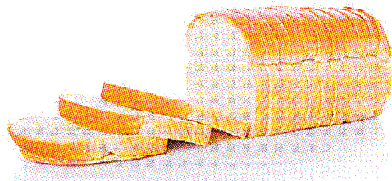




BREAD PRICES INCREASE AGAIN BY RS.10



The price of a 450g loaf of bread was to be increased by Rs.10 from midnight yesterday, the All Ceylon Bakery Owners' Association (ACBOA) said.

The Association said that the decision was taken due to the increase in the price of wheat flour.

Accordingly, other bakery products will also be increased.

2022 Budget not gender sensitive

A major portion of unskilled Sri Lanka expatriate workers especially in the Middle East are women

The budget has failed to identify the value of women's participation in the economy

BY YOHAN PERERA

Budget 2022 cannot be termed as a gender sensitive one as the amount of funds allocated for women is less than one percent, it was revealed at a recent discussion.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Man goes missing after car plunges into Mahaweli River; two rescued

BY CHAMIL RUPASINHE AND SHANE SENEVIRATNE - KANDY

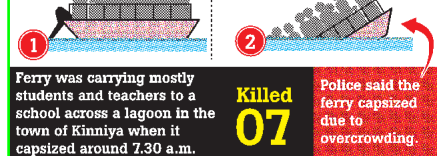
A passenger disappeared and two others had a narrow escape from drowning when a motorcar veered off the road and plunged into the Mahaweli River at Ilukmodara in Kandy on Saturday night (27).

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Death toll in Kinniya ferry tragedy rises to seven as another child dies

The ferry had been used by Nov. 23: Six persons including residents of the area due to the construction of existing Kuringankerni bridge.

Nov. 23: Six persons including four children had drowned and 20 others were hospitalised when a ferry capsized in the Kuringankerni Lagoon in Kinniya.



Ferry was carrying mostly students and teachers to a school across a lagoon in the town of Kinniya when it capsized around 7:30 a.m.

Killed 07

Police said the ferry capsized due to overcrowding.

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The death toll in the ferry tragedy in Kuringankerni Lagoon has increased to seven after a 7-year-old girl who was receiving treatment at the Trincomalee Hospital died yesterday morning.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

BOOSTER DOSE KEY AS NEW VARIANT OMICRON RAISES CONCERNS: MEDICAL EXPERT

SL expands genetic sequencing

Expert urges people not to panic but to stick to basics



BY SHEAIN FERNANDO PULLE

While elucidating ways to keep the newly detected COVID-19 variant, Omicron at bay, Dr. Chandima Jeewandara said receiving the booster shot was of utmost importance at this moment and invited people to stick to basic health practices.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Coronavirus variant

Omicron

First record: November 2021

Announced in: South Africa

Key mutations in the spike protein

Any change on the spike can potentially affect how easily a virus can infect a cell

Main concerns

Detection coincides with a sharp rise in cases in South Africa

High number of mutations in regions of the spike that antibodies recognise, potentially dampening immunity

Still unclear what the impact will be on vaccines

Source: Nature

AFP

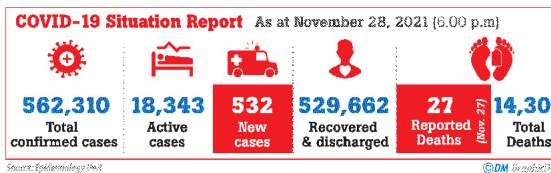
Omicron variation of COVID-19 reported from African countries could spread in Sri Lanka: Public Health Inspectors' Union

Passengers entering duty free shops sans restrictions were leaving the airport and officers who check them are at serious risk

BY DINESH UPENDRA - KULIYAPITTIYA

Public Health Officer's Union yesterday warned that the virulent variation of COVID-19 reported from the African countries could spread in Sri Lanka creating a serious health hazard due to the liberty allowed to the passengers on arrival to the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Tourists from six banned countries have not visited Sri Lanka over the last 14 days: Tourism Minister

Travellers from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland for the past 14 days will be barred from entering the country from midnight yesterday due to the Omicron new COVID variant

Relevant departments will look into whether anyone other than tourists has arrived in the country from these countries during the last 14 days

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Tourists from six South African Countries which were barred due to a new COVID variant threat, have not arrived in the country over the last 14 days, a minister said.

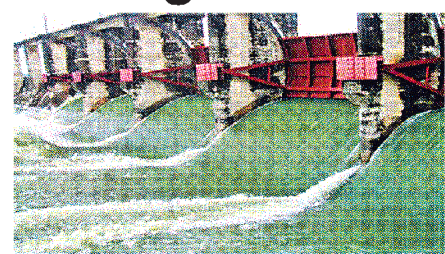
SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Still early for fresh air?



People in large groups and families were seen flocking to the Galle Face Pier last evening to enjoy fresh air and the sight of the setting sun, with some barely wearing their masks amidst fresh warnings by the health authorities about an emerging Covid variant from Africa called Omicron.

Four sluice gates of Iranamadu Tank opened; people asked to be vigilant



BY ROMESH MADUSHANKA - WANNI

Four sluice gates of the Iranamadu Reservoir in Kilinochchi were opened yesterday morning (28) with the spill level of the reservoir reaching its optimal level due to heavy rains.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Heavy rains pose fresh flood threats in islandwide locations

Districts of Kurunegala, Gampaha and Puttalam Districts are facing flood threats. Land slide warnings issued for Kandy, Kurunegala and Kegalle Districts

BY YOHAN PERERA

Several areas in the country are facing fresh flood threats due to heavy rains that have come down in torrents during the past few days, Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said yesterday.

DMC Spokesman Pradeep Kodippili said Districts of Kurunegala, Gampaha and Puttalam

Districts are facing flood threats. Some low lying areas such as Giriulla, and Mawathagama have already gone under water. In addition Bingiriya, Kobeigane, Pallama, Arachchikattuwa and Chilaw are facing a flood threat.

In addition land slide warnings were issued for Kandy, Kurunegala and Kegalle Districts.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

GOVT. POISED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO CONTROL MEDIA

The Mass Media Ministry has been tasked by the government to prepare a new Sri Lankan media policy, paying special attention to the domestic and international laws

The Mass Media Ministry will shortly appoint an expert committee for the purpose and obtain necessary recommendations

BY SANDUN A. JAYASEKERA

The government is in a move to introduce a novel media culture, set of ethics, guidelines and behavioural pattern of journalists and media institutions with the introduction of new legislative measures, the Daily Mirror learns.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

UNP condemns allegations made by President regarding Easter Sunday attacks

The party said the Presidential Commission of Inquiry report has found neither the former Prime Minister nor any former Minister of the Cabinet were responsible for the attacks

It is not surprising that Sri Lanka, under this current government, has not been invited for the virtual summit on Democracy hosted by the USA

BY YOHAN PERERA

The United National Party (UNP) yesterday condemned the recent allegations levelled by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with regard to the Easter Sunday attacks while opening the elevated highway, which was a project initiated by the previous government.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Johnston urges Catholic clergy not to be misled by opposition political parties

Calls on all reverend fathers and other members of the clergy not to fall for opposition conspirators' tactics and thereby become their cat paws

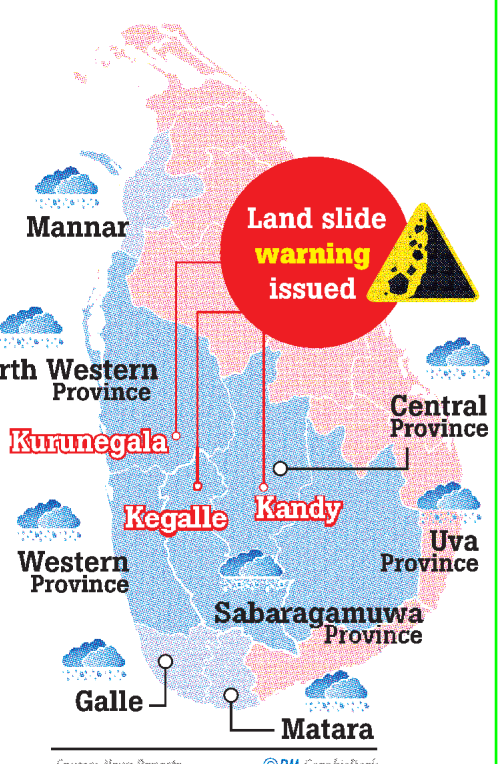
The Revd. Father being called to make a statement to the CID is in accordance with the existing laws



BY YOHAN PERERA

Chief Government Whip and Minister Johnston Fernando urged members of the Catholic clergy not to be misled by the opposition political parties, who are trying to use them to fulfil their own political ambitions.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Daily Mirror

2022 Budget not gender sensitive

Director Women's Political Academy Nimalika Fernando said at a recent discussion that the budget had failed to identify the value of women's participation in the economy. "The stipulated spending of the Ministry of Labour in particular has not identified the role of women. This is despite a major portion of unskilled Sri Lanka expatriate workers especially in the Middle East being women."

She said few Ministries such as Health and Education had taken into account women. "Accordingly, 48 percent of the recurrent expenditure allocated for the Ministry of education will be utilized by women in the sector. Around 56 percent of health expenditure is likely to be utilized by women," she said.

"Sri Lanka's women's participation has dropped to 33.5 percent in 2020 despite the resolution passed at the UN women's conference held in China in 1995," she said. MP Buddhika Pathirana said the budget had failed to allocate funds for the betterment of other groups such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) and those who are physically and mentally challenged.

MAN GOES MISSING AFTER CAR PLUNGES INTO MAHAWELI RIVER; TWO RESCUED

The driver and a passenger who received injuries were admitted to Kandy General Hospital. The three men were on their way back to Gurudeniya after a visit to Kundasale when they met with accident. The disappeared Amila Ekanayake was a resident of Gurudeniya in Kandy. He had been occupying the rear seat of the car.

Kandy Police with the help of the army recovered the ill fated motorcar yesterday afternoon.

They are looking for the missing passenger, who is suspected to have drowned in the river. The driver was arrested pending further investigations.

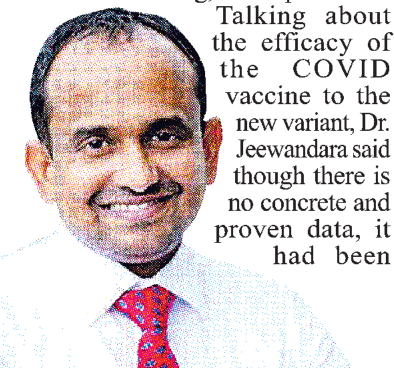
BOOSTER DOSE KEY AS NEW VARIANT OMICRON

RAISES CONCERNS: MEDICAL EXPERT

● **Omicron, which is the fifth COVID variant detected in the world has been upgraded as a variant of concern due to its higher transmissibility**

a variant of concern due to its higher transmissibility," he said.

"Some other reasons for it to be called as a variant of concern are, it may show different symptom profiles, it may demonstrate differences in severity of the disease, it may also evade diagnostic testing," he explained.



Dr. Jeewandara who is the Director of the Department of Immunology & Molecular Medicine at Sri Jayewardenepura University told media over the weekend that they were keeping a close eye on the situation and had also increased genetic sequencing.

"Omicron, which is the fifth COVID variant detected in the world has been upgraded as

predicted that the variant may escape vaccine-induced immunity and natural immunity.

"There are also cases where people have been infected with the new variant despite vaccination while people infected with Delta have also got a reinfection with the new variant," he added.

However, Dr. Jeewandara urged people not to panic but to strictly adhere to basic health practices and most importantly, to receive the booster dose whenever people get the opportunity as it improves the antibody levels of the body.

"Since the antibody levels of recipients of Sinopharm vaccine are dropping, such individuals must take a booster dose after lapse of three months," he added.

Omicron variation of COVID-19 reported from African countries could spread in Sri Lanka: Public Health Inspectors' Union

● **It is unavoidable that Sri Lanka would be exposed to the South African variant due to the relaxing of health protocols at the airport,**



President of the Union Upul Rohana told the media that the passengers shopping in the tax free shopping complexes without any restrictions were leaving the airport and that the officers who check their travel documents and bags and baggage were at a serious risk.

He expressed concern about the increasing rate of the infected and the death rate and pointed out that the World Health Organisation had warned on it. He said the rapidity of spread in the new variation of COVID -19 virus identified recently from the South African countries is 500 percent when compared to the previous variations including Alpha.

"However, it is a matter of serious concern that attention is yet to be paid on it and the people ignored the danger. At present seven countries have suspended flights. The situation in the Sri Lankan airport is dreadful. Satisfactory health protection mechanism is not in operation.

The passengers pass the duty free shopping complexes, Customs, the Immigration and Emigration and other check points before they are examined by the health authorities. The officers and employees are exposed to a serious

danger. It is unavoidable that Sri Lanka would be exposed to the South African variant due to the relaxing of health protocols at the airport," he said.

He warned the authorities that the life of the people should be protected from exposing to this danger and that tourism and passenger travel should be subject to adequate health precautions. He further said if research was carried out in a higher capacity the new variation could be identified in Sri Lanka as well.

DEATH TOLL IN KINNIYA FERRY TRAGEDY RISES TO SEVEN AS ANOTHER CHILD DIES

The girl died while receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the Trincomalee Hospital, police said.

Earlier, six persons including four children had drowned and 20 others were hospitalised when a ferry capsized in the Kuringankemi Lagoon

in Kinniya. Chairman of Kinniya Urban Council, owner and two operators of the ferry were arrested in connection with the incident.

FOUR SLUICE GATES OF IRANAMADU RESERVOIR OPENED; PEOPLE ASKED TO BE VIGILANT

The Kilinochchi Disaster Management Office has warned people to be vigilant as there is a risk of

flooding in the low lying areas due to the spill of the Reservoir. Residents of Pannankandi, Kandawalai and

Murusamottai in Kilinochchi have been warned to shift to safer locations before the flood situation becomes heavier.

4th Death Anniversary

Born	Died
07	29
04	11
1940	2017

In Loving memory of EMMANUEL R. JOSEPH

Those we Love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed, and very dear, May Your Soul Rest in Peace

Affectionately remembered by your loving wife Sarojini, Daughters Tanuja, Anushya, Nirosha, Abarna, Sons-in-law and Grandchildren

Tourists from six banned countries have not visited Sri Lanka over the last 14 days: Minister

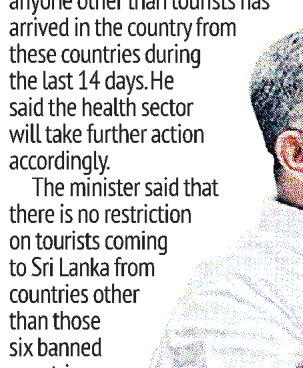
The Minister said that the relevant departments will look into whether anyone other than tourists has arrived in the country from these countries during the last 14 days. He said the health sector will take further action accordingly.

The minister said that there is no restriction on tourists coming to Sri Lanka from countries other than those six banned countries.

He said the authorities would check whether they have visited the relevant countries when issuing visas.

He said nearly 90% of the country's population has been vaccinated so far.

The government intends to protect the people and maintain the country under the new normalization program in accordance with the health recommendations, the Minister said.



GOVT. POISED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO CONTROL MEDIA

The government would amend the existing laws applicable to journalists and media institutions and prepare a new set of policies and ethics for the purpose.

Accordingly, the Mass Media Ministry has been tasked by the government to prepare a new Sri Lankan media policy, paying special attention to the domestic and international laws, operation of national laws, operation of national and international media institutions as well as social and cultural identities.

The government expects to build necessary background for media personalities with the esteemed professional skill, education on the use of media and behaviour of the media including the social media, socialization of knowledge, understanding and communication strategies.

The government would supply the required facilities for digital technology, considering the global trends and development in the mass media and communication fields. The required legislative amendments to existing laws, policies and ethics in regard to media personnel and institutions have been recognized by the government, a policy document presented by Mass Media Minister Dulles Alahapperuma has said.

The Mass Media Ministry will shortly appoint an expert committee

for the purpose and obtain necessary recommendations.

Meanwhile, former Mass Media Minister Gyantha Karunatilake pooh-poohed the idea to introduce new guidelines and ethics for the media and media institutions saying that there were universally accepted ethics, laws and guidelines applied to journalists and media institutions across the world and therefore, Sri Lanka must not worry about this sensitive issue.

"What necessary is a self-regulatory mechanism for journalists and media institutions as practiced by us for several decades. A number of countries like Australia, Singapore, Pakistan and even the EU have their fingers burned when they attempted to control the media, the social media in particular," Mr. Karunatilaka who is credited with the introduction of the 'Right to Information' (RTI) Act during the yahapalana regime stressed.

However, it is noteworthy to mention that Health Minister and former Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella maintains that some sort of regulatory framework is vital to prevent the misuse of the media, especially the social media, while Mass Media Minister Dulles Alahapperuma does not condone the idea to control the media in any manner but says self-regulation is the order of the day.

UNP condemns allegations made by President regarding Easter Sunday attacks

The UNP in an official statement said neither the Presidential Commission of Inquiry report nor the Select Committee of Parliament report have stated that the former Prime Minister nor any former Minister of the Cabinet were responsible for the attacks.

"What the President is suggesting is that persons not responsible for the Easter Sunday Attacks and against whom there are no judicial decisions to that effect, be deprived of their Civic Rights by legislation," the statement said.

"This is contrary to the

fundamental principles of Democracy. This brings into conflict the judicial and legislative process. Therefore, this also violates article 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. This statement is also a violation of the President's oath to uphold the Constitution.

It is not surprising that Sri Lanka, under this current government, has not been invited for the virtual summit on Democracy hosted by the United States of America when statements of anti-democratic nature are made," the statement added.

JOHNSTON URGES CATHOLIC CLERGY NOT TO BE MISLED BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES

● **During the past two years we never heard the opposition speaking of anything that would benefit the country.**

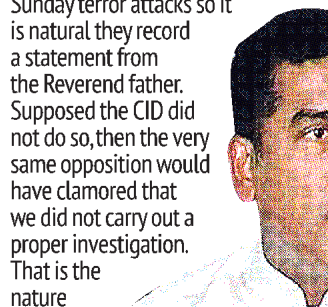
The minister said that opposition's conspirators have infiltrated the Catholic Church. "I call on all reverend fathers and other members of the clergy not to fall for opposition conspirators' tactics and thereby become their cat paws. We have seen that they capitalize on the summoning of Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini to the CID. They are using this to spread hate against this government. Fr. Cyril Gamini's visit to the CID was to record a statement.

He had made public statements and the CID wants an official record from him. He was called to make a statement to CID in accordance with the existing laws. The CID is the investigating body of the Easter Sunday terror attacks so it is natural they record a statement from the Reverend father. Supposed the CID did not do so, then the very same opposition would have clamored that we did not carry out a proper investigation. That is the nature of the

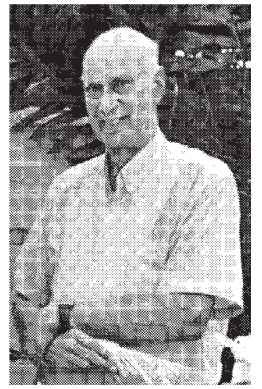
opposition we have in this country today," The Minister said.

Addressing a ceremony held at the launch of the Road Development authority's premix plant at Andigamawatte in Katugampola on Saturday the minister further said, "during the past two years we never heard the opposition speaking of anything that would benefit of the country. They never spoke of opening the country to enable foreign tourists to come in. They never spoke of promoting agriculture or industries to help the economy. They never spoke of assisting the government to overcome challenges posed by the pandemic," he added.

Minister Fernando said he was thankful to the Chairman and staff members of the RDA for commencing operations at the new premix asphalt plant. "When I visited the premix asphalt plant at Ganepola in January this year, I found heaps of machinery to be auctioned as scrap iron. After inquiries I found that those parts of equipment could be repaired and put back to use. Some workers said that they could repair them. They did so within months. They spent Rs 28 million to build a premix asphalt plant. Today we opened this new plant with equipment put back to use by our workers. This plant has the capacity to turn out 4,000 metric tons of premix asphalt per month. That means it could supply 48,000 metric tons of premix asphalt per year to our projects," he said.



OBITUARY



Birth: 06 October 1943 Death: 23 November 2021

PEIRIS - The death is announced of Robert Errol (Ex. Locomotive Engine Driver CGR). Beloved son of late Kenneth and Belle. Beloved husband of Latha. Loving father of Rohan and Yohan. Brother of Gerald, Derrick (late), Sheila, Trevor (late), Kenneth, Darrel and Deanna.

Funeral took place according to his wishes on 25 November 2021.

From the Peiris family (Tel: 0114937102)

20TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

AJANTHA COOREY



"It's been twenty years since you said goodbye to us, but your generosity, graciousness, faithfulness and kindness lives on and never dies. We are grateful for all that you did for us. The beautiful memories of a life well spent lives on forever. May you rest in eternal peace in the arms of our Precious Lord Jesus"

Fondly remembered, and loved by Bernie, Shivan, Priyanka, Shamin, Shaleeni, Grand Children, Brother and Sisters.

CONTD.
FROM PAGE 1

Exploring for petroleum and gas in the Mannar basin

ENERGY MINISTRY TO ESTABLISH NEW COMPANY IN A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

BY SANDUN A JAYASEKERA

The Energy Ministry will establish a new company in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to exploit petroleum and gas in the Mannar basin, Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila said.

The new company, 'The National Oil and Natural Gas Company of Sri Lanka' (NONGCSL), a subsidiary of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) will be entrusted with the construction of pipelines, storage transportation, distribution, infrastructure facilities, development, ownership and monitoring the oil and gas in Sri Lanka.

The new company will also be tasked with the responsibility of exploration and exploitation of other local petroleum resources and natural gas with commercial capabilities, he added.

The only way out for Sri Lanka from the massive foreign debt of US\$447 billion and to plug the draining of US\$350 million a month to import petroleum products was to exploit

The new company, 'The National Oil and Natural Gas Company of Sri Lanka' (NONGCSL), a subsidiary of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC)

the fossil fuel resources found in the Mannar basin sooner than later, Minister Gammanpila said.

"It has been proved that fossil fuel and natural gas fields are available within Sri Lanka according to the research performed in the land area of M2 of the Mannar bed within the period 2001 - 2003. Our main task now is to exploit the petroleum and gas resources for a sustainable and speedier progress of our nation as soon as possible," Minister Gammanpila who is also the government spokesman stressed.

Manufacturing of fossil fuel, petroleum and natural gas will offset the dependency on imported petroleum

products which is a huge burden to the national economy. It will also create opportunities to become an exporter of natural gas in future and earn foreign exchange in addition to providing employment to thousands of Sri Lanka youth, he said. The national policy on Sri Lanka's oil and natural gas has declared that the government would take action to establish a National Natural Gas Company under a public private partnership to exploit the fossil fuel resources for commercial purpose.

The NONGCSL will be established under the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 and on terms of the Petroleum Resources Act No. 21 of 2021 enabling local and foreign entrepreneurs to invest in the new company.

The total exploitable capacity of fossil deposits at the Baracuda depth 2 in Mannar basin is estimated to be at 20 billion barrels of crude oil and the current value of it is around US\$ 150 billion. In addition, there is 9 trillion cubic feet of gas valued at US\$17 billion, Minister Gammanpila noted.

Walapone road obstructed due to rockslide



BY RANUTH RAJAPAKSE AND SHELTON HETTIARACHCHI - HATTON

Nildandahena - Walapone Road had been obstructed by a rockslide which occurred at Pussalapatiya yesterday due to the torrential rains experienced in the Walapone area in Nuwara Eliya.

Assistant Director of District Disaster Management Center

(DMC) Ranjith Alahakoon said the RDA and the Walapone Police had cleared a part of the obstruction and allowed traffic to operate on one lane after about three hours.

He said steps would be taken to remove the remaining rocks and open the road for traffic after the inspection by the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO).



Awareness programme on COVID-19 held in Gampaha District

An educational programme on the COVID-19 pandemic, which seems to be worsening was held in the Gampaha District covering all Grama Niladhari Divisions yesterday under the instructions of the Western Province Senior DIG Deshabandu Thennakoon and with the coordination of the Gampaha Police Station.

PIC BY KUSHAN PATHIRAJA

CLASSIFIEDS

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Heavy rains pose fresh flood threats in islandwide locations

● Showers are also expected in the Northern and Eastern provinces and in Galle, Matara and Kalutara districts

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology said the atmospheric conditions are favorable for the formation of afternoon thunder showers over most parts of the island. Showers or thundershowers were

forecast over most parts of the island after 1.00pm.

Heavy showers above 100mm were expected to occur at some places in the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, Northwestern and Uva provinces

and in the Galle, Matara and Mannar districts. Showers were also expected in the Northern and Eastern provinces and in Galle, Matara and Kalutara districts during the morning as well.

DECEMBER
Drama Festival@ Lionel Wendt
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3 Jayalath Manorathne's කලමල පිපිලා
Thalamala Pipila

4 Chamila Priyanka's සඟ වෙදු හැරු ගොවි කවිකරු
Sanga Weda Guru Govi Kamkaru

5 R. R. Samarakoon's කැලණි පාලම
Kelani Palama

10 Somalatha Subasinghe's පුඬු අපට දැක් කෙරෙයි කම ගොප්ති වෙළෙඳු
We know it now & Hat Seller

11 Dayananda Gunawardena's මධුර ජවනිකා
Madhura Jawanika

12 Chamila Priyanka's වෙස තුවක්කුවක් නොවේ
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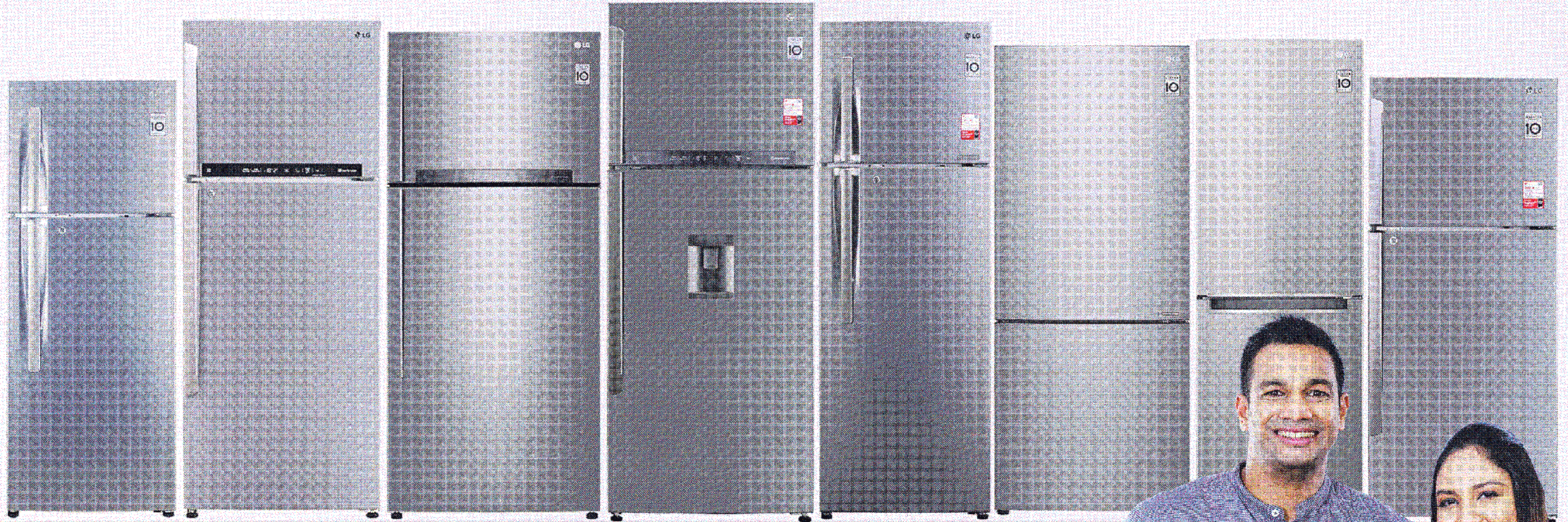


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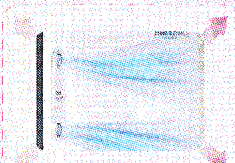
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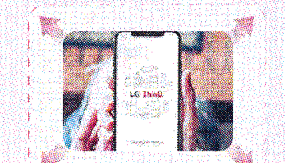
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EDITORIAL

"Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor."
- SHOLOM ALEICHEM

OUR THOUGHT

EXPLODING GAS CYLINDERS AND HOUSEHOLD 'ACCIDENTS'

During the past two weeks, the country has witnessed around six explosions in households caused by liquid petroleum gas (LPG) as cooking fuel. At least one person has died as a result of exploding LPG cylinders.

Unfortunately, up to today, the public has not been informed as to what exactly is causing the cylinders to explode. Whether it was the users' fault or that of the manufacturer, or damage caused during transit is not known.

What makes these accidents scarier is the fact that today, over four million households countrywide use LPG as cooking fuel. This means a large number of families are at risk at any given moment.

In the Colombo city - where over 30% of the country's population resides - the inner city or slum dwellers live in 65,000 slums, 51% in under-served settlements and 21% of the children below five are undernourished. Most of this housing lacks basic amenities as running water and proper toilet facilities, though most have electricity.

Today the numbers living in slums have increased, especially in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic where large sections of the population lost their employment and fell into a category of persons who could be described as the 'new poor'.

Most of these homes too use LPG gas as cooking fuel. A gas explosion (God forbid) in these dwellings in areas euphemistically termed 'wattes' or heavily populated slum-like clusters, is a calamity waiting to happen. The houses tightly packed one to another, the large numbers of people including children living in these dwellings would leave large numbers dead and or injured. The result would be calamitous.

Unfortunately, the police investigations into LP gas-related explosions, do not seem to be have progressed into the causes behind the explosions. Despite charges made by well-informed persons in authoritative positions that the composition of gas per cylinder has been changed sans permission of the relevant authorities, police investigations do not appear to have considered the charges.

Even more surprisingly, police have summoned the whistle-blower to present him/herself for questioning... rather not the accused.

Making matters worse for consumers, the LPG market is dominated by a particular company/brand, which enjoys a near monopoly status countrywide. Therefore, whatever the shortcomings and defects in the gas cylinders, consumers have no choice but to continue purchasing a possibly defective product, even at risk to life and limb.

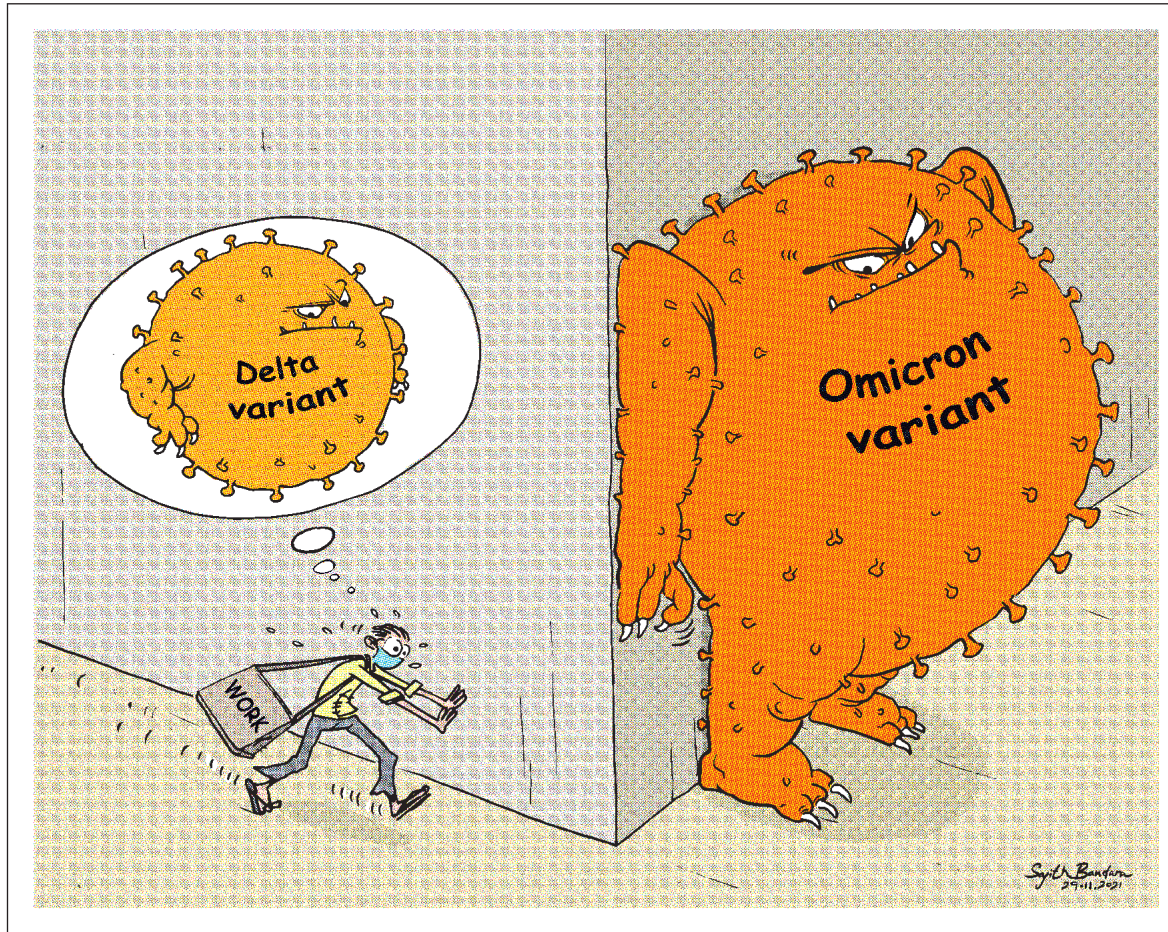
Adding fuel to fire; so-to-say, and despite the continuing explosion of gas cylinders at homes across the city, the company has whacked consumers with a hefty price increase for a cylinder of gas. The cost of a 15 kg cylinder of gas which cost Rs.1,500/- in August this year was increased to Rs. 2,600/- late last month!

Oh tempora, oh mores... in countries across the globe when a product is found to be defective or has caused damage, the company concerned recalls the product and pays damages to its affected customers. In Sri Lanka, the gas company seems to be a law unto itself. Despite distributing a faulty product, as the explosions have shown, the company with government compliance has whacked consumers with a hefty price increase (stated above) for what could be a life-threatening product.

There is also a chronic shortage of LPG in the country. In many instances when scarce stocks do reach points of distribution, filled canisters are spirited away from public view and sold only to regular customers who make purchases of other goods from the distributing points concerned. To make matters worse, canisters of company 'X' are not permitted to be switched to those of company 'Y'. Switching to a different LPG provider requires consumers to reinvest in cylinders of that particular company.

In these days of pay cuts and wage freezes, making the change is just not possible. But as character Alice, in Lewis Carol's 'Alice in Wonderland' was wont to say 'things get curiouseer and curiouseer. Gas as a form of energy; was pioneered by the 'Ceylon Gas and Water Company', which was charged with powering tramlines as well as street lighting in Colombo city. Subsequently the company provided Colombo-based households with cooking gas via underground gas pipes. Yet, even in those pioneering days, one hardly heard gas explosions resulting in death and destruction to ordinary citizens. So what ails the modern LPG providers? Was in fact a change to the standard composition of LP gas which led to the explosions? Whatever the reason, the government owes it to the public to fully investigate the accusations and ensure peoples' lives are not imperiled.

If the companies have in fact tampered with standard specifications, they need to be brought to book, their licenses cancelled and made an example of.



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

CEYLONESE HOSPITAL MAP TO REVIVE TOURISM

By **Dr. Hemantha Atukorale**

With new COVID variants being detected, global travel is facing yet another setback. Nevertheless, tourism needs to thrive for island nations like ours to sustain themselves financially. Discouraging tourist arrivals will hamper economic stability. So far, only a few countries have imposed a total ban on tourism. There have also been numerous attempts to encourage medical tourism in certain countries. The solid evidence of COVID spread linked to winter in subtropics favours tourism in tropical destinations like ours.

In order to reclaim its place in the tourism spotlight, Sri Lanka requires much more than mere flyers and slogans. When analyzing what we have in the offer against our competitors in global tourism, it's obvious that we have a superior health care system within public and private hospitals. This vast network, established over a few decades with competent medical personnel, is well above the required standards for global tourism.

CODE OF ETHICS IN TOURISM

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) is a comprehensive set of principles Adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization. Later on, it was acknowledged by the United Nations. The code features 10 articles to cover economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects of tourism. Article 7 describes the tourism right. This clause mentions that tourists and visitors should benefit from prompt and easy access to local administrative, legal, and health services.

Most prime tourist destinations do not have "prompt and easy" access to health services. The article does not describe the quality of healthcare that they should receive. But as a member of the government health care providers, I can vouch that we do not compromise health care standards.

WHAT DO TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS OFFER?

A recent Forbes article named the Maldives as the 6th best destination to travel for any tourist. This particular article did not analyze the standards of healthcare the Maldives had in offer for its tourists. The Maldivian hospital system struggles with 18 hospitals and only two offering minimal specialist care. In the COVID era, this shortage of doctors is of grave concern for tourist leaping between the lovely islands of Maldives.

Seychelles was recently named one of the top 25 world's best islands for travel. A



Colombo National Hospital, one of the finest state-run healthcare institutions in the country

A recent Forbes article named the Maldives as the 6th best destination to travel for any tourist. This particular article did not analyze the standards of healthcare the Maldives had in offer for its tourists

The Sri Lankan health care system did not flourish overnight. Our anti-malaria campaign commenced one hundred years ago, back in 1911. Our hospital network is steadily growing. Despite the fact that many doctors are pursuing greener pastures abroad, we have many world-class specialists

My simple suggestion is to plot a map of Sri Lankan health care centres, both public and private, so that a sense of security is created within tourists who visit our pearl of a country

few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit and meet the health officials of Seychelles, including its health minister. This tiny country, which boasts a high GDP, one of the highest on the African continent, and a few seven-star hotels such as the Four Seasons Resort, is beset by health-care issues. Seychelles has only one hospital for locals and tourists, with 17 miniature health centres scattered all over its islands. They have a very few specialist doctors, and most

surgeries and paediatric issues are sorted out in other countries such as Sri Lanka or India. Both these countries, unlike Sri Lanka, are not prepared for health emergencies.

SRI LANKAN HOSPITAL MAP AND APP

The Sri Lankan health care system did not flourish overnight. Our anti-malaria campaign commenced one hundred years ago, back in 1911. Our hospital network is steadily growing. Despite the fact that many doctors are pursuing greener pastures abroad, we have many world-class specialists.

If I describe the government sector alone, there are 11 teaching hospitals and additional specialized teaching hospitals for specialties like paediatric, maternal and eye care. We also have two provincial general hospitals, 19 district general hospitals, 71 base hospitals, and 80 divisional hospitals. There are also clinic-based centres namely the central dispensaries and the MOH clinics.

In addition, the services provided by private hospitals should not be overlooked. They relieve the overcrowding in government hospitals and play an important role in encouraging medical tourism to countries like the Maldives and Seychelles.

My simple suggestion is to plot a map of Sri Lankan health care centres, both public and private, so that a sense of security is created within tourists who visit our pearl of a country. A simple pdf document and a smartphone app that helps tourists locate the closest health care facility would boost the confidence of those who plan to visit Sri Lanka. This map should, ideally, include both government and licensed private-sector health facilities. Later, the app can provide information on the services provided by each hospital. It would be helpful to have a list of qualified general practitioners.

There won't be a boost in tourist arrivals by merely creating a hospital map since global travel is based on the economic, social, cultural and environmental standards of that particular country. But this no-cost map might provide insight into what Sri Lanka offers ahead of its counterparts in "Island Tourism".

The writer is a Consultant in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation General Hospital - Matara

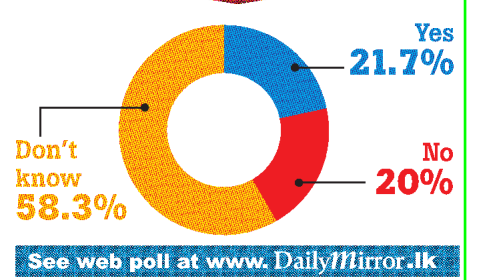
DM Poll

Do you think that the Government allowing the importation of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides revoking the gazette notification issued in April this year is an indication of the Government's inability to manage crucial sectors in the country?

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

LAST POLL

Do you agree with the Government's decision to reopen schools for the remaining grades in a context where the vaccination programme for target age groups still continues and the number of COVID-19 patients rises?



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Army Mobile Vaccine and Booster dose



I have been informed that the third dose (booster dose) for those over 60 years will be given only at the respective MOH offices and that the Army has not been given this vaccine for them to carry out their mobile service.

I kindly request the President (whose initiative is this army mobile vaccination service) to get the DGHS Dr. Asela Gunawardene to share the stock of the booster vaccines (Pfizer) with the army in order to continue their exceptionally efficient mobile service.

This will in my opinion not only expedite the administration of the booster job but also reduce the overload of the Health sector. This will also enable those who are sick, bed-ridden and immobile to get their vaccine at their doorstep.

MOHAMED ZAHAN
COLOMBO

Pressure on Children



Although this subject is not openly discussed, there is the trend that children are undergoing stress of overusing the internet and online games. The online games and risky sports give the kids the pressure of overuse.

With the Covid restrictions on-class room attendance the children are subject to long hours of overuse of the internet which makes them sick. They are exposed to unprotected sports and unethical behaviours which need to be arrested.

CONCERNED FATHER

Kinniya ferry tragedy Death toll rises to seven as another student dies

WEB COMMENTS

KIKAZARU - Shame on the govt, what a fiasco it was to see the Kelaniya Hanging Bridge being opened a few days ago. Hang some nooses from the bridge to the poor and suffering!!

LALA - Make more roads.

Our destiny is very near. We are suffering. You are importing vehicles for. MPs. Disgusting and disgraceful!

VICTIM - EP Governor must be punished for her negligence.

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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POINT OF VIEW

"PRICE" OF BRINJALS, THE MEN HAD TO "PAY"



By **KKS PERERA**

Watching news in the company of a lady relative at her house, I had a feeling of shameful discomfort when I saw 'Tissakutti' denying the use of any unparliamentary terms, and even challenging the opposition, offering to quit politics if it was proved. The amazed elderly lady inquired as to what really transpired; and making it more embarrassing, the lady's husband avoided involvement in the 'ruckus' when she 'reprimanded' me, "Aren't you a journalist who pretends to know the 'ins and outs' of parliamentary matters?" - I said, "I do not pay attention to cheap innuendos or lewd sexual jokes." She was unconvinced. How many men would have suffered the same ignominy? Resolving not to watch political news in the presence of the fairer sex in the future, I slipped out of the place thanking Tissakutti and his 224 colleagues, in my tenacity in avoiding a situation.

Indirect sexual intimidation occurs when a victim has been insulted by the verbal, physical or visual misconduct of another. Even overhearing a lewd sexual joke or comment, a woman becomes a victim of sexual harassment, even though the joke had not been intended at her.

Wearing orange colour ribbons around their arms, and stickers on their dresses, reading: 'Stop Violence Against Women', **SJB MPs** staged a protest [to coincide with the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women'- IDEVAW] against remarks made by **Janaka Tissakuttiarachchi, SLPP MP**, on **November 20**, targeting parliamentarian **Rohini Wijeratne** and the Opposition Leader's wife. Quite recently this 'Tissakutti' had made some veiled remarks against a senior opposition member, who in this case, decided to contemptuously ignore it.

From around **75/=** cents a pound [**Rs. 1.60 a kg**], in the **1960s** brinjals fetch around **Rs. 400/=** a kg today, signifying the severe embarrassment faced not only by women, but also by men who were left in a humiliating position, attempting to shun inquiries by the opposite sex. It takes just a few seconds for a person with a dirty mind, to shred a sentence of its literal meaning and convert it into something vulgar. A person who often uses obscenities and **socially unacceptable** utterings, is called a 'cusser'. They use them out of habit and devoid of control or conviction. Tissakutti, apart from falling into this category, has further shamed himself by his bold challenges.

Brinjals, have a history in the legislature too. Taking a cue from his illustrious father **DS, Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake**, took a great interest in developing agriculture and making the island self-sufficient, during his **1965-70 tenure**.

The voters are to be blamed; because they keep voting for the same vulgar MPs who misbehaved or robbed our money at every previous parliament; just because they assert to fight for their class, race, caste or religion.

Our legislature is in a mess because of the rogues; thugs and hooligans sent in by voters or are nominated and supported by leaders. At least the next general election should ensure all such men from both sides are left out altogether, without allowing them to decide on the destiny of this land and dictate our future.

He appealed to all citizens to grow vegetables in their home gardens. **Sirimavo**, his opponent, responded positively too. Surprising every male on either side of the well in the old parliament, the PM in the midst of his speech, in lighter vein, said, "Passing Horogolla the other day, I saw Mrs. Bandaranaike had grown Bri...in her compound," the lady, brought up in a highly cultured environment, comprehended only the literary meaning and happily acknowledged the remark with a grateful smile. There were no staging of protests, apart from a few condemnations outside of parliament. Certainly no cross talk, warnings, debates, or fisticuffs.

In **1977**, after winning the general election with a **5/6th majority**, **JR Jayewardene** appointed **Ranasinghe Premadasa [RP]** as his Prime Minister. The latter had an old score to settle with former 'Crown Prince' **Anura Bandaranaike**, who had made a derogatory remark at him during the election campaign, saying that **RP** was the boy who sold [levariya] a local sweetmeat, at Keselwatte. At the very first meeting of the house, **RP** determinately spat out at his bête noir, saying, "I wish to remind the third member for **Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya**, that this is the boy who sold 'levariya' at Keselwatte, and I prefer being that, rather than being born as an illegitimate [avajatake] offspring, in a castle." Anura was a back-bencher in the opposition, while the mother **Sirimavo** occupied the front row. There were no cross talks, no warnings or apologies; the matter ended there.

When **Indira Gandhi** launched her own **faction-INC (R)** after being expelled from Congress; she was given a "Cow with Calf" as an election symbol. **JR**, during **1977** campaign drew a parallel, "India's 'Cow with Calf' is **Indira and Rajiv**—ours is **Sirimavo and Anura**." We had to pay back with interest in **1987**.

Parliamentary privilege is tainted with impunity; Standing Orders ignored; un-parliamentary vocabulary is the order of the day, while each day's sitting cost the poor tax-payer **Rs. 84 million**.



Writer can be reached on: **kksperera1@gmail.com**

Indirect sexual intimidation occurs when a victim has been insulted by the verbal, physical or visual misconduct of another. Even overhearing a lewd sexual joke or comment, a woman becomes a victim of sexual harassment, even though the joke had not been intended at her. Even if you were not the targeted recipient of the remark or joke, if you overhear a sexually charged description, comment or slur, regarding a colleague's body; or degrading terms used to describe another; you become a victim of sexual abuse.

Political considerations win over community interests! Exactly what amounts to unparliamentary language, is usually left to the judgment of the **Speaker of the House**. Enforcement of the assembly's debating regulations, is a major part of the speaker's responsibility. Legislators are protected from trial and civil prosecution by 'parliamentary immunity' which specifies that they cannot be sued for anything spoken in the House; the very reason that they are expected to stay away from using language, expressions or phrases that appear to be seen as misuse of that protection. Our legislature is in a mess because of the rogues; thugs and hooligans sent in by voters or are nominated and supported by leaders. At least the next general election should ensure all such men from both sides are left out altogether, without allowing them to decide on the destiny of this land and dictate our future.

Legislative bodies in democracies, impose standards and rules. There are words or phrases, traditionally evolved and believed inappropriate for use in the chamber, whilst it is in assembly. The **Westminster system**, calls this 'unparliamentary' language and there are parallel rules in other legislative systems too. So, any direct reference to a member as **lying**, is unacceptable. Any such violation is termed "**terminological inexactitude**" and ruled as unparliamentary. Some of the listed terms in Parliaments in the Commonwealth are...

Crook, does not have a spine, fuddle duddle, pig, jerk, sleazebag, racist, scuzzball, weathervane, joker in the house, ignoramus, scurrilous and to hell with Parliament attitude.

The voters are to be blamed; because they keep voting for the same vulgar MPs who misbehaved or robbed our money at every previous parliament; just because they assert to fight for their class, race, caste or religion. A system is badly desired to investigate and discipline politicians' deplorable behavior. The downtrodden female workers; tea pluckers, apparel girls and housemaids in the mid-east, undergo continuous agony. The scholarly 'feminists activists' oratory will last for a few days on **IW Day [March 8]** and **IDEVAW** that falls on 25th November. These unlucky women would continue to be subjected to their customary physical and psychosocial hazards, like **bullying** in work places and sexual harassment in public transport. Late-hour work, gender inequality, aggression and conflict, will continue unabated. Most of IW Day's empty cacophony by politicians are as a result of incidents involving female politicians and have little effect on the wellbeing of the above-named deserving categories. "Insults are the arguments employed by those who are in the wrong"-- Jean-Jacques Rousseau [18th Century Genevan philosopher]

MOVIE BUSINESS IS VERY HEALTHY; DON'T KNOCK IT!

By **Chandran Rutnam**



The film business is a very lucrative business in all the countries of the world with the exception of Sri Lanka. WHY?

The film industry is not a high-risk business that many perceive it to be, if it is treated and respected as an 'Industry.' The stigma that it is dangerous for investors and banks because the chances are that they will not see their money back is not really true. If you choose the right concept, the right budget and the right talent there is very little chance that you would lose money.

The main issue in Sri Lanka is that some directors 'fleece' the producers. By fleece I don't mean that they rob them. Some directors are primarily interested in winning awards and creating a reputation for themselves. The participants and audience at these Film Festivals are usually invitees. They do not pay to use the product that this industry creates. It is a well known fact that it is often not the best picture or the best director that wins the award. As stated previously, there are various actions, influences and manipulations that take place within the award process.

Quite often, the award goes to a thought provoking, controversial exposure, revealing negative subjects like poverty, sex abuse and wars and sometimes to the satisfaction of NGO's who wish to make their point. These may be important subjects, but must be categorized to a different section of the industry.

Yes, awards will certainly help in the promotion of the movie but to what extent? The local films that have been produced in Sri Lanka, garnering a multitude of awards, have very rarely created a 'true profit' to the investor but may brought some glory to Sri Lanka in some instances. That is good but not enough. It is not the answer. It does not help the local cinema owners being forced to exhibit an award winning 'dud' when they have an action packed guaranteed audience-pleaser on hand.

The return of investment which is of interest to the producer must be addressed so that there would be a continuity in the process of his film producing enterprise. Selfishly embracing awards and basking in the glory of publicity with no concern whatsoever for the producer, is unacceptable.

In most instances the director drunk with applause and adulation has disconnected with the producer who gave him the opportunity. The Content must generate money so that the producer or the production company could continue to produce the next package of Content. The independent film financing process begins when a producer puts together a package of talents including the director, writer, actors and the technical team.

The entertainment business, especially films, is very healthy. Demand for it worldwide is bigger than ever and will never diminish.

Of course, a project could go wrong even with a good screenplay and good director. It might go over schedule or over budget. That is why a Completion Bond Insurance Plan must be in place, which guarantees and protects the producer against such unexpected negative issues that may arise. If a good script with a good cast is budgeted and executed in a professional manner with guarantees and insurance cover (as they do in the other countries) there is no reason to fail.

FILM INDUSTRY AND THE CULTURAL CINEMA

To create a successful, thriving "Film Industry" and a successful, thriving "Cultural Cinema" THE key step has to be taken. SEPARATE THEM!! The inadvertent mixture of the two has created an embarrassing record of the failure of the Sri Lankan Cinema industry. Divide the exhibition of films. Two separate Ministries: The Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Culture. They can use each other's facilities and domain when it is beneficial to each other.

The **CINEMA OWNER** : comes under the Ministry of industries. Its purpose is to provide ENTERTAINMENT to the public and make a profit while doing so. **CULTURAL CINEMA** comes under the Ministry of Culture providing a platform for films that may have an aesthetic, cultural or spiritual value that may interest a smaller niche audience and may not make any profit.

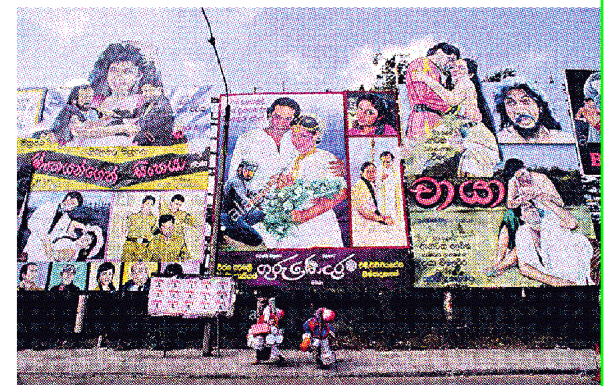
The **NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION** : under the Ministry of Culture should function as a Regulatory body, which handles, Permits, Censors, Awards, Pensions, Insurance, Archives, Studio, Museum, Directory, Standardisation and General Oversight of the affairs of the Industry, including a Home for Film Seniors and Scholarships.

The film industry: An industry that anyone could enter. Owners of Cinemas that sells the product (Content) and Producers who create the product (Content). The cinema owner: The Content is offered to various cinema owners . If they approve of the Content, they will agree to exhibit it in their circuit or their group of circuits and run it for as long as it is lucrative and then exhibit the next film that they had selected from the available Content. The cinema owner must not be dictated to or influenced to accept a film that they do not feel would be accepted by their anticipated potential audience. The selectivity of the Content whether local or foreign is explicitly decided by the owner of the cinema. If the content selected does not draw the audience, it is the Cinema owners right to remove it and screen a fresh one.

The right to select the content to place in their cinemas is theirs. No one has the right to dictate, influence or interfere. It is solely the cinema owners' business decision. The NFC should monitor the process and validate the standard of the cinemas.

Definitions and confusions: A true understanding of certain important words that are grossly misrepresented or misused which is the crux of the misunderstandings that have confused and misled the Sri Lankan Film industry. Without clarification and understanding of the following three definitions it would be difficult to create a workable plan that is beneficial to the industry. "COMMERCIAL" is an activity intended for exchange in the market to earn economic profit. "ENTERTAINMENT"

In most instances the director drunk with applause and adulation has disconnected with the producer who gave him the opportunity. The Content must generate money so that the producer or the production company could continue to produce the next package of Content.



Huge billboard in Colombo featuring running films_ a sight hard to be seen now

is a form of activity that holds the attention and interest of an audience. "ART" is an act of applying ones creative skill in expressing thoughts, feelings, observations and imagination in a visual form such as painting, sculpture and other forms (films) to be appreciated primarily for their beauty and emotional power.

The creation of 'art' also applies to 'commercial entertainment'. The word 'art' is not only applicable to a product that is viewed by a niche audience and not marketable. In the convoluted misuse of these words, "commercial" applies to a film with songs and dances which is enjoyed by a large audience. A film with a serious subject of usually negative themes that are only appreciated by a small niche audience is called "an art film."

Filmmaking, being the most collaborative art form, must produce artistic entertainment with commercial value and uplift our lagging film industry.

THE CULTURAL CINEMA

The Ministry of Culture could have its own circuit of several mini-cinemas. There will always be film Content that we feel is of cultural and / or spiritual / aesthetic value but may not be made in a manner that would appeal to the mass audience. It should still be offered to the cinema owners. If the cinema owner feels that it is worthy of exhibiting in their cinema, it is their decision. If the Content is not accepted by the cinema owners and the film is held worthy by the Ministry of Culture and must have exposure, then it is up to the Ministry of Culture to determine the schedule and duration of that Content **ON THEIR CIRCUIT**, where they could make a profit or take a loss.

This way the cinema owner does not take the burden of a loss and the Ministry of Culture has achieved its purpose. He/she must be allowed to make a profit or loss as a result of their own business decisions and not forced to do otherwise.

GOV'T ASSISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRY

All existing cinema owners should have a tax exemption for three years to enable them to upgrade their cinemas. Qualifying film producers must be assisted by the banks with special low interest rates. Tax exemption for all film making and cinema screening equipment. If the cinema owner thrives the film industry thrives. If the shop closes down there will be no shelves to sell our product from.

PROTECTIONISM

Protectionism is the practice of following protectionist trade policies. A protectionist trade policy allows the government of a country to promote domestic producers, and thereby boost the domestic production of goods and services by imposing tariffs or otherwise limiting foreign goods and services in the marketplace. This is not applicable to the film industry. Protectionism does not and never will work in the local film industry if we wish to upgrade the industry into a profit oriented quality entertainment industry. Let us compete with the world. This is one area with which we could match or surpass any competition with knowledge and talent.

If we regulate the cinemas to accept the local films for exhibition, by imposing a quota system forcing the cinema owners to show a locally made Sinhala or Tamil film whether it has marketable appeal or not, two matters will affect the industry.

- 1) The eventual obliteration of the local cinema industry.
 - 2) The lack of driving forced to create films of a better quality that are marketable to continue the sustenance and betterment of the industry. The local product must compete with all other films and win its rightful place with the audience. The audience must want it. We cannot force it on them.
- If one wishes to wallow in 'the so called art film... award winning film...the sex for profit film...or the NGO sustained poverty / tragedy film' that is loss making and does nothing to bring in the audience, which certain sectors embrace and condone, then a different mode of exhibition has to be created by the government or a philanthropic donor who could bear the loss.

FEATURES

Obeyesekere links Kasyapa with Sinhabahu

By **Rajitha Weerakoon**

Mysteries of Sigiriya, continue to inspire scholars to unravel its hidden stories. Examining the psychology of its architect and presenting a startling interpretation of his edifice is anthropologist Professor Gananath Obeyesekere in his "The Buddha in Sri Lanka, Histories and Stories."

Expounding his theory under the chapter "Sigiriya narratives: tellers of stories, writers of histories," he writes: the significance of Sigiriya is in relation to the psychology of the father-killer in which he (Kasyapa) commemorates the arche-typal father-killer of Sinhala myth Sinhabahu (lion limb) who after killing his father, the lion, constructed a new city named "Sinhapura" – the lion city.

"Kasyapa, by identifying with this primordial parricide in Sinhala history and the conscienceless killer of his father the lion, like his ancestor, lacked a conscience or a sense of remorse. The conspicuous nature of this creation is evident in what the Mahavamsa says as well as our current knowledge of the archaeology of Sigiriya that the formal entrance to Sigiriya is through the limb of the lion.

"Kasyapa has built what he considered to be another Sinhapura, the city of the lion which of course is what Sigiriya also means."

It seems to the author that Kasyapa had adopted a model from the past, what he calls a "myth model" and recreated it in his magnificent creation.

With the prime place in Sigiriya given to the lion, Mahavamsa states: Kasyapa, in fear of his brother, fled to the great rock

Sigiriya. He cleared the land roundabout, surrounded it with a wall and built a staircase in the form of a lion (MV. 38:3-4.) Hence the name of the rock: Sigiriya, Sinhagiri, Sihagiri meaning the lion rock (perhaps having the extended meaning of the "Lion City".)

"Moreover, the present lion is represented in his limbs and it is through the lion limb that one ascends the mountain nowadays; and of course Sinhabahu means "lion-limb." It is extremely unlikely that a full scale lion constituted the entrance of Sigiriya, given the formidable dimensions of the lion-limb. Sinhala sculptors could have conceived a full lion on the basis of the extant lion-limb but they could not have implemented such a figure whereas "lion-limb" architecturally was feasible."

Was Sigiriya built within eighteen years? The author disputes this time period given by Mahavamsa calling it "fiction" by depicting the affinity between the oral and the written, between history-writing and story-telling. Obeyesekere who notices a strong preoccupation of the Mahavamsa author with the number eighteen, dismisses that Kasyapa built Sigiriya in the first part of his reign of eighteen years. He says it is not unlikely that Kasyapa reigned for much longer.

Obeyesekere, besides traditional sources, had collected versions of Dhatusena-Kasyapa history or story from contemporary villages around Sigiriya which had helped elucidate what is unclear or unsaid in the Mahavamsa. He had also tried to blur the distinction between the kind of history represented in the Mahavamsa and the tradition of story-telling. But he admits that he cannot vouch for its veracity except being speculative.

Obeyesekere uses a Chinese source to argue the fact that Kasyapa's reign lasted only eighteen years. His evidence is a reference in a Chinese chronicle which reveals that there was another embassy from the island to China sent by "King Kia-che," i.e. Kasyapa in 527CE. Wilhem Geiger had disagreed that the reference was of Kasyapa I because according to Mahavamsa, Kasyapa reigned from 478-496CE and 473-491CE according to the chronology of Sri Lankan scholars.

Whereas, Obeyesekere, agreeing with the Chinese sources says that it was perfectly possible for Kasyapa to have been alive, if not well in 527CE. The later date also fits in with the inference from

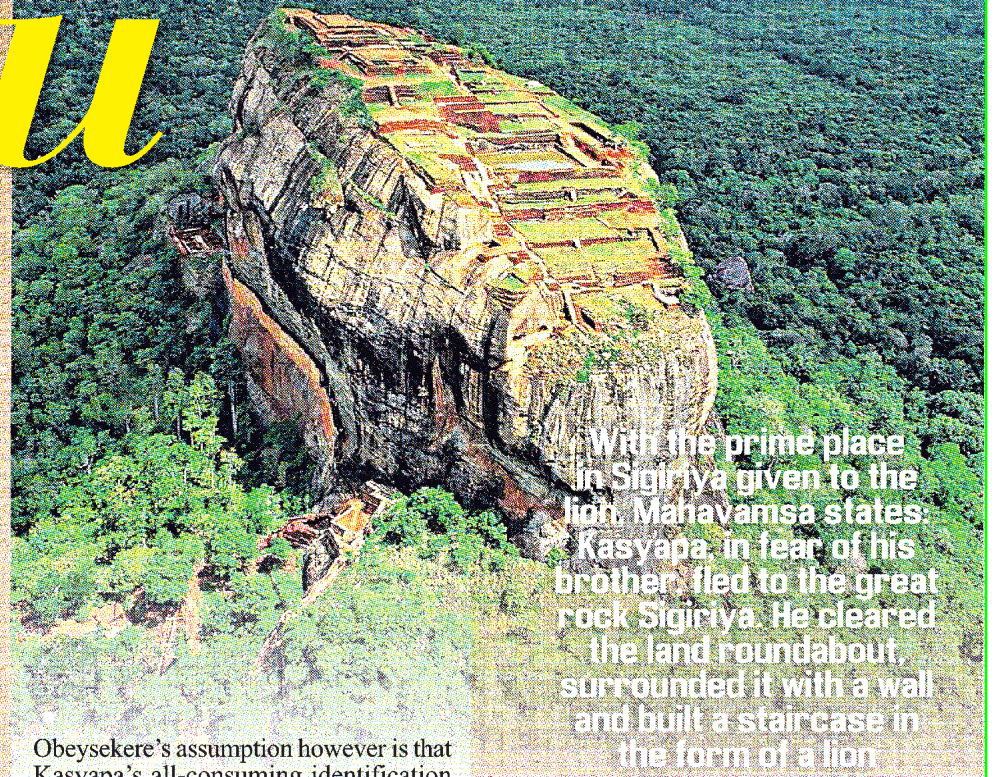
the Mahavamsa that Kasyapa practiced "dhatunga" (extreme ascetic practices) in his old age. "A long reign is not only consonant with the psychology of the parricide but fits in well with the conventions of practical Buddhism when renunciation and ascetic practices in old age are normative."

Therefore, Obeyesekere proposes that it is Mugalan's date that needs revision and perhaps one must take seriously the popular view that Mugalan went back to India after his brother's death. If indeed Kasyapa and Mugalan fought a battle as Mahavamsa asserts, then it was an unequal war with Mugalan confronting a tired, old man, who had already given up his worldly ambitions and feeling guilty of parricide had given to extreme ascetic practices and meditation on the Brahma viharas (appamana.) The suicide of the King, confronted with the return of the brother, psychologically, the return of the father, makes sense in terms of the conscience of the King and his encroaching old age.

And the author adds that if Kasyapa's reign was longer, that makes the construction of Sigiriya during his lifetime much more plausible.

Under "The Two Kings" in Mahavamsa, Dhatusena had two sons – Kasyapa born of a mother of unequal birth while Mugalan (Moggllana) and a daughter were by a mother of equal caste. Obeyesekere's findings from village folks relate the story of Dhatusena's amour with a woman of the Tamil community in his earlier years from whom he had Kasyapa, her death, his subsequent marriage to a Sinhala woman whose son was Mugalan and the step mother's discrimination against Kasyapa. According to Mahavamsa, the architect of his parricidal act was Migara. Reading between the lines of the Mahavamsa, the author writes: the King had cold shouldered him, his cross-cousin later in life. Migara's construction of a pirivena named after himself placed with an image of the Buddha, was denied a ceremony of consecration by Kasyapa. Migara bided his time waiting for the coming of the rightful ruler Mugalan.

What of the complex system of fountains and pleasure gardens that was a significant part of the Sigiriya landscape? Was it an expression of the King's delight in sensual and aesthetic pleasures? And Sigiri graffiti refer to the King enjoying sensual pleasures with divine damsels. (Paranavitana 1956)



With the prime place in Sigiriya given to the lion, Mahavamsa states: Kasyapa, in fear of his brother, fled to the great rock Sigiriya. He cleared the land roundabout, surrounded it with a wall and built a staircase in the form of a lion

Kasyapa has built what he considered to be another Sinhapura, the city of the lion which of course is what Sigiriya also means

Kasyapa's life of hedonism was a way of overcoming the guilt of parricide or rather not permitting guilt to surface by embracing the pleasure principle and living like a divine king enjoying the life of senses

He approaching old age, the growing up of his daughters, the increasing realization of his painful conscience probably induced him to move to penance and self mortification and from one form of edifice construction to another, a more Buddhist one

Obeyesekere's assumption however is that Kasyapa's all-consuming identification was with the parricide ancestor Sinhabahu.

Also, the King's palace being on the very top of the rock was completely unrealistic, according to the author for normal living and kingly duties. But it expresses a meeting of geography with cosmology. Obeyesekere however says that it has to be left open to understand whether the King, perched on his palace atop, surveyed the world as it unfolded although there is no way that one can confirm this hypothesis.

Kasyapa's life of hedonism was a way of overcoming the guilt of parricide or rather not permitting guilt to surface by embracing the pleasure principle and living like a divine king enjoying the life of senses.

The question then is whether we can reconcile the life of pleasure of imitating the cosmos with its very opposite life of penance alongside the idealized Brahma viharas and the King's latter day open espousal of Buddhism?

".....the approaching old age, the growing up of his daughters, the increasing realization of his painful conscience probably induced him to move to penance and self mortification and from one form of edifice construction to another, a more Buddhist one."

Mahavamsa mentions that Kasyapa restored and expanded the great temple of Isurumuniya in Anuradhapura and named the temple after his two daughters and his own – "Isuramenu Bo-Upulvan-Kasubgiri (Kasyapa of the mountain.)"

Issuing a statement on the recently appointed Presidential Task Force and its mandate for One Country One Law, the National Peace Council (NPC) said that the composition of the committee and the mandate given to it is not right for its very purpose. Following is the full statement;

The principle of one law, one country is upheld by the constitution of the country, which however makes an exception for personal laws. The government has announced its intention to amend the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act. This has given rise to the perception that the recently appointed Presidential Task Force and its mandate for one country one law is in pursuit of reform of personal laws and is actually a targeting of the minorities. However, the concept of one country one law is more profound and means that the country's laws are applicable to each and every individual with equal force regardless of rank or position, ethnicity or religion.

In this context, the appointment of the PTF on one country one law is deeply concerning due both to the composition and mandate. Even today no one is above the law if the law is implemented, which calls for strengthening of institutions as was attempted by the 17th and 19th Amendments and effectively dismantled by the 18th and 20th Amendments. The PTF is headed by a person who has been convicted by the courts for contempt, imprisoned and given a presidential pardon. The 13 member PTF does not include a single woman, Tamil or Christian and therefore does not represent the plurality of Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic, multi-religious and plural society.

The government will need to take these shortcomings into consideration or else it can erode confidence in the government and further marginalize minority communities, and women who are a majority in Sri Lanka when decisions are made regarding laws that affect them without their participation. In addition, in implementing the concept of one country, one law, there needs to be provision for plural laws under the 13th Amendment by provincial



MORE DIALOGUE NEEDED ABOUT ONE COUNTRY, ONE LAW

council which have been provided with devolved powers which they might use differently owing to the different circumstances that prevail in each of the provinces.

Justice must also be seen to be done and thus consultations with all parties would be the best choice at the moment for acceptance by the larger community as a whole

We note that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the UN General Assembly in New York and Foreign Minister Prof G L Peiris at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva pledged to energise the national reconciliation process by following principles of accountability and restorative justice, among others, and to work in cooperation with the

UN and international community to these ends.

The National Peace Council is of the view that the composition of the committee and the mandate given to it is not right for this purpose. Justice must also be seen to be done and thus consultations with all parties would be the best choice at the moment for acceptance by the larger community as a whole.

The NPC is an independent and non partisan organization that works towards a negotiated political solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. It has a vision of a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka in which the freedom, human rights and democratic rights of all the communities are respected. The policy of the National Peace Council is determined by its Governing Council of 20 members who are drawn from diverse walks of life and belong to all the main ethnic and religious communities in the country.

REMEMBERING COMANDANTE DR. FIDEL CASTRO RUZ

By **Mohomed Iqbal**

(Friends of Cuba - Sri Lanka)

The iconic revolutionary leader of Cuba Fidel Castro died at the age of 90 on November 25th, 2016. It is nearly five years since the demise of this great man. Although Fidel is physically not present, his ideas and the work he started with the Cuban people to establish a socialist society continues.

Cuba is an island just 90 miles from the United States. It has a strong tradition of fighting the Spanish to be free from its colonial domination. In the early 1950s Cuba's political class was closely associated with the ruling class of the United States. Most sugar plantations were owned by US citizens. The people of Cuba were poor and most young people were unemployed.

Young Fidel was actively involved in student and youth politics. He was affiliated to Eduardo Chibas and his Orthodox Party achieving publicity as a strong advocate of social justice.

The elections that were scheduled for March 10th, 1952 were cancelled by the military ruler Fulgencio Batista. The political evolution of Cuba called for a new movement to change the US dominance in its politics. Fidel identified the need to organize the masses and educate them in the faith of freedom and dignity which had roots from Jose Marti, the architect of Cuban independence.

Fidel and his brother Raul with around 160 youth decided to attack the Moncada barracks in July 1953. This attack was an eye-opener to the Cuban people who were disgusted with the corrupt regime of Batista. The Moncada attack failed and its leader Fidel was arrested. In his defence speech "History will Absolve me", Fidel proves it was a duty of the Cubans to rally round the rebels. Later this evolved to

be the "26th July Movement".

Once he was freed from prison under a general amnesty, Fidel and Raul left to Mexico. In Mexico they formed a rebel army. Among those who joined the rebels was Che Guevara, an Argentine physician who had witnessed the crudely disguised CIA overthrow of the elected president of Guatemala.

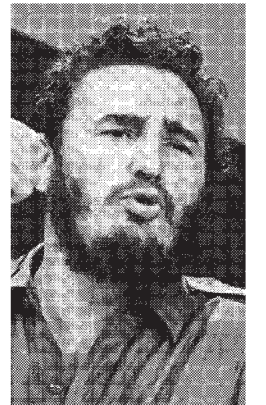
In 1956, Castro along with 82 rebels headed to Cuba in the yacht "Granma". Batista's forces were tipped off and they attacked the boat. Only twelve rebels survived. Fidel and the rest regrouped in the Sierra Maestra mountains. The guerrilla war against the Batista regime gradually became unstoppable, till Castro entered Havana on the 8th of January 1959.

Since the beginning of the revolution USA imposed an economic embargo which still continues with more pressure on Cuba. Attempts to overthrow the Cuban government through military interventions and assassination attempts on Fidel have failed.

Fidel has seen ten US presidents change with each being harder on Cuba than the previous. Fidel ruled Cuba during the times when Vietnam was at war, many African countries were fighting the European colonizers and South America was dominated by puppet governments of the US.

The reforms introduced by Fidel in Cuba can be studied by all nations. Doing away with illiteracy in a short time, having an effective free public health system, achievements in sports, culture are solid evidences of the victory and success of the Cuban revolution.

The Henry Reeves Medical Brigade initiated by Fidel and the contribution of Cuban scientists to medical research achievements in biotechnology are acclaimed worldwide. When the whole world is feeling the absence of such a great personality, this is a tribute to a leader and teacher. Adios Comrade Fidel!



Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz

Young Fidel was actively involved in student and youth politics. He was affiliated to Eduardo Chibas and his Orthodox Party achieving publicity as a strong advocate of social justice

Fidel identified the need to organize the masses and educate them in the faith of freedom and dignity which had roots from Jose Marti, the architect of Cuban independence

Doing away with illiteracy in a short time, having an effective free public health system, achievements in sports, culture are solid evidences of the victory and success of the Cuban revolution

China study warns of 'colossal' COVID outbreak

BEIJING, NOV 28 (REUTERS) - China could face more than 630,000 COVID-19 infections a day if it dropped its zero-tolerance policies by lifting travel curbs, according to a study by Peking University mathematicians.

In the report published in China CDC Weekly by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the mathematicians said China could not afford to lift travel restrictions without

more efficient vaccinations or specific treatments.

Using data for August from the United States, Britain, Spain, France and Israel, the mathematicians assessed the potential results if China adopted the same pandemic control tactics as those countries.

China's daily new cases would reach at least 637,155 if it adopted the United States' pandemic strategy, the report said.



A security guard blocks an exit as he directs people to scan a QR code to track their health status at Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station (Reuters)

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus, in the Past I have asked many Favours. This time I ask you This special one (mention request). Take it dear heart Of Jesus and place it Within your heart where Your father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will Become your own favour And not mine amen.

NICKY



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF LAW

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL LAW

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (ACEL) - 2021 / 2022

The Department of Public and International Law Faculty of Law, University of Colombo invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the advanced Certificate in Environmental Law (ACEL). The course will be offered in Sinhala, Tamil and English via Online.

Admission Requirements:

• The applicants should possess a minimum of five credit passes, in one and the same sitting of the GCE (O/L) examination or an equivalent qualification OR

• Completion of the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level-3 or any other academic qualification which is equivalent to the GCE. O/L examination, as acceptable to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law and the Senate of the University of Colombo OR

• Successful completion of any other relevant Certificate Advanced Certificate / Diploma / higher Diploma offered by the University of Colombo or any other University / Institute recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka

• Prior knowledge in the subject of Law is NOT require a mandatory

Course Fee	Rs. 40,000/-
Duration	06 Months (Week-ends)
Date of commencement	February 2022

Application forms and other related information can be downloaded from <http://law.cmb.ac.lk>

Duly Completed application which on be downloaded from the above website along with scanned copy of bank payment slip should be emailed to acel@law.cmb.ac.lk or sent under registered post to Coordinator, Advanced Certificate in Environmental Law, Department of Public & International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Philip Gunawardana Mawatha (Reid Avenue), Colombo 07 on or before 24th December 2021.

Application fee of Rs. 1,000/- can be made by using the code number 310013600008 at any People's Bank Branch using the respective application code given

Contact:

Department of Public and international Law	011 2585639 / 077 4808032 (9.00 am - 4.00 pm)
Email :	acel@law.cmb.ac.lk
Website:	http://law.cmb.ac.lk

The Registrar
University of Colombo,
94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo 03

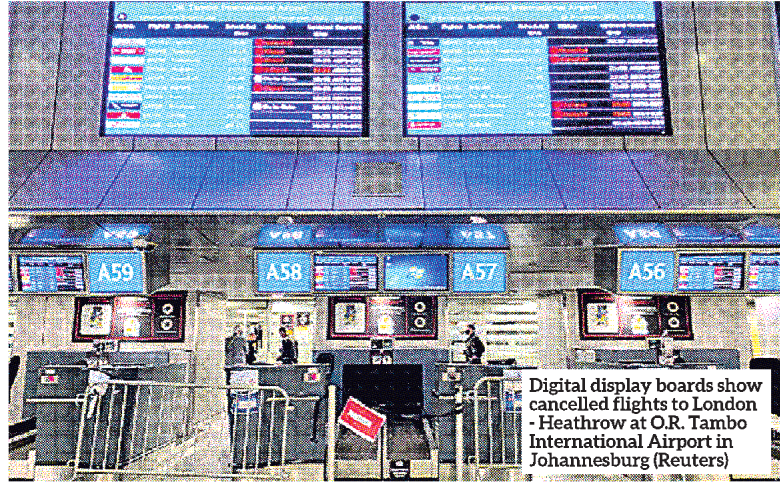
UK, GERMANY AND ITALY DETECT COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT CASES

Britain, Germany and Italy detected cases of the new Omicron coronavirus variant on Saturday and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new steps to contain the virus, while more nations imposed restrictions on travel from southern Africa.

The discovery of the variant has sparked global concern, a wave of travel bans or curbs and a sell-off on financial markets on Friday as investors worried that Omicron could stall a global recovery from the nearly two-year pandemic.

Omicron, dubbed a "variant of concern" by the World Health Organization, is potentially more contagious than previous variants of the disease, although experts do not know yet if it will cause more or less severe COVID-19 compared to other strains. The two linked cases of Omicron detected in Britain were connected to travel to southern Africa, British health minister Sajid Javid said.

British PM Johnson laid out measures



Digital display boards show cancelled flights to London - Heathrow at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg (Reuters)

that included stricter testing rules for people arriving in the country but that stopped short of curbs on social activity other than requiring mask wearing in some settings. The health ministry in the German state of Bavaria also announced two confirmed cases of the variant. The two people entered Germany at Munich airport on Nov.

24, before Germany designated South Africa as a virus-variant area, and were now isolating, the ministry said.

In Italy, the National Health Institute said a case of the new variant had been detected in Milan in a person coming from Mozambique.

- LONDON/BERLIN/AMSTERDAM, Nov 27 (Reuters)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE OF THE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that in terms of Section 9(2) of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 that the names of the under mentioned Companies has been changed.

Former Name of the Company : Amerasian Engineering Consultants (Private) Limited
Company Number : PV60318
Registered Office of the Company : No.107, Inner Flower Road, Colombo 03
New Name of the Company : Aquire Engineering Consultants (Private) Limited

Secretaries to the Company
L M Management Services (Private) Limited
No. 291/32A, Havelock Gardens,
Havelock Road, Colombo 05

MALLIKA NIVASA SAMITHIYA (SOCIETY) LTD ESTABLISHED IN 1920

Notice is hereby given that the 100th Annual General Meeting of the above Society will be held, according to health guidelines on Monday 13th December 2021 at 3.30 p.m. at the Society's Headquarters 45, Visakha Road, Colombo 04.

By Order of the Executive Committee
Hony. General Secretary
Manel Savitri de Alwis Samarasinghe

HNB FINANCE PLC

No. 168, Nawala Road, Nugegoda. Tel: 0112 02 48 48 Fax: 0112 17 62 63
E-mail: info@hnbfinance.lk Web: www.hnbfinance.lk

Key Financial data for the period ended 30 September (Unaudited) In Rupees Million	Current Period from 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021	Previous Period from 1st April 2020 to 30th September 2020
Interest income	3,211	3,005
Interest expenses	(1,295)	(1,822)
Net interest income	1,916	1,183
Other Income	237	180
Operating Expenses (Excluding Impairment)	(1,396)	(1,287)
Impairment	(383)	(302)
Profit/(loss) Before Tax	374	(226)
Taxes	(206)	(102)
Profit/(loss) After Tax	168	(328)

Selected Key Performance Indicators	As at 30 September 2021		As at 30 September 2020	
	Required	Actual	Required	Actual
Regulatory Capital Adequacy (%)				
Tier 1 Capital Adequacy Ratio	7.00	9.51	6.50	10.20
Total Capital Adequacy Ratio	11.00	12.85	10.50	13.91
Capital Funds to Deposit Liabilities Ratio	10.00	22.78	10.00	15.10
Liquidity (%)				
Available Liquid Assets to Required Liquid Assets (Minimum 100%)		109.35		458.57
Liquid Assets to External Funds		11.53		28.74
Quality of Loan Portfolio (%)				
Gross Non-Performing Loans Ratio		16.01		16.89
Net-Non-Performing Loans Ratio		3.79		4.31
Net-Non-Performing Loans to Core Capital Ratio		33.51		33.41
Provision Coverage Ratio		63.83		65.66
Profitability (%)				
Net Interest Margin		11.94		6.62
Return on Assets		0.93		(1.67)
Return on Equity		6.73		(13.45)
Cost to Income Ratio		64.86		94.86
Memorandum Information				
No of Branches		70		69
External Credit Rating (Fitch Rating)		A		AA-

INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021.

PUBLISHED IN TERMS OF FINANCE COMPANIES GUIDELINE NO. 2 OF 2006 OF CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Key Financial Data as at 30 September (Unaudited) In Rupees Million	As at 30th September 2021	As at 30th September 2020
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Balance	421	4,507
Government Securities	2,659	1,797
Due from Related parties	354	661
Loans (Excluding due from related parties)	28,080	27,257
Investments in Equity	3	12
Term Placements with Banks and Other Institutions	-	2,458
Other Assets	683	857
Investment Properties and Real Estate	1,246	1,105
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,769	1,942
Total assets	35,215	40,595
LIABILITIES		
Due to Bank	335	1,181
Due to Related Parties	634	667
Deposit From Customers	26,291	31,215
Other Borrowings	1,276	1,270
Other Liabilities	1,616	1,546
Total Liabilities	30,152	35,879
SHAREHOLDERS' FUND		
Stated Capital	224	224
Statutory Reserve Fund	1,091	1,091
Retained Earnings	3,064	2,727
Other Reserves	684	675
Total equity	5,063	4,716
Net Assets Value Per Share (Rs.)	2.95	2.74

We, the undersigned, being the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operating Officer and the Compliance Officer of HNB Finance PLC certify jointly that,

a) The above Statements have been prepared in compliance with the formats and definitions prescribed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

b) The information contained in these statements have been extracted from the unaudited financial statements of the Licensed Finance Company unless indicated as audited.

Signed - **B.M.D.C Prabhath**
Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer

20 November 2021

Signed - **W.S.P. Arangala**
Chief Operating Officer

20 November 2021

Signed - **A.W. Gunawardhana**
Compliance Officer

20 November 2021

SPORTS

More Covid cases in the SL women's camp
Team to return at the earliest

BY BIPIN DANI

The match between Sri Lanka and West Indies women's teams in the ICC qualifier round in Harare was called off due to more COVID-19 cases in the Sri Lankan team. This was revealed by Johnny Grave, the CEO of Cricket West Indies.

Ultimately, the ICC had to call off the tournament after the concerns over the variant that has surfaced in African countries.

"Both teams had reached the ground and players were training before the match," the source in Harare confirmed.

However, the request from the West Indies team management, in consultation with the doctor, to call off the match came when it was brought to the notice of the concerned ICC officials that there were a total of seven cases of COVID-19 in the Sri Lankan camp.

According to the sources, two more players - Ama Kanchana and Sugandhika Kumari - tested positive.

Also, Indrani Ariyaratne, who was a team manager on earlier occasions and is now touring with the team as a chaperone, was also found COVID positive in the antigen tests.

The total squad of 17 players and 11 support staff members are isolated.

Efforts are being made to send the non-Covid players and support staff from Sri Lanka at the earliest possible date.

The team doctor, Matheesa de Silva, is likely to return with the players and when they are 'safe' remaining chaperone to travel.

The six players COVID-affected major symptoms Harshitha Gunaratne, Ama, and

but have no are vice-captain Madavi, Vishmi Nisansala, Dilhari, Sugandhika.



Debutant Shreyas Iyer raises his bat after reaching his half-century

IND vs NZ - 1st Test

Iyer, Saha set up an intriguing final day

Debutant Shreyas Iyer showed his ice-cool temperament under pressure to stand tall with a fine half-century which placed India in a commanding position as they set up a stiff victory target of 284 for New Zealand on the fourth day of the opening Test in Kanpur yesterday.

India declared at 234/7 for an overall lead of 283 and gave the Black Caps four tricky overs to face under fading light during which they managed four runs and lost opener Will Young to Ravichandran Ashwin.

With that scalp, Ashwin became the joint third-highest wicket-taker in Indian cricket with Harbhajan Singh (417 wickets).

The highest ever fourth-innings chase by a visiting team in India is 276 by Viv Richards' West Indies against the Dilip Vengsarkar-led India in 1987 at the Feroz Shah Kotla, which placed statistics on the home team's side.

The honours for India on the day were shared by Iyer (65 off 125 balls), who became the first

Indian to score a hundred and fifty on debut and the plucky Wriddhiman Saha (61 not out), who battled stiff neck to make an invaluable contribution which will certainly count a lot in the final context of the match.

Axar Patel (28 not out) then conjured another 67-run eighth-wicket stand with Saha to slowly take the match out of the Black Caps' grasp.

The tireless seam bowling duo of Tim Southee (3/75) and Kyle Jamieson (3/40) excelled for the visitors as they showed an exhibition of top-class bowling on an unresponsive track.

However, it will now depend on how much time it takes for India's spin troika to roll over New Zealand, whose openers showed a lot of gumption on the second afternoon and third morning. Also if skipper Kane Williamson can do something mind-blowing with the willow, there might just be a great contest on the cards.

(AGENCIES)

CHIEF SCORES:

India 345 (Shreyas Iyer 105, Shubman Gill 52; Tim Southee 5/89, Kyle Jamieson 3/91) and 234/7d (Shreyas Iyer 65, Wriddhiman Saha 61 n.o.; Tim Southee 3/75, Kyle Jamieson 3/40)

New Zealand 296 (Tom Latham 95, Will Young 89; Axar Patel 5/82, Ravichandran Ashwin 3/82) and 4/1

LANKA SUPER LEAGUE TO RESUME TODAY

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
The Lanka Super League semi-professional football tournament, conducted by Football Sri Lanka (FSL), will resume today with Up-country Lions FC taking on Defenders FC in the 14th match at the Sugathadasa Stadium. The tournament comprises 10 rounds and a total of 45 matches, with 10 matches of rounds four and five scheduled from December 5-12. The tournament is set to conclude by January 8 and all matches will be worked off at the Sugathadasa Stadium, Racecourse Grounds in Reid Avenue and at the Maliga Pitiya Stadium in Kurunegala. The tournament was suspended on May 2 to make way for the FIFA World Cup (Asia) Qualifying Round, the SAFF Tournament in the Maldives, the AFC Under-23 Asia Cup Qualifiers in Qatar and the Four Nations Football Tournament in Colombo. Unbeaten Sea Hawks FC sits on top of the points table of the tournament with a total of nine points from three games.



LANKA SUPER LEAGUE 2021 FIXTURES

NO.	ROUND	DATE	HOME	AWAY	TIME
14	03	NOV 29	UP COUNTRY LIONS FC	VS DEFENDERS FC	3:30 PM
15		DEC 05	COLOMBO FC	VS RED STAR FC	3:30 PM
16		DEC 06	RENOWN SC	VS BLUE STAR SC	3:30 PM
17	04	DEC 06	SEA HAWKS FC	VS UP COUNTRY LIONS FC	7:30 PM
18		DEC 07	RATNAM SC	VS DEFENDERS FC	3:30 PM
19		DEC 07	BLUE EAGLES SC	VS NEW YOUNGS FC	7:30 PM
20		DEC 10	BLUE EAGLES SC	VS RENOWN SC	3:30 PM
21		DEC 10	UP COUNTRY LIONS FC	VS BLUE STAR FC	7:30 PM
22	05	DEC 11	SEA HAWKS FC	VS DEFENDERS FC	3:30 PM
23		DEC 11	RATNAM SC	VS COLOMBO FC	7:30 PM
24		DEC 12	NEW YOUNGS FC	VS RED STAR FC	3:30 PM

DMSportsDesk

Major Club Limited Over

Rain hampers proceedings, matches to resume today

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Rain hampered proceedings of the two Major Club Limited Over cricket tournament semi-final encounters played at the Surrey Village ground in Maggona and the Army ground in Dombagoda yesterday.

The match between Army SC and Tamil Union played at Maggona saw Tamil Union, batting first, make a score of 242 runs with a half-ton from skipper Sadeera Samarawickrama and useful knocks by Navod Paranavithana and Santhush Gunatileke.

In the match between Ragama CC and defending champions NCC, only 31 overs of play were possible, with Ragama CC making 114/5 from 31 overs when the match was called off. The two matches will now be resumed today from where they stopped.

RESULTS:

At Maggona
Tamil Union 242 in 50 overs (Sadeera Samarawickrama 50, Navod Paranavithana 49, Santhush Gunatileke 37, Shiran Fernando 23,

Supun Kavinda 21, Jeffrey Vandersay 20; Heshan Hettiarachchi 3/42, Seekkuge Prasanna 2/39, Suminda Lakshan 2/46) vs Army SC

Ragama CC 114/5 in 31 overs (Janith Liyanage 26, Avishka Tharindu 21, Nishan Madushka 41 n.o.; Sachindu Colombage 3/26) vs NCC

Liverpool trounce Southampton, Gerrard enjoys second win with Villa

Liverpool chummed out another big victory when they thumped Southampton 4-0 to close in on Chelsea at the top of the Premier League on Saturday, while former skipper Steven Gerrard enjoyed a second consecutive win as Aston Villa manager.

Liverpool have now scored 39 times in 13 league games this season after Diogo Jota's double and goals by Thiago Alcantara and Virgil van Dijk eased them past Southampton at Anfield.

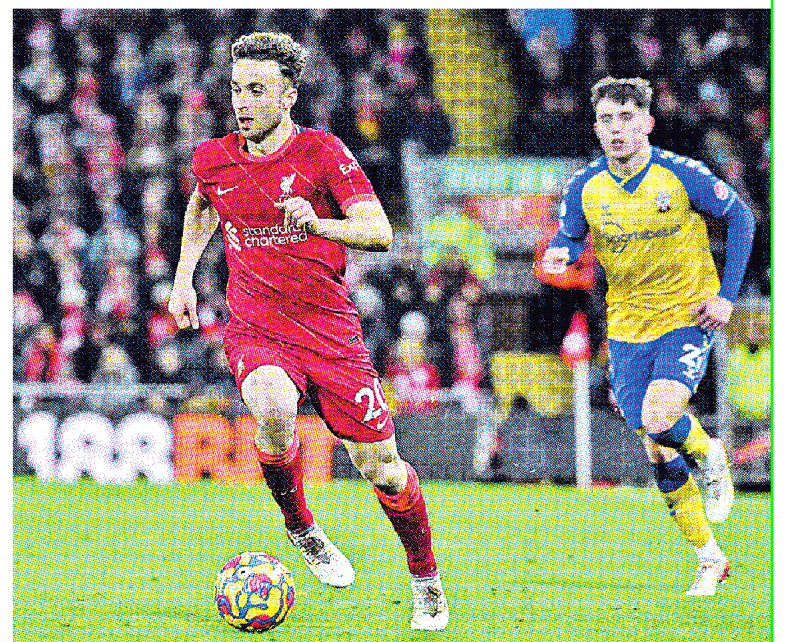
Aston Villa followed up their win over Brighton & Hove Albion last week in Gerrard's first game in charge with a 2-1 victory at Crystal Palace, with Matt Targett and John McGinn scoring.

Newcastle United's new manager Eddie Howe took his place on the touchline for the first time after missing last week's draw against Brentford because of a positive COVID-19 test, but saw his side lose 2-0 away at Arsenal.

Goals by Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli sealed the points for fifth-placed Arsenal to move them level on 23 points with fourth-placed West Ham United. For bottom club Newcastle, now winless in 13 games and with only six points to show for their season so far, the relegation fears show no sign of easing. Newcastle's next two games

Team	Score	Opponent
Arsenal	2-0	Newcastle United
Crystal Palace	1-2	Aston Villa
Liverpool	4-0	Southampton

--at home to fellow strugglers Norwich City and Burnley-- could define their season. Second-from-bottom Norwich failed to make it three wins in a row as they drew 0-0 at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers but they moved level on nine points with 18th-placed Burnley. The day's late kickoff also ended goalless as Brighton & Hove Albion's winless run extended to eight matches when they were frustrated by Leeds United. The point did, however, edge Brighton up to eighth place, ahead of Manchester United.



REUTERS Liverpool's Diogo Jota scored a brace in their 4-0 win over Southampton



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- Football: SPANISH LA LIGA Osasuna vs. Elche - El Sadar
- Cricket: New Zealand tour of India 1st Test, India vs. New Zealand - Kanpur
- Pakistan tour of Bangladesh 1st Test, Bangladesh vs. Pakistan - Chattogram
- West Indies tour of Sri Lanka 2nd Test, Sri Lanka vs. West Indies - Galle
- Tennis: Davis Cup Finals, Final Stage - Davis Cup, Indoor, Hard

LOCAL EVENTS

- Football: Super League - Sugathadasa Stadium
- Squash: SLS Junior Open Squash Championship 2021 - SSC

DMSportsDesk

The 106th Colombo Tennis Championship

Thehan, Chathurya, Anjalika advance to final



Anjalika Kurera

Thehan Wijemanne

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Top-seed in the Men's Open singles Thehan Wijemanne, along with Chathurya Nilaweera and Anjalika Kurera, advanced to the final of the 106th Colombo Tennis Championship when they came out on top in the semi-final encounters played at the SLTA tennis courts in Greenpath, Colombo yesterday.

The trio cruised through to easy wins against Archana Lokuge, Vibuda Wijebandara, and Tuvini de Alwis, with the same winning margin of two sets to nil. In the other semi-final of the Women's Open, Neyara Weerawansa won the first set and was leading in the second when rain put a stoppage to the proceedings. The match will be continued today.

Meanwhile, in the junior category, Aahil Kaleel clinched the Under 12 boy's title with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Methika Wickramasinghe in the final. The championship will continue today.

RESULTS

- Semi-finals:**
- Men's Open:** Thehan Wijemanne beat Archana Lokuge 2-0 (4/1, 4/1), Chathurya Nilaweera beat Vibuda Wijebandara 2-0 (6/1, 6/2)
- Women's Open:** Anjalika Kurera beat Tuvini de Alwis 2-0 (6/2, 6/2)
- Final:**
- Under 12 Boys:** Aahil Kaleel beat Methika Wickramasinghe 2-1 (1/4, 4/2, 10/7)