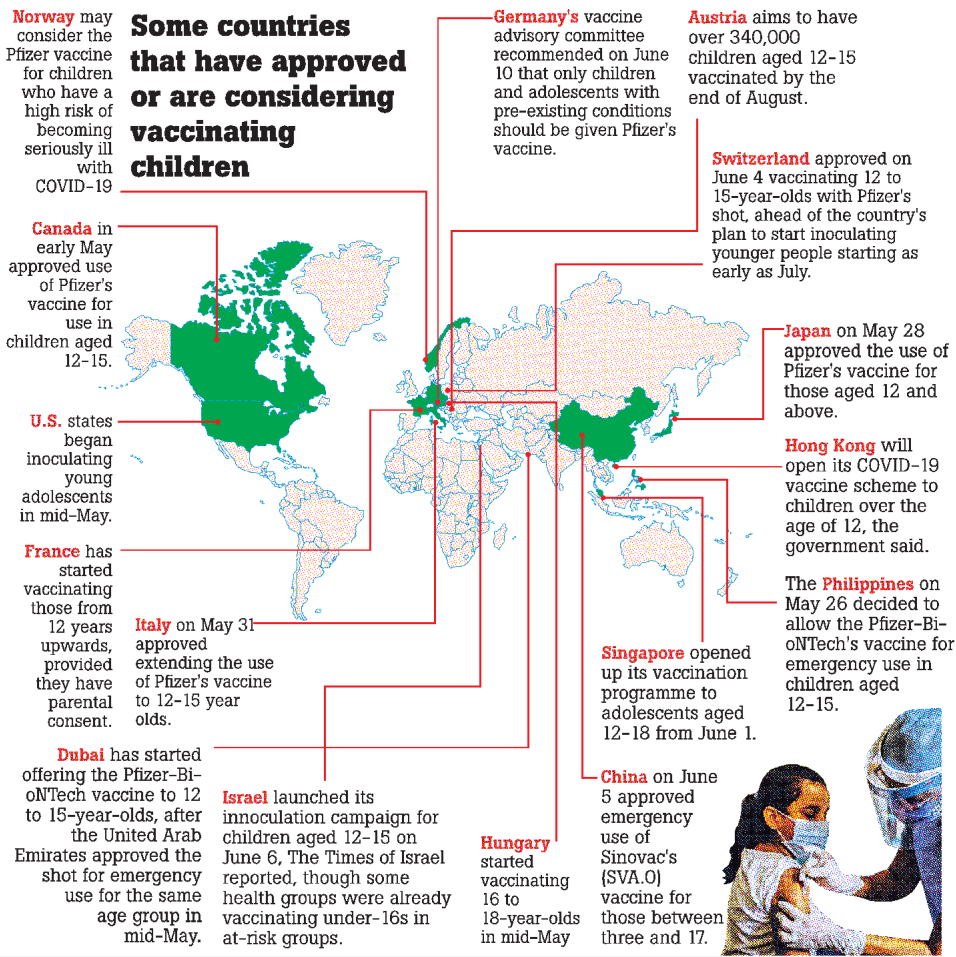


With an accelerated vaccine drive ongoing, Sri Lanka is well on its way to achieve its vaccination goals ahead of the September target set out by the World Health Organization. With the Delta variant of Covid-19 essentially bringing down the country's hospital and care system to its knees, the mass vaccination of vulnerable groups have provided a sense of relief for many.

If all goes as planned, and if Sri Lanka somehow survives the impending wave of the Delta spread, the next target group for vaccinations would soon include children. State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals Prof. Channa Jayasumana claimed that Sri Lanka is exploring the possibility of administering the vaccine to children between the ages of 12 to 18. This is following a request made by the Education Ministry to vaccinate school children in order to reopen schools as soon as possible.

Minister Sudarshani Fernandopulle meanwhile speaking to the Daily Mirror said that the government has not reached a final decision in this regard. "There's been no final decisions in this regard. The Vaccine Committee must first make approvals. As far as I'm aware there has been no decision about which vaccine would be used. Although internationally, the Pfizer vaccine has been recommended to inoculate children against Covid-19. In Sri Lanka, children would be our focus once the 30 and above population is vaccinated," the State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and Covid Disease Control said.

At a recent webinar discussing the vaccination of children against Covid-19 organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association, several expert medical professionals discussed the possibilities, risks and challenges of inoculating children in Sri Lanka against this deadly virus. Consultant Paediatrician and Neonatologist Dr. Surantha



Source: Reuters

Perera speaking at the forum said that in the United States an estimated 191,641 individuals under the age of 23 years were hospitalized due to the illness, highlighting the vulnerability of this group.

He added that when the asymptotic viral load is very high among individuals, leaving children unvaccinated may be a cause for concern. "Children with underlying risks have been suggested to be included in stage two of the roadmap for prioritizing target vaccine groups," Dr. Perera said. According to the experts, the US Centre for Disease Control recommends the Pfizer vaccine for children over 12 years of age, where the second jab should be administered within a period of three weeks.

CONCERNS OVER RISKS OF HEART INFLAMMATION

Meanwhile Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics Sanath Lamabadusuriya queried if children with existing heart conditions should be administered the vaccine. The professor is not alone in sharing

this concern. Globally parents have shown some hesitation in administering the vaccine to their children in response to several reports that kids could develop conditions called myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination.

According to Harvard Health Myocarditis is inflammation of the muscle of the heart, and pericarditis is inflammation of the tissue that forms a sac around the heart. While there are a number of possible causes for these conditions — infections, especially viruses are known to be a common cause. While in some cases myocarditis and pericarditis have been caused by autoimmune conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, heavy metals and radiation are also probable causes. In rare cases it has also been caused by vaccines.

Senior Faculty Editor of Harvard Health Publishing Dr. Claire McCarthy writes that in the US about 1,000 cases of these conditions have been reported after vaccination against Covid-19. According to the numbers, this is considered as a low risk. The cases have been most common in male adolescents and

Children would be the next group to be vaccinated once the population of 30 years and above are inoculated

Globally the Pfizer vaccine has been recommended to inoculate children against Covid-19

When the asymptotic viral load is very high among adults, leaving children unvaccinated may make them vulnerable

Children with underlying risks have been suggested to be included in stage two of the vaccination roadmap

An estimated 25,000 children with underlying risks or comorbidities need to be prioritized

Concerns emerge over vaccine causing inflammation of the heart muscle and tissue



A nine year old girl receives the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine during a clinical trial for children at Duke Health, North Carolina, US. (Reuters)

Surantha Perera stressed that in the event approval is granted to vaccinate children, those with underlying conditions would need to be examined by paediatricians at hospitals, where they will be filtered for possible inoculation. "If vaccinated, complications are rare, but the children would need to be monitored nevertheless. There would be a need for surveillance for side effects for at least 6 weeks," he said. Therefore medical bodies are currently looking at the possibility of developing a mobile app and a web-based query service for parents who wish to have their questions and concerns answered by medical professionals.

young adults, occurring most often after the second dose, and usually within several days of receiving the vaccine. The majority of cases have been mild. Experts are still gathering information, but as of this writing, 79% of teens and young adults who experienced this had recovered, she wrote.

The Sri Lankan experts discussing this issue debated that the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks of inoculation against Covid-19. Dr.

The experts also discussed that children would most likely be vaccinated in September this year, while children with comorbidities (simultaneous presence of two or more diseases or medical conditions) would be included in the immunization plan. "If the government approval is granted these children with comorbidities would be prioritized. We have a rough estimate that this would include about 25,000 children comorbidities.

Sigiriya: The Lion Rock fortress

Sigiriya, considered to be one of the most valuable historical monuments in Sri Lanka, has long been renowned as an architectural wonder of urban planning and engineering, and a UNESCO world heritage site since 1982. Converted into a royal palace following King Kashyapa's flight from the then capital Anuradhapura, the inner-city tiers, water gardens and moats are credited for their advanced, ingenious design. The richly decorated frescoes and mirrored wall have also led Sigiriya to become one of Sri Lanka Tourism's most prominent archaeological attractions. The latest addition to Sigiriya's accolades is the recent announcement by Bloomberg, that listed the Lion Rock fortress, as one of the new seven wonders of the world.

Bloomberg's announcement is timely for Sri Lanka, as the island plans to take advantage of the new behavioral patterns that are expected to emerge among post-pandemic travelers. According to experts from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), travelers are now more likely to demand a focus on sustainability, connections with local communities, open-air and nature-based cultural experiences — in other words, the ethos of travel in our little island home. Before global travel restrictions, the tourism sector in Sri Lanka was the third-largest export earner accounting for around 5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018 with the sector directly employing 250,000 people and up to 2 million, indirectly. The number of tourists visiting Sri Lanka nearly doubled from 1.5 million to 2.3 million from 2014 to 2018. Revitalizing this sector through a speedy, clean and green recovery has the potential to provide tangible benefits to the Sri Lankan economy and communities across the island.

Building Back Tourism

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has been focused on just that: building back tourism as a resilient and sustainable sector. The newly developed Tourism Roadmap, "Putting People First: Building a More Resilient Tourism Sector in Sri Lanka", aims to rebrand Sri Lanka which, for decades, has been pegged as a mass low-spending market, to an unmissable, signature experience recognized for its niche, indigenous



products and services around nature, wellness, culture and adventure. It also aims to redesign the industry to protect it's people. Sri Lanka's tourism is still reeling from the devastating Easter Attacks in 2019, and are only just getting its bearings together from the global travel collapse and effects of COVID-19. This roadmap for Sri Lanka, aims to provide social protection nets for those in the industry to withstand such untimely events in the future. UNDP will continue to assist the Government of Sri Lanka in updating the Tourism Development Strategic Action Plan 2021-2024, while also enabling Sri Lanka to transition to sustainable tourism by creating guidelines and standards for nature-based tourism. Prior to the

pandemic, SLTDA put sustainability at the core in reviving this sector, by launching the National Sustainable Tourism Certification in 2018 with financial and technical assistance from the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). Such programmes are essential, as tourism is often a source of pollution and biodiversity degradation with the benefits of tourism not trickling down to local communities. This certification scheme is geared towards promoting sustainable accommodations, destinations and tour operators.

The first phase of obtaining certification for accommodations was successfully completed, while SLTDA and UNDP are currently focused on obtaining Sustainable

Destination Certifications for 9 destinations across the 9 provinces in the island. This certification scheme enables tourist destinations to be rated based on the overall quality of service and exclusiveness of the experience. Currently, 28% of total revenue from visiting international tourists is generated through biodiversity related attractions. This certification will further contribute to tourism, by attracting more eco-conscious tourists which will generate more revenue to help improve the biodiversity of these destinations. Despite the high value of these attractions, hardly any revenue is put back into developing and conserving these attractions and its surrounding habitats. The Destination certification looks at sustainably

managing the existing biodiversity, by encouraging key tourist destinations to invest 0.5% (equivalent to 5 million USD per annum) back into biodiversity management. The scheme injects cash back into conserving natural resources and the surrounding local communities, ensuring tourism will be for the people and planet, leaving no one behind.

Sigiriya: The path to sustainability

Sigiriya, already a popular attraction amongst tourists, has been targeted for the sustainable destination certification particularly given issues noted by tourists such as overcrowding, congestion, and plastic pollution among many others.

Ramitha Wijethunga, National Project Coordinator of the Climate and Environment Team at UNDP Sri Lanka also notes, "the importance of protecting Sigiriya for future generations is very clear now. Under the Sustainable Destination Management Certification programme, the Ministry of Tourism and SLTDA together with the UNDP-BIOFIN project has taken steps to develop a plan to support the implementation, to ensure the sustainability of this cultural excellence and looks to extend this beyond Sigiriya into other wonders across the island".

Nature based solutions

Some of these plans include the creation of a plastic free zone, upskilling neighboring communities to be interpreters, management of tourist flow through digital technology, development of neighboring attractions such as Pidurangala and Kaludiya Pokuna for visitor overflow and distribution. Tourism depends on the preservation of an attractive environment and certification acts as an incentive to tourism providers to rebuild these locations to be more eco-conscious.

The National Sustainable Destination Certification is a first step in promoting nature-based solutions for the country's green development. As flagged by the UNWTO, a green recovery is essential post-pandemic, in catalysing the responsible recovery of the tourism industry, balancing the needs of the people, and the planet for Sri Lanka's green growth.



HAYLEYS FABRIC TAKES ANOTHER STEP

TOWARDS CREATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE PLANET

Sustainability and innovation are quite familiar terms, famously used throughout a range of industries and companies. However, it is occasionally seen in most companies maintaining a sustainability status.

Hayleys Fabric, a well reputed pioneering manufacturer of weft knit fabrics in Sri Lanka, has time and time again proven to be a stronghold not only in the fabric industry, but also as a leading corporate figure which actively promotes sustainability. Hayleys Fabric is a prominent subsidiary of one of Sri Lanka's largest corporate citizens, Hayleys PLC.

Commencing operations back in 1992, Hayleys Fabric has been on a long journey to disrupt and motivate a drastic change in the industry. Throughout the years, the company has executed world-class fabrics to perfection, gaining a reputation for its impeccable innovations driven by the company's own brand "INNO", a unique brand which managed to attract the favour of many globally renowned brands, whilst surpassing all expectations. Since its inception, Hayleys Fabric has set their goals towards the betterment of the environment and health and safety, by developing eco-friendly processes which utilise the most sustainable practices to produce unparalleled final outputs.

Our Sustainability Approaches

While the company pushes to offer tier-1 fabrics, Hayleys Fabric has consistently held its vision for sustainability at the helm of its corporate goals, and has collectively actioned to improve on its already supreme sustainable approaches.

When considering sustainability, Hayleys Fabric has methodically focused on every end by contributing towards society, the environment, and health and safety.

On the focus of society, Hayleys Fabric has constantly aided nearby schools and communities in an appropriate manner throughout the past few years, to lend a hand in raising the societal standards.

When we focus on environmental sustainability, it is no doubt that this is Hayleys Fabric's forte, with numerous major eco-friendly projects under the company's belt. To list a few such projects, an appropriate place to start would be how Hayleys Fabric proudly owns a biodiversity wetland park with a variety of endangered flora and fauna among many species yet to be identified. An organic farming initiative was also promoted by Hayleys Fabric, in addition to the usage of sustainable energy sources, fresh water usage and waste-water treatment to meet standard regulatory levels, initiatives to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, and its commitments to reduce and reuse plastic waste by incorporating PET waste bottles as a raw material. Hayleys Fabric has also actively joined as a member of the "Roadmap to Zero" ZDHC Programme to account for a zero discharge of hazardous chemicals in the manufacturing process of textiles.

Hayleys Fabric has taken serious consideration of its employees' health and safety, by providing appropriate and necessary protective equipment and gear to build a safer workplace. A record of zero fatalities, injuries or any health concerned issues over the past years, stands as a testament to Hayleys Fabric's commitment towards their employees' wellbeing in the working environment.

SBTI

Along Hayleys Fabric's journey to keep rising up the ladder to perfect sustainability, the company made a major milestone in the latter days of year 2020, which still stands as a respectable highlight in the company's history. This is none other than the commitment

made by Hayleys Fabric to attain the United Nations Global Compact's (UNGC) Science Based Targets (SBTis). The Science Based Targets initiative is a globally recognised commitment made by selected companies as a part of the "We Mean Business Coalition's" "Take Action" stance on climate change. This commitment helps companies keep on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, by minimising greenhouse gas emissions. Joining this initiative and committing to work towards the battle against global warming, has helped Hayleys Fabric track its gas emissions and how quickly the company is required to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, whilst adhering to the Paris Agreement goals in minimising global warming and keeping the global temperature below 1.5°C.

ZDHC

A common occurrence in the Textile Manufacturing Industry is the discharge of hazardous chemicals from factories or manufacturing plants. Hayleys Fabric took an interesting move by joining the "Roadmap to Zero Programme", continuing to challenge the conventional environmental issues available in the textile industry. Joining hands with this programme which is overseen by ZDHC has paved the way for Hayleys Fabric to inch closer towards minimising its chemical footprint and achieve a toxic chemical free process.

Hayleys Fabric's state-of-the-art water treatment plant plays a vital role in this move. Hayleys Fabric guarantees constant monitoring of the purified water by in-house teams and relevant authorities such as the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and Water Board, etc.

Hayleys Fabric met a great feat by complying with ZDHC's stringent requirements well before the allocated time, which was recognised by ZDHC who extended an invitation towards the company to be a part of the 2019 ZDHC South Asia Regional Conference which was held in Mumbai. The company was given the opportunity of sharing the best practices that were followed, through which the company was driven to achieve such a triumph. Hayleys Fabric received the honour of attending this regional programme which was held in Bangladesh, in 2020. As further evidence of the effective results and superiority of Hayleys Fabric's water treatment plant, they were awarded the GREEN status by NIKE.

CEO Water Mandate

The team at Hayleys Fabric has evidently not taken the water quality issues lightly, driven by the backing of ZDHC and the impeccable performance of the in-house water treatment plant, Hayleys Fabric recently committed to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), CEO Water Mandate, thus adding to a growing list of corporates pledging towards more sustainable water management, sanitation and water stewardship.

Solar Project

Hayleys Fabric has held up its reputation for being a force of sustainability in the Sri Lankan textile industry, and the company continues to keep on raising the bar higher. Hayleys Fabric's solar project, like its other eco-friendly projects, holds a prominent space in the records.

Since adapting to renewable energy as a primary power source comes with its own benefits, especially when powering up a factory or manufacturing plant, locations well known for their continuous energy consumption and power-hungry nature, Hayleys Fabric managed to successfully install a solar panel roofing, totaling up to 4MW, making this the largest solar rooftop in Sri Lanka.

This massive feat also contributed in drastically cutting down Hayleys Fabric's carbon footprint, by significantly bringing a 15% reduction, further helping Hayleys Fabric to develop based on its sustainability goals.

SDG Pioneers

When considering Hayleys Fabric's sustainability standpoint, "raising the bar" or "increasing the benchmark" are simply understatements. The recent accolade received by Mrs. Leonie Vaas, Manager - Sustainability and Innovation at Hayleys Fabric stands to firmly testify this.

Mrs. Leonie Vaas of Hayleys Fabric secured a position among 10 global pioneers for their contributions towards attaining the SDGs, this exceptional recognition simply doesn't stand alone as an achievement of Hayleys Fabric, but holds a unique speciality as this marks the very first instance a Sri Lankan has received the honour of being selected as a pioneer.

This indeed has been a pleasant and a very welcomed achievement by the company, as Mrs. Leonie Vaas' efforts in promoting sustainable practices and innovative methods, has definitely benefited Hayleys Fabric to reach greater heights.

Biodiversity Park

As was mentioned early on, a project proudly handled by Hayleys Fabric indefinitely is the launch of a Biodiversity Park by the company.

The 10th of June, 2020, marked a special date as Hayleys Fabric declared open its Biodiversity and Wetland Park, in light of World Environment Day 2020.

This particular piece of land is told to be the home of a variety of habitats, with numerous endangered species flourishing in its care. A recorded number of over 600 unique plants and over 400 species have been identified, however, there is speculation of more types of unlisted species finding tranquility in this particular biodiversity.

In an era of deforestation and the rapid endangerment of rare species, this initiative of nurturing a biodiversity and wetland park draws a clear image of Hayleys Fabric's commitment and goal orientation in contributing towards restoration, whilst fostering nature.

Natural Dyes

Sustainability and innovation have been a key driving force within the roots of Hayleys Fabric, and it is quite mesmerising to witness both aspects merge to create a unique product.

Warna by Mahogany (from Mahogany barks) and SustainabilityTea (from tea extraction) are exactly that, a unique mix of sustainability and innovation. This is a simple yet impactful solution elegantly put forward by Hayleys Fabric.

Hayleys Fabric's "natural dye collection" is a cost effective, sustainable and circularity solution which covers Sustainable Development Goal No. 14: Life Below Water and Goal No 15: Life on Land.

Mr. Rohan Goonetilleke, the Managing Director of Hayleys Fabric stated, "Hayleys Fabric remains as a corporate inspiration for the terms 'sustainability' and 'innovation'". Hayleys Fabric has invested well on its pathway to ideal sustainability, and has proven to be a strong force in the arena as they break down numerous barriers through innovative techniques.



EDITORIAL

*"We must bring unity of spirit and purpose and condemn hatred and division wherever we see it."
-GEORGE OSBORNE*

OUR THOUGHT

GET VACCINATED; DON'T LET THE VIRUS CATCH YOU NAPPING

Amid the increasing number of COVID-19 patients and COVID-related deaths, the Sri Lankan Government, which began its battle against the COVID-19 virus in March last year, has now been compelled to fight against its various mutations, the latest being India's Delta variant, which is said to be more virulent and easily transmissible than those that initially invaded this country.

Meanwhile, Reuters in a report quoted the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) as saying the war against COVID-19 has changed course because of the highly contagious Delta variant and proposes a clearer message, mandatory vaccines for health workers and a return to universal masking.

An internal CDC document said the variant, first detected in India and now dominant across the globe, is as contagious as chickenpox and far more contagious than the common cold or flu. It can be passed on even by vaccinated people, and may cause more serious disease than earlier coronavirus strains.

The document, titled "Improving communications around vaccine breakthrough and vaccine effectiveness", said the variant required a new approach to help the public understand the danger -- including making clear that unvaccinated people were ten times more likely than those who are vaccinated to become seriously ill or die.

Recommended preventative measures consist of making vaccines mandatory for healthcare professionals; protect the vulnerable and the universal wearing of face masks.

"High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission and raised concern that, unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with Delta can transmit the virus," CDC head Rochelle Walensky said in a statement while World Health Organization (WHO) Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said health systems in several countries were now being overwhelmed. "We have the tools to stop this virus, but on current trends, we expect the total number of cases to pass 200 million within the next two weeks," he said.

The WHO Country Office for Sri Lanka said COVID-19 cases are rising globally including in Sri Lanka and cautioned that this was driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant, increased social mixing/mobility, inconsistent Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) and inequitable vaccination.

"Hard-won gains are in jeopardy and health systems overwhelmed," the WHO in Sri Lanka said while almost four million COVID-19 cases globally were reported to the WHO last week.

Be that as it may, the Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) has written to the Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardena saying several of its branch units had informed that they had observed an upward trend in the number of COVID-infected patients.

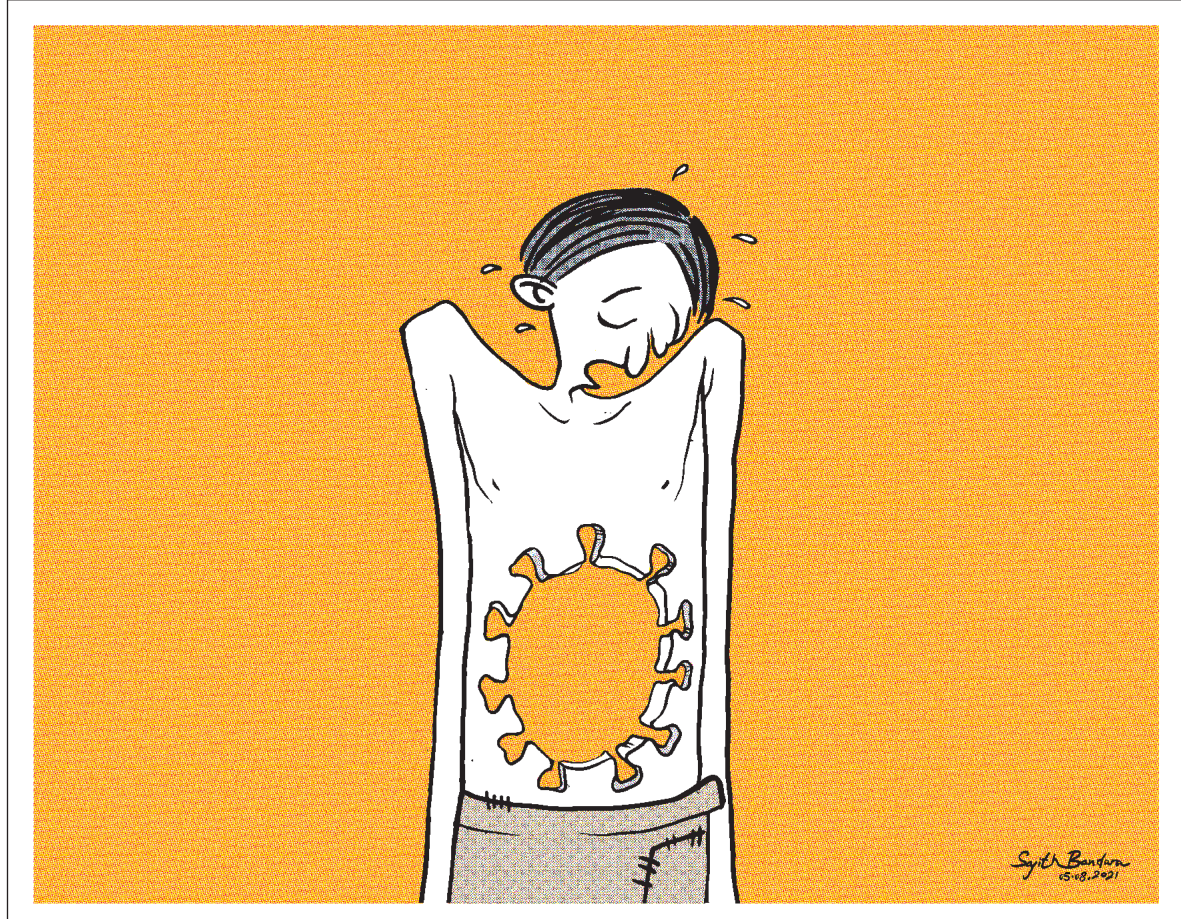
It said, to make matters worse, significant numbers of health staff including doctors were found among those infected with the virus even after receiving both doses of the Covishield vaccine.

The GMOA said certain countries had decided on injecting a third or booster dose of the vaccine to healthcare workers especially to protect them from the new variants, which are a grave global concern.

The government -- currently caught up in the midst of restraining a ravaging pandemic on the one hand and the urgent need to resuscitate the troubled economy on the other, aptly described by a reader as being akin to that of a mountain climber trapped between a rock and a hard place -- had decided to open up the country with public servants being directed to report to work from Monday and lifting the ban on inter-provincial travel.

This by no means is an indication that the country has turned the corner nor is it an indication that the virus has been eradicated. In such a situation when it is inevitable that there would be thousands of workers travelling to Colombo and the suburbs to attend to their duties there is no room for complacency but to remain vigilant and adhere, even more stringently than before, to health guidelines -- such as the washing of hands, wearing of face masks, the avoidance of public gatherings and refraining from venturing out of home for non-essential reasons.

Notwithstanding the hiccups that dogged the early stages of its vaccination programme, the government now appears to have got its act together with the process moving ahead smoothly and efficiently via the several vaccination-centres set up for the convenience of the public. As such there is no reason why people should miss out on getting themselves vaccinated, being aware that vaccines are not only for our personal safety, but also for the safety of those we come in contact with. So get vaccinated and do not allow the virus catch you napping!



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

By **Malinda Seneviratne**

Dr. Padma Gunaratne, President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) warned a few weeks ago that the country is heading toward what she called 'the first phase of the Covid-19 fourth wave outbreak.' Doctors, as we know, are playing a wonderful role in combating the pandemic. What doctors say should be taken seriously.

She has said more. She reaffirmed what's already known: the Delta Variant has entered the country. She also claimed or rather was reported to have claimed that 'the variant has spread to more than 50% of the people already.' She has reported to have also said that 'it is not suspicious that it will be the main variant in the country.' In other words, she's convinced, according to reports, it's not clear whether the aforementioned '50%' refers to the entire population or those who are confirmed to have been infected. Let's assume the latter. It would have been better if Dr. Gunaratne had offered some proof, some data from a reliable source. As things stand, we have to take her word for it.

Should we? We know that the SLMA played a predicting game not too long ago. As is obvious, it is easy to predict and based on prediction to say 'lockdown, now!' The SLMA promised an exit strategy, but we are yet to see it. Predictably, some statements have been played up. Just saying 'a health professional said' can give a statement a lot of media play. People trust doctors. As mentioned, we know doctors have played and continue to play an indefatigable role in this process. That gives back-up credence, if you will.

Interestingly, **Dr. Gunaratne** also said that Sri Lanka is heading towards the first phase of the Fourth Wave. Well, that was how it was reported. We do not know if she also mentioned how many phases there can be in any given 'wave' and what demarcations separate these 'phases.' We don't even know if she merely intended to say 'beginning' as the term 'first' implies. One hopes that **Dr. Gunaratne (and indeed the SLMA)** is more careful in the use of terms and takes the trouble to elaborate if only to prevent wild extrapolation. Of course, the particular reporter should also be more responsible, keeping in mind what vague and ambiguous statements from 'a professional' can do to the reader. The last thing we need is panic. We could also do without fear-mongering.

Now here is a headline that works: 'SL heading for worst medical tsunami in coming weeks from Delta wave.' A lot of details are given in the story. Bed-counts, oxygen availability, number of patients and of course more predictions. It is all attributed to leading medical experts. No names. So, if one trusts the particular media institution, one will be worried. However, one must wonder why these experts were not named. There are no disclaimers about the experts wishing to be anonymous. That's a tad dodgy. Maybe carelessness. Maybe there's no ill-intention. That's still not enough. We need to be more meticulous about these things. At least Dr. Gunaratne and doctors

TSUNAMIS: MEDICAL AND OTHERWISE...



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We need the doctors. The SLMA can play a crucial role in keeping things sober. If things are indeed dire, we need to know the full story. That way the policy makers and the public can respond more effectively



Dr. Padma Gunaratne

0.05% had taken both (for those between 30 and 60 years of age). Of those above 60 years of age, the corresponding percentages are 1.15% and 0.19%. If one considered whether or not the victims had other health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, kidney ailments, high cholesterol etc., the numbers could be even less. Doctors (virologists and otherwise) and the SLMA cannot be unaware of these facts. Why such details are left out only they would know.

The vaccine drive, clearly, will serve to allay a lot of fears about the pandemic itself. It may, over time, sort out 'hospital-congestion,' but that's left to be seen. What is important right now is sobriety. We can do without cowboy statements and cowboy journalism. Doomsday prophets thrive on them. They need that kind of food. Remember how they belched by over-consuming the predictions from Washington University in April? Remember how 'experts' (including the SLMA) issued dire predictions? No talk of 'phases' back then though, it must be mentioned.

Dr. Gunaratne, back in April, responding to a question put to her in a television interview, offered a valuable observation: 'what is important is not what people say but the outcome.' Well, outcomes, by definition, come later. Predictions come before. 'What people say' is a lot of what goes into predictions. This is why experts, unlike lay persons, would do everyone a big favour by explaining things, by being careful about language and most importantly by buttressing claims with facts and sources.

We need the doctors. The SLMA can play a crucial role in keeping things sober. If things are indeed dire, we need to know the full story. That way the policy makers and the public can respond more effectively. More power to the SLMA and **Dr. Gunaratne**. More power to responsible journalists. More power to truth. We need this 'power' to combat lies, distortions, half-truths and full picture prediction based on one piece of a jigsaw puzzle!
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SUBTERRANEAN TRANSCRIPTS

in the SLMA can be questioned and one could expect them to answer if they are so inclined. Unnamed 'experts' are essentially hiding behind a screen. A comfort zone. At the very least, whatever important things they have to say are invariably tainted by anonymity. One expects more from professionals 'at the forefront.'

Should we be worried? Yes. I am, for one. If hospitals are constrained, we need to be worried because the health system has to attend to all kinds of patients and doctors have to treat all kinds of illnesses. Each element of the system that gets moved to speak, to deal with the pandemic makes it that much harder to attend to other health problems. The spinoff is what's worrying, not Covid-19. After all, only 1.02% of deaths reported are of those who received just the first jab and only

DM Poll

Should the Government listen to the views of the free education endorsing groups and withdraw the controversial Kotelawala National Defense University (KNDU) Bill?

1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't know

LAST 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?

Yes 27.4%
No 21.2%
Don't know 51.4%

See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

People duped by distraction

In the recent past, it has been a common trend for sensationalism to obscure and eclipse the more critical events that transpired and gripped the attention of the masses. What has been the outcome of the investigation into the Easter Sunday carnage that was supposed to have been undertaken by high-powered commissions, which impelled His Eminence Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith to admonish the government for dragging its feet over this matter.

The story that is gaining currency and has captured the masses so rapturously is the alleged sexual abuse and suicide (??) of a domestic aide who worked in the household of a politician. Also, parallelly, we have a spate of strikes and demonstrations that keep hogging the limelight which is some bait to distract the masses. The subtlety of distraction is a good subterfuge to divert the attention of unsuspecting masses, so that they are inclined to forget the more critical issues which have slipped onto the backburner.

The more trending developments such as the controversy over the organic fertilizer is yet another crucial issue that needs judicious attention. The strikes and work stoppages by the academic community and healthcare workers over salary anomalies, and the dispute over the Kotelawala Defence University Act also beg for farsighted and plausible solutions. These developments that have surfaced recently have stealthily sought refuge under the prevailing coronavirus pandemic situation. Nevertheless, the encounter with the pandemic situation is, no doubt, a priority as the health and wellbeing of the nation is more crucial and should be given the attention that is needed.

Sporadic situations seem to be a blessing in disguise to deflect the attention of the masses. Coincidentally, we seem to be receiving such events in large measure so that the general tendency is for the citizenry to focus more on their health and wellbeing rather than the topical events that keep emerging day after day. Sanity, no doubt, must prevail as the health and wellbeing of the nation in these trying times play a crucial role, while the distractions hold sway.

- DON PETER, DEHIWELA



Delta wave spread SL heads for worst medical tsunami soon

WEB COMMENTS

- BE FAIR** - But there is NO Community spread as yet
 - NEIL** - When the Covid cases rise exponentially, calling public employees for work is nothing but idiotic; it shows their stupidity.
 - RANJITH** - It's a race between vaccine rollout and spreading of Delta virus and less focus on PCR test let's see where we have gone wrong as usual!
- See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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TALIBAN SEIZE MUCH OF HELMAND, ARMY ADVISES EVALUATION

The Taliban pressed ahead with their advances in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, capturing nine out of 10 districts of the Helmand provincial capital, residents and officials said. Afghan government forces launched air strikes, backed by the US, in a desperate effort to defend the city of Lashkar Gah.

The Afghan forces commander for Helmand, Gen Sami Sadat, in an audio message shared with journalists on Tuesday urged residents in neighbourhoods captured by the Taliban to evacuate immediately, though he did not clarify how they could do that amid the ongoing clashes.

The message was an indication more air strikes were planned.

"Please evacuate your families from your homes and their surroundings," Sadat said. "We will not leave the Taliban alive. Lashkar Gah is one of three provincial capitals under siege by the Taliban as they stepped up their onslaught against government forces.

The fall of Lashkar Gah would be a major turning point in the offensive the Taliban have waged over the past months as US and NATO



Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers keep watch at the site of yesterday's night-time car bomb blast in Kabul

forces complete their pullout from the war-torn country. It would also be the first provincial capital captured by the Taliban in years.

Residents of the city said the fighting has them trapped, hunkered down inside their homes and unable to step out for basic supplies. They said Taliban fighters were out openly in the streets, and that all but one Lashkar Gah district was under Taliban control.

KABUL (Dawn.com)

Taliban claims car bomb attack in Afghan capital

KABUL, AUG 4 (REUTERS) - The Taliban claimed responsibility on Wednesday for a car bomb attack on the residence of Afghanistan's acting defence minister, while a blast near the office of the main security agency in Kabul just hours later wounded three people.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the group targeted the residence on Tuesday night, adding that an important meeting was underway at the time.

The defence minister survived, but the attack represented a deterioration in the country's security situation and a sign that the capital was at risk of violence as the insurgents take control of swathes of territory.

'Cultural preferences' could lead to loss of 22,000,000 girls

RT.COM, 3 AUGUST 2021

Researchers have warned that men will dramatically outnumber women in the coming decades because of "cultural preferences" for boys and the prevalence of sex-selective abortion in certain countries.

A new study that modelled global sex ratios has concluded that the imbalance could put global stability at risk over the long term. It cautioned that countries with uneven sex ratios at birth could face a "conservative" deficit of

4.7 million girls by 2030 and potentially "lose" 22 million by 2100.

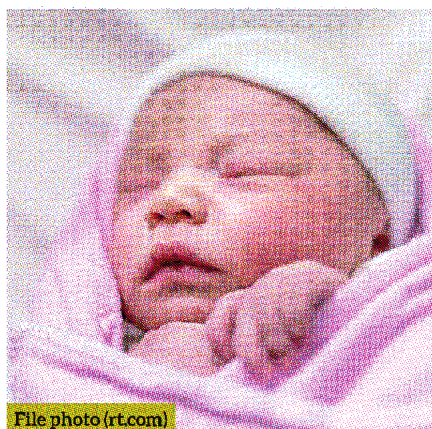
The study, published in the scientific journal *BMJ Global Health*, found that prenatal sex selection was to blame for about half of the deficit. This has led to skewed sex ratios in several countries across Southeast Europe to South and East Asia since the 1970s.

The study's projections were based on a database of over three billion birth records from 204 countries between 1970 and 2020. It also looked at the experiences of countries already dealing with

skewed sex ratios, including China and India.

In addition, the total number of "missing" female births between 1970 and 2017 was estimated at 45 million - 95% of which were from China or India, the countries with the largest numbers of annual births in the world.

However, the researchers suggested that the sex ratio at birth was most likely to stabilize and decline within two decades in countries currently affected by sex imbalances at birth.



File photo (rt.com)

COC OBTAINED

HANDING OVER COMMENCES

AT OCEANFRONT CONDOS GALLE BY ICC



Oceanfront Condominiums Galle by International Construction Consortium (Pvt) Ltd (ICC) has successfully reached completion, despite the challenges arising from the ongoing pandemic situation that slowed down all economic activities. ICC maintained steady momentum in the construction progress of Oceanfront Condominiums Galle, to commence with the handing over process. With COC obtained, purchased clients can start moving in, additionally the rental management has also kick started with the handing over process, in order to benefit the homeowners. ICC has introduced an all-inclusive rental management system where the renting out and the property management process will be done by ICC while offering an end-to-end solution including promotions, guest screening, check-in/checkout and payments processing.

A well experienced team will be available to assist on the property premises itself from check in to check out under the supervision of Condominium management.

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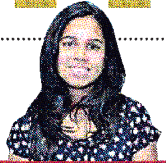
ICC

OCEANFRONT CONDOS - GALLE

POINT OF VIEW

FOCUS ON SRI LANKA POLICE FORCE

CALLING FOR AN END TO HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA



By Shihara Maduwage

A recent video that has been posted to YouTube on July 27, 2021 by Ama Dissanayake caused quite a stir in Sri Lanka this week. The video—somewhat strangely titled as “listen to how every swear word in the world has come to be” (මල්මක කියනන නම කුණුහරුපයක්ම නැද්දා කියනන නමට අනන්ත)—is an hour-long lecture, delivered by Dissanayake to the Police in Kandy, on reducing on-the-job stress and improving mental health of the police force. In it she introduces herself as an ex-police officer, mental health counsellor and therapist and a trainer in positive thinking and stress management. She then goes on to discuss her views on what makes for a successful marriage/romantic relationship and a family life.

However, it is her malicious comments on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTIQ) community that has caused the uproar and led to a severe backlash from LGBTIQ persons, activists, and allies. In the video clip that has gone viral, Dissanayake claims that “homosexuals” in Sri Lanka are preying on others, especially the youth, trying to make them a part of the LGBTIQ community. She asserts that being LGBTIQ is unnatural and goes against biological and social norms, as such relationships do not lead to reproduction. She then asks the participants to vocalise, loudly, that they are against such relationships.

While her counselling credentials are dubious, Dissanayake’s YouTube channel has over 137,000 subscribers; she has appeared regularly on television and radio channels in Sri Lanka as a counsellor. She has also given lectures to police and the tri forces as well as other professionals on many occasions. Meanwhile, her YouTube video on the dangers of homosexuality has over 59,000 views.

Such homophobic and transphobic views held by mental health practitioners and counsellors can cause irreparable harm to those seeking help, particularly the LGBTIQ community. Unfortunately, Dissanayake is one of the many counsellors in Sri Lanka that seem to be harbouring hatred and disapproval towards the LGBTIQ community. EQUAL GROUND and other organisations advocating for LGBTIQ rights have received complaints on several occasions where mental health practitioners and in some cases medical professionals have asserted that being LGBTIQ is unnatural and deviant and have demanded/advised such patients to “turn straight.” Some medical practitioners have gone as far as to claim that they can cure “homosexuality” and “transsexuality.” In addition, certain hospitals and clinics in Sri Lanka practise conversion therapy—the pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual’s sexual orientation.

EQUAL GROUND and other organisations advocating for LGBTIQ rights have received complaints on several occasions where mental health practitioners and in some cases medical professionals have asserted that being LGBTIQ is unnatural and deviant and have demanded/advised such patients to “turn straight.”

On a global scale, international psychiatric and medical bodies have largely agreed that diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities/Expressions (SOGIE) are not mental or physical illnesses; LGBTIQ relationships are not considered deviant and unnatural behaviour, as claimed by Dissanayake. The Diagnostic Statistics Manual (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA)—the standard classification of mental disorders—removed the diagnosis of “homosexuality” from its second edition (DSM II) in 1973—nearly half a century ago. Further, the World Medical Association (WMA) has asserted “that homosexuality does not represent a disease, but a normal variation within the realm of human sexuality.” The World Health Organisation’s (WHO), International Classification of Diseases (ICD) removed



Such homophobic and transphobic views held by mental health practitioners and counsellors can cause irreparable harm to those seeking help, particularly the LGBTIQ community

There is documented evidence of Sri Lankan police’s homophobic and transphobic practices

homosexuality from its list of diseases in 1990 and states that “sexual orientation by itself is not to be considered a disorder” (ICD 10); in 2018, it announced that being trans is no longer considered a mental disorder in its latest ICD, published in 2019 (ICD 11).

It is clear that Dissanayake’s views are outdated and have no scientific or medical backing. Such erroneous views and unethical practices are a grave concern and can lead to tragic consequences such as self-harm, mental breakdowns, problems with self-identity, and even suicide, because it prevents LGBTIQ person from accessing proper mental health and medical care. As such, it is another way that LGBTIQ persons are marginalised and discriminated against in Sri Lanka.

HOMOPHOBIA IN THE POLICE FORCE?

In this particular case, the fact that Dissanayake was allowed to share these views at a training for police officers, is even more alarming and highlights the deeply-rooted institutionalised homophobia present in Sri Lanka.

There is documented evidence of Sri Lankan police’s homophobic and transphobic practices. Last year, news emerged that two men had been arrested for having same-sex sexual relations and were produced in court, causing social backlash. However, this was not the first time. A joint press release by EQUAL GROUND (EG) and Human Rights Watch (HRW) revealed that in last few years, Sri Lankan police have arrested individuals perceived as engaging in “acts of gross indecency” in public spaces and raided private spaces to arrest LGBTIQ persons as well as those perceived as members of the community. Meanwhile, According to the performance report (2018) of the Sri Lanka police homosexuality is considered a “vice”, defined as “offences that impact adversely on morality and well-being which is expected from the society.” The report revealed that, under this provision, the Sri Lanka police has prosecuted 33 people for homosexuality in 2016, six in 2017, and nine in 2018. Even more concerning, in the 2017 – 2020 period, the authorities forced medical tests that include anal/vaginal examinations on at least seven individuals to provide proof of homosexual conduct. Such anal/vaginal examinations are not medically or

scientifically valid and are considered a form of sexual violence and torture by international bodies such as the United Nations. Meanwhile, a HRW report in 2016 reported that LGBTIQ individuals have been arrested and detained without cause and have been subject to sexual and/or physical abuse and even raped by police officers.

In this context, trainings and lectures that present such homophobic views only serves to exacerbate the institutionalised homophobia already present in the police force.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

In response to the controversy, the government has highlighted that LGBTIQ rights are not recognised in Sri Lanka. On Tuesday (03), Cabinet Co-spokesman, Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said, LGBTIQ rights are not constitutionally recognised, while acknowledging that there are ongoing discussions with regard to the issue. The Minister added that he was not aware of the police acting in a homophobic/transphobic manner.

In Sri Lanka, same-sex sexual relations among consenting adults are criminalised by Section 365 and 365A of the Penal Code, which states that “carnal intercourse against the order of nature” and “acts of gross indecency” are criminal offences punishable with a sentence of up to 10 years. Section 365 and 365A do not specify that these offences pertain to same-sex sexual relations, but they are most often used against LGBTIQ individuals, due to the murky and vague nature of the said provisions and their colonial, anti-sodomy legacy.

That said, while same-sex sexual acts are criminalised, diverse Sexual Orientations and/or Gender Identities/Expressions (SOGIE) are not outlawed. Fundamental rights recognised by the Sri Lankan constitution includes non-discrimination under article 12(2) which states that “no citizen shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, and place of birth or any one of such grounds”. On several occasions, the Sri Lankan government has committed before the United Nations that LGBTIQ persons are constitutionally protected, and non-discrimination on Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity/Expression is implicitly included under this constitutional provision. The Attorney General has held that discrimination against LGBTIQ persons is unconstitutional and violates Article 12 of the Constitution. In fact, both President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Justice Minister Ali Sabry have committed to non-discrimination due to SOGIE. In this light, Minister Rambukwella’s comments seem directly contradictory to the non-discriminatory policy of the government.

EQUAL GROUND renews its calls to the Government of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Police and Sri Lanka’s medical and mental health governing bodies to take action to curb homophobic and transphobic practices and take strict actions against those who perpetrate such actions.

(The writer is the Media and Communications Officer for EQUAL GROUND) To obtain EQUAL GROUND’s Counselling Services, visit <https://www.facebook.com/EGcounsellinghotline/> or call +94-11-4334277 (LB women), +94-11-4334278 (Transgender Persons), +94-11-4334279 (General). To report violence, discrimination, and harassment based on SOGIE, call +94760038381.



We know that our children are not very safe out on the street (Pic AFP)

Dismantling a child labour structure brick by brick



By Ravi Nagahawatte

Children give us so much hope, but have parents and guardians done their part for these children? We can raise so many questions regarding their welfare and safety. We know that our children are not very safe out on the street and even at school and tuition classes because these places have been haunted by pedophiles. As Sri Lankans we are guilty of being reactive. Other countries are proactive and have strict laws in place to protect the rights and safety of children. The recent issue where a domestic aid employed at a lawmaker’s residence dying due to burnt injuries has made lawmakers think whether our children are safe; given the limitations in existing laws and the snail’s pace at which cases are taken up for hearing.

When we read the literature of Sri Lanka and the world we’ve read enough stories about child workers employed at homes and business establishments. Lawyer and author Neil Wijeratne writes in his short-story book titled ‘Madurasi Koluwa’ how a kid aged 12 or 13 years does business near a bus stop urging commuters to board buses he is promoting. Whether the story is fiction or not the message is clear; children in labour exist.

When one reads newspapers these days it seems child activity surveys haven’t been done for many years. One done in 2016 underscores that as many as 43,714 children were employed in labour activities while 39,007 were employed in hazardous forms of labour.

Some children have no other option when their fathers die prematurely and are forced to find employment. When watching the recent show titled ‘who wants to be a millionaire’ and telecast on Sirasa television we came to know of a few brothers having sacrificed the opportunity to pursue higher studies and found tough and exhausting labour because there were siblings who were minors in the family attending school.

Lawyer and author Neil Wijeratne writes in his short-story book titled ‘Madurasi Koluwa’ how a kid aged 12 or 13 years does business near a bus stop urging commuters to board buses he is promoting. Whether the story is fiction or not the message is clear; children in labour exist

But these rags to riches stories might not be heard much in the future because the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has increased the child’s age to be employed from 16 to 18. Recently we heard a policeman in uniform appearing on a television talk-show stating that he didn’t see it a crime if an underaged child helped about in a family or relation’s business and earned an income if the child’s family was without a father and battling financial difficulties. However there were a few rights activists in the show who shot down the idea presented by the man in uniform. We do have extremists who’d stretch the law to the maximum and in the process fail to see how a practical solution can be found to a problem.

A news feature appearing last week in our sister paper the Sunday Times and penned by Chiranthani Christopher and titled ‘20 more occupations to be off limits for children’ highlights that ‘ironically, this year has been declared as ‘elimination of child labour 2021’ by the United Nation’s General Assembly. It’s difficult for a country like Sri Lanka to employ children in labour without such endeavours being leaked to the public because social media is extremely alert these days. Just days ago all forms of media went on the hunt to expose the age of the deceased female domestic aid

employed at an ex-minister’s residence; the aid’s untimely death brought an entire estate community and a country to tears. It’s alleged that the female worker was sexually abused before she died of burn injuries. We’ve read of a story about a past president who saw via a video clip how a minor was engaged in a premises clearing activity connected to a Gam Udawa project. When the president knew that the video would be shown to an audience at the opening ceremony of a housing scheme to be launched soon he quickly organised an affluent businessman to be present at the ceremony and offer a scholarship to the boy. The media present on that day had much to write about housing for the poor and the rising of a village without reporting on a one-off incident featuring child labour.

There was a time when scouts visited homes and offered to do chores in return for money and a note in their job cards. But since the ‘Guide to Safe Scouting’ was introduced in 1991 many dangerous activities have been included in the banned list of activities for present-day scouts

So much is done in the name of children on November 20 marked in the calendar as ‘world Children’s Day’. November 20 is significant for two reasons; it was on such a day that a declaration was made to establish ‘Rights of Children’ and also because the UN General Assembly adopted a Convention (1989) regarding the ‘right of the child’. But still, despite all that, we hear of children being abused. Recently this writer read on social media how teen-aged gymnasts in the world were abused by their male coaches who promised to help them realise their Olympic dreams. Further reading in the website made the writer depressed. There have been occasions where teen-aged gymnasts have been forced to compete despite battling career-ending injuries because sports authorities in those countries were greedy for medals. Thanks to more professionalism and the availability of better health facilities coupled with coaching staff with humane qualities being in charge the medal winning journey of an athlete isn’t a nightmare at present.

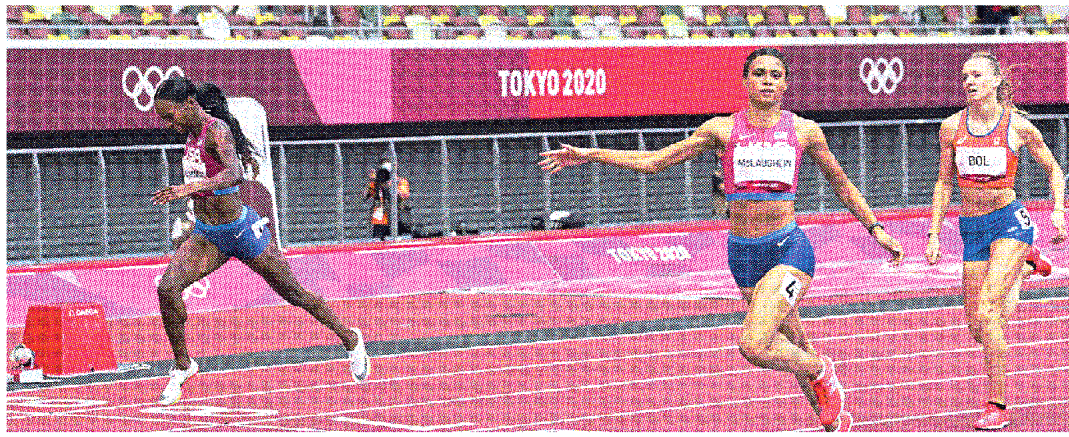
Even the goals of eliminating children from all forms of labour would take time and would be gradual process. There was a time when scouts visited homes and offered to do chores in return for money and a note in their job cards. But since the ‘Guide to Safe Scouting’ was introduced in 1991 many dangerous activities have been included in the banned list of activities for present-day scouts. We being a third world developing country must move in the direction of ‘eliminating child labour’ gradually by strengthening laws and putting solid programmes in place to lift the living conditions of less affluent children.

Just because we see an individual who resembles a juvenile engaged in labour we don’t have the right to disrupt an event or a section of the society. This writer once attended a wedding ceremony at a leading hotel in Kurunegala. A steward, not looking more than 13 or 14 years if age, started serving us by filling our glasses with water. We refused to be served by this steward and complained to the manager demanding why he was employing minors. He patiently took us to his office, pulled out the personal file of the steward, and revealed his personal details; among which was a photocopy of his identity card. He was 23 years old. On further inquiries we came to know that he was from Nuwara Eliya; and was born in a hamlet in that village where Tamil adults don’t show their age. Rather embarrassed we returned to our half finished meals. What we were eating now strangely started tasting better than what we were consuming before.

MCLAUGHLIN AND MUHAMMAD DELIVER OLYMPIC HURDLES EPIC

Sydney McLaughlin describes her ferocious-but-friendly rivalry with Dalilah Muhammad as iron sharpening iron. Yesterday, the two greatest women's 400m hurdlers in track and field history dragged each other to gold and silver.

The latest chapter of the two Americans' heavyweight double act lived up to its blockbuster billing, with McLaughlin dethroning 2016 Olympic champion Muhammad in spectacular fashion, smashing her own world record to take gold in 51.46 seconds.



USA's Sydney McLaughlin (R) crosses the finish line past USA's Dalilah Muhammad (L) and Netherlands' Femke Bol (rear R) as they compete in the women's 400m hurdles final during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo

Muhammad, who this year battled Covid-19 and injuries to both hamstrings to make it to Tokyo, took silver in 51.58sec -- well inside McLaughlin's old world best of 51.90sec set in June. It was the fourth time since 2019 that Muhammad and McLaughlin have met in a championship setting. On each occasion the world record has fallen.

"I think it's just iron sharpening iron," McLaughlin said after the epic clash.

"You need somebody who's going to push you to your best and that's what we do so well," the 21-year-old added.

"Every time we step on the track it's always something fast," Muhammad, the reigning world champion, echoed McLaughlin's remarks as she reflected on a race that she had led coming off the final

hurdle before she was reeled in just metres short of the line.

"When you have someone as strong a competitor as Sydney, you can't mess up and that's where the pressure really lies -- not having any room for error," Muhammad said.

"I'm truly happy with the performance that both of us have put on and kudos to Sydney." Both women smiled and embraced after yesterday's classic duel in blazing sunshine at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. McLaughlin said afterwards she does not see her on-track antagonist as a rival.

"I don't think it's a rivalry -- there's no bad blood," she said. "It's just two athletes wanting to do their best and knowing there's another great girl who's going to

help you get there. That's all it is. "It's just great sportsmanship -- knowing that we're going out there giving it everything we have." Muhammad said she expected the world record would fall after watching the men's 400m hurdles final on Tuesday, when Norway's Karsten Warholm produced a jaw-dropping world record-breaking performance to take gold over US rival Rai Benjamin.

"I almost couldn't watch the men because I was thinking about what might happen in our race, it's kind of overwhelming," Muhammad said. "But I did watch the men -- I couldn't help myself, being a track fan. "I think a lot of people expected a world record, myself included... I was looking forward

to it, anticipating something crazy, something fast, and just hoping to be a part of it and to also run really, really well." For the most part Muhammad did just that, setting off at a ferocious pace and showing no sign of flagging as she cleared the final hurdle in the lead.

McLaughlin however revealed she has spent the past year working with legendary coach Bobby Kersee improving her finishing.

That work paid off yesterday as she dug deep for the final 40 metres, running down Muhammad just short of the line to take the gold medal with the fast-closing Dutchwoman Femke Bol taking bronze in 52.03sec. "We practised the last 40 metres so many times in practice," McLaughlin said.

-AFP

Weightlifting Selection Trials on August 8

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Sri Lanka Weightlifting Federation (SLWF) will conduct a special selection trial (three events) on August 8 at the Torrington Indoor Stadium in Colombo while targeting several upcoming international events.

Their main focus is the Commonwealth Senior, Junior and Youth Championships, which will be held from October 20 to 24 in Singapore.

The SLWF is planning to field a 40-member (Men and Women) contingent for this meet in the weight categories of 67kg, 73kg and 109kg, according to the Secretary SLWF G. Nishanthan.



File photo

The senior team will include a total of 20 weightlifters while the junior and youth teams will comprise of 10 weightlifters each.

The meet in Singapore will also serve as a trial to select the team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held in Birmingham,

England on August 9 - 18. The SLWF is hoping at least 10 weightlifters would qualify for the Commonwealth Games in England.



Cuba's Arlen Lopez (red) and Azerbaijan's Loren Berto Alfonso Dominguez fight during their men's light heavy (75-81kg) semi-final boxing match during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Kokugikan Arena in Tokyo

Cuba win boxing gold again as distraught Briton refuses to wear silver

AFF- Cuba's Arlen Lopez won his second Olympic gold medal on Wednesday as he taught Ben Whittaker a boxing lesson in Tokyo -- the disconsolate Briton refusing to wear his silver medal and putting it instead in his pocket. The 28-year-old Lopez was the aggressor throughout but he was surprisingly only a split-points winner in the final of the men's light-heavyweight.

Lopez, who won middleweight gold at the Rio 2016 Olympics, fell to his knees and banged on the floor when he was named the victor, while Whittaker quickly left the ring with his hands over his face.

After receiving his gold medal, Lopez put his fingers to his lips, a gesture he said was towards "those who were against me or thought that I would not be able to make it or lacked motivation".

His delight was in stark contrast

to the 24-year-old Whittaker, who cut a devastated figure at the medal ceremony, trudging to the podium with his hands in his pockets and placing his medal in his tracksuit pocket rather than around his neck.

When reporters took photographs of the medalists, an unsmiling Whittaker stood awkwardly apart from the others and limply held his silver in his hand. "At the time I should have taken it on the chin and put the beautiful silver medal around my neck and just smiled," he said later.

"I did not want silver, I lost the gold, so to me it's failure, so I am not going to celebrate silver at the moment." It had all been so different at the start. Whittaker jiggled his way into the ring at Kokugikan Arena, better known as the home of sumo, Japan's national sport. But the more experienced Lopez had the Briton dancing to his tune from the first round, stalking Whittaker around the ring.

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 04 of 1990

Branch: HEAD OFFICE BRANCH

KODIKARA KANKANAMGE KALANKA GAYANI

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 29th January 2021 it was resolved specially and unanimously.

Whereas KODIKARA KANKANAMGE KALANKA GAYANI as the Obligor has Mortgage Bond No. 4169 dated 02.03.2020 attested by S S Halloluwa, Notary Public of Colombo the property more fully described in the schedule hereto in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for the payment of the Housing Loan facility granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to KODIKARA KANKANAMGE KALANKA GAYANI and has made default in the payment in a sum of Rupees Eleven Million Fifty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Four Cents Six Only (Rs.11,057,404/06) as at 08.12.2020.

And there is now due and owing to the Hatton National Bank PLC as at 08.12.2020 a sum of Rs.11,057,404/06 (Rupees Eleven Million Fifty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Four Cents Six Only) on the aforesaid Bond and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the powers vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve that the property more fully described in the schedule, hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No. 4169 be sold by Public Auction by P Muthukumarana Licensed Auctioneer of All Island for recovery of the said sum of Rs.11,057,404/06 as at 08.12.2020 together with further interest from 09.12.2020 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 5 depicted in Plan No. 30/1981 dated 10th December 1981 made by K A Rupasinghe - Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called MIDELLAGAHAWATTA together with the buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 44 school lane situated at Mulleriyawa village within the Grama Niladhari Division of 501/A Ambathale and Divisional Secretary's Division of Kolonnawa within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Kotikawatte/Mulleriyawa in Ambatala Pahala in the Districts of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 5 is bounded on the North by Lot 4 on the East by Lot 3 (reservation for Road 15ft wide) on the South by Town Council Road and on the West by Lots 6, 7 and 8 and containing in extent Twenty Perches (AO:R0:P20) according to the said Plan No. 30/1981 and registered in F 76/139 at the District Land Registry of Colombo.

The aforesaid property according to a recent survey is described as follows:

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 5A depicted in Plan No. 520/2013 dated 10.05.2013 made by W R M Fernando - Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called MIDELLAGAHAWATTA together with the buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 44, School Lane situated at Mulleriyawa village within the Grama Niladhari Division of 501/A Ambathale and Divisional Secretary's Division of Kolonnawa within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Kotikawatte/Mulleriyawa in Ambatala Pahala in the Districts of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 5A is bounded on the North by Lot 4 on the said Plan No. 30/1981 on the East by Lot 3 (reservation for Road 15ft wide) in the said Plan No. 30/1981 and containing in extent Twenty Perches (AO:R0:P20) according to the said Plan No. 520/2013.

By order of the Board of Directors
K A L T RANAWEERA
DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 04 of 1990

Branch: BATAPOLA

GURUSINGHE MANEL SAROJANI alias MANEL SAROJANI GURUSINGHE and CHANDIMA THILAKASIRI HIKKADUWA LIYANAGE

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 28th May 2021 it was resolved specially and unanimously.

Whereas GURUSINGHE MANEL SAROJANI alias MANEL SAROJANI GURUSINGHE and CHANDIMA THILAKASIRI HIKKADUWA LIYANAGE as the Obligor/Mortgagor mortgaged and hypothecated property more fully described in the First schedule here to by virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 91 dated 23.07.2015 and 238 dated 28.07.2017 both attested by R P K Rajapakse Notary Public in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for Repayment of a Term Loan of a sum of Rupees Thirteen Million only (Rs 13,000,000) among other facilities granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to GURUSINGHE MANEL SAROJANI alias MANEL SAROJANI GURUSINGHE and CHANDIMA THILAKASIRI HIKKADUWA LIYANAGE.

And whereas at the request of the said GURUSINGHE MANEL SAROJANI alias MANEL SAROJANI GURUSINGHE and CHANDIMA THILAKASIRI HIKKADUWA LIYANAGE the land more fully described in the First schedule hereto was subdivided into Lots 1 to 11 depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 06.07.2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S and the allotment of land marked Lot 1 depicted in the said Plan No. 2696A was released to the said GURUSINGHE MANEL SAROJANI alias MANEL SAROJANI GURUSINGHE and CHANDIMA THILAKASIRI HIKKADUWA LIYANAGE by deed of Release No. 1539 dated 04.09.2019 attested by K G N S Silva N.P and the remaining allotments of lands marked Lot 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 remains as security on the said Mortgage Bond Nos. 91 and 238.

And whereas the said GURUSINGHE MANEL SAROJANI alias MANEL SAROJANI GURUSINGHE and CHANDIMA THILAKASIRI HIKKADUWA LIYANAGE has made default in payment of the sums due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bond Nos. 91 and 238 excluding the land released by the said Deed of release No. 1539 and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 31.01.2021 a sum of Rupees Thirteen Million and Twenty One Thousand Sixty Eight and Cents Two Only (Rs.13,021,068.02) on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 as amended do hereby resolve to sell the said allotments of lands marked Lot 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 more fully described in the Second schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 91 and 238 (excluding the land released by the said Deed of release No. 1539) be sold by public auction by J W E Jayawardena Licensed Auctioneer of All Island for recovery of the said sum of Rs.13,021,068.02 together with further interest at the rate of (AWPLR+ 3.25%) from 01.02.2021 on the capital outstanding of Rs.9,930,200.00 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked lot x depicted in Survey Plan No. 6945 dated 31st May 2006 made by D G Mendis Licensed Surveyor of the land called AMBALAMALANGABEDDA together with the House, Trees, Plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province and which said Lot X is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot y of same land and Lot A2 of Ambalamalangabedda in Plan No. 1859 on the SOUTH by Portion of Lot No. 3 of Ambalamalangabedda in Plan No. 1337 and Lot C of Ambalamalangabedda in Plan No. 1624 and on the WEST by Portion of Lot No. 3 of Ambalamalangabedda in Plan No. 6945 and Hapugasduwewatta and containing in extent of Two Rods and Thirty Two Perches (A-0 R-2 P-32).

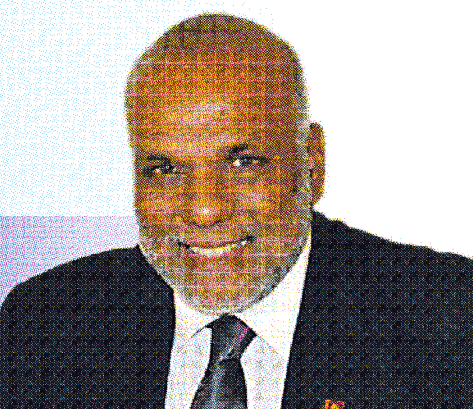
THE SECOND SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 2 depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the house, Trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province and which said Lot 2 is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot 3 in this plan SOUTH by Lot 8 in this plan WEST by Lot 1 of in this plan and containing in extent of Three perches (AO-R0-P3).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 3 depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the house, Trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 3 is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot 4 in this plan SOUTH by Lot 8 in this plan and on the WEST by Lot 2 in this plan and containing in extent of Three Decimal Two Perches (AO-R0-P2.2).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 4 depicted in plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the house, Trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 4 is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot 5 in this plan SOUTH by Lot 8 in this plan and on the WEST by Lot 3 in this plan and containing in extent Two Decimal Nine Perches (AO-R0-P2.9).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 5 depicted in plan No. 2696 A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the house, Trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 5 is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot 6 in this plan SOUTH by Lot 8 in this plan and on the WEST by Lot 4 in this plan and containing in extent Two Decimal Seven Perches (AO-R0-P2.7).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 6 (Reservation for Road) depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 6 is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot 7 in this plan SOUTH by Lot 10 in this plan and on the WEST by Lots 5, 8 and 9 in this plan and containing in extent Four Perches (AO-R0-P4).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 7 depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the house, trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 7 is bounded on the NORTH by High Road from Madampe to Aluthwala on the EAST by Lot 2 of Ambalamalangabedda SOUTH by Lot 10 in this plan WEST by Lots 6 in this plan and containing in extent Five Decimal Three Perches (AO-R0-P5.3).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 8 (Reservation for Road) depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 8 is bounded on the NORTH by Lots 1 and 8 in this plan on the EAST by Lot 6 in this plan on the SOUTH by Lot 9 in this plan and on the WEST by Lot 1 in this plan and containing in extent One Decimal One Perches (AO-R0-P1.1).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 9 (Reservation for Road) depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 9 is bounded on the NORTH by Lots 1 and 8 in this plan on the EAST by Lot 6 in this plan on the SOUTH by Lot 10 in this plan and Hapugasduwewatte and portion of Lot 3 of Ambalamalangabedda in this plan and containing in extent One Perches (AO-R0-P1.0).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 10 depicted in Plan No. 2696A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the House, trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 10 is bounded on the NORTH by Lots 9, 6, and 7 in this plan on the EAST by Lot 2 of Ambalamalangabedda and Lot 11 in this plan on the SOUTH by Lot C of Ambalamalangabedda and portion of Lot 3 of Ambalamalangabedda on the WEST by Lot 9 in this Plan Hapugasduwewatte and portion of Lot 3 of Ambalamalangabedda in this plan and containing in extent One Rod and Thirty Six Perches (AO-R1-P36).
- All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 11 depicted in Plan No. 2696 A dated 6th July 2019 made by R M Chandrapala L.S of the land called Ambalamalangabedda together with the House, trees plantation and everything else standing thereon situated at Meetiyyagoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 73, Meetiyyagoda and Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda in Wellaboda Pattu in the District of Galle Southern Province which said Lot 11 is bounded on the NORTH by Lot 10 in this plan on the EAST by Lot Y in Plan No. 6945 on the SOUTH by Lot C of Ambalamalangabedda on the WEST by Lot 10 in this plan and containing in extent Four Perches (AO-R0-P4).

By order of the Board of Directors
K A L T RANAWEERA
DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY

Strategic Interventions on Covid-Hit Exports in Sri Lanka: How to Overcome Barriers?

LIVE WEBINAR



Mr Suresh D de Mel
Chairman & Chief Executive,
Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB)

SPEAKER

MONDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2021
AT 3.00 P.M. **FREE**
(ENGLISH MEDIUM)

Scan QR to Register or email: thanuja@cbsl.lk or dilrukshir@cbsl.lk

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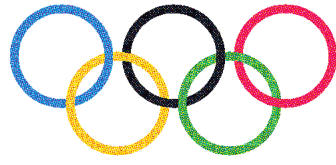
CBS CENTRE FOR BANKING STUDIES CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA
No.58, Sri Jayawardanapura Mawatha, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka

011-2474810, 011-2477821 011-2867384 directorcbs@cbsl.lk

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K A L T RANAWEERA
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SPORTS

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DE GRASSE CLAIMS MEN'S 200M TITLE

BY SHEHAN DANIEL
AT THE OLYMPIC STADIUM, TOKYO

Canada's Andre de Grasse set a new National Record claiming victory in the Men's 200m yesterday at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo, claiming his first major world title.

De Grasse was the first 200m champion since Usain Bolt, who won the event in the last three Olympics.

Running out of lane six, and leading into the final straight, de Grasse held off the challenge of Americans Kenneth Bednarek and Noah Lyles, to clock a time of 19.62 seconds, shaving almost a tenth of a second off his precious personal best which he set during the semi-finals on Tuesday.

Bednarek finished with a personal best of 19.62 secs, ahead of reigning World Champion Lyles, who clocked a season's best of 19.74 seconds. American Courtney Frerichs added another medal to her country's tally yesterday, winning Silver in the Women's 3000m Steeplechase, with a season's best time of 9:04.79 minutes, but it was not good enough to beat Uganda's Peruth Chemutai, who clocked 9:01.45 minutes.

Hyvin Kiyong of Kenya was breathing down Frerichs' neck but had to settle for bronze, finishing in a time of 9:05.39 minutes.

Kenya took first and second in the Men's 800m final, with Emmanuel



Korir and Cheruiyot Rotich surging down the final stretch to claim the top two positions with times of 1:45.06 seconds and 1:45.23 seconds respectively.

Patryk Dobek of Poland was close behind in third, 17-thousandths of a second behind Rotich.

Dobek was one of three track and field medalists for Poland with Wojciech Nowicki and Pawel Fajdek, claiming gold and bronze in the Men's Hammer Throw, finishing either side of Eivind Henriksen of Norway. There was heartbreak for the world's number heptathlete Katrina Johnson-Thompson who pulled up with injury during the Heptathlon 200m Heats, ruling her out for the rest of the events.

Anouk Vetter of Netherlands leads the standings with 3968 points, 27 points ahead of Belgium's Noor Vidts, with four disciplines completed.



Andre De Grasse of Canada reacts in Heat 3 - REUTERS

TOKYO 2020 2020 OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY - TOP 10

RANK	COUNTRIES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	China	32	22	16	70
2	USA	25	31	23	79
3	Japan	21	7	12	40
4	Great Britain	15	18	15	48
5	Australia	15	4	17	36
6	ROC	14	21	18	53
7	Germany	8	8	16	32
8	France	6	10	9	25
9	Italy	6	9	15	30
10	Netherlands	6	8	9	23

TODAY'S SPORTS SCHEDULE

SPORT	VENUE	TIME
ATHLETICS	Olympic Stadium	05.30 a.m. (SL time)
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	Yokohama Baseball Stadium	03.30 p.m.
BASKETBALL	Saitama Super Arena	09.45 a.m.
BEACH VOLLEYBALL	Shiokaze Park	05.30 a.m.
BOXING	Kokugikan Arena	10.30 a.m.
CANOE SPRINT	Sea Forest Waterway	06.00 a.m.
CYCLING TRACK	Izu Velodrome	12.00 p.m.
DIVING	Tokyo Aquatics Centre	06.30 a.m.
EQUESTRIAN	Equestrian Park	01.30 p.m.
FOOTBALL	Ibaraki Kashima Stadium	01.30 p.m.
GOLF	Kasumigaseki Country Club	04.00 a.m.
HANDBALL	Yoyogi National Stadium	01.30 p.m.
HOCKEY	Oi Hockey Stadium	07.00 a.m.
KARATE	Nippon Budokan	06.30 a.m.
MARATHON SWIMMING	Odalba Marine Park	03.00 a.m.
MODERN PENTATHLON	Musashino Forest Sp Plaza	09.30 a.m.
SKATEBOARDING	Ariake Park Skateboarding	05.30 a.m.
SPORT CLIMBING	Apini Urban Sports Park	02.00 p.m.
TABLE TENNIS	Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium	07.30 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL	Ariake Arena	09.30 a.m.
WATER POLO	Tatsumi Water Polo Centre	10.30 a.m.
WRESTLING	Makuhari Messe Hall	07.30 a.m.

DailyMirror SPORTS EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL

- Cricket** : ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP, 2021-2023
1st Test - England vs India (Nottingham)
- GERMANY T20 TRI-SERIES**
1st Match - Germany vs Norway (Krefeld)
2nd Match - France vs Norway (Krefeld)
- Tennis** : SILICON VALLEY CLASSIC (Spartan Tennis Complex)
- Golf** : HERO OPEN (St. Andrews)

CM SportsDesk

Army Commander's T20 Thisara steers Event TV Western Warriors to third win

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Skipper Thisara Perera shone with an unbeaten knock of 75 runs made in only 35 balls that included eight boundaries and three sixes to steer Event TV Western Warriors to a comfortable four-wicket win over Batsman.com Eastern Warriors in a high scoring match of the Army Commanders T20 cricket tournament played at the Army ground in Dombagoda.

Batsman.com Eastern Warriors taking first lease of the wicket made a score of 152 and Event TV Western Warriors in their run chase was helped by an unbroken 99-run stand for the seventh wicket between skipper Perera and Yashoda Mendis enabling them to reach the target in the 19th over and record their third win.

Meanwhile, Super Fashion Northern Warriors met their Waterloo and had their unbeaten record tarnished when Dimo Southern Warriors defeated them by 52 runs yesterday morning.

Dimo Southern Warriors taking first lease of the wicket posted a formidable score of 159 and Super Fashion Northern Warriors in their turn was able to muster a score of only 107 runs.

However, after the completion of five matches played by each team, Super Fashion Northern Warriors with four wins from five outings maintain the top spot followed by Event TV Western Warriors with three four wins, Dimo Southern Warriors with two wins and one win by Batsman.com Eastern Warriors.

RESULTS:

At Dombagoda - Event TV Western Warriors won by four wickets

Batsman.com Eastern Warriors 152 for 8 in 20 overs (Harshajith Veerendra 41, Pathum Dilshan 34, Sandun Weerakkody 30, Himasha Liyanage 20, Yashoda Mendis 3 for 24, Malka Madusanka 2 for 9, Nuwan Pradeep 2 for 27)

Event TV Western Warriors 155 for 6 in 18.5 overs (Dilshan Munaweera 21, Thisara Perera 75 not out, Yashoda Mendis 26 not out, Tharindu Kaushal 2 for 30)

At Dombagoda - Dimo Southern Warriors won by 52 runs

Dimo Southern Warriors 159 in 19.5 overs (Dinesh Chandimal 38, Samitha Dilshan 33, Angelo Perera 30, Dhammika Prasad 15, Seekkuge Prasanna 3 for 34)

Super Fashion Northern Warriors 107 for 9 in 20 overs (Pathum Kumara 35, Thenu Rathana 28, Shehan Fernando 15, Dinesh Perera 3 for 20, Madushan Boththothage 3 for 27, Suminda Lakshana 2 for 13).

Wade demands bravery after Australia's first T20 loss to Bangladesh

Captain Matthew Wade has said Australia need to be brave as they look to bounce back after their first-ever Twenty20 defeat to Bangladesh.

Spinner Nasum Ahmed was the star for the hosts in their 23-run win as Australia failed to chase a relatively small T20 target in the first of five matches in the series in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Australia failed to get any batting momentum against the spin-dominated Bangladesh attack.

"We're going to have to be brave and stick to our plans," Wade told the website cricket.com.au.

"There's not enough time to reinvent the wheel." But there's a difference between being brave and being smart when you're chasing lower totals," added Wade, who was appointed captain for this series with Aaron Finch out injured.

"You can't go into your shell in T20 cricket... You're going to face the same bowlers tomorrow and over and over again -- you've got to find a way to just to work it out." Australia lost three wickets with just 11 runs on the board chasing 132, and Mitchell Marsh said the early stumble cost them.

"Anywhere you play around the world statistics show that it's always difficult to win games from that position," said Marsh, who had tried to resurrect the Australian innings with a run-a-ball 45.

"Obviously, we all want to get better at playing spin. I think in these conditions, it was tough." Bangladesh hero Nasum, playing only his fifth T20 international, said building pressure through repeated dot balls was key to their success. "Our target was to check the run and bowl dot. We tried that and got wickets," he said.



Bangladesh's Nasum Ahmed (R) celebrates after the dismissal of Australia's Mitchell Marsh during first T20 cricket match

Bangladesh 131 for 7 (Shakib 36, Naim 30, Hazlewood 3-24, Starc 2-33)
Australia 108 (Marsh 45, Nasum 4-19, Mustafizur 2-16, Shoriful 2-19)

-AFP

Horror plunge made me stronger, says record-breaking Olympian Brown, 13

Skateboarder Sky Brown, 13, said a life-threatening accident only made her stronger as she became Britain's youngest Olympic medalist yesterday -- and set her sights on doubling up with surfing in 2024.

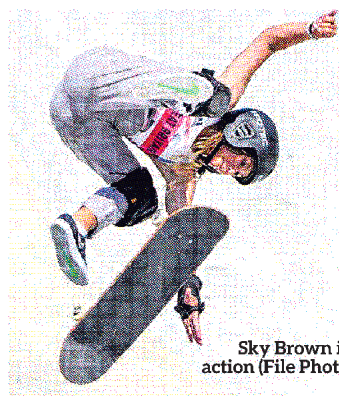
Brown, just 11 at the time, suffered skull fractures and a broken wrist and hand in June 2020 when she took off for an air and plunged into the gap between two half-pipes, landing on her head.

The Japan-born skater, who has said her helmet saved her life, was urged to give up the sport but just over a year later she claimed bronze as skateboarding makes its Olympic debut.

Brown admitted there was a time when she did not know if she would skate at the Olympics, but that ultimately the "accident made me stronger."

"I didn't know if I would skate really. My parents were saying 'Don't skate, do something else,' she said at Tokyo's Ariake Urban Sports Park, her bronze medal around her neck.

"But I'm so happy to be here. I honestly feel like the accident made me stronger." Brown, aged 13 years and 28 days, was in line to break an 85-year-old record as the youngest Olympic champion, attempting to lower the mark



Sky Brown in action (File Photo)

set by American diver Marjorie Gestring, who won 3m springboard gold aged 13 years and 268 days in 1936.

The Briton was not even the youngest skater on the podium after the women's park event -- Japan's Kokona Hiraki took silver at 12 years and 343 days, behind her gold-winning teammate Sakura Yosozumi, 19.

Brown is already eyeing more glory at the Paris Olympics in 2024, when she hopes to compete in both skateboarding and surfing.

"Maybe. I really hope so, I'm definitely going to try (to compete in) surfing,"

she said. Brown, however, may face a roadblock with the surfing contested in Tahiti, nearly 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometres) from the French capital.

In an unusually close-knit sport, Brown disclosed how encouragement from gold-medallist Yosozumi, a close friend, helped her recover from two falls in the final and secure her redemptive bronze.

"Sakura said, 'You've got it Sky, I know you're going to make it,' and that really made me feel better," said Brown, who twice failed attempting a kickflip indy.

Brown did not even appear to recognise International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, 67, who spoke to her before the medal ceremony.

"Sorry, who?" she said. Brown added: "I really hope I inspire young girls. I feel like people aren't too young that they can't do it, but if you believe in yourself you can do anything."

"Anyone can do skateboarding. You don't have to be of a certain height or have to be a certain age, you can do it whenever you want. You've just got to skate and go for it." -AFP

Synthetic tracks for five rural Playgrounds and schools

The Sports Ministry have taken steps to install five pure synthetic tracks at selected five rural Playgrounds and schools in the country for the benefit of rural athletes.

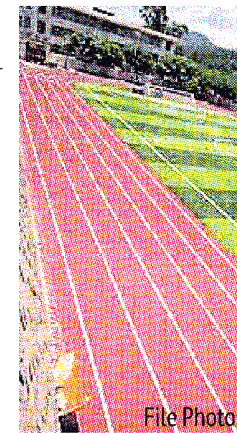
The Ministry has already called for tenders to purchase the five pure synthetic tracks and have also received

approval from the Cabinet under the directions of Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

The 130m long synthetic tracks (four lanes) will be installed at the Gampaha Sri Bodhi Playgrounds, Sabaragamuwa Provincial Playgrounds, Matara District Sports Complex, D.

S.Senanayake MV, Ampara and at Anuradhapura MMV Playgrounds.

The synthetic tracks will be installed before March, 2022 and the Sports Ministry believes that it will benefit the talented rural athletes who specialise in sprint events.



(SP)

File Photo

WEEKDAYS 10AM - 1PM

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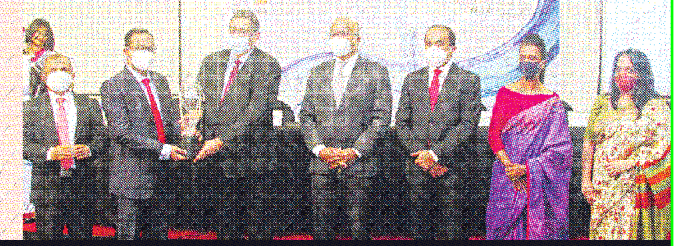
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P14 Full Stock Market

P13 Havelock City fourth and final phase ready...

P12 CA Sri Lanka launches Annual Report Awards...



Govt. declares August 16 as National Logistics Day

The Cabinet of Ministers this week granted approval to declare August 16 as the National Logistics Day for the purpose of educating the public on the importance of efficient and effective management of supply chains and its impact on cost of living.

After considering a proposal tabled by Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge, the Cabinet of Ministers cleared the proposal to

declare August 16 as the National Logistics Day starting from this year and to issue a commemorative stamp celebrating the first National Logistics Day.

“The efficient and effective management of all the supplies in a country is called logistics. If the relevant process is not properly managed, problems such as rising commodity prices and consequent difficulty in controlling the cost of living will arise. Therefore,

it seems appropriate to declare a National Logistic Day for the purpose of educating the public about the related process,” the Government Information Department noted.

In a recent article, the World Bank (WB) highlighted the fragmentations of the country's domestic supply chains particularly with regard to agricultural products, exposed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It pointed out that these fragmentations have led to inefficiencies throughout the logistics sector leading to shortage of items and high prices of goods.

According to the article, around 97 percent of the country's domestic freight is transported by roads—with half the trucks returning empty—causing unnecessary congestion on the road network and increasing transportation costs.

Adani-JKH container terminal gets 25-year tax holiday

- The project will be 30 percent financed by equity and 70 percent by debt, which will be a foreign loan
- Will have a 35-year build-operate-transfer concession from SLPA
- Imported material will be free from VAT, import duty, Port and Airport Development Levy
- Up to 20 expatriate employees will get tax exemption on salaries



Under the Strategic Development Projects Act, the government has granted a 25-year tax holiday for the proposed West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Port of Colombo to be built by India's Adani group with its local partner, John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH) at an estimated cost of US\$ 650 million on a build-

operate-transfer (BOT) basis. Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa in his capacity as the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation on 30th of July this year declared WCT as a Strategic Development Project by issuing a government notification.

“... Development and Operation of West Container Terminal-I (hereinafter referred to as “WCT-I”) project

under the Colombo Port Expansion project with an envisaged investment of US\$ 650 million with the aim of consolidating Colombo Port's position as a transshipment hub for the South Asian Region by providing sufficient container handling capacity and adequate depth for new-generation vessel,” the notification said.

The envisaged investment of the

project is to be financed on a debt to equity ratio of 70:30, and the entire portion of debt is expected to be financed by a foreign loan, according to the notification. JKH recently revealed that it estimates to make an investment of US\$ 70-80 million in the project.

According to JKH, the initial work of the project including finalisation of the project design and costs and other structuring arrangements are moving ahead in line with the Letter of Intent (LOI) executed among Adani, JKH and Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA).

Further, the notification reaffirmed that WCT would be developed on a BOT basis for a period of 35 years as a public-private partnership (PPP) in three stages, where Adani is expected to hold 51 percent stake followed by 34 percent stake by JKH and 15 percent by the SLPA.

With the tripartite BOT agreement is expected to be signed shortly, the government has published required conditions to secure the 25-year income tax holiday and other tax exemptions with an aim to become fully operational in five years.

MOREON P12

Cabinet nod for KDU to enter into institutional partnership with BCS

The Cabinet nod was granted this week for General Sir John Kothalawala Defence University (KDU) to enter into an institutional partnership agreement with British Computer Society (BCS).

The proposed agreement is to be inked between the two institutions to clear a matter concerning the issuance of identical licence to General Sir John Kothalawala Defence University for engaging in the activities related to evaluation of

individuals applying to obtain the membership of that institution.

“...as professional members the BCS – Information Technology Chartered Institute has expressed their concern to issue on unidentical licence to General Sir John Kothalawala Defence University for engaging in activities related to evaluation of individuals applying to obtain the membership of the that institution,” the Government Information Department noted.

MOREON P12

Huawei to give fresh impetus to local start-up ecosystem

Startups in Sri Lanka will receive fresh impetus over the next three years with leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, Huawei announcing its decision to focus on the island nation's start-up hub.

Huawei announced at the Cloud Spark Founders Summit that was held this week, it plans to develop the startup ecosystem in the Asia

Pacific region by investing US\$ 100 million over the next three years.

While the investment will go towards the Huawei Spark Program in the Asia Pacific region, the startup space in Sri Lanka, alongside Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam has been handicapped by the Chinese multinational technology company to be further developed.

Huawei said by focusing on the four countries, it aims at recruiting a

total of 1,000 startups into the Spark accelerator program and shaping 100 of them into scaleups.

Huawei has already carried out efforts to assist Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand to build their startup hubs.

Addressing the summit, Huawei President Asia Pacific Region Jeffery Liu pointed out that for the past two decades the entity has remained committed to being ‘In Asia

Pacific, For Asia Pacific’. Huawei Cloud Business Unit CEO Zhang Ping'an shared that through the Spark Program in Asia Pacific the company is working with local governments, leading incubators, well-known VC firms, and top universities to build support platforms for startups in many regions. It currently has 40 startups in its programme.

MOREON P12

Affixing stickers on liquor bottles

Awarding supply of security stickers to Indian company challenged in Court

By Lakmal Sooriyagoda

A writ petition has been filed in Court of Appeal seeking an order to quash awarding the supply of security stickers to an Indian security printing company by the Excise Department.

The petitioner, Lasantha Kumara, a resident of Colombo 05 also seeking an order staying the Commissioner General of Excise Department from purchasing any sticker whatsoever or making any payment to Madras Security Printers, an Indian security printing company.

Filing this petition through counsel Jayamuditha Jayasooriya, the petitioner is further seeking an order directing the Commissioner General of Excise Department to implement a system to prevent local manufacturers of liquor from evading or avoiding the due payment of taxes or levies to the State.

The petitioner states that he expects to prevent losing of revenue to a magnitude of several



billions as a result of the illegal and unlawful decisions and practices of the Excise Department.

The petitioner further said the Commissioner General of Excise Department by his letter dated 19.01.2021 addressed to Treasury Secretary has informed that the affixing of stickers on foreign liquor is successfully continuing with effect from 20.07.2019 and his

Department could not implement the affixing of stickers on locally manufactured liquor due to practical issues and COVID-19 pandemic though it was to be commenced on 20.08.2019.

The petitioner states the Excise Department is obliged to pay a sum of Rs. 32 million every month to Madras Security Printers.

MOREON P12

SLT continues to ride on pandemic-fuelled demand for data and other digital services

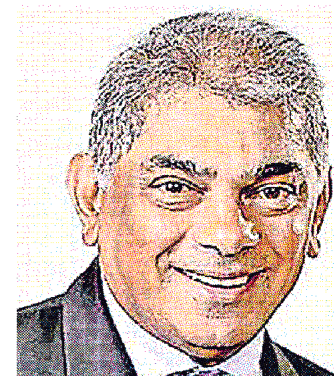
Providing a first glimpse of how the broader telecommunication sector fared when distant working and learning became the norm during most of the June quarter, Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) saw a further uptake in its services from data to voice to other digital solutions, in a reflection of how the virus continues to upend the way people interact, work, learn and seek entertainment.

Accordingly, Sri Lanka's largest fixed telephone operator recorded a robust 15.2 percent growth in its top line to Rs.25.3 billion in the April-June quarter (2Q21) over the same period in 2020.

The company's share ended 50 cents or 1.49 percent higher at Rs.34.00 on Tuesday.

The June quarter revenues were higher than the March quarter (1Q21) revenues of Rs.24.7 billion when the things looked much more normal before the third wave of the virus sent the demand for data services up again.

“Top-line growth can be attributed to customer focused delivery of essential products and services, during the pandemic period. SLT-



Group Chairman Rohan Fernando



GCEO Lalith Seneviratne

Mobitel strived to provide residential fibre connectivity and to increase PEO TV and mobile services as customer demand grew,” SLT said in a statement issued separately to its interim results.

The group's operating profit growth however decelerated to 2.4 percent to Rs.3.8 billion over the same period last year as there was a sharp increase in sales and marketing expenses during the period.

Such costs rose by as much as 31 percent to Rs.2.7 billion over the same period last year.

Increased advertising on brand unification of Sri Lanka Telecom and its fully owned mobile telephone company, Mobitel (Pvt) Limited, heightened marketing communication to win subscribers under heavy competition and to enhance brand visibility appeared to have driven these costs.

“This strategy led to more customer acquisition, aided by value added services, competitive pricing and the launch of innovative consumer-centric services such as unlimited data packages,” SLT said.

MOREON P12

CA Sri Lanka launches Annual Report Awards 2021

The Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) announced this week the launch of the Annual Report Awards 2021 which will have the marking system automated due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis in the country.

While the red circled event did not take place last year due to the outbreak of the pandemic, this year the competition will be carried out with a number of concessions.

Applications for the 56th Annual Report Awards will be accepted from 15 August onwards from organisations ranging from multinationals to blue-chip companies, conglomerates, small and medium businesses, state corporations, statutory bodies, NGOs, and NPOs.

The competition is open to any entity that produces an annual report, the CA Sri Lanka said.

With the Annual Report Awards, CA Sri Lanka aims at promoting transparency, corporate governance, sustainability, and social responsibility in local companies.

The 2021 edition will also present special awards for corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and integrated reporting. The awards will be presented under 26 categories, where winning



Symbolic trophy presentation by Annual Report Awards Committee Chairman Chaaminda Kumarasiri (Second from left) to CA Sri Lanka President Manil Jayasinghe, while CA Sri Lanka Vice President Sanjaya Bandara (First from left), Colombo Stock Exchange Chairman Dumith Fernando (Fourth from left), Annual Report Awards Committee Alternate Chairperson Chamila Cooray (Second from right), and CA Sri Lanka CEO Dulani Fernando (extreme right) look on

PIC BY PRADEEP DILRUCKSHANA

companies will receive gold, silver and bronze awards.

The competition is open to organisations representing banking, diversified holdings, finance & leasing, insurance, trading, investment banking, food and beverage, healthcare, hotels, land & property, manufacturing, motor companies, service organisations, telecommunications, unit

trusts, media and entertainment, state corporations & statutory bodies, plantation, constructions, power & energy, SMEs, NPOs and NGOs.

Commenting on the path companies must take to steer the economy towards a positive growth trajectory in a manner that allows higher earnings with minimal impacts on the environment, CA Sri Lanka President Manil Jayasinghe

stressed the need for companies to re-evaluate their choices in the current situation.

“Those who sit at the nerve centre of an organisation are considered the gatekeepers. Therefore, we must use our position to promote responsible and greener investments to ensure a safer planet for us,” said Jayasinghe during the official announcement of the competition.

The Taxation Committee of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA) will conduct a virtual webinar on ‘Highlights of Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act No. 10 of 2021’ today (August 5) from 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. via online zoom platform.

The seminar will be inaugurated by the Chief Guest H.M.W.C. Bandara, Commissioner General of Inland Revenue Department and the welcome address will be delivered by Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala,

CMA webinar on ‘Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act’ today



H.M.W.C. Bandara



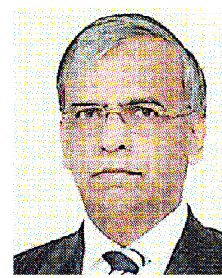
Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala



Athula Ranaweera



Duminda Hulangamuwa



N.R. Gajendran



Sarala Kodagoda



Nihal C. Wijewardena

Founder President, CMA Sri Lanka. The presentation on ‘Highlights of Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act No. 10 of 2021’ will be delivered by Athula Ranaweera, Managing Partner, Ranaweera Associates.

The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion which will be moderated by Duminda Hulangamuwa, Partner, Ernst & Young and the eminent panelists are N.R. Gajendran, Senior Partner, Gajma & Co., Sarala Kodagoda, Partner Tax & Business Advisory

Services, Deloitte Sri Lanka, and Nihal C. Wijewardena, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Department of Inland Revenue. The co-ordination will be handled by Puwendran Gajendra Chairman of the Taxation Committee.

The webinar will conclude with a question and answer session where participants will also have an opportunity to discuss practical applications and obtain clarifications via chat option.

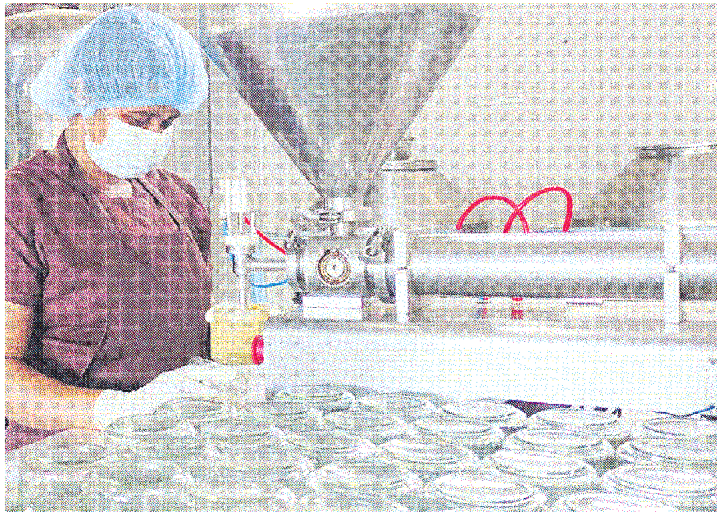
Those who wish to attend are requested to send an e-mail to: registrations@cma-srilanka.org

MA'S Kitchen's Northern project wins UN Food Systems' top award

North Lanka family foods (PVT) Ltd, a community investment in Pali, in Northern Sri Lanka by MA'S Tropical Food Processing (PVT) Ltd, has received the UN Food Systems Summit Best Small Business award.

The worldwide award is given to small businesses that have positively impacted the global food systems and showcase innovative ways to sustainably deliver good food and livelihoods for all. North Lanka Family Foods is the only Sri Lankan company to receive the award this year.

At the end of the internal conflict, MA's actively searched for areas in the Northern districts for an opportunity to invest and advance the country's initiatives in peace & reconciliation. North Lanka Family foods was initially set up in the area when taking over a shutdown micro-dairy in Kilinochchi in 2013, over the next 7 years and with a larger investment, the company now has a multifunctional food and beverage plant in Iyakkachchi, near Elephant Pass. Marketing



under the brand ‘New Beginnings’ the company focuses on products that showcase the primary resources directly grown in the surrounding area.

New Beginnings peanut butter is made with locally harvested peanuts and sold across Sri Lanka and is now moving into export markets. The company also produces cheese, butterfat, and quality roasted sesame oil all using local produce.

“MA'S Kitchen is proud that our work with small farmers and the community has been recognized on this global platform. Focusing on value-added production, using locally grown Sri Lankan produce, allows us to ensure value to be channelled back into the region and contribute to rebuilding the conflict disrupted value chains and sustainably strengthening them,” said Maliek De Alwis

CEO MA's Kitchen. “The post-pandemic era is a good time for the country to support and grow local small businesses to ensure that the country can prosper, we should be proud of locally manufactured and responsibly sourced products which are reducing the need for imports. As citizens, we need to be more deeply involved in national efforts and this is our way of contributing to the effort of peace and reconciliation of our communities,” explains Sheran De Alwis Chief compliance officer, MA's Kitchen

Best Small Business: Good Food for all competition is part of the UN's Food Systems summit which is held to launch bold new actions to transform the way the world produces and consumes food, delivering progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The award evaluated the business' actions in access to safe nutritious food for all, shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, boosting nature positive production, advancing equitable livelihoods and building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

UN SDG on gender equality and women empowerment unlikely to be fulfilled by SL: Study

Sri Lanka is unlikely to realize by 2030 the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on gender equality and women empowerment as lack of monitoring and accountability hinders the ability in moving in that direction although initiatives have been taken to realize the goal.

A study carried out by Colombo based economic think-tank Verité Research showed that the country's performance in enhancing gender equality has continued to be poor in the past decade. The 12 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, to be line with Goal 5 of the UN SDG on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, have not reached the required level of progress.

The study stressed that “insignificant progress” has

been achieved by Sri Lanka in bridging the gender gap although concerns were raised by the relevant authorities and the government in addressed the pressing socioeconomic concern.

Approximately Rs. 300 million have been spent so far on reaching the KPI, yet 10 of our 12 KPIs stand at ‘No Progress’ status, pointed out Verité Research.

“It is evident that there has been limited oversight and monitoring of the implementation of this initiative. There has also been little or no progress in the achievement of any of the KPIs,” said Verité Research in the report ‘Gender-Responsive Budgeting’ that was launched yesterday.

It added that it is likely that the lack of progress in the KPIs is attributed to the lack of monitoring and follow up. According to the think tank,

if there was an active effort to monitor progress, it would create a stronger incentive for implementing agencies to execute the directives that they are tasked with.

“It is evident that even a positive policy initiative will have limited outcomes for society if there is no effective monitoring and feedback mechanism, even within internal government agencies.

The issue of poor implementation due to the lack of oversight is aggravated by the lack of public disclosure on information pertaining to the progress of these KPIs,” asserted Verité Research in its latest report.

Furthermore, it stressed that the lack of public oversight on the manner in which public funds are utilised limits the ability of the public to hold public authorities answerable.

Contd. from Page 11

Adani-JKH...

Once the BOT agreement is signed, the project company is required to complete the construction of the first 600-metre length of quay wall and specified terminal area including requisite infrastructure within a period of 36 months in order to commence operations.

As the second phase, the project company would be required to commence operations of the full length of the quay wall of 1,400 m within 48 months.

Ultimately, it is required for the project company to commence operations of the terminal at full-scale within 60 months from the date of the BOT agreement.

Accordingly, the project company would be given a 25-year tax holiday starting from the first year of profits or two years after starting commercial operations.

“The said tax exemption period shall commence from the first year in which the project company makes taxable profits or two (02) years after commencement of commercial operations, whichever occurs earlier. Provided that after the expiry of the aforesaid tax exemption period income tax in respect of profits, gains and income of the project company shall be payable in terms of the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act for the time being in force,” it noted.

Along with this, dividends distributed and received by shareholders out of the exempted profit, gains would also be exempted from income tax during the 25-year tax holiday

period and additional year thereafter. Further, the project company is also to be exempted from Withholding Tax on interest on foreign loans taken for capital expenditure and on technical fees paid to consultants employed in the project.

In addition, up to 20 expatriate employees of the terminal company are also to be exempted from income tax on their salaries for five years.

Meanwhile, all project-related imports subject to the approval of the Board of Investment (BoI) would be released from Value Added Tax (VAT), Ports and Airports Development Levy (PAL), CESS and import duties for a five-year period after signing the BOT agreement.

If an imported item is placed on a negative list, the document noted that the BOI could consider duty exemptions.

“However, any importation of items in the Negative List shall be considered by the BOI where such items are either not wholly produced in Sri Lanka or are not available in sufficient quality, quantity and time line for project completion,” the notification stated.

Huawei to...

“Starting today, we are stepping up our support for startups through four new initiatives, aimed at cloud-plus-cloud collaboration, continuous tech innovation, global and local services, and high-quality business ecosystems,” said Ping'an.

The four new initiatives rolled out

by Huawei are: cloud-plus-cloud collaboration, continuous tech innovation, global and local services, and high-quality business ecosystems.

Having been in operation in Sri Lanka for over 20 years as a leading global provider of information and communication technology (ICT).

Founded in 1987, Huawei has grown to become a leading global provider of ICT and smart devices. It operates in more than 170 countries and regions, serving more than three billion people around the world.

Awarding supply...

According to the petitioner, he has received information that the Commissioner General of Excise Department has awarded the said contract without conducting a proper technical evaluation and also without following the tender procedures.

The Petitioner states that the printing of direct codes on bottles and cans could cost only 15 cents which has been the practice adopted in many countries, but the Commissioner General of Excise Department is now spending about Rs. 2 per bottle which is not a safer method than the printing of direct marking codes.

The petitioner states that Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament raised the said issue in Parliament on 20th of April 2021 and he pointed out the the said company is a blacklisted company in India as well as in several other countries.

The petitioner states that MP Pathirana categorically pointed out that the State has to suffer over Rs.1 billion as a result of the corrupt and illegal practice adopted by the Commissioner General of Excise Department.

The petitioner further states that this corrupt practice has caused a great foreign exchange loss to the Government of Sri Lanka while it accepts that it is in a grave state of affairs in terms of the country's foreign reserves.

The petitioner has cited that Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance S.R. Attygalle, Commissioner General of Excise Department M.J. Gunasiri, Madras Security Printers Company and Attorney General as respondents. This petition is to be taken up on August 23.

SLT continues...

The company reported earnings of Rs.2.11 a share or Rs.3.8 billion for the three months ended in June compared to earnings of Rs.1.50 a share Rs.2.7 billion in the corresponding period last year, logging a 40.7 percent increase.

The bottom line was largely buttressed by an income tax reversal of Rs.605 million compared to an income tax charge of Rs.413 million last year.

By June 30, 2021 the National Treasury on behalf of the Sri Lankan government directly held 49.50 percent stake in

SLT while Global Telecommunications Holdings NV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Malaysian investment holding company, Usaha Tegas Sdn Bhd, held 44.98 percent stake.

Employees' Provident Fund held another 1.40 percent stake being the third largest shareholder.

Cabinet nod...

Accordingly, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in his capacity as the Minister of Defence sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers on Monday to allow KDU to sign an agreement of institutional membership.

Early this year, KDU's Faculty of Computing together BCS's Colombo office launched the first ever out-of-UK Student Chapter of the BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT.

Government mulls...

It is true that the government has been able to save funds through the vehicle importation ban. However an extra amount of dollars could be earned through a temporary facility allowing Sri Lankan expatriate workers to import a vehicle,” the MP said.

“MP Dolawatte's proposal is an interesting one and we shall definitely consider it,” State Minister Cabraal said.

Havelock City fourth and final phase ready for handover

The much-anticipated Havelock City Phase 4 luxury apartments, following the successful completion of construction are now move in ready having obtained the Certificate of Conformity (COC) from the Urban Development Authority (UDA).

Located at the heart of Colombo, Phase 4 comprises two luxury residential towers named Peterson and Edmonton having 340 apartments over 31 floors with mesmerizing garden and sea views offering buyers the last and final chance to make an investment of a lifetime.



With only a handful of units available in Phase 4, interested buyers looking to immediately move into a completed apartment will have the opportunity to purchase their luxury apartment attractive prices with flexible payment plans.

Moving into their new home

at Havelock City; the Phase 4 residents will get an opportunity to experience the unique lifestyle this City within a City provides with the Clubhouse being at the heart of it all.

The Havelock City Clubhouse is the largest of its kind in Sri Lanka equipped with a wide

array of facilities and amenities, ranging from 2 swimming pools, a jacuzzi, 2 gymnasiums, 2 squash courts, a mini cinema, a launderette, a mini supermarket and 3 banquet halls.

The expansive 7-acre lush, green garden is an exclusive space for Havelock City

residents, providing a seemingly endless space for its residents to connect with nature and enjoy a healthy outdoor lifestyle.

With its walking and jogging paths, open air exercise corners, mini golf putting green, children's play area and its latest addition of outdoor basketball and badminton courts.

Anchoring the Havelock City Residential Apartments is the Havelock City Commercial Development, comprising a Shopping Mall and a Grade A Office Tower named Mireka Tower offering distinctive workspaces.

Subscribing to the highest international standards, the Shopping Mall will host a range of F&B, fashion, and entertainment options including a multiplex cinema; all providing its residents endless experiences just a step away from home.

Kelsey Homes launches third phase of its largest mixed housing project in Ja-Ela

Kelsey Homes, Sri Lanka's pioneering real estate developer, is now set to launch Phase Three of the iconic gated residential project, Central Park Ja-Ela, following the successful completion of phases One and Two.

Offering 350 plus residential units and 40 plus amenities, Central Park Ja-Ela is one of the largest gated mixed-housing projects in Sri Lanka.

The unprecedented success of Phases One and Two at Central Park Ja-Ela, with over 70 percent sold within a record time amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, is an incredible achievement. Central to everything, Central Park Ja-Ela is in close proximity to leading schools, hospitals, banks and supermarkets and just minutes away from the Colombo city (30 minutes), Katunayake Airport (20 minutes) and the upcoming 'Port City' via the Port Access Elevated Highway (30 minutes).

With convenient ease of access to the Colombo-Katunayake Expressway and 500m to the Colombo-Negombo main road Central Park Ja-Ela is seen as a unique value for money proposition.

Furthermore, the appreciation of the property by over 20 percent within 12 months of the launch has made it highly lucrative as an investment to buyers.

Commenting on the success of the project, Chairman of Kelsey Development PLC, Eardley Perera stated, "Central Park Ja-Ela is one of the largest gated, mixed residential projects in Sri Lanka and we are thankful to our buyers for the trust and confidence placed in us, even during these most challenging of times. Kelsey Homes have been a key stakeholder and leader in the local housing market for over 35 years and we pride ourselves in maintaining an outstanding track record of

building iconic, quality residential facilities that blend luxury with affordability for our many satisfied customers."

With the launch of Phase Three, Central Park Ja-Ela is now able to showcase a model house for the public to experience their future. Kelsey offers spaciouly curated two-, three- and four-bedroom housing units priced from Rs 16.9 million.

Sprawled across 15 acres of lush greenery in Ja-Ela, Central Park provides luxury living spaces interspersed with an array of unparalleled services, utilities, and modern conveniences for comfortable, hassle-free living; including 24-hour security, CCTV surveillance, a mini-market, ATM facility, salon, business centre, medical centre, day-care centre, laundry service, driver's and maid's quarters, vehicle charging station and washing bay.

Prime Group's Chairman Premalal Brahmanage elected CDASL President

Prime Group's Chairman Premalal Brahmanage has been appointed as the new President of the Condominium Developers Association - Sri Lanka (CDASL) for the year of 2021/2022.

He succeeds Suresh Rajendra of John Keells Holdings PLC who completed his term as Chairman at the culmination of this year's Annual General Meeting.

Brahmanage currently serves as the Chairman of the Prime Group, a company he co-founded and steered to become the country's most celebrated real estate company with an indelible reputation built over 25 years of service excellence. He was also the Deputy Chairman of HNB Finance PLC.

"I am both privileged and humbled to have been entrusted this role as the President of the Condominium Developer's Association, as an organization with a proud past and an exciting and prosperous future.

"Over the next year, we will continue to build on our strengths and explore new directions. While the times ahead may seem challenging, I am confident that as we stand united in our values, skills and commitment, we will continue to overcome and forge ahead from strength to strength to serve the best interests of our nation.

"To commence my tenure, I will relook at the Condominium Act to improve operations within the industry and facilitate joint promotions outside Sri Lanka to secure mileage within the international market. In a business environment conflicted by a global pandemic, this will help us fortify our contribution to the government, local businesses as well as the broader community.

"As I assume this new position, I wish to acknowledge our outgoing President Suresh Rajendra. His leadership towards the association was steady, assured and pragmatic and his clear vision helped the Association navigate the deeply challenging world environment driven by the COVID-19' pandemic.

"His knowledge and experience played a pivotal role in this regard, and I offer my deep gratitude for his wonderful service and hard work rendered towards CDASL together with the outgoing Executive committee.

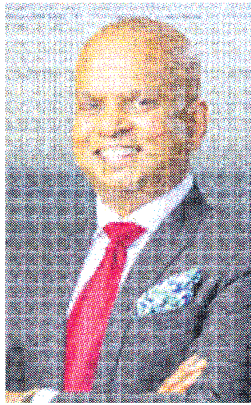
"Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my company Prime Group and all its stakeholders for working with an inspiring dedication and passion everyday. As we embrace the challenges and opportunities of the 'New Normal', I look forward to serving the Condominium Developers Association and its Members to the best of my ability," remarked Prime Group Chairman Premalal Brahmanage.

A veteran of the real estate industry, Brahmanage is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Management Accountants (UK), Chartered Business Administrator (Canada) and Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing. He also holds an MBA from the Open University of Malaysia and a Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura.

His long-standing career has seen him make significant contributions to the advancement of entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka, and was named as the "Most outstanding entrepreneur in Sri Lanka" for the year 2018 by the International Association of Lions Club.

An affiliate of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Condominium Developers Association aims

to preserve the interests of all stakeholders connected to the industry, foster industry specific initiatives, invite the intervention of governmental bodies in the facilitation and implementation of investments in the industry, lobby for the change of counterproductive legislation, interact with line ministries and related bodies in facilitating responsible and proactive procedures, establish best practices, and establish the role of the Condominium sector as a significant player in the economy.



Premalal Brahmanage

An alternative to Savings Accounts

NDB | WEALTH MONEY PLUS FUND

* Current Yield as at 29th July 2021

5.10%

WITHDRAW ANYTIME

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

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Homelands Skyline announces Phase II adding another 400 apartments, villas

Homelands Skyline has announced the launch of Phase II of the Canterbury Golf Resort Apartments and Residency project, which is currently the largest residential development project in Sri Lanka consisting of 1200 residential units, spread across 55 acres in Piliyandala - Kahathuduwa.

The latest additions to the project include 240 new apartments that make up the Canterbury Lexus Golf Resort Apartments and 158 Canterbury Golf Villas complete with an individual swimming pool and is masterfully designed by renowned architect, Philip Weeraratne which perfectly encapsulate the Homelands Skyline luxury living experience.

Property developer Homelands Skyline has taken the real estate industry by storm with its rapidly growing portfolio of apartment and residency projects in the most spectacular settings, combining environmentally conscious design and cutting-edge architecture.

Canterbury Golf Resort Apartments and Residencies, which launched in December 2020, has become an increasingly sought-after location to live and invest.

As of now, its residency project is completely sold out, and apartment availability currently stands at 10 percent. Investors of apartments and residences of Phase I have already obtained an appreciating Return on Investment (ROI) of more than 30 percent to 50 percent within the last 18 months.

Canterbury Lexus Golf Resort Apartments and Residencies is expected to have 240 apartments spread across three new towers, with improved services that offer a higher standard of living when compared to the apartments in the first phase. Additionally, it offers penthouses for people looking for a super luxurious alternative.

The Canterbury Golf Villas, designed by renowned architect, Philip Weeraratne, are designed to promote an open plan design and



Canterbury Golf Villas - Kahathuduwa

will have contemporary styled living rooms as well as a private infinity pool.

The owners of these apartments and villas will have full access to all of the 50 plus facilities while also enjoying the privileged solitude of their tastefully constructed residences. These new apartments seek to meet our residents' innermost desires, whether to buy a luxurious state-of-the-art home or a lifestyle investment.

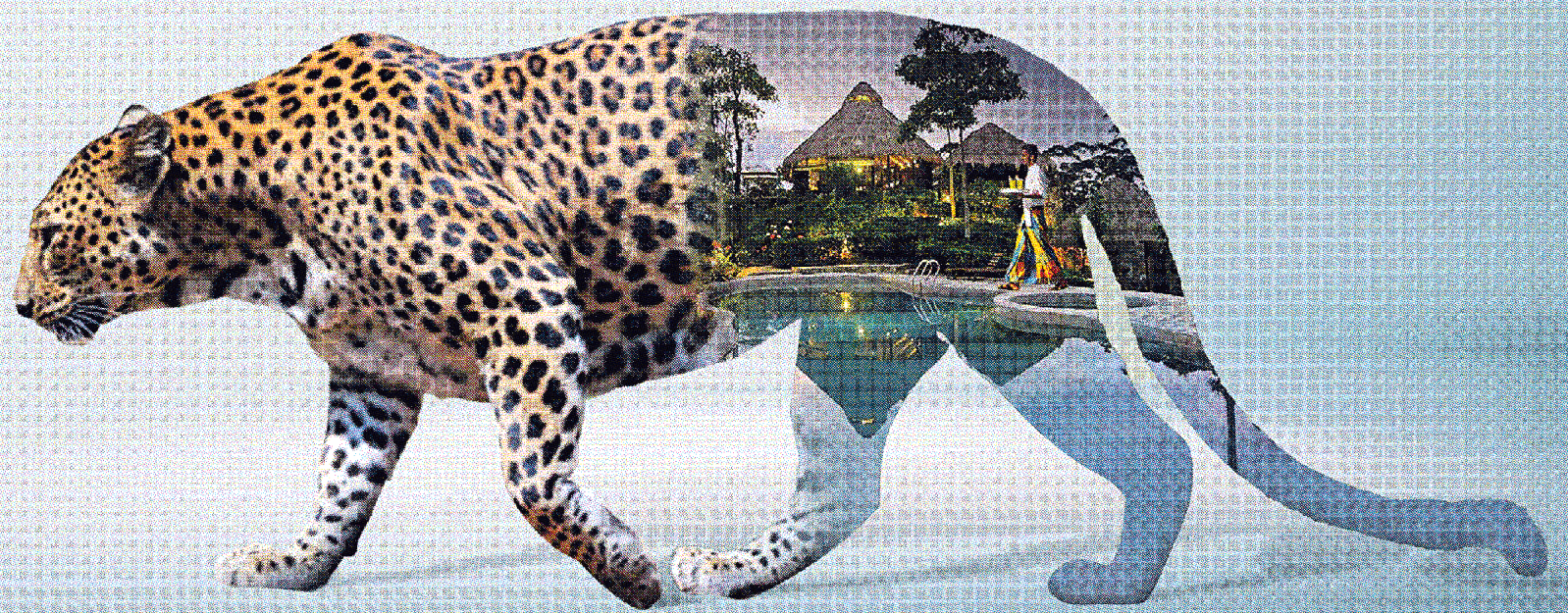
Investing in Canterbury not only provides you with the home you have always wanted but is also a dream investment with a distinct edge.

Speaking on Phase II of this already successful project, Nalin Herath, Chairman of Homelands Skyline said, "Despite the challenges posed by the lockdown and pandemic, Homelands Skyline has maintained a solid growth trajectory.

Apart from the second phase of the Canterbury Golf Resort Apartments and Residencies, we also successfully introduced the Santorini Resort Apartments and Residencies - Sri Lanka's first Theme Park styled Resort Apartments and Residencies in Negombo earlier this year."

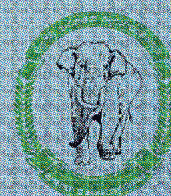
"We are witnessing an improvement in consumer sentiment and anticipate that demand is expected to increase further this year," he added.

PROTECTING THEM MEANS PROTECTING OURSELVES



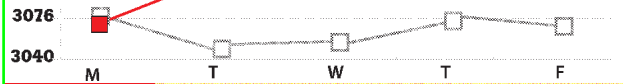
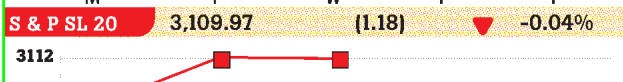
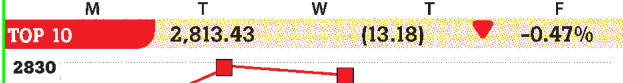
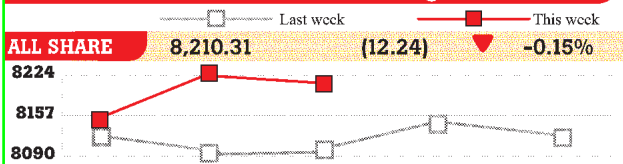
Our leopards are more than a wildlife attraction, they are the very lifeblood of our economy, contributing up to Rs. 197,034,903 to the Hotel industry in Yala in the year 2019.

DailyMirror



www.dmm.lk

FINANCIAL MARKETS August 04, 2021



TOP 10 PRICE MOVEMENTS

JKH 140.00	▲ 1.45%
DIAL 11.40	▼ -0.87%
COM 84.50	0.00%
HNB128.00	0.00%
EXPO77.80	▼ -2.26%
MELS 52.30	▲ 0.38%
LION 560.00	0.00%
CARG 242.50	▲ 0.62%
LOLC 477.50	▲ -1.65%
HHL 78.00	▲ 0.26%

T BILL RATES

Overnight Repo	105.16%
3 Months	5.15%
6 Months	5.19%
12 Months	5.24%

EXCHANGE RATE (BUYING/SELLING)

US \$	198.09 / 202.89
Pound	274.77 / 282.70
Euro	234.00 / 241.14
Yen	1.8110 / 1.8629

Source: www.ceylonassetmanagement.com

Unit Trust Prices as on 03.08.2021

Fund Name	Unit Selling Price...	Unit Buying Price
Astrue Active Income Fund	104.0324	104.0324
Astrue Alpha Fund	18.5550	17.5196
Assetline Income Fund	17.2518	17.2518
Assetline Income Plus Growth Fund	17.5416	17.0735
Genfin Dividend Fund	10.4848	10.2858
Genfin Dynamic Income Fund	10.3395	10.3395
Genfin Growth Fund	9.5200	9.1900
Genfin Money Market Fund	15.5330	15.5330
Genfin Shariah Balanced Fund	12.1500	11.7900
Genfin Shariah Income Fund	12.6204	12.6204
Ceybank Century Growth	79.7700	76.5200
Ceybank Gilt Edge Fund (A Series)	14.7875	14.7875
Ceybank Gilt Edge Fund (B Series)	12.4321	12.4321
Ceybank High Yield Fund	14.2988	14.2988
Ceybank Surakam Fund	12.5511	12.5511
Ceybank Unit Trust	27.2700	25.5900
Ceylon Dollar Bond Fund (In \$)	0.8108	0.8067
Ceylon Financial Sector Fund	7.4200	7.1300
Ceylon Income Fund	23.0230	23.0230
CEYLON IPO Fund	61.4900	59.1300
Ceylon Money Market Fund	5.7400	5.6100
Ceylon Tourism Fund	17.9906	17.9906
Ceylon Treasury Income Fund	3.9200	3.7600
Comtrust ADL Mudarabah Fund	6.1300	6.1300
Comtrust Equity Fund	11.8163	11.8163
Comtrust Growth Fund	19.2200	18.3500
Comtrust Gilt Edged Fund	10.6469	10.6469
Comtrust Money Market Fund	12.2197	12.2197
First Capital Equity Fund (FCEF)	1,371.9000	1,303.3000
First Capital Fixed Income Fund	1,929.3800	1,929.3800
First Capital Gilt Edged Fund	1,522.4400	1,522.4400
First Capital Money Market Fund	1,979.7000	1,979.7000
First Capital Wealth Fund	1,167.5100	1,167.4800
Guardian Acuity Equity Fund	18.9990	18.6417
Guardian Acuity Money Market Fund	20.7828	20.7828
JB Vantage Money Market Fund	28.6037	28.6037
JB Vantage Short Term Gilt Fund	15.2265	15.2265
JB Vantage Value Equity Fund	24.8200	23.3600
NAMAL Bank Fund	9.1150	8.7340
NAMAL Growth Fund	149.4364	139.5406
NAMAL High Yield Fund	25.4691	25.4691
NAMAL Income Fund	14.9340	14.9340
National Equity Fund	36.2866	33.9549
NDB Wealth Gilt Edged Fund	19.0826	19.0826
NDB Wealth Growth & Income Fund	47.4600	46.2000
NDB Wealth Growth Fund	10.9800	10.5600
NDB Wealth Income Fund	16.6325	16.6325
NDB Wealth Income Plus Fund	17.5974	17.5974
NDB Wealth Islamic Money Plus Fund	16.7212	16.7212
NDB Wealth Money Fund	21.1562	21.1562
NDB Wealth Money Plus Fund	24.2296	24.2296
Premier Growth Fund	7.1900	6.8300
Premier Money Market Fund	19.3363	19.3363
Softlogic Equity Fund	127.4544	121.4664
Softlogic Money Market Fund	108.2216	108.2216

Exchange Rates 04.08.2021

(1) The average rates of the following currencies quoted by commercial banks in Colombo for Telegraphic Transfers (TT) at 9.30 a.m. are as follows.

Currency	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
Australian Dollar	146.3013	150.7794
Canadian Dollar	157.7505	162.5974
Chinese Yuan (Renminbi)	29.8755	31.5948
Euro	234.0004	241.1405
Japanese Yen	1.8110	1.8629
Singapore Dollar	146.1609	150.5790
Sterling Pound	274.7715	282.7090
Swiss Franc	217.6993	225.2369
US Dollar	198.0983	202.8977

(2) The approximate exchange rates of GULF Currencies based on previous day's market weighted average rate for the US\$ are as follows.

Country	Currency	Indicative Rate
Bahrain	Bahrain Dinar	530.2387
Kuwait	Kuwait Dinar	665.6677
Oman	Oman Rial	519.2343
Qatar	Qatar Riyal	54.9025
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian Riyal	53.2910
UAE	UAE Dirham	54.4219

(3) The Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (AWPR) and the Lowest Prime Rate (LPR) during the week ended 30-July-2021, by all commercial banks was 5.76 percent and 4.96 percent respectively.

(4) The Average Weighted Deposit Rate (AWDR) of commercial banks for the month of July-2021 was 4.77 percent.

Market Indicators 04.08.2021

PRICE INDICES	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY
CSE ALL SHARE INDEX	8,210.31	8,222.55
S&P SL 20 INDEX	3,109.97	3,111.15
TRI ON ALL SHARES	5,277.08	5,279.10
TRI ON S&P SL SHARES	5,277.08	5,279.10

EQUITIES	VALUE OF TURNOVER(Rs.)	DOMESTIC PURCHASE	DOMESTIC SALES	FOREIGN PURCHASE	FOREIGN SALES	VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.)	DOMESTIC	FOREIGN	TRADES (NO.)	DOMESTIC	FOREIGN	LISTED COMPANIES (NO.)	TRADED COMPANIES (NO.)	MARKET PRICE EARNINGS RATIO(PER)	MARKET PRICE TO BOOK VALUE (PBV)	MARKET DIVIDEND YIELD (DY)	MARKET CAPITALIZATION (Rs.)														
	5,682,217,109	6,647,536,850	5,604,325,256	6,510,942,041	5,337,660,256	6,020,026,307	77,891,853	136,594,809	344,556,854	627,510,543	245,005,814	282,302,176	241,087,976	256,841,117	3,917,838	34,710	38,325	34,248	37,799	462	526	285	285	264	268	10.5514	10.5792	1.157	1.1589	2.6	3,638,416,928,654

Interbank -Interest Rates -Mid Rates 04.08.2021

	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
US DOLLARS	0.08963	0.12375	0.15663	0.23238
STERLING	0.05275	0.074	0.08925	0.18625
EUR	-0.577	-0.55857	-0.52657	-0.499
SWISS FRANCS	-0.7978	-0.7606	-0.7166	-0.5972

CSE Price List

Security	Volume	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	Change
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD	2,863	31.60	31.60	31.90	31.30	31.60	-
ABANS	701	179.25	178.00	178.00	172.00	172.00	(7.25)
ACCESS.ENG.SL	414,667	22.90	23.00	23.50	22.90	23.20	0.30
ACL	717,882	42.10	42.10	42.30	41.50	41.70	(0.40)
ACL.PLASTICS	522	263.50	269.50	274.25	265.50	269.50	6.00
ACME	10,512	6.40	6.40	6.50	6.40	6.40	-
AGALAWATTE	6	26.20	26.00	26.10	25.80	26.20	-
AHOT.PROPERTIES	574	40.20	40.50	40.50	39.20	40.00	(0.20)
AITKEN.SPENCE	81,393	67.90	67.90	68.50	66.50	68.00	0.10
ALLIANCE	17,600	71.30	72.40	72.40	70.00	70.30	(1.00)
AMANA.BANK	190,452	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.20	-
AMAYA.LEISURE	56	20.00	20.50	20.50	20.40	20.00	-
ASIA.ASSET	11,605	7.70	7.70	7.80	7.60	7.70	-
ASIRI	2,906	29.00	29.50	29.50	29.00	29.00	-
ASIRI.SURG	4,511	14.90	14.90	14.90	14.70	14.70	(0.20)
BAIRAHA.FARMS	72,068	164.00	163.00	165.00	158.00	158.75	(5.25)
BALANGODA	4,937	15.80	16.00	16.20	15.80	16.10	0.30
BUKIT.DARAH	1,959	301.75	300.00	304.50	300.00	301.00	(0.75)
C.M.HOLDINGS	6,397	103.50	103.50	104.00	100.00	102.25	(1.25)
CARGILLS	4,061	241.00	242.25	243.00	242.25	242.50	1.50
CARGO.BOAT	2	71.90	71.50	71.50	71.50	71.90	-
CARSONS	150	290.00	290.00	290.00	290.00	290.00	-
CDB	53,909	146.75	148.00	148.00	140.25	146.25	(0.50)
CDB [CDB.X0000]	12,749	90.90	91.00	91.20	90.30	90.40	(0.50)
CENTRAL.FINANCE	8,420	89.00	89.00	89.90	88.50	89.00	-
CENTRAL.IND	42,379	112.25	113.25	114.00	112.00	112.50	0.25
CEYLINCO.INS	26	2017.00	2017.00	2017.00	2017.00	2017.00	-
CEYLINCO.INS [CINS.X0000]	88	1008.25	1002.25	1015.00	1000.00	1008.25	-
CEYLON.GUARDIAN	119,736	111.00	114.00	114.75	112.00	112.00	1.00
CEYLON.INV	38,955	61.60	62.40	62.50	60.00	60.50	(1.10)
CEYLON.TOBACCO	4,313	957.25	955.50	960.00	955.00	959.75	2.50
CHEMANEX	1,766	79.40	80.90	82.60	80.00	80.10	0.70
CHEVRON	21,946	117.00	117.50	117.75	116.00	117.00	-
CIC	1,450,880	54.20	56.00	57.60	55.00	55.20	1.00
CIC [CIC.X0000]	1,415,730	45.30	46.10	47.70	45.50	45.60	0.30
COLD.STORES	5,015	640.75	642.00	642.00	620.00	624.50	(16.25)
COLOMBO.CITY	2,371	1167.25	1250.00	1275.00	1126.00	1153.75	(13.50)
COLOMBO.LAND	50,154	29.30	29.70	29.70	28.90	29.00	(0.30)
COMMERCIAL.BANK	1,351,921	84.50	84.50	85.00	84.30	84.50	-
COMMERCIAL.BANK [COMB.X0000]	40,286	75.40	75.40	77.00	74.90	76.80	1.40
CONVENIENCE.FOOD	576	1200.00	1180.00	1180.00	1126.00	1178.00	(22.00)
DANKOTUWA.PORCEL	1,166,656	14.00	13.90	14.60	13.90	14.10	0.10
DFCC.BANK.PLC	30,192	59.00	59.00	59.00	58.70	58.90	(0.10)
DIALOG	573,236	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.40	11.40	(0.10)
DIMO	695	500.00	509.00	511.50	500.00	500.25	0.25
DIPPED.PRODUCTS	3,705,827	58.90	59.10	59.50	56.90	57.30	(1.60)
DOCKYARD	2,248	71.10	72.00	72.00	71.80	72.00	0.90
DOLPHIN.HOTELS	6,995	29.00	28.60	28.60	28.10	28.20	(0.80)
DURDANS	1,000	106.00	106.00	106.00	104.75	104.75	(1.25)
DURDANS [CHL.X0000]	221	99.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	4.00
E.B.CREASY	37,274	25.10	25.00	25.50	24.90	25.00	(0.10)
EAST.WEST	695,116	10.20	10.30	10.60	10.00	10.00	(0.20)
EASTERN.MERCHANT	22,593	6.40	6.50	6.50	6.30	6.40	-
EXPOLANKA	18,272,130	79.60	81.00	81.50	76.90	77.80	(1.80)
FORT.LAND	16,579	15.00	14.90	15.00	14.50	14.80	(0.20)
GESTETNER	1	90.20	88.00	88.00	88.00	90.20	-
GRAIN.ELEVATORS	105,992	142.25	143.00	143.00	140.00	140.00	(2.25)
HAYCARB	669,545	95.90	95.90	96.00	94.10	94.50	(1.40)
HAYLEYS	1,785,056	82.30	83.00	83.90	81.20	82.10	(0.20)
HAYLEYS.FABRIC	1,136,397	23.40	23.50	23.50	22.60	22.70	(0.70)
HAYLEYS.FIBRE	30,435	77.00	78.00	78.00	73.10	74.70	(2.30)
HDFC	10,003	36.00	35.80	35.50	35.80	36.00	-
HEMAS.HOLDINGS	68,528	77.80	77.60	79.00	77.40	78.00	0.20
HNB	31,326	128.00	129.00	129.00	127.50	128.00	-
HNB ASSURANCE	21,864	47.00	47.50	47.90	47.00	47.00	-
HNB [HNB.X0000]	952,990	106.00	106.00	110.50	105.75	110.00	4.00
HORANA	301	22.30	22.40	22.40	22.40	22.40	0.10
HOTELS.CORP	51,181	13.30	13.00	14.40	13.10	14.20	0.90
INDUSTRIAL.ASPH	3,130,463	0.40	0.40	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.10
JKH	4,165,047	138.00	139.25	141.00	139.25	140.00	2.00
KANDY.HOTELS	7,420	7.60	7.70	7.90	7.30	7.80	0.20
KEGALLE	13,855	117.25	117.00	117.00	115.00	115.00	(2.25)
KELANI.CABLES	15,049	147.00	145.25	145.25	136.00	141.25	(5.

DailyMirror

Life

THURSDAY
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- Pork Meat Chinese Parathas 豬肉餅
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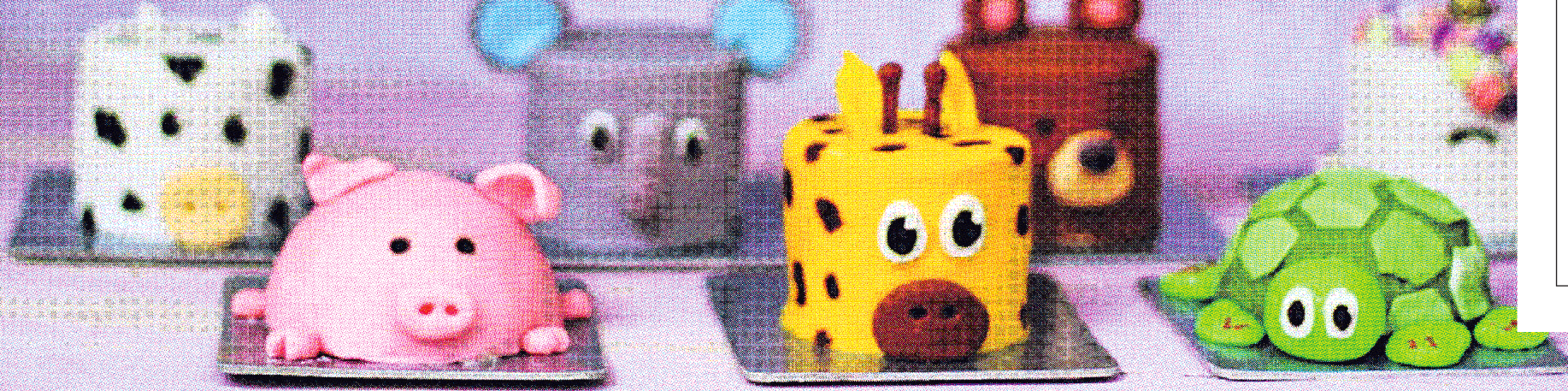
Magic Batter

text **Panchali Illankoon**

In this series, we talk to people who turned their passion for food and baking into a business idea amidst lockdown and COVID-19 fears. Some have been in the market for years and others saw the new opportunity

and took it! These home businesses are changing the game and have overcome the odds of running a business during quarantine.

With increased restrictions once more, we talk to home bakers who are operating during these times to bring the sweet and savoury to your very own doorstep!



Quarantine Home bakers

Magic Batter is the union of two things Nihara De Alwis loves the most: good food and creativity. A brand that has been making a name for itself since 2016, Nihara took the pandemic period to restructure her part-time business into a full-time commitment. "Magic Batter is all about having a good time; a sort of celebration, and the first thing that comes to mind with that are cakes. So, Magic Batter becomes a sweet celebration. The name, in all honesty was not given much thought at first but now when I think about it - for cakes, the secret really does lie in the batter!"

What do you offer?

We make cakes, cupcakes, brownies, pavlova, rocky road... basically, anything sweet. Customer favourites (and mine too!) include my vanilla, chocolate and red velvet cupcakes, coffee, lemon and sponge cakes, passionfruit pavlova and rocky road.

When did you start operations?

Magic Batter started business sometime back in 2016. This was right after my Advanced Level

examinations. I've always been fond of baking and needed an outlet to channel my creativity and that's how Magic Batter came to be.

What is it like running your operations in times like these?

Honestly, it was very difficult. A lot of orders got postponed/cancelled and with the ones I was able to undertake, I had to re-assess how I could operate while the country was closed. I also had to ensure deliveries were done on time and made sure to follow correct health guidelines all the while ensuring that a strict sanitation process was maintained, and that customer satisfaction was high.

How are you ensuring the proper hygiene measures are taken in preparation and delivery?

So, in terms of sanitation - not much is different from the regular process we had from the beginning which includes cleaning our worktop surfaces carefully, sanitising boards and boxes and maintaining overall hygiene. Along with



this, I made sure to always wear gloves and a mask, and in the rare instances when I went out (once lockdown was lifted), I did not undertake orders for a certain time period. As for delivery, I made sure that all orders were packed and parcelled safely and appropriately.

What do you enjoy about baking and operating your own home baking business?

What I love most is that I get to be hands on with everything that happens; be it designing, talking to clients, managing accounts and finances, or buying the material. All of this have helped me learn and grow as a person. It's also quite interesting to be my own boss and biggest critic. It gives you a sense of freedom but also holds you accountable at the same time.

How do you see home bakers going forward post Covid?

To me personally, it gave me time to think and review the systems and processes in place. Magic Batter has been a part-time job for me for the past few years because I was focused on my studies and that's when the pandemic gave me the break I needed - to think, to plan and

to re-evaluate my future with Magic Batter. I think home businesses are thriving at present and there is a lot of support locally. More people are finding out what they are good at, which I think is an important juncture for home businesses altogether.

What's next for your brand?

As far as the near future is concerned, I wish to gain more traction within the industry, but in terms of long-term goals I would love to have a bake shop of my own.

Any advice to anyone who wants to start their own business?

Go for it! It's always important to take chances, even if you doubt yourself or if things don't go as planned. Just keep believing in yourself and your potential, and never look back. Also, it's good to have a strong network of friends and family who'd support you no matter what.

Magic Batter takes orders via Instagram (@magicbatter). Bank Transfers and cash on pickup/delivery is accepted and delivery can be arranged to Colombo and the suburbs.



The Circle

text **Rihaab Mowlana**

Thanuja Kariyawasam worked in the corporate sector for almost 17 years before she decided to retire after her third born. Because she was always passionate about cooking and dreamed of one day opening her own cafe, Thanuja decided that she would start her own food business.

"I started by creating an Instagram page for my home cooking by the name of 'an enthusiastic cook' and then the first idea to advertise a product as a business started after I made a cookie bottle to be gifted as a teacher's day gift, for my children. What started there turned into my small business which initially started by the name of 'Grace & Glory' which then with expansion was changed to 'CIRCLES'", Thanuja shared.

"CIRCLES initially was mainly focused on sweets and then branched out into savoury food, which has always been my passion." Thanuja also customises orders based on client requests. Speaking of her experience with cooking, Thanuja explained, "I don't have any restaurant

experience but my love for food started at home. My mom is a wonderful cook and she has had hotel school experience and I've always admired and followed her." So once she gained traction on her Instagram page, she decided to start the venture. "Once I stopped working it became easier to focus on trying out new recipes and to be more creative with my cooking. So together with my mother, I wanted to start this home based business."

"I started my business with mainly cookies and cakes such as butter cakes, love cake, banana bread etc and then ventured into savoury food such as pastas, fried rice, waffles, dumplings, quiches, snacks, and I even make many local food such as rice and curries, string hoppers, rotis etc. Most of my orders are very customised when it comes to the local food types as I have many returning customers. Also, the snack box which has become quite a hit is customisable. They can select what they want from the menu to be added to the box and I do the decor free. The pastas are freshly made for each order with mostly homegrown fresh herbs to give the best flavour. In addition, I do gift boxes with cookie packs and handmade gift items."

"My future plan is to open up my own food outlet and also to expand my business. I also plan to introduce new flavours and menu items which fits our local palate as well as, hits the spot when it comes to flavours. As we Lankans love our spices and flavours, I want to make my food in the same way we all love to eat in our own homes."

We tried a few items off her menu, including the **Mini Snack Box** that comprised Stir-fried Meatball Mini Burgers, Cream Cheese & Jalapeño Crackers, Tuna Cutlets and Oat Berry Cookies. The snacks were tastefully arranged inside the box. This would make the snack box an ideal gifting option. Thanuja often ensures her food is not very spicy so those of all ages can enjoy them, but of course, she will make them according to your specifications. The meatballs in the burger had been stir fried with onions and the caramelised flavour made it tasty. Even though the Crackers seemed like the simplest option, they were certainly among our favourites. The cream cheese and Jalapeño combo is always a winner, and we can already envision people reaching out for this! The Tuna Cutlets were a good size with plentiful filling without going overboard with potatoes as many usually do, which we loved. Could have had a little more salt, but otherwise good. The Oat Berry Cookies were a pleasant surprise. Not usually a fan of Oat cookies, but we found ourselves going back for more!

When Ordering:

- Cookies / Cakes / Puddings / Pastas / Rice / Waffles: No minimum order quantity.
- Snack Boxes: Minimum order qty of 10 pieces per item (but it fits a mix of few types and will reduce based on the order volume.)
- Dumplings: Minimum qty 10 nos of a flavour.
- Rice and Curries: Minimum 250g
- Many of the orders are customised to fit the customers needs, so it's best to talk to Thanuja about your requirement.



Notice period : Thanuja will need a minimum notice of 24 hours starting with small orders. But if it's a larger order, notify her a few days in advance.

www.facebook.com/circles.sl/

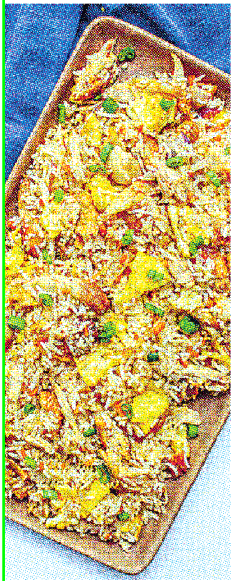
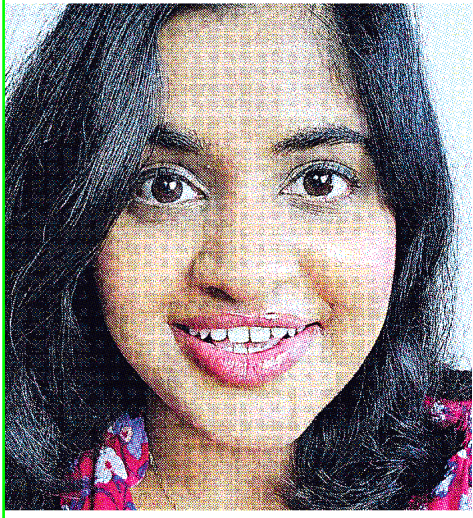
[@circles.sl](https://www.instagram.com/circles.sl/)

Currently Thanuja delivers to Colombo & Suburbs.

Ashani Hettige

text Panchali Illankoon

How do our food experts cook and eat? This week, food blogger Devour Diaries Ashani takes our Q&A!



What got you into cooking?

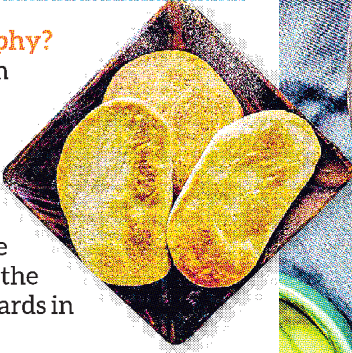
It was my mom who got me into cooking. I had this huge craving for fried rice (from roadside food stalls) and she taught me to make great fried rice with any kind of vegetable we used to cook at home. Those days you could have found okra, long beans and even steamed lotus root in my school lunch box.

Your food philosophy?

Make dishes from scratch! From spice blends and pie doughs to a hearty Mexican Mole - I'm all into it. No matter how long the process takes, I love the endurance and rewards in the end.

Your favourite spice, tool, appliance in your kitchen right now?

Spice: Ceylon Cinnamon. My dad sends us home grown cinnamon sticks.
Tool: The can-fit-anywhere Odiris (blades) coconut scraper that my dad built when we came to USA.
Appliance: the red 7.25qt Le Creuset Dutch Oven that I got as a birthday gift from my husband. She is a beast with a feisty attitude and ready to take up any task, like me!



DISH OUT

What's your particular cooking habit?
There are so many! I need my kitchen to be a dirt-free, noise free zone with no distraction and a clean sink so no waking up to stinky sinks either. I always want my spices and oils hidden away in the pantry from sunlight and heat. I love the concepts of mise en place (everything in place) and clean as you go. When you do this, cooking and baking is done in no time. These small practises save a lot of time.



If you had Rs. 500, what meal would you make with it?
This is tricky! Will a cup of cooked kekulu rice, pol sambol and a few fried dried katta fish pieces and a pickled lime fit the bill?

What was your favourite childhood meal?
OMG - polsambol, soy meat curry and a dollop of rice. Amma would make me a small keselkole bath packet. I put it in a shopping bag, go around the house, sit somewhere and eat it.



What dish would you eat but never cook?
Foie gras. I hate that concept though.
What food trend do you hate right now?
AnyTikTok food challenge! Geez - it's so crazy and dumb and people just mindlessly follow it. Food has more meaning and life way beyond that.

Do you have a lockdown food invention?
That would be Banana Leaf Knots. At some point last year, I ran out of cardamoms and cloves and even pandan leaves are a rare find. We stopped shopping in the Indian food store due to the pandemic, so I thought of cooking rice with a few banana leaves in it. Slowly I perfected a ratio. Cut 5 banana leaf strips into 6-inch length each and wash them thoroughly. Tie a knot (stack 4 and tie them with the leftover strip) and dunk into the rice cooker with 3 cups of rice and cook. You will be in aromatic rice heaven in no time!

What would your last meal be?
My mom's mango curry with pol sambol, dal curry and rice.
What's your go-to comfort food to make?
I'm addicted to Samyang double spiced hot ramen noodles. Next to me, I will have a mug of piping hot frothy, malted milk. No one eats them at our place except me, so it's all mine; the utmost comfort!

Your proudest food invention?
Mini chicken curry puffs made in a muffin tin - recipe is on my blog!



What's the most adventurous food you've eaten?
Last summer we had huge crab cakes (so huge they won't fit into your palms!) made fresh from Blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. I have shellfish allergy and had my epi-pen ready. But I ate those crab cakes anyway - ha! I came out of it alive, right?

What are your favourite leftovers?
A plate of Lankan style tempered rice. Yum!



What's a dish you'd love to relive for the first time?
Eating a Biryani from Hotel De Buhari in Sri Lanka.

Do the cooking or eat out?
Do the cooking!
Because I love it! I'd only eat out to have a break or check out a regional specialty food.

Time for some Takeout!

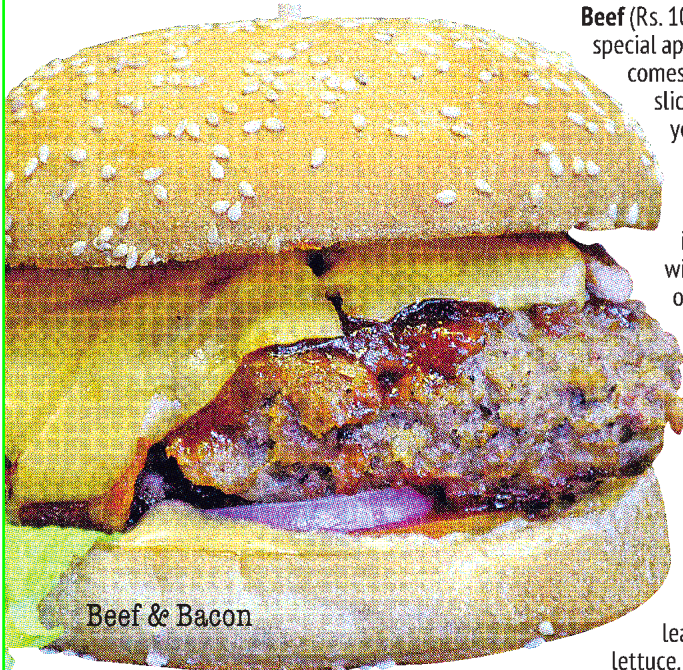
text Vihan Wickramasurendra

The burger scene in Colombo has been a booming one as of late, with (more than) a number of places opening up shop offering their own take on the American delight. This boom has led to healthy competition among the restaurants, pushing to make their own unique mark on the fast food culture in the city. **Takeout Lanka**, a not so new addition to the game, has been working quietly on making a name for themselves - purely using word-of-mouth. Originally a fast food franchise from Bangladesh, Takeout started off in Sri Lanka somewhere around 2019 and has since been perfecting their work to bring to the table what could possibly be deemed one of the best burgers in Sri Lanka.

PHOTOS KUSHAN PATHIRAJA

Ambience

Taking over what was formerly "Let's Taco", Takeout adopts a very homely appearance. You first enter a very cosy situation with a few couches for those who like the lounging option while devouring a good burger (which we will get to talking about soon) and if not, there is always the dining area which follows, allowing for a more traditional dining experience. While there was more seating before the pandemic hit, it has reduced since and actually makes the place a little more spacious. The furnishing of the place is not over the top (an area in which some places really try too hard) and gives a really chilled out vibe to things.



Beef & Bacon

Service

I doubt I have enough space to talk about this particular point because in all honesty, there is a lot to write about. It's fair to say I have yet to dine at a place with customer service as good as Takeout Lanka. Their staff is incredibly accommodating and friendly. They'll explain the menu to you through and through and even strike up a conversation with you (Tip: Ask them how they got here today, it's an incredibly interesting story). One thing I truly admire is their attention to customer satisfaction not only through serving but also the quality of food - from sourcing their ingredients locally to replicating the recipes perfectly every time. Also - they serve your food pretty fast! I was pleasantly surprised to find my entire order in front of me in such a short time.

Food

Getting down to what really needs to be mentioned - the food. Wow. The burgers served at Takeout are the kind of food that gives you a small grin even while taking a bite. The menu is not extravagant and focuses on quality over quantity - with only 14 food items on the menu with one side and 4 options for beverages. Simple - and it doesn't keep you deciding for hours on end. From those options, the **Beef & Cheese Delight (Rs. 800)** is the real kicker. If you're trying this, I strongly recommend going for the spicy option. It's the kind of spice that keeps you wanting to go back for more. I've had it before and I have always questioned how and why it does that, but nevertheless - it's an experience. The bun has a lovely amount of kochchi sauce and a cheese bomb in the middle of the patty which really takes you on a rollercoaster ride. If you're into a double or nothing sort of situation though - **Double the Beef (Rs. 1000)** is a great choice. It's for those with a special appetite and a hankering for meat. The burger comes with double the meat, cheese and even has slices of beef pepperoni inside. Incredibly filling. If you're leaning towards chicken, these dishes have that option as well. If you're more of a Beef and BBQ sauce kind of person, the **Beef and Bacon (Rs. 1050)** would be the right pick for you. Meat in BBQ sauce has never gone wrong and it never will. Takeout not only proves this but brings their own take on a classic combination.

They even have a classic range of burgers - more on the simpler side of things. The **Chicken and Cheese (Rs. 580)** was such a lovely throwback. Grilled chicken and cheese. Where can you go wrong? I was blown away by the fact that even the more lower range dishes were equally filling and was superb value for money.

These burgers come with the softest sesame coated buns and just the right amount of tomatoes and onions. They even use salad leaves instead of going for the dreadful iceberg lettuce. I truly appreciate the time and effort gone



Beef & Cheese

Chicken & Cheese

Oreo Fantasy

Velvet Strawberry

into creating them. Having poured so much focus into the mains, Takeout believes in keeping it simple and just serving **Fries (Rs. 370)**! Even then they somehow show their love for their craft - serving the fries, tossed in chillie flakes with a sweet, buttery dip to complement the hefty serving. As for beverages, I personally tried the **Oreo Fantasy (Rs. 575)** and safe to say it lives up to its name. The shake has large chunks of Oreo along with the blended kind as well - giving you a non-stop chocolate filled experience. For the non-chocolate fans, the **Velvet Strawberry (Rs. 575)** is another great shake to try out. Little on the sweeter side of things but an equally great drink.

All in all, I do believe that the good folks at Takeout have done it right. They've cultivated a mindset on wanting to provide the best food to their customers and they've done just that. Hats off to the team and a special thank you to Mr. Mohammed Rahman for creating such a space in our island home. Do drop in and try out their incredible menu. In times as stressful as these, these businesses need us to survive and a little something could go a long way. The foodie eco-system needs us now more than ever!

Takeout Burger is open from Monday to Sunday from 12.30 pm - 10.30 pm. You can reach out to them via Instagram (@takeout_lanka) or Facebook (Takeout Lanka) and they're also available on UberEats and PickMe Food.



Zurichoise sauteed chicken slices in creamy mushroom sauce, potato rösti & vegetables

'Bring Home Switzerland'

This August, the Mount Lavinia Hotel invites you on a journey of Swiss cuisine. Specially crafted and curated by the expertise of the hotel's catering division 'Bring Home Switzerland' began on the 01st of August 2021 in line with the Swiss National Day and will continue till the 15th of August.

With the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the hotel decided to withdraw from the idea of having a physical location to host the 'Colombo Swiss House' for the second time, but launched 'Bring Home Switzerland' via the hotel's delivery service the 'Café Maitland'.

What's on the Menu?

The menu is curated by the Director of Culinary Affairs and F&B at the Mount Lavinia Hotel - Chef Ralf Vogt who is an experienced Master Chef, and no stranger to Swiss Cuisine.

This year's menu will feature three main dishes and as always, we begin with the famed **Swiss Cheese Fondue** which will be served with bread along with a miniature fondue set-up station. The cheesy delight will have a blend of two cheeses, an aged Gruyère and Vacherin Fribourgeois, hence the name Moitié-Moitié Fondue, which means half and half.

Item two on the menu will be the **'Zurichoise' sauteed chicken slices served with a creamy mushroom sauce, potato rösti & vegetables**. A popular Swiss dish from the Zurich region, the original 'Zürcher Geschnetzeltes' is made with sliced veal strips and usually comes with rösti, similar to hash browns, but it can also be served with rice or pasta. This dish comes with a twist of the creamy mushroom sauce fashioned by Chef Ralf which will be prepared with chopped parsley and to give it 'a spin' as expressed by him - Dijon Mustard.

Roast pork with onion gravy served with spätzle and vegetables. The well-seasoned and roasted slices of pork are brought together with a flavoursome sauce made of onions sautéed in butter accompanied by spätzle.

How to order?

Pre-orders are currently being taken by the Hotel and customers are advised to place their orders 48 hours prior.

Orders will be dispatched starting the 01st of August '21 from the food delivery service arm of the hotel, the 'Café Maitland' and will deliver in and around the Colombo City Limit.