

## Ankara hotline for Sri Lankans in Ukraine

The Foreign Ministry has instructed the Sri Lanka Embassy in Ankara, which is concurrently accredited to Kyiv, to take appropriate measures to coordinate the safe passage of the remaining Sri Lankan nationals in Ukraine.

Sri Lankan nationals in Ukraine are advised to contact the 24x7 hotline established at the Sri Lanka Embassy in Ankara via mobile: +90 534 456 94 98 ; land line: +90 312 427 10 32; email: slembarankara@mfa.gov.lk.

## Sri Lanka non partisan on Ukraine issue - Foreign Secretary

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDERA



Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage told a media briefing at the Government Information Department yesterday (25) that Sri Lanka was closely monitoring the Russia-Ukraine crisis and was pursuing a non-partisan policy.

Speaking further Colombage said there were very few Sri Lankans in Ukraine but they had been told to leave the country.

He said that several people had left Ukraine and that he was in constant contact with Sri Lankans in Ukraine through the Sri Lankan Embassy in Turkey.

The Secretary pointed out that a large number of foreign tourists had visited Sri Lanka in the recent past, many of whom came from Ukraine and Russia and that the current situation would have a major impact on our country. **TO PAGE 02**

# RUSSIAN FORCES PRESS DEEP INTO UKRAINE

UKRAINE ASKS RESIDENTS TO MAKE PETROL BOMBS

AT LEAST 100,000 UKRAINIANS DISPLACED

MOSCOW OFFERS TALKS IF KYIV LAYS DOWN ARMS

RUSSIA BANS BRITISH AIRLINES FROM ITS AIRSPACE



Anti-war protests held in support of Ukraine were held around the world. Here, demonstrators gather at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate yesterday.



A man talks on his mobile phone opposite a fire-damaged building following a blast during Russian artillery strikes in Kyiv, Ukraine.

**RUSSIA, UKRAINE:** Russian Armed Forces reached the outskirts of Kyiv Friday as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the invading troops were targeting civilians and explosions could be heard in the besieged capital.

Pre-dawn blasts in Kyiv set off a second day of violence after Russian President

Vladimir Putin defied Western warnings to unleash a full-scale ground invasion and air assault yesterday that quickly claimed dozens of lives and displaced at least 100,000 people.

The United States and its allies responded with a barrage of tough sanctions, but the Russian Forces looked

to press home their advantage after a string of key strategic victories on day one itself.

NATO has made it clear that it will not be having any "boots on the ground" in Ukraine, which is not yet a NATO Member. Russian Ground Forces had initially moved into Ukraine from the north, **TO PAGE 02**

## Dollar crisis not cause of power cuts - Governor Cabraal

"I regret the current power cuts, but it is inevitable unless there is a serious commitment to add to the national grid in terms of renewable energy sources etc", said Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Governor of the Central Bank speaking to Rajpal Abeynayake on the latter's morning programme "Coffee with Rajpal" on SLBC's premier channel, Radio Sri Lanka yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**



## No night time power cuts in weekend

CHAMINDA PERERA

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) Chairman Janaka Rathnayake said power cuts will not be imposed in nights during the weekend and the day-time power interruption will also be limited to three hours only in areas under the Group A, B and C. **TO PAGE 02**



## Hope tough times will end by August - Minister

IRANGIKA RANGE

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said the country will be able to emerge from the current economic crisis within the next six months.

"The government has taken effective policy actions to overcome the difficulties caused by the crisis and only this government can save the country and protect its people from the present crisis," Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. **TO PAGE 02**

## Speaker rings alarm bells over MPs' conduct

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena told Parliament yesterday (25) that he would lodge a complaint with the IGP over the conduct of several Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) members.

The Speaker said he will request an investigation regarding the incident where a group SJB Members had threatened police officers and obstructed their duties and had taken a suspicious parcel into the Parliament premises yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**



## Enjoining Order against Nurses' Union extended

ROSHAN THUSHARA

The Colombo District Court yesterday extended the Enjoining Order until March 11 on the Government Nursing Officers' Association and its President Saman Ratnapriya, preventing them from engaging in a strike, disrupting the health service amidst a pandemic. **TO PAGE 02**

## REMOVE DISPARITY IN LIQUID MILK PURCHASE - PRESIDENT

### UNUSED NLDB LANDS FOR GRASS CULTIVATION

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa instructed Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage and Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy and Egg Related Industries State Minister D. B. Herath to take immediate action to remove the price disparity in the purchase of liquid milk.

The President made these remarks while inspecting the Milco Factory in Narahenpita yesterday morning (25).

The President paid special attention to the disparity in prices at district level when purchasing liquid milk. **TO PAGE 02**



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Milco factory in Narahenpita yesterday. Milco Chairman Renuka Perera and officials were present. *Picture by President's Media Division.*

## SJB to canvass world support for Ranjan's release



Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday said that the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) will seek the support of the international community to get former Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake released from jail.

Addressing the media after visiting Ramanayake at the Welikada Prison yesterday, **TO PAGE 02**



A group of Ukrainians in Sri Lanka protested in front of the Russian Embassy in Colombo yesterday against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## Harin says nothing dangerous brought into Chamber

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Harin Fernando said in Parliament yesterday (25) that he was ready to face any inquiry into the torch incident.

He said that he had brought his bag

which contained the small torch in it and he had even passed it through the scanner as he had nothing to hide.

Fernando was responding to an allegation made by a group of ruling party Members in Parliament yesterday that a suspicious parcel **TO PAGE 02**



## UNP to begin promotion drive from March 12

SHIROMI ABAYASINGHE

The UNP will launch a constituency level membership promotion and a propaganda campaign with the objective of making

people aware that the Party is the only alternative to rescue the country from the current economic crisis. The constituency level UNP membership promotion **TO PAGE 02**



## Woman arrested over Mathugama murder

A 39-year-old woman has been arrested by the Police in connection with the shooting of a mother of three in Mathugama recently, Police said.

The suspect is accused of aiding and abetting the murder Chandima Dilhani Perera (40), a mother of three, who was shot dead inside a house in Mathugama on the night of February 15. **TO PAGE 02**



## Rehab for push-bike stealer in Panadura

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

Keselwatta Police in Panadura arrested a man recently who steals only cycles and sells them at low prices to others. The police seized and returned to the

rightful owners seven push bicycles that the suspect had stolen and sold. Police said the suspect, Suresh Ganesh Kumara (40) a resident of Badowitz, Mount Lavinia has a compulsion to steal only push cycles only. **TO PAGE 02**



**Dollar crisis not cause of power cuts...** From page 01

Governor Cabraal went onto point to a combination of reasons - increased import demand, world oil price increases, and the adverse weather conditions that are all causing the currency and the power crisis that go together, saying he doesn't want to enter into a debate with the Power and Energy Minister on that aspect. Cabraal was emphatic that the current power crunch is not traceable to the Dollar shortage only.

"The people need to realise that we need at this juncture to be a little more austere and voluntarily reduce power consumption. Many steps are being taken by the government to ensure that power is provided on a continued basis", he said.

Asked by the programme's host whether the government's policy to peg the dollar at an artificially determined rate meant that there are no inward remittances because people wouldn't remit at those rates - causing the dollar shortage that impedes fuel purchases for power generation - the Governor

said that this aspect contributes negligibly to the overall situation.

He said the remittances are low mainly due to the repercussions of the COVID economy, with people being unable to work in the Middle East etc. due to the Covid restrictions, and tourism dropping, or decreasing drastically. "It's only now that we are beginning to recover from these downward trends," he said.

"Power generation and distribution is not an overnight business and therefore in light of the fact that there have been no sources added to the national grid in the last seven years, this situation is to be expected", he added. If we do not plan to add to the power grid, the energy options we have now are far too expensive and untenable, he emphasized at the discussion. He said that such augmentation of the national grid is being carried out now, but that it would take around five years for the these new projects to have the effect of adding

to the national grid.

One of the key reasons for the current power crisis was that there were no new power generation projects from 2015 to 2019, he stressed.

The other key reason is that there is additional demand on the grid because there is an additional thirst for power due to the imports and exports picking up after the pandemic, and economic activity in general being on the rise, post-pandemic.

"There is a confluence of factors that contribute to the current power crisis, and one of them is that the cost of a barrel of crude oil has gone up in the world market. The current power crisis is not entirely due to the lack of foreign exchange", Governor Cabraal said. The people need to understand that there is a necessity to curtail power consumption as well, he opined, and observed that all the neon light were on, along the Galle Road stretch when he was headed home recently a sign, he said, of an inability to adjust.

**Russian forces press deep...** From page 01

south and east, forcing many Ukrainians to flee their homes as the sound of bombings reverberated.

Moscow's Defence Ministry said yesterday its Forces had "successfully completed" their objectives for the day, earlier claiming to have destroyed over 70 Ukrainian military targets, including 11 airfields.

Western intelligence confirmed that Moscow had established "complete air superiority" over Ukraine.

Ukrainian Forces said they had killed "around 50 Russian occupiers" while repulsing an attack on a town on the front-line with Moscow-backed rebels, which could not immediately be confirmed by news Agencies.

Ukraine also said a military plane with 14 people on board crashed south of Kyiv with officials still determining how many people died, while another transport plane crashed in Russia killing the crew.

Meanwhile, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has already appealed to the citizens that whoever is ready to defend the country will be provided with weapons. Now the Ministry of Defence has

taken to social media urging the civilians to make Molotov cocktails to neutralise the occupiers.

In a post from the verified Twitter page of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, it said: 'In Obolon... We ask citizens to inform us about the movement of equipment! 'Make Molotov cocktails, neutralise the occupier! Peaceful residents - be careful! Do not leave the house!'

The highway heading west out of Kyiv, home to more than three million people, was choked with traffic across five lanes as residents sought to escape to far-off cities, fearful of bombardments while stuck in their cars.

The UN Refugee Agency said an estimated 100,000 Ukrainians had fled their homes. Thousands were also crossing into neighbouring countries, including Romania, Moldova, Poland and Hungary.

Meanwhile, Moscow is ready for talks with Kyiv if its Army surrenders, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday as the Russian military advanced into the Ukrainian capital.

"We are ready for negotiations at any moment, as soon as the Armed Forces of

Ukraine respond to our call and lay down their arms," Lavrov said at a press conference in Moscow. There was no immediate response from Kyiv to his call.

On the second day of battle, social media showed Russian armoured vehicles rolling into Kyiv. In its northern district Obolonsky, pedestrians ran for safety amid gunfire and explosions.

Meanwhile, British airlines have been banned from landing at Russia's airports and from crossing its airspace, the Russian civil aviation regulator has said.

Russia said the move was a response to "unfriendly decisions by the UK aviation authorities".

On Thursday, the UK banned Russia's national airline Aeroflot from landing in Britain. The measure was part of sanctions introduced following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace told ITV: "I think that is their retaliation for us yesterday banning Aeroflot from using and landing in the United Kingdom. That is their tit for tat response."

(The Hindustan Times, The Malay Mail, The Straits Times, BBC)



**Remove disparity in liquid...** From page 01

The President said that the entire process should be fully monitored to prevent irregularities by intermediaries when bringing milk purchased from the dairy farmer to the institution and that the dairy farmers should be paid the proper price.

The President took these decisions with the objective of empowering the dairy farmer and promoting the consumption of liquid milk. The President also stated that there should be no change in the prevailing prices and that the consumer should not be burdened.

President Rajapaksa who visited the factory premises inspected the process of collecting liquid milk as well as the process of making dairy products.

The National Dairy Development Board was established in 1956 and it was transformed into Milco Pvt.Ltd in 1986. In the first phase, the company limited itself to producing pasteurized milk but it has now expanded its manufacturing process to include milk and dairy products such as yogurt, ice cream, butter, ghee and skimmed milk.

With a staff of nearly 1,500 in four factories located in Ambewela, Digana, Polonnaruwa and Narahenpita, the company has a daily milk capacity of 700,000 liters and the current

milk collection is limited to 120,000 liters.

The management of the institute stated that it is intervening for the welfare of the farmers.

The Danish Government is investing 600 million euros in the construction of a dairy factory in Badalgama, which is expected to commence operations in September.

The President instructed to cultivate grass in the unused lands under the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB) and to develop the Milco Factory at Narahenpita as the main center for the factories at Digana, Ambewela, Polonnaruwa and Badalgama.

8.5 liters of liquid milk is required to produce 1 kilogram of powdered milk. It can only make 45 cups of milk. But officials said that 2.5 liters of liquid milk could meet that requirement. Understanding this situation, the President pointed out the need to encourage the people to consume liquid milk.

Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage, State Minister D.B. Herath, Principal Advisor to President Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the Ministry of State Waruna Samaradivakara, Chairman of Milco Renuka Perera and General Manager Sudath Munasinghe were also present on this occasion.

**Ambassador Julie J.Chung officially began her tenure as the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka after presenting her credentials to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the President's House yesterday. Chung served as the Acting Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. She also has extensive experience in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, including as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan, Deputy Chief of Mission in Cambodia, and Economic Counselor in Thailand. State Minister Tharaka Balasuriya and President's Secretary Gamini Senarath look on.**

**Sri Lanka non ...** From page 01

In this situation, Sri Lanka will be disadvantaged and will have to face the situation of exporting Sri Lankan tea, having to pay higher prices for fuel, rising gas prices and declining tourist arrivals, he said.

The Secretary stated that such issues should be resolved through discussions and that Sri Lanka could not speak on behalf of any party there and should act with understanding in international issues.

**SJB to canvass...** From page 01

The Opposition Leader said a group of SJB Parliamentarians led by MP Harin Fernando will intervene in obtaining the support of international community to ensure the release of Ramanayake.

"We are engaged in a democratic struggle to ensure his release from the prison. Ranjan Ramanayake could have done more service to the people, if he had not been behind bars", he said.

The Opposition Leader said that he requested the government to release him soon. "I made a number of requests to the President to ensure his early release from jail," he said.

**Woman arrested...** From page 01

Two unidentified gunmen had entered her house and police believe they were intending to shoot her husband, a businessman in the area.

He was at home at the time of the incident but managed to survive with his children after locking himself and his children inside a room. Gun ammunition was found at the scene. The suspect woman had been arrested in the Nugegoda area and she is a resident of Matugama, police said.

Further investigations into the incident are being conducted by the Police.


**Hope tough times will end...** From page 01

It is a greater joke than the previous "Yahapalana" government which destroyed the country and is seeking power again. The Opposition Leader cannot even control his own Party today. Then how can he govern the country? the Minister queried.

"We are already facing a tough time due to the adverse

**ELEVENTH DEATH REMEMBRANCE OF SHERMAN RANASINGHE**

03 \* 26 \*  
04 \* 02 \*  
1948 \* 2011



**Eternal rest grant unto him O'Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.**

*Oh, how we wish that you were here, Your loving presence we held so dear. To hear your loving voice for many more years, But in our hearts you will always be near*

From your ever loving wife **Chandrika**, Children **Dinesh, Suresh, Nirosh, Sudeshika, Senaka & Baby Senan.**

**"Prudence", Tudella, Ja-ela.**

**No night time power...** From page 01

Rathnayake when contacted by the Daily News said the Ceylon Electricity Board has been directed to not to impose power cuts in nights during the weekend.

"The Commission issued directives to the CEB suspending power interruption in night during the weekend as the people had been going through tough time during past few days", he said

He said that power

cuts will only be 2 and 30 minutes and 3 hours during the day time today before 5 p.m. based on the category of the area.

Rathnayake added that there won't be any power interruption on Sunday except for areas that come under A B and C category.

These areas will get only 2 hours and 30 minutes power cut during the day time on Sunday.

**Enjoining Order against...** From page 01

The Colombo District Court on the February 10 issued the Enjoining Order on the Government Nursing Officers' Association and its President.

The Government Nurses' Association launched a strike with several other health sector trade unions recent-

ly over what they called was salary anomalies.

The six-day strike by nurses in state hospitals demanding to resolve their salary anomalies severely affected the patients. This was done despite the gazette notification issued making patient care services an essential service.

**Harin says nothing...** From page 01

had been brought to the Parliament complex obstructing the duties of police officers. However, he made this statement without the approval of the Chair.

"I put my bag through the scanner and I can guarantee that I did not bring anything dangerous to Parliament. Neither did I obstruct the duties of the police officers. I am prepared to face any inquiry, but I urge the

Speaker not to make this a bigger issue than it really is. I never brought anything dangerous item to Parliament."

Harin Fernando also said that he would be engaging in a certain matter pertaining to the release of former MP Ranjan Ramanayake next Monday and urged the government not to obstruct him in his efforts for his colleague and friend Ramanayake.

**Rehab for push-bike...** From page 01

The Magistrate ordered that he be sent for rehabilitation when he was produced before Courts last week.

"He rides away with an unattended push cycle parked in front of a shop or a house while roaming. He is not a drug addict.

He sells stolen bikes to people such as construction workers, factory workers and similar persons types at very low prices," police said.

"It is as if he was obsessed about bicycles. He showed no interest in money," police said.

"He does not seem to plan the theft except that he could not resist the temptation of riding away with the unguarded bicycle when he sees one," they said.

"However, the suspect was responsible for many push-bicycle thefts that had taken place in the Panadura police area."

Keselwatta Police SI Hirantha, PC Dinesh (28772), PC Senaratna (34299), PCs 99215, PC 92917 and PC 93969 conducted the investigation under the supervision of OIC IP Sanjeeva Lakmal.

**OBITUARY**

**"SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS" NISHANTA SENEVIRATNE**  
January 5, 1953 - February 23, 2022

It is with profound sadness and grief that we announce the passing away of our dear colleague and friend NISHANTA SENEVIRATNE of St. Anthony's College Kandy, Past President and College of Presidents of the Colombo OBA. His devoted services to his Alma Mater will always be fondly remembered. May he now enjoy what heaven has to offer.

*His remains lie at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour Borella for viewing from 10am 26th to 27th February 2022, followed by a service at 3pm. Burial at General Cemetery, Borella (Catholic Section).*

**Courtesy OBA Colombo branch**



**Obituaries**

**PERERA - SHIRANI** (Former Manager at A Baur & Co. Ltd.). Beloved wife of Lakshman (Manager - B.C.C. Lanka Ltd.), precious mother of Shivanka (Manager - National Development Bank PLC - Mount Lavinia), much loved mother-in-law of Indeevari, loving daughter of late Vency and Elsie Dias, sister of Mohan Dias, sister-in-law of Christobel, Jacintha and Tamara. Remains lie at **A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour, Borella**. Cortège leaves the Parlour at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 26th February for Burial at St. Thomas' Church Burial Ground, Pita Kotte at 4.00 p.m. 015036

**WICKRAMARATNE - MRS LLELA** - Retired - Mahaweli River - Valleys Development Board & the founder of the Granville Wickramaratne Boys' Home, Gonawala, Kelaniya. Beloved wife of late Mr Granville Wickramaratne (Former Principal, Biyagama Central College), sister of Sunethra, late Sujatha, Upatissa, Sunil, Upali Ariyawansa and sister-in-law of Dharmasiri and late Stanley Wickramartne, passed away on Wednesday the 25th of February 2022. The viewing & the funeral will be held on Saturday 26th 2022 from 7.45 a.m. onwards. **"The Restpect" Jayaratne Parlour Borella**. Cremation at 4.00 p.m. at General Cemetery Borella. 014282



# Bandula Padmakumara took Sri Lankan journalism to a whole new level - Prime Minister

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday expressed his condolences on the death of veteran journalist and former ANCL Chairman Bandula Padmakumara.

Bandula Padmakumara, who later in his career served as the Editorial Director and Chairman of Lake House (ANCL) took Sri Lankan journalism to a whole new level," the Prime Minister in a message said.

The message: "I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of veteran journalist Bandula Padmakumara, the founding editor of *Lakshmi Irida Sangraha*, which revolutionized

national journalism". Bandula Padmakumara, who entered the media world with the film magazine *Geetha* in the seventies became the founding editor of *Kumari*, a popular newspaper which began in 80's that won the hearts of young people at that time.

In search of new avenues in journalism, he published several newspapers such as *Sarasi*, *Sattara*, *Kumari*, *Rajina*, *Araliya* and *Photography*.

As a trend setter in journalism he joined Sumathi newspaper company and became the editor of the *Lakshmi* Sunday paper.

Bandula Padmakumara, a veteran journalist, was able to popularise the art of reading newspapers on television in the late 90's, changing the direction of his journey.

It was Padmakumara who for the first time in history, added a tabloid-sized supplement to a weekend national newspaper. Since then, it has been followed by every weekend newspaper in Sri Lanka.

Bandula Padmakumara made an indelible mark in the history of youth and women's newspapers in Sri Lanka. May he attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana. I



extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved family members, fellow journalists, relatives and friends".

## Sri Lankan father, two others win Dh100,000 each from Mahzooz draw in Dubai

Dubai: Tuan, 45, a Sri Lankan national and Dubai resident, was excited when he received a screenshot from a colleague, informing him that he had won in the latest Mahzooz Raffle Draw. He was one of the three lucky expatriates who won Dh100,000 each in the 65th weekly draw.

Tuan's first plan is to set aside the money for his daughter's education. He said: "My 13-year-old daughter is a bright student, so this entire winning amount

will be put into savings so she can study in the university she wants. Thank you, Mahzooz, for helping a father make his daughter's dreams come true."

Tuan, a sales executive who has been living in Dubai for 16 years, said it was his wife who encouraged him to participate in the Mahzooz draw after reading reports in newspapers about Mahzooz winners and the company's initiative to donate water to those in need.

He also said his lucky number

8 helped him win. "My birth date is eight, so I've always thought it brings me luck. And when you add all the numbers of my raffle ID together, the sum is eight," he added.

The other winner, Indian national Muhammed, a Kuwait resident, said he intended to use his prize money to clear debts and buy gifts for friends and family. "I took out a home loan a year ago. Now that I will be able to pay it off with this prize money, it will reduce my finan-

cial burden a lot," said the 35-year-old fire alarm technician.

He added: "I can't describe the joy after I saw the email about my win. I first called my wife and then shared the news with my colleagues and hugged them in excitement."

The other winner was not identified while 12 other winners shared the Dh1 million Grand Draw second-tier and took home Dh83,333 each.

- Gulf News



An eight-year-old leopard was found dead with injuries by the Nallathanniya Wildlife Office yesterday (25). The leopard carcass was found on a private plot of land on the access road to the Norton Bridge Wimalasurendra Hydro Power Plant, said Prabhash Karunatilake, wildlife ranger at the Nallathanniya Wildlife Office. Karunatilake said that there were suspicious injuries on the skin of the dead leopard which appears to suggest that skin parts have been removed. He said that the carcass will be taken to the Randeniya Veterinary Hospital for an autopsy after reporting the matter to the Hatton Magistrate's Court. Picture by Asela Kuruluwansa

## IMPA holds hands with Sri Lanka in Business & Investment Collaborations

International Mudaliar and Pillaimar Association (IMPA) is a non-profit, non-political organization based in Southern India which consists of more than 25000 members worldwide. IMPA consists of reputed business owners with a South Indian origin and is highly involved in development of economy, education, health and agriculture in rural communities in Southern India.

Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Chennai Dr. D. Venkateshwaran, invited around 60 business owners, including the Chairman & senior officials of IMPA, to participate in a seminar on 'Investment and Business Opportunities in Sri Lanka' at the Chancery Premises on February 18, 2022.

Delivering the keynote speech, the Deputy High Commissioner emphasized on the need for reasons to invest in Sri Lanka. Presentations on 'Avenues of investing Sri Lanka' and 'Sri Lanka - the way forward' were shown by the Second Secretary (Commercial) Dilanga Hettiarachi and the Second Secretary (Cultural & Political) Supun Deshaprema.

The event was followed by a Q & A session and an interactive working lunch, which earned several positive responses in regard to investing and establishing new businesses in Sri Lanka for sectors such as renewable energy, pharmaceutical products, handicrafts, textiles and IT/BPO etc.

## Kadugannawa MC Chairman granted bail

Shavini Madhara

Kadugannawa Municipal Council Chairman Amila Wera-goda who was arrested by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), has been released on bail after being produced before Colombo Chief Magistrate Buddhika C. Ragala yesterday.

The Chairman who was sum-

moned to the CID Thursday (24) has been arrested after obtaining a statement.

He was released on a cash bail of Rs.20,000 and a surety of Rs.500,000.

President's Counsel Anil Silva appearing on behalf of the suspect informed the Magistrate that the Deputy Chairman of the

Municipal Council had lodged a complaint against his client.

"It has been mentioned in the complaint that a fraudulent document had been submitted to the Department of Immigration and Emigration which had changed the official name of the Chairman of the Municipal Council to Mayor," the President's Counsel

added. He also stated that they admit the above mistake. He further stated that although the position has changed as mentioned above, the client had received a normal passport. Accordingly, PC Anil Silva pleaded his client be granted on bail.

The Magistrate postponed further inquiries for May 19.

## Dambadeniya Waduvaketugala Rock excavations halted

Ananda Kannangara

The large scale excavations and operating of a metal quarry at the foot of the historic Dambadeniya Waduvaketugala Rock by a certain group was immediately stopped by Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera yesterday following complaints made by individuals in the area and environmental organisations.

The news of excavations and operating a metal quarry at this rock foot was also brought to the attention of the Archaeology Department

authorities and the Department's Head, Senior Prof. Anura Manatunga took prompt action to stop all excavation work currently going on.

Speaking to the *Daily News*, Minister Amaraweera highlighted the historical value of the Dambadeniya Waduvaketugala Rock and said the destruction of this rock will severely affect the on-going archaeological studies carried out by interested parties in the country and also to the country's future generation.

He said he also informed

all relevant authorities including the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau in this regard and directed them to provide him with a report on this issue within a week to take further action. Meanwhile, *Surakimu Sri Lanka* Organisation, Chairman Pahiyanigala Ananda Sagara Thera also intervened in this matter and said due to the destruction of this historically valued Dambadeniya Waduvaketugala Rock even treasure hunters have secretly started excavating valuable treasures.

## Sri Lanka's rarest gemstones to shine at 'Expo 2020'

The Sri Lankan Pavilion situated in the Opportunity District in Dubai is set to be a buzz on Saturday, 26 February 2022, where visitors will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the largest single assortment of sapphire masterpieces from The Island of Gems, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka, with its vibrant past in the gem and jewelry trade, will for the first time, display an extraordinary selection of its most exclusive sapphires, showcasing its rich national wonders and artistry.

'Day of Sapphires' is set to transport visitors across the

ages, through surviving treasures, like one engraved 14th century ring which adorns a sapphire from the 10th century with an Arabic name, thought to be from when Arab jewelers were known to travel through Sri Lanka on trading voyages as early as AD 1,130.

Gracing her presence, renowned jewelry specialist Helen Molesworth is set to lead a walk-through to explain the importance of the gemstones of Sri Lanka: their place in history, trade, and enduring fascination through time all over the world. (*Instore Mag*)



Five new cabs were donated aiming to uplift the health sector of the Ratnapura district by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ADB representatives handed over the five new cabs symbolically to Sabaragamuwa Governor Tikiri Kobbekaduwa last Wednesday at Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council premises. About Rs.60 million worth modern cabs were handed over to the Medical Officers of Health (MOH) in Elapatha, Kahawatte, Imbulpe, Embilipitiya and Weligepola, which have been affected by the scarcity of vehicles. Provincial Director of Health services Kapila Kannangara, Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Inspectors and the officials of Asian Development Bank were also present on the occasion.

Picture by Kalpani Padmaperuma, Avissawella Special Corr.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday  
 Draw No: 1493 Colour: Yellow  
 Date: 26.02.2022  
**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 56,467,876/-**  
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02  
 Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk  
 Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Thursday  
 Date: 24.02.2022  
 Draw No.: 3826  
 Colour: Red  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 5,138,220/-**  
**Winning Numbers**  
**06 47 64 66**  
**English Letter**  
**U**  
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Thursday  
 Date: 24.02.2022  
 Draw No.: 1491  
 Colour: Dark Blue  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 5,528,240/-**  
**Winning Numbers**  
**07 30 46 65**  
**English Letter**  
**N**  
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**SUPER BALL**  
 Draw Number: 1665  
 Draw Date: 24.02.2022  
 Colour: Green  
 Date: Thursday  
**Winning English Letter and Numbers**  
**K 08 29 44 73**  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 3,051,880/-**  
 Winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02  
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
 SMS: DLB-capaco-LDT-capaco-KK & send to 999  
 For Results www.dlb.lk

English Letter, Super Number & Winning Numbers  
**12**  
**Z** **32** **3960** **65** **73**  
**Super Number**  
 Draw No: 841  
 Colour: Orange  
 Date: 24.02.2022  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 4,007,700/-**  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 216,017,563/-**  
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months  
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
 SMS: DLB-capaco-LDT-capaco-KK & send to 999  
 For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

Date: 24-02-2022  
 Draw Number: 488 | Colour: Blue  
**SUPER JACKPOT**  
**Rs. 13,809,244/-**  
**Development Fortune**  
**English Letter** **Winning Numbers** **Fate Number**  
**Z** **36 42 69** **3**  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 2,287,960/-**  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 13,920,724/-**  
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02  
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
 Hotline: 0114 824 824  
 Branch Hotline: 0112 333 778  
 Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

Date: 24-02-2022  
 Draw Number: 3377  
 Colour: Brown  
**Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 5,812,519/-**  
**Winning Numbers**  
**07 13 16 47**  
**VIRGO**  
**Winning Number for Rs. 100,000/- Cash Prizes**  
**2 6 1 4 4**  
**TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES**  
**Rs. 40,075,000/-**  
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.  
 Development Lotteries Board  
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02  
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
 Hotline: 0114 824 824  
 Branch Hotline: 0112 333 778  
 Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825



# Daily News



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Saturday, February 26, 2022

## Ukrainian crisis and its impact

That Russia would overrun Ukraine was pretty obvious when President Vladimir Putin started massing Russian troops on the Eastern borders of its former ally. The ferocity of the onslaught saw Ukraine's major cities fall like ninepins to the combined air and ground attacks targeting Ukrainian military installations, airports and cities including the Capital, in the first invasion of a European country since the World War II. The full scale invasion has so far killed over 300 Ukrainians including military personnel. According to reports, there are also fears of radiation leaks from the Chernobyl nuclear facility which is now under Russian control.

The reaction from the US and West was final and decisive. US President Joe Biden has already imposed severe sanctions against Russia with EU countries following suit that includes freezing of Russian international banking activity virtually cutting off Russia from the Western financial system and suspension of foreign assets of Russia's top oligarchies. While a direct US military response has been dismissed, at least for the time being, President Biden had dispatched troops to Germany while NATO Forces have been massed in the surrounding Baltic States such as Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia in a clear preemptive measure of designs by Russia vis-a-vis Ukraine. Ostensibly it was the possibility of Ukraine joining NATO that was central to Putin's invasion of Ukraine, but the former KGB strongman's dream of recreating the glory of the former Soviet Union was never in doubt. Towards this end he continued to foment unrest in those parts of Ukraine with a firm leaning towards Moscow. In fact one day prior to the invasion when he declared two Ukrainian Provinces independent, it was for the stated purpose of liberating 'his people'. As one analyst put it, it was a scenario similar that which was seen in Sri Lanka in the mid 80's when Premier Rajiv Gandhi ordered a *parippu* airdrop in the North for the ostensible purpose of feeding the 'starved' Northern population before subsequently deploying the IPKF.

It is hard to visualize, though, that Putin would annex Ukraine as he did Crimea, for this will be a costly exercise given that he would have to feed a 40 million population which will be a daunting prospect in the face of Western economic sanctions. He can also expect fierce resistance from a possible Ukrainian underground with weapons pouring in from the West in a scenario similar to what happened in Afghanistan, following the Soviet invasion of that country in 1991. Putin is already facing protests in Russia itself over the invasion and some 1,700 protesters have been arrested. Of course, the sanctions will take time to bite and when it does there is bound to unrest among the Russian population.

But will this matter to Putin whose sole dream is to recreate the disintegrated Soviet Union and break up the present unipolar world order - a tall order given the heavy presence of NATO troops in former Soviet satellite states some of which are now NATO members. Amidst the unprecedented crisis the focus will be shifted alternately between Putin and Biden who will be expected to play a dominant role to ensure the aggression of Russia does not proceed beyond this limit. Russia has a few friends including China, which is doing a tightrope walk at the moment without calling the Russian foray an invasion.

It will very much depend on how deep the sanctions will bite. Russia had been subject to periodic sanctions by the West but showed no signs of being affected due to the strength of its oil reserves and the economy. There had been proposals among US decision makers to freeze all of Putin's personal assets in the West on the basis that this may force him to step back. He will also be under pressure from Russian Oligarchs whose foreign assets have already been frozen.

But it appears that Putin's resolve is unshakable. He has declared that Ukraine as a country should not have been formed in the first place. According to reports Putin ordered Russian troops to attack Ukraine to demilitarize, and, as he put it, "de-Nazify" it when ironically the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is himself a Jew.

The economic fallout on the world economy particularly that of Third World countries is going to be dire. The crisis has already shot world oil prices to US\$ 105 per barrel for the first time since 2014 with concerns also raised about disruptions to global energy supplies. Russia is the third largest oil producer and second-largest oil exporter. How will this affect countries such as Sri Lanka which is in the midst of its worst energy crisis? Russia is also the world's number one producer of wheat-flour and sanctions will mean countries such as Sri Lanka will have a problem in procuring its wheat requirements to meet the demand.

There is a well known local saying "*thoru moru gahagaththama halmesso thamai podi wenne*" (when the big fish clash it is the small fry that gets crushed). This, perhaps, more than anything, reflects the predicament of countries such as ours.



Easter Sunday terrorist attack

# ENDING TERRORISM: A COMPLEX EQUATION

MOHAMMAD ABU RUMMAN

**K**illing terrorist organisations' leaders is no effective way of fighting terrorism — as it is political and economic crises on which terrorism feeds.

At the start of February 2022, the US celebrated the killing of Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Ibrahim al-Qurashi in Syria. The ensuing euphoria, however, failed to disguise the fact that this operation was merely a modest setback for Jihadist groups.

It was probably more important for US President Joe Biden, who may hope — in anticipation of the midterm elections in November — that such actions will boost his popularity. After all, didn't his predecessor Donald Trump celebrate the killing of the then IS Leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi two years ago, and Barack Obama before him that of Osama bin Laden?

A brief look at the career of al-Qurashi shows clearly what is happening in the ongoing field of terrorism and counter-terrorism. The emir, on whose head the US administration had placed a bounty of millions of dollars, was once an ordinary unknown officer in the Iraqi Army.

He comes from a village in the Tal Afar district, which lies in north-western Iraq in the border region with Syria. His father was a muezzin at the local mosque. Al-Qurashi's life — like that of most IS leadership figures — only started to derail when the Americans invaded Iraq.

Al-Qurashi joined al-Qaida and was then arrested. After his release, he rose up the ranks of the IS and eventually became a 'hidden caliph'.

Let us imagine that the invasion of Iraq never happened, and all the ensuing sectarian violence, with thousands dead and millions displaced, never took place. Instead, a political solution was found for Iraq. Would this officer's life have been so profoundly transformed then? And even if he had become radicalised, would this not have remained at worst an internal Iraqi issue?

### Decapitating IS doesn't work

The example of al-Qurashi is hardly different from the career of dozens of other Islamist leaders. They all have a turning point in common that arrived with the devastating crises in the Arab and Islamic world.

Their rise as terrorist leaders was the result of state failure, misguided security policies, conflicts between opposing ethnic, religious and sectarian groups, as well as failed development policies and adverse socio-economic conditions.



Osama bin Laden



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

The ensuing violence became a global threat as the international political community responded with military interventions, drones, and bounty campaigns — a game that seems to be far from over.

The spiritual father of the IS in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was killed by an American air strike in 2006. A whole series of other leaders followed, all more or less equally dangerous. In 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed in a US military operation at his hideout in Pakistan.

Numerous other terrorist leaders were killed in similar fashion both before and after that. But has the danger from extremism and terrorism diminished as a result?

In Iraq and Syria, the IS may be less dangerous today than it was in its heyday. It is certainly no longer able to attract tens of thousands of fighters from all over the world. That time of magic, and the associated opportunities for propaganda, recruitment, and terrorist attacks, are in the past.

But the IS has not disappeared from Iraq and Syria either and still feeds on the crises there — notwithstanding the US's declaration that the militia has been defeated. Nothing could illustrate this better than the complex and daring operation against a prison in Kurdish-controlled Hassakeh in Syria carried out by the IS just a few days before its leader was eliminated.

It ended with the deaths of hundreds of IS fighters

and dozens of Kurdish militiamen — but only after nearly a week of fighting.

### How the IS has globalized

The IS may be under pressure in Iraq and Syria, but it is not in the process of disappearing. Rather, it has become a global brand, maintaining dozens of bases around the world. In Africa in particular, it has been able to spread like a bushfire in recent years.

Africa is rife with religious and ethnic conflicts. Many states are fragile. Their land areas are often so large that IS offshoots have safe areas where they can retreat and spread out. Their conduct there is sometimes even worse than in the original caliphate in Iraq and Syria. Since 2019, there have been dozens of terrorist attacks in about 15 African countries, with thousands of deaths. IS jihadists are active in Central, Western, and Eastern Africa, from the Sahara to Congo, Uganda, and Mozambique. There are also cells in North Africa.

So far, the African terrorism problem is confined to the continent and is linked to regional crises. But the more joint international action is taken against it, and the more the local crises become entrenched, the greater is the concern that the African variant of IS terrorism could be exported around the world.

### A foothold in Asia

Just as the IS has succeeded in spreading its ideology in Africa, this has also happened in East Asia, especially against the backdrop of splits within the Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Since the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan, there have already been large-scale attacks carried out by the IS offshoot 'Khorasan'.

Among other recruitment sources, this organisation has received an influx of jihadists who have had to flee Iraq and Syria with their families and whose countries of origin no longer want to take them back. But fighters from Central Asia are also flocking to it.

For now, the 'Khorasan' is still fighting against the Taliban, who want to rule Afghanistan and to prove to the world that they are capable of doing so. To that end, they are also trying to avoid the scenario from their first rule, when they offered shelter to al-Qaida and suffered a huge backlash following the attacks of September 11, 2001.

To be successful, then, the fight against terrorism must first and foremost address the root causes of the respective crises. The billions of dollars spent on military operations and bounties should be used for projects to strengthen state institutions, political integration, and economic development. Governments should be supported through projects that aim to build up their societies, integrate citizens into public life, and strengthen democracy and civil culture.

(Mohammad Abu Rumman is a political scientist and director of the Politics and Society Institute in Amman. He was Minister of Culture and Youth in Jordan from 2018 to 2019 and is the author of numerous books, including *I am a Salafist*)

Source: *International Politics and Society (IPS)*, published by the Global and European Policy Unit of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastrasse 28, D-10785 Berlin.



Islamic State (IS) engineered bomb attacks in the Iraqi city of Mosul in 2017.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.  
- Bertrand Russell



# RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT: THE VIEW FROM ALL SIDES

**“O**ver the past six months, Russia has steadily built up forces along the frontier as Kyiv, Moscow, and Washington have traded barbs,” writes Robert Farley in ‘1945’ on January 3, 2022. Russia’s immediate concerns involve the Ukrainian acquisition and use of Turkish drones along its border regions, along with a general increase in Ukrainian military power, he explained, adding: “Moscow’s long-range problem is its inability to reverse the Western orientation that Kyiv has adopted since 2014.”

In ‘5 Places Where World War III Could Erupt In 2022’, Farley continues: Russia has publicly argued that it wants to resolve the issues of Ukraine and of Russia’s relationship with NATO on a permanent basis. The United States and NATO have not responded positively to these overtures but have notably failed to guarantee Ukraine’s security. If Russia launches an invasion of Ukraine things could get ugly quickly. Despite improvements in Ukrainian forces, most analysts expect that Russia would win quick victories along the border, potentially gaining access to the Ukrainian heartland.

Direct Russian military action would put immense pressure on the United States to respond in some fashion. However, the US can support Kyiv in several ways without direct intervention. This includes economic sanctions against Russia, cyberattacks against Russian infrastructure, the transfer of weapons to Ukraine, and the sharing of real-time intelligence with Ukrainian forces. The use of any of these tools, especially if they show some success on the ground, could lead to a confrontation between Moscow and Washington.

Equally in-depth analyses have been issued in several other publications. The following are a few examples:

## AND SO NOW... IT'S WAR?

Carl Conetta writes in *Project on Defense Alternatives* (Feb. 21, 2022): The battle within Ukraine and the USA-Russia contest over it has returned Europe to the darkest, most ominous period of the 1947-1989 Cold War. That this should happen with both the United States and Russia barreling grimly forward reflects a singular failure of diplomacy and common sense. There were two recent points in time when positive leadership might have turned us away from the path of



US President Joe Biden



Russian President Vladimir Putin



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy



French President Emmanuel Macron



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

disaster. Fortunately, one of these is not yet foreclosed.

Movement toward resolution begins with recognizing that all sides, all stakeholders share fault for the current crisis. And no side has told the whole truth of it.

Without question, Russian intervention in Ukraine’s civil conflict violates international law. Although Russia has the right to defend itself from attack, this proviso does not apply in the current situation. The annexation of Crimea was illegal, as is Russian intervention in the Donbas. This is indisputable.

Also indisputable is the civil nature of the conflict between Kyiv and the Donbass rebels. Russian intervention on the rebel’s side does not change this. Similarly, the 2014 Euromaidan revolution and regime change has real, indigenous roots—despite the role of Western powers in encouraging it and supporting it politically and financially. This external interference tarnishes but does not de-legitimize the uprising. US and allied interference probably contravened the UN Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States (1965).

But the interference was not strictly illegal. And such interference happens all the time. Also, the Ukraine regime change was not a “coup” as some contend—except in the sense that many revolutions end in coup-like transfers of power. The story does not end here, however.

What should also be clear is that the Euromaidan revolution (or regime change) did not represent the whole of the country,

which was divided linguistically, politically, and geographically. Moreover, the new regime attempted to revise language laws in ways prejudicial to ethnic Russians and Russian speakers, who constitute almost 1/3 of Ukraine’s population.

Finally, the role of extreme ethnic-Ukrainian nationalists in the new order was and is indisputable. Although small in number, they have had an outsized influence on policy and action regarding ethnic Russians. Put simply, the Euromaidan revolution and the new regime are not “pure as the driven snow.”

All things considered, it is not

surprising that anti-Euromaidan protests sprang up in the east soon after the Feb 2014 regime change. The eastern oblasts are where ethnic Russians, Russian speakers, and electoral supporters of the deposed president were concentrated. With Moscow’s encouragement, the eastern protests evolved by April 2014 into the self-styled Donetsk and Luhansk “People’s Republics”. Almost immediately, acting Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov launched an “Anti-Terrorist Operation” (ATO) against the eastern rebels. What should have happened was negotiation.

## UK TARGETS OLIGARCHS AND RUSSIAN BANKS

Spencer Woodman, a reporter for ICIJ (the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists), based in New York, offers a different perspective in ‘UK targets three oligarchs and five Russian banks in first tranche of new sanctions’.

The United Kingdom has imposed sanctions on three



Young women hold their mobile phones as they take refuge in a metro station in Kyiv.

politically-connected Russian businessmen and five Russian banks in response to the U.K. is “targeting Russian economic interests as hard as we can” to counter Russian military aggression.

Announcing the move, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed that the U.K. is “targeting Russian economic interests as hard as we can” to counter Russian military aggression. Johnson said the initial barrage of measures would be extended if Russia continued its infringements on Ukrainian sovereignty.

Johnson told MPs Russia’s actions amounted to a “renewed invasion” and “we should steel ourselves for a protracted crisis.”

Russian businessmen Genady Timchenko, and Igor and Boris Rotenberg—wealthy Russian businessmen with close links to Putin—are all targeted by the measures. The sanctions seek to freeze the businessmen’s assets and restrict their travel in a punitive response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine. In recent years, reporting by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists has looked closely at the offshore holdings of powerful associates close to Putin, including Timchenko and the Rotenbergs.

ICIJ’s Pandora Papers showed massive loans involving shell companies based in Cyprus connected to Timchenko. At the time of ICIJ’s reporting, lawyers

for Timchenko told ICIJ that “our client’s unequivocal position is that he has always acted entirely lawfully throughout his career and business dealings.”

## WHAT UKRAINE CRISIS PROVES ABOUT UN

Trita Parsi, MSNBC Opinion Columnist, on February 22, 2022, highlights that US President Joe Biden is trying to enforce rules on Russia that the US has consistently broken.

The impending Ukraine crisis is not just about Ukraine. That has been the Biden administration’s message from the outset: Any Russian aggression against its southern neighbour is not only an unacceptable violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty but also an attempt by Russian President Vladimir Putin to challenge the international rules-based order. “The stakes go far beyond Ukraine,” Secretary of State Anthony Blinken told the U.N. Security Council last week. “This is a moment of peril for ... the foundation of the United Nations Charter and the rules-based international order.”

The Biden administration’s argument received an air of vindication Monday when Putin all but signalled his intent to invade Ukraine, prompting the White House on Tuesday to call Russia’s actions an “invasion.” Yet, despite its stated concern for the U.N. Charter and the rules-based international order, there is a conspicuous hole at the centre of President Joe Biden’s Russia strategy.

Rather than upholding the current international order based on international law and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the United States has itself systematically undermined the most central institutions of the current international system, all the while promoting its global primacy in the name of that very same rules-based order. Blinken admitted as much in an address to the U.N. last May: “I know that some of our actions in recent years have undermined the rules-based order and led others to question whether we are still committed to it.”

Blinken was, of course, referring to the actions of Donald Trump. But the United States was systematically sidelining the U.N. long before Trump took the White House. Neoliberals and other hawks in the U.S. foreign policy establish-

ment have long held that “American power, not the United Nations Security Council, provides peace and security for the rest of the world.” According to this logic, the United States should not allow the U.N., international treaties or norms to constrain American power. In fact, the thinking goes, America should actively break norms upheld by the United Nations to demonstrate to the world the hollowness of multilateral institutions and the near-omnipotence of American power.

## THE DEFEAT OF PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS

Sean T. Byrnes offers a different perspective in an analysis in the *Jacobine* on February 20, 2022: Following the Vietnam War, global progressive movements sought to refashion the world in the interests of the majority. The failure of this project, and the subsequent triumph of liberal interventionism, explains the arrogance of the US foreign policy elite.

One of the more fascinating things to emerge from the Ukraine crisis—which, appears terrifyingly on the precipice of war—is the miraculous restoration of the Biden administration’s confidence in American democracy. Gone is the gnawing fear of “a dagger at the throat” of the republic, as the president had put it on January 6. Instead, we are treated to praise of “the power, resilience, and universal appeal of our shared democratic values.” These, President Biden confidently suggested on February 15, can be counted on to “prevail.”

Such confidence—in both the durability of the American system and its universal appeal—is, of course, essential. Without it, how can the United States courageously defend what secretary of state Antony Blinken has called “the basic principles that sustain [global] peace and security”?

Undoubtedly, the prospect of Russian military forces in Kyiv was once unthinkable. But now it has happened. However, one need not believe that the world should simply acquiesce to Russian demands to be startled by the hubris of American diplomats running to the ramparts of “freedom” and “national sovereignty” so swiftly and with such self-assurance.

[IDN-InDepthNews]



Smoke rises over Chuhuiv military airfield in Eastern Ukraine after a Russian airstrike.

## WAR IN UKRAINE AND NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME

DARYL KIMBALL

President Vladimir Putin has chosen the path of destruction instead of diplomacy. His months-long build-up of a massive Russian invasion force encircling Ukraine and his decision on February 21 to order Russian soldiers into the Eastern Ukrainian provinces of Luhansk and Donetsk have set in motion a catastrophic war.

Putin’s indefensible, premeditated assault on Ukraine will heighten tensions between NATO and Russia, increase the risk of conflict elsewhere in Europe, and undermine prospects for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament—for years to come.

There are many grievances fueling Putin’s latest and most brazen attempt to reset the post-Cold War European security order through military force. Some are real, such as the effect of NATO’s expansion on the military balance in Europe, and some are imagined. No rationale, however, justifies a violent attack by Russia on one of its neighbours.

In an angry speech announcing his decision to move Russian Forces into Ukraine, Putin espoused wild, ethno-racialist, and historically inaccurate claims that Ukraine is not a legitimate state and belongs within a greater Russia. He voiced hyperbolic claims that an independent, westward-leaning Ukraine, which he

falsely charged might even build nuclear weapons, is a grave threat to Russia.

### Budapest Memorandum

Putin’s aggression against Ukraine violates the 1994 Budapest Memorandum in which Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States extended security assurances against the threat or use of force against Ukraine’s territory or political independence.

In response, Ukraine acceded to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapon state and gave up the 1,900 nuclear warheads it inherited from the Soviet Union. Ukraine, Russia, and the world were safer as a result. But Putin’s behaviour undermines the NPT and reinforces the impression that nuclear-

**Putin’s indefensible, premeditated assault on Ukraine will heighten tensions between NATO and Russia, increase the risk of conflict elsewhere in Europe, and undermine prospects for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament—for years to come.**

armed states can bully non-nuclear states, thus reducing the incentives for disarmament and making it more difficult to prevent nuclear proliferation.

The vicious cycle of mistrust between Russia and the West in recent years has been exacerbated by the loss—through negligence, noncompli-

ance, or outright withdrawal—of important conventional and nuclear arms control agreements that helped end the Cold War.

These guardrails included the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, which was designed to prevent major force buildups on the continent; the Open Skies Treaty, which provided transparency about military capabilities and movements; the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which was designed to prevent an unconstrained offense-defense arms race; and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which reduced the danger of nuclear war in Europe.

### Sanctions against Russia

As a result, cooperation between the parties has eroded, concerns about military capabilities have grown, and the risk of miscalculation is higher.

With Putin’s deadly war against Ukraine now underway, the United



Although Putin’s regime must suffer international isolation now, U.S. and Russian leaders must eventually seek to resume talks through their stalled strategic security dialogue to defuse broader NATO-Russia tensions and maintain common sense arms control measures to prevent an all-out arms race.

Russia’s December 2021 proposals on security and the Biden administration responses show there is room for negotiations to resolve mutual concerns, including agreements to scale back large military exercises and prevent the deployment of intermediate-range missiles in Europe or Western Russia.

Washington must test whether Russia is serious about such options. In the long run, U.S., Russian, and European leaders, and their people, cannot lose sight of the fact that war and the threat of nuclear war are the common enemies.

Russia and the West have an interest in striking agreements that further slash bloated strategic nuclear forces, regulate shorter-range “battlefield” nuclear arsenals, and set limits on long-range missile defenses before the last remaining nuclear arms control agreement, New START, expires in early 2026. Otherwise, the next showdown will be even riskier.

The writer is executive director, Arms Control Association (ACS) (This editorial first appeared in the March 2022 issue of *Arms Control Today*)





House extends Condolences on MPs Somaweera Chandrasiri, Ananda Rathnayake, R. R. W. Rajapaksa, P. B. Dissanayake, H. R. Mithrapala

# Premier extends condolences on late people's MPs

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa moved the Condolence Motion on late Members of Parliament Somaweera Chandrasiri, Ananda Rathnayake, R. R. W. Rajapaksa, P. B. Dissanayake, H. R. Mithrapala in Parliament yesterday (25).

Extending condolences to the family of late MP Somaweera Chandrasiri Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said that MP Somaweera Chandrasiri, who was elected to Parliament in 2001, was a politician who was never arrogant. "He used his achievements not for his personal benefits but for the betterment of his people. He continued his service to the people up until his demise. As a politician who represented the Polonnaruwa District, his service should be forever remembered," the Minister said.

Extending condolences to the family of late MP R.R.W. Rajapaksa Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said that MP Rajapaksa was the first MP who represented Dodangaslanda Electorate from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). "MP Rajapaksa was an excellent social activist who did a great service to his people. He was an old boy of Nalanda College and a graduate of the Lanka University. His career as a lawyer extended for 50 years. His contribution to legal service is immense. He competed in the 1966 election first as a Communist Party member and then as an independent candidate. When a petition was submitted against him in 1967, he won the same electorate by making his wife Laticia Rajapaksa a candidate in the interim election," the Prime Min-

ister said. Extending condolences to the family of late MP Somaweera Chandrasiri Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said, "Late Somaweera Chandrasiri after joining the Sama Samaja Youth Movement was an activist, together with late Vijaya Kumaratunga, was an ardent supporter of the Presidential election campaign of Denzil Kobbekaduwa in 1982. He was also a leader who supported Dinesh Gunawardena in the 1983 election, actively supporting Mahajana Eksath Peramuna. When the late Somaweera Chandrasiri was elected to Parliament via the National List, he contributed immensely as the monitoring MP of Sri Lanka Transportation Board. Late MP Somaweera contributed immensely to my victory in the Presidential Election as well.

He was committed to strengthening the labour movement and trade union movement in the country."

Extending condolences to the family of late MP P.B. Dissanayake Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said that late MP P.B. Dissanayake entered active politics in 1991 after concluding his career as a teacher. "In 1994, he was elected as an MP representing the Anuradhapura District from the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). Until his demise, he did a great service to his area using his experience as a teacher. He always put the necessities of his people first," the Prime Minister recalled.

Extending condolences to the family of late MP H.R. Mithrapala, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said that late Minister Mithrapala was committed to win rights for the Sabaragamuwa-Thunakorale estate workers. "He also represented disadvantaged communities at courts. As an ardent Bud-



dhist, he was dedicated to improving Bhikku education. He always dared to take any risk in his service for the people," the Prime Minister said.

## They rendered a yeoman service to people - Leader of the House

The Government moved condolence motions on late Members of Parliament Somaweera Chandrasiri, Ananda Rathnayake, R. R. W. Rajapaksa, P. B. Dissanayake, and H. R. Mithrapala yesterday (25).

Leader of the House, Education Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that Somaweera Chandrasiri, who joined the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) in 1983 via the Student Movement and the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) Youth Movement as its Vice President and Trade Union Leader, had given tremendous motivation to the trade union movement and the progressive camp in the country.

"Somaweera completed his primary education from Walgama Gunasekara Kanishta Vidyalaya, secondary education from Maharagama Central College and Lumbini Maha Vidyalaya and his higher education from the Maradana Technical College and obtained his degree from the Vidyodaya University. He provided tremendous strength and leadership to the Student Movement. During my university days, I also worked to build a joint student body, especially among graduates in commerce. After the Student Movement, he joined the Sama Samaja Youth Movement and the MEP in 1983. As the Vice Presi-

dent of the People's United Front (PUF) and as a trade union leader, he provided immense strength to the progressive forces of the trade union movement and to the United Trade Union Confederation (UTUC)," the Leader of the House said.

Minister Dinesh also said that Somaweera Chandrasiri led the progressive movement successfully and won many rights for the working class. As our Prime Minister mentioned, he was a fighter. In 2000, he entered Parliament as a Member of Parliament from the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA)," Minister Gunawardena said.

Extending his condolences to the family of late Member of Parliament from the Kurunegala District, R.R.W. Rajapaksa, Minister Dissanayake said that as a lawyer from the Kurunegala District, he contributed to the Progressive National Movement. "That era was a very important period in our country. As the Prime Minister mentioned, we could recall that R.R.W. Rajapaksa participated in the 1960's National Language Movement and joined the Youth Movement to provide leadership. He also served as the Weuda Gam Sabha Chairman for many years," the Minister said.



Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena also extended condolences to the family of late Member of Parliament P.B. Dissanayake from the Anuradhapura District. The Minister said that late MP P.B. Dissanayake entered Parliament from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) representing the Anuradhapura District. "MP Dissanayake was committed for the victory of the SLFP in every Parliamentary Election. During the General Elections in 1994 and 2001, MP Dissanayake contested for the Anuradhapura District and was elected to Parliament. He rendered a great

service to his people. Dissanayake also represented Sri Lanka in Pakistan, China, Russia, South Korea, India, the Philippines and many other countries," Minister Gunawardena said.

Extending his condolence to the family of late MP H.R. Mithrapala, Leader of the House said that Mithrapala was a lawyer and an organiser of the Leftist Movement. "We all became closely associated during that time. Mithrapala worked with the LSSP for many years. He was a graduate of the Vidyodaya University and the first student to enter the University from Bandaranaik College, Gampaha from the Commerce Stream. He and his brother did a great job for the Labour Court for the working class," the Minister said.

Extending his condolences on late MP Ananda Sarath Kumara Ratnayake of the Polonnaruwa District, Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena said that as an experienced politician close to the hearts of the people, MP Rathnayake joined Parliament from the UPFA. He had brought in the voice of the public to Parliament. He was an epitome of an honest leader who contributed immensely to the progressive political camp," Leader of the House added.



PARLIAMENT

CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

## All these MPs represented SLFP - former President Sirisena

Former President Maithripala Sirisena extending condolences to the families of late MPs Ananda Sarath Kumara Ratnayake, R.R.W. Rajapaksa, Somaweera Chandrasiri, P.B. Dissanayake and H.R. Mithrapala, said that it is noteworthy that all these MPs represented the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) at the time of their demise.



He expressed his condolences as the SLFP Chairman.

"Ananda Ratnayake was a leader who worked with the people. Today one of the allegations against politicians is that once they are elected to power, they distance themselves from the people who voted for them. But all these politicians were different and they never lost sight of their role and never failed to visit the people during their times of need. Be it a funeral or wedding or any other matter, they always went among the people and helped them. In Polonnaruwa, I don't think there was a single house that Ananda Ratnayake had not visited during his political career. He was a part of the people's joys and sorrows," former President said.

The Former President also said that all these late MPs are those who worked for the people and had no allegations against them for any corruption. "They never made money from politics and instead, they spent their own money for the betterment of the people," the SLFP Chairman said and added that they were all true people's representatives who genuinely worked for the people.

## Somaweera displayed great leadership qualities - Minister Bandula

Long standing Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) politician the late Somaweera Chandrasiri displayed his leadership qualities even while he was schooling. He enrolled in the Taxation and Valuation Course at the Jayawardanapura University and became a student leader representing the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP). He later joined politics by joining the MEP under the leadership of Dinesh Gunawardena and provided his service to the people for many years, said Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena.

The Minister also said that Former MP Somaweera Chandrasiri served as a



union leader, especially where national resources had to be safeguarded. "He had a good physique and courage and was also an eloquent speaker. This stood him in good stead in his political career. I extend my condolences to his family members," the Minister said.

The Minister also extended condolences to the families of all the other late MPs.

## MP Mithrapala stood for people's rights - MP Rajapakshe

MP Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe joining the Condolence Motion in Parliament yesterday recalled his long friendship and association with late MP Mithrapala.

The MP said that they started their careers at the Bank of Ceylon and it was later that they joined Parliament. "He joined the Gampaha Bandaranayake Maha Vidyalaya in the Commerce Stream. He was one of the first students to join after it was established. He also has the honour of being the first student to have gained university admission from the newly established Commerce Stream of the Gampaha Bandaranayake Maha Vidyalaya. He had a very friendly personality and was liked by everyone," the MP said.

MP Rajapakshe also said that

both Mithrapala and his brother were lawyers and they had represented many cases and served the people with honesty and dedication.

"Having represented the Deraniyagala seat, he worked closely with the people of the area and stood up for their rights. He always spoke up on principle whether it was beneficial to him or not. He rendered a huge service to the country that no one can forget. Today his son Sarathi Dushmantha is continuing his father's profession as a lawyer and politician. Both his daughters are also lawyers and are in a good standing in society and have done their father proud," the MP added.

The MP also said that Mithrapala had ensured that his service



to the country is not stranded even after his demise and had ensured that his son will continue this service even better.

MP Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe wished all the late MPs the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

## Transport Minister urges Railway GM to sell scrap materials

Transport Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi instructed the Railways General Manager today (26) to sell scrap materials in all yards of the Railway Department within three months via proper tender procedures.

The Minister gave these instructions to the General Manager when she visited the Railway Mechanical Engineering Yard in Dematogoda this morning (26). Reportedly, there are about 7,000 metric tonnes of such scrap material in the yards



of the department and by selling these, the department could earn around Rs. 700 million.

The Dematogoda Mechanical Railway Yard handles about

2,300 employees and carries out daily repairs to the train services, maintenance during train derailments and emergencies.

During the visit, the Minister inquired about the problems faced by the technicians and employees of the Yard. General Manager Dhammika Jayasundara was instructed to provide them with the necessary sanitary, resting and restaurant facilities soon.

Secretary to the Ministry Monty Ranatunga and a group of officials were present.

## Japanese Envoy commemorates 70th Anniversary of Japan-Sri Lanka Friendship

Ambassador Mizukoshi addressed the 70th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Sri Lanka in the JICA Chair Programme at the University of Peradeniya on February 25.

The JICA Chair is a programme that supports the establishment of Japanese studies courses at premier universities in developing countries, and this was the eighth and final lecture on the history of Japan's modernization and development for the University of Peradeniya as part of the 2021 course.

Ambassador Mizukoshi also said that Peradeniya is the centre of historical events between the two countries and added that many Japanese diplomats studied Sinhala at the University of Peradeniya and have played important roles on historical occasions such as summit meetings and peace negotiations and that the Japanese Imperial Family enjoys close association with Sri Lanka as symbolised in planting a commemorative tree at the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.

The Ambassador recalled

Japan's reintegration into the international community firmly supported with the sacred verse of *Dhammapada* "Hatred ceases not by hatred, but by love" quoted by late Sri Lanka's J. R. Jayewardene, at the San Francisco Peace Conference, and Japan's contribution to international cooperation, which had begun by joining in the Colombo Plan.

He also said that the two countries have further deepened friendship through Japan's ODA projects and peace building assistance and added that

both countries have developed together as time-honoured partners by extending hands of assistance in times of needs, such as the time of Great Tsunami which hit both countries in 2004 and 2011.

The Ambassador also expressed his commitment to further enhance the friendship beyond the 70th anniversary year. He wished that all the students in attendance will become part of the robust arc of bridges that connects on hearts and further strengthen our bond of friendship in a variety of areas.

## SL Deputy HC in Chennai issues 83 Birth and 208 Citizenship Certificates

The Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission in Chennai has issued 83 Birth Certificates and 208 Citizenship Certificates at special consular camps at the Chancery premises on February 15 and 23.

On February 15, 83 birth certificates were issued and applications for 64 citizenship certificates were accepted from Sri Lankans from Mandapam in Ramanathapuram and Puthupatty, Gopalpatty and Adiyana

nuthu in Dindigul. ON February 23, 208 Citizenship certificates were issued for Sri Lankans from Gummidipoondi and Puzhal in Tamil Nadu.

Special consular camps by the Sri

Lanka Deputy High Commission in Chennai extends a remarkable service to the Sri Lankan expatriate community living in Southern India, especially in birth and citizenship registrations.



Receiving a certificate.



# Foreign Minister presents Sri Lankan perspective to French Senators

Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris was the Guest of Honour at a breakfast meeting with the Chair and Members of the France-Sri Lanka Friendship Group in the Senate of the French Republic.

Minister Prof. Peiris thanked the French Senators for their sustained interest in Sri Lanka, especially in the context of the French Presidency of the European Union at this time.

He provided an account of Sri Lanka's current challenges in relation to the adverse impact of the COVID pandemic on the country's economy, with special reference to the significant reduction of foreign exchange inflows from tourism, overseas remittances and trade related activity. He explained that the country is now seeing a gradual recovery and the steady revival of economic enterprise.

The Minister briefed Senators of the French Republic on a slew of measures currently under way in Sri Lanka relating to development and reconciliation. He commented on initiatives by domestic mechanisms such as the Office for Missing Persons, the Office for Repara-



Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris briefing the Chair and Members of the France-Sri Lanka Friendship Group in the Senate of the French Republic on the current challenges faced by Sri Lanka in relation to the adverse impact of the COVID pandemic on the country's economy.

tions, the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, the Sustainable Development 16 Goals Council and the Human Rights Council of Sri Lanka.

He said that the Second Interim Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry, presided over by an incumbent Judge of the Supreme Court, has

now been submitted to the President, and that a Committee of Experts appointed by the President to undertake a far reaching exercise in Constitutional Reform is about to complete their work, and that their Report is due to be submitted early.

Minister Prof. Peiris dealt with the

amendments proposed by the Government to the 42 year old Prevention of Terrorism Act - amendments already presented in Parliament and awaiting debate in the first week of March.

The Minister said that he was on his way to Geneva to attend the 49th session of the Human Rights Council and looked forward to the understanding of the French Republic in respect of the substantial steps taken by Sri Lanka in the recent past.

In the course of the vigorous Question and Answer session which followed, a wide range of issues relating to the economy, investment procedures applicable to the Port City, the health and education systems of the country, labour matters, gender initiatives and foreign policy perspectives were discussed.

President of the France-Sri Lanka Group of the Senate Senator Joel Guerriau thanked Minister Prof. Peiris for his attendance and informative presentation. The members present said they were eagerly looking forward to their visit to Sri Lanka next month.

## Over 80 Japanese companies participate at UNIDO, BOI Online Webinar

Over 80 prospective Japanese companies participated in an online webinar organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Japan. The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Japan Sanjiv Gunasekara highlighted the investment synergies between Japan and Sri Lanka.

He emphasized investing in the IT sector, renewable

energy and agricultural technology.

The Ambassador also mentioned the high quality of graphite available in Sri Lanka of which 30% is a raw material for EV batteries and proposed considering a giga EV battery factory where the products can be exported to India and Pakistan.

Ambassador Gunasekara

mentioned that Sri Lanka is the only country that has Free Trade Agreements with India and Pakistan with access to over 1.6 billion people.

He also emphasized the presence of Noritake and the high quality of clay Sri Lanka processes and invited any ceramics-related manufacturing company to consider Sri

Lanka and mentioned the competitive labor, management and utility rates that exist.

BOI Chairman Raja Edirisuriya made the welcome speech and Executive Director, B.O.I. Prasanjith Wijayatilake made a detailed presentation. Head of UNIDO, Tokyo Yuko Yasunaga also participated in the webinar.

## Accused in heroin case acquitted

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,  
Galle Central Special Corr.

Galle High Court Judge W.P.S. Nissanka, acquitted and released a suspect of alleged charges of possession and trafficking on grounds

that the respective plaintiff could not be proved beyond reasonable doubt.

The accused had been indicted in the Galle High Court for possessing and smuggling 5 grams and 219

milligrams of heroin, a dangerous drug, on or around June 06, 2018 in Gammeddagoda of Rathgama Police Division.

The Defense Attorney mainly argued that the alleged case items had not been prop-

erly sent to the Government Analyst and that the Sub-Inspector and Constable who allegedly had arrested the defendant were on the list of witnesses but were not called to testify.

## Kuda Oya Amuna sand mining permit suspended

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera yesterday instructed to Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GS&MB) to immediately to suspend the sand mining permit issued by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau for the removal of sand from the Kuda Oya Amuna in the Vijayabhapura Division of the Mahaweli 'B' Zone of the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority.

The Minister states that there have been many public protests regarding the environmental damage around the Kuda Oya Amuna area.

Accordingly, the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau have taken steps to suspend the excavation permit yesterday.

Director General of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau Sajjana Silva said that the license was temporarily revoked due to public protests and submissions made to the Parliament over the special permit issued to V.K. Group for sand mining and the trade license for sand storage.

## Provincial Councillor dies in motorbike accident

S.M. WIJAYARATNE

Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

A SLFP councillor of the Bingiriya Pradeshiya Sabha of the Kurunegala District who was riding a motorbike without a helmet died in an accident yesterday (24).

The dead councillor has been identified as I.P. Amila Kumara (37) died on the spot after crashing into a lamp post along the Dummalasooriya - Bingiriya

main road after travelling at break-neck speed.

The post mortem examination was to be held at Kuliyapitiya Teaching Hospital yesterday (25). Investigations are being conducted under the directions of Bingiriya Police OIC IP Harrisson Somasiri.

"About 168 road accident deaths have been recorded in the Kurunegala District this year," the OIC added.

<b>DATE</b> 24.02.2022	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>OFFICIAL RESULTS</b>	www.nlb.lk
<b>MAHAJANA SAMPATHA</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 4608</b>	Prizes won in this draw
WINNING LETTER: Y		WINNING NUMBERS: 3 2 0 5 7 9	<b>Rs. 11,516,930.00</b>
			The super prize of next draw
			<b>Rs. 47,464,903.00</b>
<b>Govisetha</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 2903</b>	TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
			<b>Rs. 5,082,000.00</b>
WINNING LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS	THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
O	32 38 56 75	<b>Rs. 67,874,930.40</b>	
<b>Mega POWER</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 1036</b>	TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE			<b>Rs. 4,900,860.00</b>
NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE			<b>Rs. 237,731,314.00</b>
NEXT PRIZE WORTH SUPER PRIZE			<b>Rs. 10,000,000.00</b>
NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE			<b>Rs. 10,000,000.00</b>
WINNING LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS	THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
J	19 08 11 12 78	<b>Rs. 99,073,293.20</b>	
<b>Dhana Nidhanaya</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 710</b>	TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
			<b>Rs. 2,712,500.00</b>
WINNING LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS	THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
A	11 18 53 65	<b>Rs. 99,073,293.20</b>	
<b>HANDAHANA</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 0029</b>	TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
			<b>Rs. 5,208,280.00</b>
ZODIAC	WINNING NUMBERS	THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
Taurus	21 24 40 58	<b>Rs. 2,614,564.76</b>	
<b>SEVANA</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 350</b>	TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
			<b>Rs. 2,094,020.00</b>
WINNING LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS	THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
K	06 08 77 97	<b>Rs. 14,429,752.00</b>	

Introducing  
**www.itsabouttime.lk**  
A Virtual Museum Experience

'It's About Time' is a series of traveling museums showcasing a variety of interactive art, cultural exhibits, and audio-visual material that interrogate history in thoughtful and fun ways for all age groups. The virtual museum that was recently launched is inspired from the

Incomplete Thombu' attempts to bridge gaps of knowledge and awareness in ideas of language, displacement and architecture between the Tamil and Sinhalese communities in unconventional ways. Audiences can also learn about the histories of popular roads in Colombo, through the exhibit 'History Behind Street Names'.



The museum aims to take audiences on a journey through different facets and time periods in history to reflect on the country's diversity and recognize the role we all play in shaping history, by thinking about the way we view history through a critical and inquiring lens. The material is curated to move the individual from the 'general' to the

'particular' to make them think about the personal responsibility of a citizen in tracing history, making history and learning from history.

The museum will be intensely aimed at school and university students, complemented by the availability of educational material, including a tablet-appropriate format as an added service for teachers to utilize.



The virtual museum was launched on the 18th of February 2022 at the 'It's About Time', container museum, which was on display to the public between the 14-22nd of February at the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. The virtual edition is an evolving museum as it will be updated regularly with contributions to existing exhibits from the public as well as completely new exhibits. The museum is currently accessible in English, with a strong ambition on trilingual options in Tamil and Sinhala accordingly. These options will be rolled out in the upcoming months.

Visit HistoricalDialogue.lk's Facebook page, website and their Instagram page: @itsabouttime.lk for more updates on this.

experiences of a traveling museum which were first exhibited in February 2019 and toured four districts with over 18,000 visitors across Moratuwa, Weerawila, Nittambuwa and Jaffna. The next chapter of 'It's About Time': a virtual museum is accessible under the domain [www.itsabouttime.lk](http://www.itsabouttime.lk).

The museum is organized by the initiative [historicaldialogue.lk](http://historicaldialogue.lk), a platform of Sri Lankan professionals working towards a critical and constructive approach in dealing with the past. [HistoricalDialogue.lk](http://historicaldialogue.lk) is supported by Strengthening Reconciliation Processes in Sri Lanka (SRP), a program jointly funded by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office. SRP partners with the Government of Sri Lanka and is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the British Council.

During the launch, the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Holger Seubert addressed the public: "Given Germany's own history, my country is very committed to support work on dealing with the past. I am happy that this virtual museum will be able to reach many young Sri Lankans around the country, making them aware that they play a role in shaping and making history, too."

The virtual museum is designed as a series of exhibits that individuals and groups can access through options, prompts and in-built guides across all the webpages available on the website. The virtual component attempts to redefine the common understanding of a museum by providing an experience of history in diverse forms, while also making it accessible to those with an internet connection. While some exhibits will ask questions, others will involve interactive and informative elements.

Similar to the previous curations, there will be key areas in the museum, some of which will be rolled out in the months to come. 'Scripted' and T. Shanaathanan's 'The

**SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
ශ්‍රී ලංකා අපනයන සංවර්ධන මණ්ඩලය  
இலங்கை ஏற்றுமதி அபிவிருத்திச் சபை  
MINISTRY OF TRADE

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL SMES/ TECH START-UPS FOR INNOVATIVE PRODUCT/SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT TO INCREASE HIGH-TECH EXPORTS IN THE ICT SECTOR

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board under the Budget Proposals 2022 will implement a financial assistance scheme for SMEs/Start-ups for innovative products/ICT based solutions development to increase high-tech exports in the ICT sector. The technical support for the implementation of the scheme will be provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF)

#### FOR WHOM

ICT SMEs/Tech Start-up companies with innovative products/solutions.

#### AREAS OF ASSISTANCE:

- Strengthen & support the SMEs/Start-ups for innovative product/solution development to increase high-tech exports in the ICT sector.
- Assist companies to obtain IP right, PCT application in the focus Tech segments. (IoT, AI, VR/AR)
- Establish Sri Lanka's homegrown ICT brands in the overseas market.
- Establish links with global value chains

#### QUALIFYING CRITERIA:

- Should be a SME or Start Up (Refer definitions in the website)
- All SMEs/Start-ups of ICT products or ICT software application, having 100% local ownership.
- Market ready product/service to be developed.
- Should have experience in the field of ICT product / software solution development (documentary proof should be submitted)
- Any company who has not received any Government financial assistance within the past 3 years for similar projects.

#### EDB ASSISTANCE FOR THE SELECTED BENEFICIARIES

The assistance scheme to be implemented on cost sharing basis where EDB will meet 70% of the project cost up to a maximum of Rs. 4.0 Mn per company, on reimbursement basis.

The scheme guidelines & application could be downloaded from the EDB website [www.srilankabusiness.com](http://www.srilankabusiness.com)

#### APPLICATION & SELECTION

Interested companies are requested to complete and submit the "Expression of Interest" form, which is available under "Announcements" in the EDB website [www.srilankabusiness.com](http://www.srilankabusiness.com), on or before 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

A webinar will be organized to brief details of the assistance scheme for the companies who have submitted EoIs. Webinar date will be informed in due course. Duly completed applications with all relevant documents as stipulated in the guideline should be submitted on or before 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

For further information please contact Ms. Ravindi Ranaraja- Assistant Director, E-mail: [ravindi@edb.gov.lk](mailto:ravindi@edb.gov.lk) and Mr. Dinesh Attanayaka - Export Promotion Officer E-mail: [dinesh@edb.gov.lk](mailto:dinesh@edb.gov.lk) via Tel: 0112303862 or 0112300705 (233).

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Nireekshak starboard side



Ins Nireekshak entering Sri Lanka



Preparing for salvage operations

# INS NIREEKSHAK: INDIA'S PRIDE IN THE DEEP SEA

DISHAN JOSEPH

**T**he Indian Navy has a modern fleet of vessels including a formidable aircraft carrier. Sri Lanka and India have sustained and cherished decades of defence cooperation. Many ships of the Indian Navy have visited Colombo in the past.



Side diving stage operations

The Indian Navy Ship *INS Nireekshak* was commissioned on June 8, 1989. Its pennant number is A-15. The ship is equipped with two Deep-Submergence Rescue Vehicles (DSRV) capable of taking 12 men to 300 metres together, with two six-man recompression chambers and one three-man diving bell. It is intended to facilitate rescue from a submarine in distress and training of saturation divers. In January 2013, a team of saturation divers from *Nireekshak* set a new national diving record, operating at 257 metres (843 ft) in the Arabian Sea, about 35 Nautical miles off Kochi. This Indian Navy ship is manned by 13 officers and 128 sailors which include 35 qualified saturation divers. A navy saturation diver is qualified to dive up to 55 metres and beyond, for a longer duration of time. The ship has been at the forefront of all Submarine Rescue, Salvage and operational diving commitments of the Indian Navy.

Commander Mohammed Ikram is the present Commanding Officer of this diving ship. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the Indian Navy on July 1, 2004. He holds PG degrees from the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and the prestigious Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington. A qualified clearance and deep diver, this officer holds rich experience from tenures, both ashore and afloat in various capacities. The ship is equipped with a number of state-of-the-art diving systems and a Dynamic Positioning (DP) system which gives it the unique distinction of serving in all three commands of the Indian Navy through her illustrious commission so far.

It is capable of undertaking Saturation dive up to 300 metres and Submarine rescue up to 150 metres. *Nireekshak* means one who inspects or surveys, signifying its role as a diving support vessel. The ship's crest depicts a vintage diving helmet placed over a dolphin signifying diving assistance in aid of a stricken submarine. The ship's motto is 'Daredevils of the Deep'. Training of Sri Lankan divers by the diving officers of *INS Nireekshak* enriched the Sri Lankan Navy divers' knowledge in mixed gas diving in November-December 2019.

The Indian Navy Diving School is located in Kochi. The motto of the diving school is "Service Most Silent" which aptly describes the role and task of a clearance diver. A navy clearance diver works in a manner to garner tactical advantage to his fleet. The school carries out military diver training for both officers and sailors of the Indian Navy. In addition, the school also trains divers for the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and other paramilitary branches. The school has extended its training to friendly navies from Sri Lanka, Maldives, Vietnam, Malaysia, Mauritius, Thailand, Seychelles and Myanmar.

The diving school has successfully trained its students as ship divers and clearance divers. A ship diver follows an eight-week basic diving course. The clearance diver follows a longer duration of training learning to use pure oxygen, mixed air and compressed sets. The clearance diver augments his skills by mastering the art of handling the chambers, underwater demolitions and various methods of underwater salvage.

A clearance diver was originally a specialist naval diver who used explosives underwater to remove obstructions to make harbours and shipping channels safe to navigate, but later the term "clearance diver" was used to include other naval underwater work. Units of clearance divers were first formed during and after the Second World War to clear



Divers after a diving mission



Entering the ocean depths

ports and harbours in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe of unexploded ordnance and shipwrecks and booby traps laid by the Germans.

In a first for the Indian Navy, divers slithered down from a helicopter with two explosive sniffing dogs as a part of a simulated bomb threat exercise. In a video shared by the official Twitter handle of PRO Defence, Mumbai, the dogs named Minki and Mukti are seen being lowered down from the naval chopper to an offshore platform 'Neelam'. "Clearance divers of the Western Naval Command slithered down from a naval helicopter to an offshore platform with two explosive sniffing dogs Minki and Mukti as part of simulated bomb threat during recently concluded Exercise Prasthan," read the caption of the tweet, which has now gone viral on social media.

Diving at sea is laden with risk. A diving bell is a rigid chamber used to transport divers from the surface to depth and back in open water, usually for the purpose of performing underwater work. The most common types are the open-bottomed wet bell and the closed bell, which can maintain an internal pressure greater than the external ambient. Diving bells are usually suspended by a cable, and lifted and lowered by a winch from a surface support platform. The bell with divers on board is deployed from the working platform (usually a vessel) by a crane. The bell is lowered into the water and to the working depth at a rate recommended by the decompression schedule, which allows the divers to equalise comfortably. Wet bells with an air space will have the air space topped up as the bell

descends and the air is compressed by increasing hydrostatic pressure. The air will also be refreshed as required to keep the carbon dioxide level acceptable to the naval divers. The oxygen content is also replenished.

The Sri Lanka Navy Diving School in Trincomalee is the only one of its kind in our country and I was privileged to visit this school. Its history dates back to July 1991. These officers explained to me that all prospective sailors who want to undergo diver training must appear for an aptitude test, swimming test and PT test. Priority is placed on swimming. The stages of training are classified as Clearance Diver (CD) 1, 2 and 3. The initial course is carried out for 12 weeks. Just across the school is the vast blue ocean where practical diving classes take place. Divers are taught about salvage operations, underwater clearance, life saving, recovery of bodies, ship hull inspection (during the period of war, the enemy could place limpet mines that stick to the bottom of the ship by magnet), assist in underwater ship repairs and combat diving which includes reconnaissance and demolition. Alpha-521 is the diving vessel of the Sri Lanka Navy. It has a displacement of 592 tonnes with a sailing speed of 10 knots. Its sea endurance is almost 12 days. The Navy has a crew of 81 men including nine officers on this vessel. The Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy have enjoyed defence cooperation for decades. *INS Nireekshak* is due to visit Sri Lanka in the near future.

(The writer wishes to thank the Defence Wing of the Indian High Commission, Colombo)



Inspection in progress

The ship is equipped with a number of state-of-the-art diving systems and a Dynamic Positioning (DP) system which gives it the unique distinction of serving in all three commands of the Indian Navy through her illustrious commission so far.

In January 2013, a team of saturation divers from *Nireekshak* set a new national diving record, operating at 257 metres (843 ft) in the Arabian Sea, about 35 Nautical miles off Kochi. This Indian Navy ship is manned by 13 officers and 128 sailors which include 35 qualified saturation divers. The ship has been at the forefront of all Submarine Rescue, Salvage and operational diving commitments of the Indian Navy.



# Sri Lanka: Back on the Tourism Map

EMMA THOMSON

The Sacred City of Kandy is teeming with life. Monkeys tightrope along telephone cables, the trees around Kandy Lake are feathered with hordes of egrets, and the Sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa)—said to house the Buddha's left canine—thrums with the sound of drums pounded every evening for *pooja* (worship).

A few streets over, our group and a handful of independent travellers enter a village hall for a performance of regional dances. Such things can feel contrived, but not this time. One dancer drops his spinning plates, another forgets his tambourine, and the drummers bump into each other as they exit backwards into the wings. After an uncertain couple of years, they are a little out of practice—just like us, as we get into the swing of tourism again.

At the start of 2019, the "Teardrop of India" was riding high. Lonely Planet had named the country its No. 1 travel destination of the year, tourism had brought in £ 3.3 billion and visitor arrivals were at nearly two million. Then a double disaster hit. On Easter Sunday, a Sri Lankan Islamist group targeted three churches and three luxury hotels in Colombo, killing 267 people. And, on January 27, 2020, Sri Lanka's first case of Covid was confirmed. By the end of 2021, visitor numbers were below 200,000. Tourism ground to a complete halt, depriving thousands of their livelihoods.

Happily, travellers are now returning because among our favourite long-haul destinations, Sri Lanka is one of the easiest to visit, with no quarantine required on arrival. It is an ideal time to see the sights without the crowds and give the country's economy a much-needed boost at the same time.

I had come to sample a classic tour of the country, looping up from Colombo via the ancient capitals of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, before dipping south to the holy town of Kandy, into the tea-terraced hills around Nuwara Eliya and Ella, then down into the Southern Province to visit the Yala National Park for leopards and finishing in the seaside Fort City of Galle. Perhaps the most classic sight of all is UNESCO-listed Sigiriya, a 180 m high column of magma rising abruptly from the forest and crowned with a fifth-century palace.

Dubbed the Lion Rock, it was one of Asia's earliest royal cities and the subject of many legends, including rumours of treasure-filled rooms dug deep below the rock, an army of wasp "soldiers" to guard it, and a crocodile-infested moat at its base. Its architect, King Kashyapa, adorned the side of the rock with frescoes of his bejewelled harem and their gravity-defying breasts. In places, it seems the distractions were all a bit much for the artists, who painted three nipples on one siren and a hand protruding from the bosom of another.

To reach the top, visitors must pass between the Lion's Feet—all that remains of an enormous stone sculpture that once guarded the entrance to the citadel—and ascend steep iron stairs. "Usually, there are queues to go up, but it is still very quiet," says

our guide Richard Pieres. Pre-pandemic, Sigiriya received about 1,500 visitors a day, but when we visit there are just over 100.

In the water gardens, at the base of the rock, I meet Adikari. He has worked as a freelance guide at the site for 22 years, offering historical background and a helping hand to travellers who struggle with the stairs. "Life has been hard. The price of rice jumped. For nine months altogether, no factories were open for other work. Sometimes we ate; sometimes not. December was better—there were more tourists," he says.

Reaching the flat top, I wander across terraced brick foundations—the last vestiges of this citadel in the sky—and past a bathing pool, still filled with water, to the rock's edge. From here, the whole world opens up. Rocks give way to trees, then rice paddies, then a shimmering lake and, in the far distance, layer upon layer of hills silhouetted in the hazy, lazy heat.

A short drive south of Sigiriya, we reach the UNESCO-listed Dambulla Cave Temple. Eight years before the birth of Jesus Christ, the island's King Valagamba hid here after being overthrown by invading kings from Southern India. When he later reclaimed power, he had the interior of five caves embellished with rock-hewn statues and intricate frescoes in honour of the Buddha. Today, they are among the best-preserved cave paintings in South Asia.

I slip off my sandals, the stones cool on my soles, and squeeze into the narrow first cave. A 14m-long Buddha reclines on his side, face resting on a rolled-up pillow. Every inch of wall is

**"HAPPILY, TRAVELLERS ARE NOW RETURNING BECAUSE AMONG OUR FAVOURITE LONG-HAUL DESTINATIONS, SRI LANKA IS ONE OF THE EASIEST TO VISIT, WITH NO QUARANTINE REQUIRED ON ARRIVAL. IT IS AN IDEAL TIME TO SEE THE SIGHTS WITHOUT THE CROWDS AND GIVE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY A MUCH-NEEDED BOOST AT THE SAME TIME."**

painted with Bodhisattvas (previous incarnations of the Buddha), their heads all turned toward the statue, palms pressed together in prayer. The Buddha's enormous feet are painted with lotus flowers and still bear shimmering of ancient gold; round about lie offerings of fresh frangipani and jasmine.

In the second, far larger chamber, the ceiling is emblazoned with 1,500 images of the Buddha, their pigments made from lime leaves and honey, still vibrant. More magic is afoot. An underground spring appears to flow up the roof of the cave and drip from its pinnacle into a pot placed beneath. No one has been able to explain why.

Outside, a handful of men are hawking moonstone necklaces, wooden fans, postcards and sarongs. One, with a thick crop of black hair greying at the temples, is called Anura. He has worked as a tout here for 35 years. "Normally, we see 700 people or more a day; during the pandemic, it was 30 maximum," he says sadly, pointing to the now 40 or so travellers milling in and out of the caves.

But the lockdowns were not without their upsides, as I found in the Yala National Park, in the Southeast of the island. Outside Africa, it is one of the best places in the world to see leopards. We trundle through the gates at 6 am as sunrise paints the sky a pastel pink. Storks stand in the shallows of lakes; still surfaces studded with the crinkled heads and tails of crocodiles. The damp sandy road is pockmarked with tantalising paw prints.

Our guide here, Chanika, has been visiting the park since he was a child, and says he saw the behaviour of the wildlife change during the three months the park was closed. "Normally, we would only see Sri Lankan black bears in the evenings, but since the end of lockdown we have had regular sightings in the mornings too," he says with a smile. The animals seem more relaxed and the closure has broken the pattern of elephants approaching visitors for food too.

In another lake, water buffaloes wallow up to their necks, their guardian white egrets ever near. Suddenly, the bark of a sambar deer breaks through the birdsong and a flash of feline spots and swinging tail appears from around a gorse bush across the water. Word goes out via mobile phones to other guides and within minutes a roar of 4x4s crush together to get a glimpse of the leopard. It feels chaotic and jarring, despite the fact that, as Chanika tells me, there are only half as many Jeeps here as there would have been pre-pandemic. And it is hard to resent the number of leopard-watchers. Guides can only work



Dambulla Cave Temple



flip-flops stands by the road holding a bouquet of red roses aloft. Each time we turn a corner, he scrambles through the undergrowth to meet the bus at the next bend. The third time, we stop. He leans in the door, heaving for breath. Once we have bought a few flowers, he tells us that while he did find work during the pandemic, as a road-roller earning Rs. 3,000 (£11) per day, selling his flowers to just three tourist buses will earn him double that.

At our final stop in Galle, the glass-clear waves gently lap against the old Dutch-built bastion walls. There are no signs of the 2004 tsunami that swept Galle off its feet. Men in crisp whites are practicing on the new cricket ground and the colonial-era streets are lined with shops open as usual. It is a good reminder that all things pass.

"We have been the lucky ones," says Jane Collins, a fellow tourist in my group, about being among the

first to return to Sri Lanka. "To enjoy the stillness of places without the crowds has been great, and also to feel we can contribute in some small way to people's livelihoods. To other travellers I say, 'Come!'"

Travel at the moment is a never-ending dance—tricky to get every step right, but the rewards are there for the taking. (*The Times UK*)

(Emma Thomson was a guest of Cox & Kings UK, which has a 12-night tour to Sigiriya, Dambulla, Kandy, tea country (Nuwara Eliya etc), Yala and Galle. Travellers must have proof of a negative PCR test; before travel you must apply for an e-visa (eta.gov.lk) and Sri Lankan-specific Covid health insurance (US\$ 12 for Covid coverage) and complete a health declaration form on arrival. SriLankan Airlines has flights from London, Paris, Melbourne, Singapore, Tokyo and several other cities while Emirates and Qatar Airways too have frequent flights.) (See [srilanka.travel](http://srilanka.travel))



Sigiriya



Galle Fort



# FEAR, CALM AMONG UKRAINIANS AS RUSSIAN TROOPS ENTER

## UKRAINE SAYS 137 CIVILIANS, SOLDIERS KILLED SO FAR

## UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT VOWS TO STAY

## CHERNOBYL PLANT CAPTURED

## OVER 70 MILITARY TARGETS IN UKRAINE, SAYS RUSSIA

**UKRAINE:** Multiple explosions were heard in Kyiv in the early hours of Friday, according to news agencies. These set off day two of shelling and fighting after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the 'military operations' in Ukraine. Earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said 137 people, including 10 military officers, have been killed and 316 people injured so far.

In the wee hours of Friday, Ukraine said it lost control of the Chernobyl nuclear site, the site of the 1986 disaster, and the staff at the Chernobyl plant had been "taken hostage". World leaders have decried the invasion and announced sanctions on Russia. China, meanwhile, continues its support of the Kremlin with its customs agency approving imports of wheat from all regions of Russia. Although Ukrainians had been warned for weeks that war with Russia was imminent, when the attacks finally came Thursday many seemed not to know how to react.

Civil defence sirens wailed in the air of the capital, Kyiv, in the gray and drizzly morning, but the city's main street Khreshchatyk was a mixture of anxiety and normalcy.

The hotel where many Associated Press journalists stayed ordered an evacuation within 30 minutes. Upon checkout, the friendly desk clerk asked: "Did you have anything from the mini-bar?"

Outside, guests hurriedly loaded their hastily packed luggage into cars, while passersby walked dogs and occasionally waved at acquaintances.

Some had been awakened by the sound of explosions on the city's fringes, but others heard nothing. The mayor of Boryspil, the suburb where the capital's main airport lies, said some of the explosions were due to the shooting down of drones of unidentified origin. "I'm not scared at the moment, maybe I'll be scared later," said Maxim Prudskoi, a resident standing on Khreshchatyk. In Mari-



Ukrainian Security Forces accompany a wounded man after an airstrike hit an apartment complex in Chuhuiv, Kharkiv Oblast on Thursday.

upol, the Azov Sea port city that many fear will be the first major target because of its strategic importance and valuable heavy industry, AP journalists saw similar scenes of aplomb and fear.

People waited at bus stops, seemingly on their way to work, while others hastened their cars to leave the city that is only about 15 km (less than 10 miles) from the front line with the Donetsk People's Republic, one of two separatist-held areas recognised by Russian President Vladimir Putin as independent this week in a prelude to the invasion. As the morning progressed in Kyiv, alarm rose, with long lines of cars at gas stations and others heading away from the city. The city's extensive subway system was declared free for all riders and scores of people huddled with lug-

gage in corridors, appearing uncertain where to ride to but comforted by the protection of being underground.

Kyiv Mayor Vitaly Klitschko called on the city's 3 million people to stay indoors unless they were workers in critical sectors and said everyone should prepare go-bags with necessities such as medicine and documents.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed on Friday to stay in Kyiv as his troops battled Russian invaders who are advancing toward the capital in the biggest attack on a European state since World War Two.

U.S. and Ukrainian officials say Russia aims to capture Kyiv and topple the Government. "(The) enemy has marked me down as the number one target," Zelenskyy warned in a video message. "My family is the number two



Black smoke rises from a military airport in Chuhuiv, Ukraine on Thursday.



The body of a missile stuck in the ceiling of an apartment after a Russian air strike on the northern outskirts of Kharkiv.

target. They want to destroy Ukraine politically by destroying the head of state." "I will stay in the capital. My family is also in Ukraine." A democratic nation of 44 million people, Ukraine is Europe's biggest country by area after Russia itself. Russia said on Thursday that its military had destroyed more than 70 military targets, including 11 airfields in Ukraine.

"As a result of strikes carried out by the Russian armed forces, 74 Ukrainian military ground facilities were destroyed," said Igor Konashenkov, a Defence Ministry spokesman.

Destroyed facilities included 11 airfields, three command posts and 18 radar stations of the S-300 and Buk-M1 anti-aircraft missile systems, he said. He added that a Ukrainian military helicopter and four drones had also been shot down.

- THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, INDIN EXPRESS, THE MALAY MAIL

## US will 'defend every inch' of NATO nations but no troops to Ukraine: Biden

### Biden hits Russia with new sanctions, says Putin 'chose' war

### No troops to Ukraine: NATO

**US:** US President Joe Biden vowed Thursday to defend "every inch" of NATO territory after Russia sent forces into Ukraine - but reaffirmed that no American troops would be deployed to Washington's ally.

"As I made crystal clear, the United States will defend every inch of NATO territory with a full force of American power," Biden said in an address to the nation from the White House. The President added, however: "Our forces will not be engaged in a conflict with Russia in Ukraine." President Joe Biden on Thursday announced a new round of sanctions targeting Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, charging that Russian leader Vladimir Putin "chose this war" and that his country will bear the consequences of his action. The sanctions target Russian banks, oligarchs and high-tech sectors, Biden said. The United States and its allies will block assets of four large Russian banks, impose export controls and sanction oli-



US President Joe Biden

garchs. Biden spoke to Americans from the White House hours after holding a virtual meeting with the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy and Japan. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also joined the meeting. The president also met with

his national security team on Thursday morning in the Situation Room as he looked to flesh out U.S. moves in the rapidly escalating crisis. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has no troops inside Ukraine and has no plans to send any into the country, the alliance's Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, told a news conference on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "There are no NATO combat troops, no NATO troops at all inside Ukraine. We have made it clear that we don't have any plans and intention of deploying NATO troops to Ukraine," he said. - THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

## Putin defends war on Ukraine: 'Had no other choice', 'was forced'

### Russian military says first day of Ukraine invasion 'successful'

### Over 1,700 anti-war protesters detained in Russia

**RUSSIA:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday defended his action that has brought the world to the precipice of war and said he had no other option but to order the special operation against Ukraine. All previous attempts of Moscow to change the security situation had come to nothing.

Facing several sanctions for the situation in Ukraine, Putin on Thursday held a televised meeting with business leaders and told Alexander Shokhin, the head of the Russian Union of Indus-

trialists and Entrepreneurs that Moscow had been forced into taking action and knew that sanctions would follow. We all understand the world we live in and were prepared in one way or another for what is



Police officers detain a demonstrator in St. Petersburg.



Russian President Vladimir Putin

now happening from the point of view of sanctions policy," Putin said. "Russia remains a part of the global economy."

"I want to thank you for what has been done so far in rather difficult conditions," Putin told Shokhin as Shokhin said Russia should now stimulate extra demand for government debt from private investors.

As Putin launched the strike on Ukraine, he said if any country tries to attack Russia in retaliation, there will be consequences. "Whoever tries to impede us, let alone create threats for our country and its people, must know that the Russian response will be immediate and lead to the consequences you have never seen in

history," he said as he authorised the attack.

"All relevant decisions have been taken. I hope you hear me," he had said.

Russia said Thursday that its military had achieved its goals set out for the first day of its invasion of Ukraine, after launching the attack despite warnings of sweeping Western sanctions.

"All of the tasks assigned to the groups of troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation for the day were successfully completed," Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

Russia has detained more than 1,700 people protested against Moscow's action to launch a full-scale evacuation in Ukraine on Thursday - a move that has evoked global condemnation.

According to a report by news agency AFP, about 1,000 people gathered in the former imperial capital Saint Petersburg on Thursday while several thousands gathered near Pushkin Square in central Moscow. Protesters in the Pushkin square chanted: "No to war!" - THE HINDUSTAN TIMES



Smoke rises from an air defence base in the aftermath of a Russian strike in Mariupol, Ukraine.

## China rejects 'invasion' label

**CHINA:** China rejected calling Russia's moves on Ukraine an "invasion" and urged all sides to exercise restraint, even as it advised its citizens there to stay home or at least take the precaution of displaying a Chinese flag if they needed to drive anywhere.

Russian forces on Thursday fired missiles at several cities in Ukraine and landed troops on its coast, officials and media said, after President Vladimir Putin authorised what he called a special military operation in the east. "China is closely monitoring the



An aerial view of Kyiv residents trying to leave the city following missile strikes in the Ukrainian capital on Thursday.



A man uses a carpet to cover a body on the ground after bombings on an Eastern Ukraine town.

latest situation. We call on all sides to exercise restraint to prevent the situation from getting out of control," said Hua Chunying, spokesperson at China's Foreign Ministry.

At a packed daily media briefing in Beijing, Hua bridled at journalists' characterisation of Russia's actions.

"This is perhaps a difference between China and you westerners.

We won't go rushing to a conclusion," she said.

"Regarding the definition of an invasion, I think we should go back to how to view the current situation in Ukraine. The Ukrainian issue has other very complicated historical background that has continued to today. It may not be what everyone wants to see."

- THE TELEGRAPH INDIA

### RUSSIA ATTACKS

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, unleashing airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending troops and tanks from multiple directions in a move that could rewrite the world's geopolitical landscape. Ukraine's government pleaded for help as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee.



Sources: Associated Press, BBC, Rocher Consulting, Tribune News Service, New York Times





A wounded woman stands outside a hospital after the bombing by Russian forces.

# 'THE WORST SUNRISE IN MY LIFE': UKRAINIANS WAKE TO ATTACK

**UKRAINE:** The missile fragment pierced the ceiling of Mikhail Shcherbakov's apartment in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. A Russian attack, after weeks of rhetoric and warning signs, had hit home.

"I heard noise and woke up. I realized it sounded like artillery," Shcherbakov said. He jumped from the couch and ran to wake his mother, and something exploded behind him.

The missile left a nearby computer and teacup shrouded with dust, instant artifacts of Europe's latest crisis.

At dawn on Thursday, Ukrainians' uneasy efforts at normalcy were shattered. Smoke rose from cities, even ones well away from a long-running separatist conflict in the country's east. By the end of the day, many of the capital's residents had taken shelter deep underground, in Kyiv's metro system.

"Today I had the worst sunrise in my life," said another Kharkiv resident, who gave her name only as Sasha. She rushed to her balcony and realized the sounds that had woken her weren't fireworks. Farther from

the border, a morning commute transformed into chaos, with lines of cars waiting at fuel stations or fleeing from the gray and drizzly capital, Kyiv. People carrying luggage took shelter in the subway, unsure of where to go.

Some panicked. Others clung to routine, with irritation.

"I'm not afraid. I'm going to work. The only unusual thing is that you can't find a taxi in Kyiv," one resident complained, as air raid sirens wailed.

Many seemed unsure how to react. Kyiv's main street, Khreshchatyk, rip-

pled with anxiety as people checked their phones. Some walked their dogs or waved at friends.

"I'm not scared at the moment. Maybe I'll be scared later," resident Maxim Prudskoi said.

But elsewhere in the capital, Anna Dovnya watched soldiers and police remove shrapnel from an exploded shell and was terrified. "We have lost all faith," she said. "Until the very last moment, I didn't believe it would happen. I just pushed away these thoughts." - THE BANGKOK POST



Ukrainian servicemen get ready to repel an attack in Ukraine's Lugansk region on Thursday.



A cordoned off area around the remains of a shell in a street in Kyiv.



A view shows the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service site damaged by shelling in Kyiv region.



Police officers inspect the remains of a missile that fell in a Kyiv street.



Hundreds of people seek shelter underground inside the dark train cars of a metro station in Kharkiv, as the Russian attack on Ukraine continues.



People take shelter in a subway station in Kyiv.



People wait at a bus station to go to Western parts of the country in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## Baltic States worry they could be Russia's next target

**LITHUANIA:** Viewed from Paris, London and Washington, the events unfolding in Ukraine may seem like a new Cold War taking shape in Europe.

From the Baltic countries, it looks much worse. To Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians — particularly those old enough to have lived under Soviet control — Russia's belligerence toward Ukraine has some worried that they could be the next target. The tensions have brought back memories of mass deportations and oppression.

"My grandparents were sent away to Siberia. My father was persecuted by the KGB. Now I live in a free democratic country, but it seems that nothing can be taken for granted," said Janius Kazlauskas, a 50-year-old teacher in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital.

All three Baltic countries were seized and annexed by Stalin during World War II before gaining independence again with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. They joined NATO in 2004, putting themselves under the military protection of the U.S. and its Western allies. Ukraine is not part of NATO.

The Baltic countries and Poland, also a NATO member, have been among the loudest advocates for powerful sanctions against Moscow and NATO reinforcements on the alliance's eastern flank. Baltic government leaders in recent weeks have shuttled to European capitals, warning that the West must make Russian President Vladimir Putin pay for attacking Ukraine, or else his

tanks will keep rolling toward other parts of the former Soviet empire.

"The battle for Ukraine is a battle for Europe. If Putin is not stopped there, he will go further," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis warned last week in a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

Two days before Russia launched its anticipated attack on Ukraine, President Joe Biden announced that some American forces deployed in Europe, including 800 infantry soldiers, F-35 fighters and Apache helicopters, would be moved to the three Baltic states, describing the step as purely defensive.

The news was met with enthusiasm in the Baltic capitals. While the NATO treaty commits all allies to defend any member that comes under attack, the Baltic countries say it is imperative that NATO show resolve not just in words but with boots on the ground.

"Russia always measures the military might but also the will of countries to fight," said Janis Garisons, state secretary at Latvia's Defense Ministry. "Once they see a weakness, they will exploit that weakness."

While Putin hasn't publicly expressed any ambition to reassert Russian control over the Baltic countries, many Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians worry he wants to regain influence across all former republics of the Soviet Union, the collapse of which he once described as a tragedy for the Russian people.



In his speech earlier this week setting the stage for Russia's military intervention, Putin said Ukraine is "not just a neighbouring country for us. It is

an inalienable part of our own history, culture and spiritual space."

The Baltic countries, culturally and linguistically different, don't have the

same connection to Russian history and identity. However, they were ruled by Moscow for most of the past 200 years, first by the Russian Empire, then for the half-century following World War II by the Soviet Union. All three countries have ethnic Russian minorities; in Latvia and Estonia, they make up about one-quarter of the population.

Though many of them are well integrated, tensions flared in 2007 when hundreds of ethnic Russians rioted against government plans to relocate a Soviet war memorial in Tallinn, Estonia's capital. Estonia suspected Russia of stoking the unrest and orchestrating cyberattacks that paralyzed government computer networks.

"When we hear Putin humiliating Ukraine, calling it an artificial state with no history, it reminds us of the same things that they have been repeating about all former Soviet republics for many years," said Nerijus Maliukovicus, a political analyst at Vilnius University. The Russian "state propaganda machine is now working on unprecedented levels of intensity, and the message is not just about Ukraine," he added.

Lithuania borders both Kaliningrad, a Russian region where the country's Baltic Sea fleet is based, and Belarus, the former Soviet republic where tens of thousands of Russian troops have been deployed for joint exercises. Belarus recently announced that the drills would continue because of the tensions in eastern Ukraine.

"It seems they are not going to leave," Lithuanian Defense Minister Arvydas Anusauskas said before Russia launched its attack on Ukraine. "But we must understand that numbers do not mean everything. There are technically very advanced troops on our side of the border. Their main task is deterrence — and defense, if necessary."

The Baltic countries have expressed strong support for Ukraine. Baltic leaders have traveled to Kyiv to show their solidarity and have sent both weapons and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Estonia, which has maintained close political and economic relations with Ukraine, also has offered to help Ukraine bolster its cybersecurity.

Estonia, which will celebrate its independence day on Thursday, is taking a strong stance in the conflict, but not because it fears for its security, said former President Kersti Kaljulaid, the first woman to hold that office.

"We are doing it because we find it is our moral obligation," she said. "We very strongly feel that ... every nation should have the right to decide their future."

While the Baltics are direct neighbours of Russia, she said other European countries should be equally worried about the crisis in Ukraine.

"Frankly speaking, I don't think it concerns the Baltics more," she said. "If you look from Kyiv, it's the same distance to Berlin as Tallinn."

- JAPAN TODAY



# Australian scientists warn against spraying face masks with sanitiser

**AUSTRALIA:** Spraying face masks with sanitiser reduces their effectiveness, Australian scientists have

found. In a world-first study published on Thursday, a team from the Commonwealth Scientific and

Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) revealed that exposing N95 and P2 face masks to alcohol-based

sanitisers risks "serious degradation" of their ability to protect from airborne hazards.

Jurg Schutz, lead author of the study, said the findings would help inform people on how to care for disposable masks, Xinhua news agency reported. "Single-use face

masks will continue to be part of many of our lives as they provide us with a defense against Covid, its variants and any future pathogens, but we had been hearing stories about people trying to prolong the life of these masks by cleaning them," he said in a media release. "We started thinking about the kinds of products

people have been using more during the pandemic, like alcohol-based hand sanitiser and cleaning solutions, and realised these could impact the electrostatic properties of the face masks. He noted that these masks rely on having an electrostatic charge that attracts particles and traps them like a sticky spiderweb. "But we also know



this charge can be destroyed by highly-concentrated alcoholic vapours," he said. The research was published as several jurisdictions prepare to ease mask rules. From Friday night, people in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Victoria will only be required to wear

masks in high-risk settings including public transport, airports and healthcare facilities. Australia on Thursday reported more than 20,000 new coronavirus infections and 36 deaths — 16 in Victoria, 12 in New South Wales and eight in Queensland. - IANS

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF SRI LANKA - COLOMBO 10**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

### PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

01. Sealed Bids are accepted up to 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2022 by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka for the supply of Hospital equipment mentioned below.

Item	Reference No.	No. of Items	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
Hospital Equipment	SG-11/83/2022/01	42	8,000.00

02. Only those nominated by the Manufacturers who manufacture and supply equipment to the Sri Lankan Market or authorized Agents are eligible to participate in this Bid Invitation.

03. Bid documents could be obtained during working days of the week from 26.02.2022 until 29.03.2022 between 9.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. by submitting the receipt obtained upon payment of the non-refundable fee mentioned above to the Deputy Director General of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. (Telephone No. 011-2691111, Extension 2722).

04. Sealed bids should be sent by registered post to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2022 or if hand-delivered, they should be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Chief Accountant's Office of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids.

05. Further details could be obtained from the Chief Accountant of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. (Telephone No. 011-2694595).

**Chairman**  
**Regional Procurement Committee,**  
**National Hospital of Sri Lanka,**  
**Colombo 10.**

## Eight polio vaccinators killed in series of Afghan attacks

**AFGHANISTAN:** Eight members of polio vaccination teams working to eradicate the crippling virus in Afghanistan were killed on Thursday in four separate attacks, the United Nations said.

Polio teams were frequently targeted by insurgent groups in Afghanistan until the Taliban's takeover of the country last year, when the hardline Islamist group said it wanted to work with the U.N. to stamp out the disease.

In the past polio campaigns in Afghanistan – and neighboring Pakistan – were accused of being fronts for spying, while some clerics said the vaccine was a conspiracy to sterilize Muslims.

"We are appalled by the brutality of these killings, across four separate locations," the U.N. said in a statement.

"This senseless violence must stop immediately, and those responsible must be investigated and

brought to justice. These attacks are a violation of international humanitarian law."

The Taliban said they had "received the news" of the incidents and were trying to get more information.

"Our policy is clear, we want to vaccinate and protect all the children in Afghanistan under the age of five," Javid Hajir, a spokesman for the Ministry of Health, told AFP.

The U.N. said one person was killed in Takhar province in the far north, and seven in neighboring Kunduz province – including four in the provincial capital Kunduz city.

They were engaged in house-to-house visits or on their way to begin campaigns, the U.N. said.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries in the world where polio has not been eradicated, although Pakistan last month reported a year without a case for the first time in history. - JAPAN TODAY



A health worker administers the polio vaccine to a child in the old quarter of Kabul in November 2021, soon after the Taliban said it would work with the United Nations on a campaign to eradicate the virus.

## BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

#### CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVEL ROAD ALONG THE MATURATION PONDS AT BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)

**CONTRACT No : BOI/BEPZ/ES/2022/01/01.018**

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for **Construction of Gravel Road along the Maturation Ponds at BEPZ.**

The work consists of, excavation earth of jeep track, from a gravel road trace using excavated earth along the edge of the maturation pond. The implementation period is **90 Days.**

2. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding** procedure.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.

Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration

**Specialty : Highway Constructions**  
**Grade : C5, C6 C7, C8 and C9**

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include : Experience as a Contractor for at least one contract of a similar nature equivalent to the proposed work over the period of last 5 years.

5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana on Tele : 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs during normal working days.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **23 February 2022 until 15 March 2022 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 1,500.00 + VAT** in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.

7. Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana at or before **14.00 hrs on 16 March 2022.** Please mark clearly at the envelope containing the bid "**Construction of Gravel Road along the Maturation Ponds at Biyagama Export Processing Zone BEPZ) and Contract No. BOI/BEPZ/ES/2022/01/01.018.**" Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

8. All Bids shall be valid up to **15 June 2022.**

9. All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rupees **Eighty Thousand (Rs. 80,000/=)**. Bid Security shall be valid up to **12 July 2022.**

10. A Pre Bid meeting will be held at **10.00 hrs on 02 March 2022** at the Office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.

**CHAIRMAN**  
**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

## INVITATION FOR BID

**KAYTS PRADESHIYA SABHA.**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROJECT- CREDIT NUMBER P 163305**

**01. Reconstruction of Poonka Veethy Stage – II (LDSP/NP/JAF/KPS/2021/01)**

**02. Construction of Retaining Wall at Urundy Cemetery Road. (LDSP/NP/JAF/KPS/2021/02)**

1) The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received credit from the world Bank towards the cost of Local Development Support Project and intends to apply part of the proceed of this credit to payment under the Contract for **Reconstruction of Poonka Veethy Stage – II and Construction of Retaining Wall at Urundy Cemetery Road** as in table below.

2) The Chairman, Local Authority Procurement Committee on behalf of **Kayts Pradeshiya Sabha, Kayts, Northern Province** invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction works described in the table below.

3) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

4) Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Chairman / Secretary, Kayts Pradeshiya Sabha, Kayts. (Te. No : 021 221 1626, Fax : 021 221 5003, email : kaytsps@gmail.com)** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from any working days 09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs. till **25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

5) Qualification requirements are indicated in section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the (Schedule) section 5 of the bidding document.

6) To be eligible for contract award the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted by Ministry of finance or World Bank or any other acceptable Institutions and Domestic Contractors shall have been registered in the field of **Highway Construction and Buildings** Construction for grade mentioned in the table below with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA).

7) A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below from **26<sup>th</sup> February 2022** until **25<sup>th</sup> March 2022** from 09:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs. on working days Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two thousand five hundred rupees.(Rs. 2,500.00) for each work. The method of payment should be by cash.

8) Bids shall be delivered in Original & Duplicate to the address below **on or before 10:30 hrs. on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security as per the information given in the table.

9) Pre bid meeting will be held on **14<sup>th</sup> March 2022** at 11:30 hrs. in Kayts Pradeshiya Sabha, Kayts. Interested bidders may attend the pre bid meeting at their own expenses

No	Contract No	Description of work	Estimated Civil Cost Rs(Million)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Validity Period of bid from the last date of bid submission	Required Bid security	
							Security Amount (Rs)	Validity Period
1	LDSP/NP/JAF/KPS/2021/01(R)	Reconstruction of Poonka veethy Stage - II	6.32	90 Days	C7 or above (Highway)	77 Days	64,000.00	11.07.2022
2	LDSP/NP/JAF/KPS/2021/02(R)	Construction of Retaining Wall at Urundy Cemetery Road	3.06	60 Days	C8 or above (Buildings)	63 Days	31,000.00	27.06.2022

Chairman,  
Local Authority Procurement Committee,  
Kayts Pradeshiya Sabha,  
Kayts, Jaffna, Northern Province.  
26.02.2022.



## MINUWANGODA PRADESHIYA SABHA PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bids are hereby invited from experienced consultancy services providing institutions / consultancy firms, to meet the following requirements of an office building proposed to be constructed in two storeys (approximately 9000 sq.ft.) at the Mabodala Sub-Office Grounds of the Minuwangoda Pradeshiya Sabha.

- WORKS**
  - Architectural Drawings
  - Structural Drawings
  - Preparation of Estimates
  - Preparation of Procurement Specifications and Documents up to the Procurement Process
  - Inspection / Checking of Bills (BoQ), and affiliated works of that
  - Supervision of constructions
- DETAILS OF THE FIRM / INSTITUTION**
  - Qualifications and Experience
  - Report of Information regarding the staff
  - Fees charged for
  - Copy of valid registration certificate of the institution

Bids from recognised / reputed consultancy firms, capable of providing consultancy services for the above works should be submitted on or before 21.03.2022. The site inspections could be done during office hours and a pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 10.03.2022.

### PROCUREMENT DETAILS:

- Issuance of Procurement Forms: From 28.02.2022 up to 3.00 p.m. on 18.03.2022
- Acceptance of Bids: At 10.00 a.m. on 21.03.2022
- Opening of Bids: At 10.05 a.m. on 21.03.2022

Bids should be submitted in Duplicate (two copies), marked as 'Original' and 'Duplicate' and the Name of the Project should be clearly indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing bids.

Bidder or his authorized agent could be present on the occasion of opening of bids.

When obtaining bidding documents a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 and a copy of the Receipt for the payment of Rs. 50,000 (refundable), deposited in the Pradeshiya Sabha, or a Bank Guarantee (Bid Security) of the same amount, obtained from a Recognized Bank, valid up to 20.05.2022, should be submitted along with Tenders.

The decision of the Minuwangoda Pradeshiya Sabha regarding bids is the final.

Duly perfected sealed bids should either be submitted by Registered Post, addressed to the Chairman, Minuwangoda Pradeshiya Sabha, Udugampola or deposited in the Tender Box, kept at the same address to be received at or before 10.00 a.m. on 21.03.2022.

Telephone : 033-2222335

**Chairman**  
Minuwangoda Pradeshiya Sabha  
Date: 26.02.2022

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in term of Section 8(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 that a company has been converted the name of the company as described below.

**Ceylon Waste Management (Private) Limited**  
Converted as  
**Ceylon Waste Management Limited**

Secretary

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of incorporation of the following company under Section 9(1) of Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

Name of Company:  
**REEF TALPE (PVT) LTD**  
Reg. No.: PV00252100  
Registered Office:  
Rosewood Estate,  
Hapugala, Wakwella,  
Galle.  
Date of Incorporation:  
24.01.2022  
Company Secretary

### CORRECTION NOTICE

#### Notification to Revolve the vesting order under Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) of Section 29(1)

This has reference to the Notice under the above heading which appeared on Page 26 of the Daily News dated 12.01.2022.

Please note that the said heading is corrected as follows:

#### "Notification to Revolve the vesting order under Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) of Section 39(1)"

Other information contained in the previous notice remains the same.

**Divisional Secretary**  
Ambagamuwa Korallaya

**Division Secretariat - Ambagamuwa Korallaya.**




0766 809 422, Hospital Wall Mount Medical Oxygen Wall Regulators Fully Aluminum, Taiwan (0-30L/Min Pressure) TRICARE GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL- Colombo. salestricare@sltnet.lk

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APPLY TO:  
**Nithi Murgesu & Associates**  
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public  
E-mail: <nithi@nithimurgesu.com >



## PROCUREMENT NOTICE

### Selection of Consulting Firm for "Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Mannar Phase -11 Wind Power Project"

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

## SRI LANKA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY

Procurement No : SEA/PD/RND/07-2022

**Background and Scope of Work**

Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) invites interested local firms to submit proposals to conduct an "Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) for Proposed Mannar Phase-11 Wind Power Project at Mannar Island in Mannar District", being implemented by SLSEA. The initial project development activities will be carried out by SLSEA, and it will be implemented as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) project by the selected developer, through private sector investments.

Environmental approval for the project needs to be obtained from the Central Environmental Authority (CEA). Therefore the EIA shall be carried out according to the Terms of Reference (ToR) issued by the CEA.

- This particular assignment shall cover the areas mentioned below.
- Conduct field visits to collect data relevant to the study and also collect secondary data so as to establish the baseline environmental status of the study area.
  - Assess the impact on environmental attributes due to construction and operation of the proposed project.
  - Verification of the detailed design and micro-siting done by University of Moratuwa, including road network, power evacuation cable network etc. and make recommendations along-with proposing alternatives where it necessary.
  - Identify critical environmental attributes required to be monitored subsequent to the implementation of the proposed project.
  - Prepare an Environmental Management Plan for protecting the environment including institutional arrangement and environmental monitoring.
  - Consultation of local people to identify the public perception on the project.
  - Consultation of related government officials in the locality.
  - Provide necessary consultation at the EIA scoping meetings and TEC meetings called by project approving agency.
  - Address the public comments raised during public hearing of the EIA process.
  - Submission of Final EIA Report to SLSEA.

- Notification of the Bidding Process**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding according to the Procurement Guidelines - 2006 and further details on the assignment are given in the "RFP Document" which can be viewed/downloaded from the SLSEA website through the following link: <http://www.energy.gov.lk/index.php/en/procurement>
  - Interested Bidders who wish to submit their proposals may purchase "RFP Document" or can be downloaded from SLSEA's Website of "www.energy.gov.lk" under the Procurement section. Payment of a non-refundable cash payment of LKR 3,000/- should be paid to the General account of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) mentioned below, clearly indicating the organization name. Deposit slip/e receipt should be forwarded to [procurement.slsea@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.slsea@gmail.com) & [slseafinance@gmail.com](mailto:slseafinance@gmail.com). A copy of the above payment receipt shall be submitted along with the Bid. The Bids submitted without a copy of the payment receipt will be rejected.
  - A Pre-Bid meeting will be held online on **04.03.2022 at 1000 hrs**, for the prospective Bidders to have a better understanding of the task. Bidders who interested in joining in the pre-bid meeting are required to send an Email to [procurement.slsea@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.slsea@gmail.com) and obtain the link for the meeting.
  - Technical proposal and Financial proposal should be separately sealed and submitted in one sealed envelope marked "Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Mannar Phase-II Wind Power Project" on the top left-hand corner. The sealed envelope shall be sent to reach the **Procurement Division, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, No. 72, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07**, through hand delivery or by registered post on or before **1400 hrs on 2022.03.21**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids submitting without separately sealing Technical and Financial proposals will be rejected.
  - Bids will be opened immediately after the closing date & time, at the **Boardroom of SLSEA, No. 72, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07**.
  - Further details may be obtained from the Procurement Division of SLSEA through 0112575203/ 0112575030/ 0112575036 during normal office hours and writing to [procurement.slsea@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.slsea@gmail.com)
  - All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of LKR 100,000/- valid until 20.06.2022

**Account Particulars are as follows.**  
Bank: Bank of Ceylon  
Branch: 453 Torrington Square  
Account No: 0074944408

Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority,  
No. 72, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha,  
Colombo 07.  
26.02.2022

Closing date & time: 21.03.2022 @ 1400 hrs



## MINISTRY OF TOURISM

### SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

#### PROVIDING JANITORIAL SERVICES TO THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY RESORTS OF SLTDA

Contract No.: SLTDA/RM/NC/NCB/Janitorial-NHR/2022/11

- The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority invites sealed proposals from the eligible & qualified bidders for Providing Janitorial Services to the National Holiday Resorts of SLTDA.
- The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have Business Registration and comply with the eligibility criteria mentioned in the Bidding Document.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be downloaded from the SLTDA Website (<https://sltda.gov.lk/tender>) by interested bidders from **25th Feb 2022 to 17th March 2022**.
- The payment of non-refundable fee **LKR 7,500.00** should be deposited to the Bank **AC No. 7119413**, Bank of Ceylon, Corporate Branch, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (Note: Please Fill the Depositors Details and Purpose of Deposit in the Slip as "Non-Refundable Tender Fee" and it is mandatory to submit the aforesaid original cash deposit slip with the Bid. The payment should be made in cash and other payments are not allowed).
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at **10:00am on 3rd March 2022** at the Board Room (1st Floor) of SLTDA.
- Sealed Bids with the duplicates may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered to **Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Procurement Division (4th Floor), Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, No.80, Galle Road, Colombo 03** at or before **15.00 hrs. on 18th March 2022**. It should be written as "Providing Janitorial Services to the National Holiday Resorts of SLTDA" at the left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Late Bids will be rejected** and Bids will be opened soon after closing at the Lobby Area of SLTDA (Ground Floor), No.80, Galle Road, Colombo 03 in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **91 days** from the date of bid closing.
- Bids shall be submitted with a Bid guarantee for a value of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred Sixty Thousand (LKR 260,000.00)** with a validity not less than **Twenty-Eight (28) Days** beyond the date of Bid validity as mentioned in the Bidding Document.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Director (Procurement) Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Contact No.0112426800 (Ext: 303,305,277). Electronic mail address: [sltdaproc@srilanka.travel](mailto:sltdaproc@srilanka.travel), [amilam@srilanka.travel](mailto:amilam@srilanka.travel) and inspect the bidding documents at the procurement division of SLTDA.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a certificate of registration of the bidder issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in Sri Lanka according to the Public Contracts Act No.03 of 1987 of the government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notifications (PCA3 form).
- An employee or a firm and/or an individual that has a close family relationship with an employee of the Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and any other institution under the control of the Ministry of Tourism shall not be eligible for award.
- The Departmental Procurement Committee decision will be the final decision. Further, SLTDA has the right to accept or reject any Bid without adding any reasons and SLTDA will not be responsible for any costs or any expenses incurred by the prospective bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

**Chairman**  
Departmental Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority  
No. 80, Galle Road,  
Colombo 03.



## CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### Ministry of Energy

#### Purchase of a Land of 40 perch or above in Wattala Area

B/21/2022

The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is looking for a suitable land with the size of 40 perch or above in Wattala area, facing either ;

- Palliyawatta Road (Palliyawatta North & South G/N Division) or
- Wattala / Hekitta Road (B459)

Please submit your prices to the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation at the address given below, along with a copy of the Deed and the Plot Plan **on or before 21.03.2022**.

If any clarifications, you may contact Mr Viduranga (Tel. 011-5455363) or Mr Veditha (Tel. 011-5455364).

**Chairman,**  
Departmental Procurement Committee,  
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),  
Procurement & Stores Function,  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
1st Floor, No. 609,  
Dr Danister De Silva Mawatha,  
Colombo 09.  
Tele : 0115455335 Fax : 0115455424

## Marriage Proposals

in the

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## State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Materials

### Industries Promotion

#### NATIONAL EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY ORGANIZATION

##### INVITATION FOR BID - CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED JOGGING TRACK DEVELOPMENT AT VELLAYIWELI - JAFFNA

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the National Equipment & Machinery Organization now invites sealed bids from the bidders for the Works as described below. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.

Bid No.	Name & Identification No. of Bid	Construction Period	Non - Refundable fee	Bid Security fee
I.	Masonry Works for Proposed Jogging Track Development at Vellayiweli (NEMO/PR/7178/2021-08 - II)	30 Days	3,500/=	170,000/=
II.	Construction of Pathway for Proposed Jogging Track Development at Vellayiweli (NEMO/PR/7178/2021-09 - II)	30 Days	3,500/=	135,000/=
III.	Construction of Garden & Boutique Shop, Landscaping Works for Proposed Jogging Track Development at Vellayiweli (NEMO/PR/7180/2021-10 - II)	30 Days	3,500/=	185,000/=

- With the Grade C6 with similar work capacity or above contractors to be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be a reputed local company having experience in one (01) contract of a nature, complexity and value equivalent to the proposed works within last Three (03) years in Sri Lanka for the above bids.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language, may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the National Equipment & Machinery Organization, Theme Park Building, Negombo Road, Pellyyagoda from 24.02.2022 until 03.03.2022 on any working day from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of the tender fee 3,500/= (non-refundable) to the Cashier, Accounts Division, National Equipment & Machinery Organization, Theme Park Building, Negombo Road, Pellyyagoda. For more information 011-2932757
- Bids will be delivered to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, National Equipment & Machinery Organization, Theme Park Building, Negombo Road, Pellyyagoda on or before 14.00 hrs on 09.03.2022. Contract name should be started at the top left hand corner of the Bid. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a separate Bid Security as above mentioned. Bid security should be an unconditional, from any commercial bank approved in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka and should be valid up to 09.04.2022.


**Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, National Equipment and Machinery Organization of Sri Lanka, Theme Park Building, Negombo Road, Pellyyagoda, 25.02.2022**

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# BOARD OF INVESTMENT (BOI) OF SRI LANKA

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Chairman Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the following works.

Project Name / Contract No.	Contract Period	Eligibility / Qualification	Bid Security (Rs.)/Valid up to	Issuing Bidding Document / Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Pre Bid Meeting	Date / Time / Venue of Submission of Bid (Closing of Bid)
Expansion of Engineering Units at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone Contract No : BOI/SEPZ/ES/2022/23.05.031	60 Days	CIDA Registration - Grade C9 & above Specialty - Building Construction	Rs. 12,000.00 20 July 2022	From 25 February 2022 To 21 March 2022 Rs. 1,000.00 + VAT	Date 03 March 2022 Time 0930 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ	Date 22 March 2022 Time 0930 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ
Construction of Canopy Roof for MRC at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone Contract No : BOI/SEPZ/ES/2002/23.09.56	60 Days	CIDA Registration - Grade C9 & above Specialty - Building Construction	Rs. 25,000.00 20 July 2022	From 25 February 2022 To 21 March 2022 Rs. 1,500.00 + VAT	Date 03 March 2022 Time 1030 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ	Date 22 March 2022 Time 1030 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ
Maintenance Service of Air-Conditioners Installed in Administrative Building Premises, Water Treatment Plant and Waste Water Treatment Plant at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone for a period of two years. Contract No : BOI/SEPZ/ES/PM/2022/01	2 Years	Experience as a Main Contractor for at least one similar work over the period of last 5 years	Rs. 9,000.00 20 July 2022	From 25 February 2022 To 21 March 2022 Rs. 500.00 + VAT	Date 03 March 2022 Time 1130 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ	Date 22 March 2022 Time 1130 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ
Service & Maintenance of 250 kVA & 550kVA FG Wilson Generator sets at Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone for a Period of two years Contract No : BOI/SEPZ/ES/2022/02-WB	2 Years	Experience as a Main Contractor for at least one similar work over the period of last 5 years	Rs. 13,000.00 20 July 2022	From 25 February 2022 To 21 March 2022 Rs. 500.00 + VAT	Date 03 March 2022 Time 1400 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ	Date 22 March 2022 Time 1400 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- The successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for the contract award include : Experience as a main Contractor for at least one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Director (SEPZ), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella on Telephone No. 036-2231082 or Fax 036-2231083, and inspect the bidding documents from the same address between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone (SEPZ), Avissawella between 09.00 hrs and 1500 hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered with duplicate to "The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Director, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella" before closing time. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**Chairman**  
**Board of Investment of Sri Lanka**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Local Development Support Project - CREDIT NUMBER P 163305  
VALIKAMAM SOUTH PRADESHIYA SABHA, CHUNNAKAM.

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received credit from the World Bank towards the cost of Local Development Support Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract.
- The Chairman, Local Authority Procurement Committee on behalf of Valikamam South Pradeshiya Sabha, Chunnakam, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction works described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Chairman, Valikamam South Pradeshiya Sabha, Chunnakam. (T.No: 021-224 0017, FAX: 021-224 0327) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from any working days from 09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs till 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Qualification requirements are indicated in section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Section 5 of the bidding document.
- To be eligible for contract award the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted by Ministry of finance or World Bank or any other acceptable Institutions, and Domestic Contractors shall have been registered in the field of Construction for grade mentioned in the table below with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA).
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below from 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 until 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs. on working days upon payment of a nonrefundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids (Original & Copy) shall be delivered directly or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Local Authority Procurement Committee, Valikamam South Pradeshiya Sabha, Chunnakam on or before 10.30 hrs on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Bid number must be written on the left - hand corner of envelop. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on 07<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 11:30hrs in the Valikamam South Pradeshiya Sabha, Chunnakam Interested bidders may attend the pre-bid meeting at their own expenses.

Contract No	Description of work	Estimated Cost Rs (Million)	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs)	Contract Period	Required Grade & Specialty	Validity Period of bid From the last date of Bid submission		Required Bid Security	
						Validity Period	Security Amount	Validity Period	
LDSP/NP/JAF/VSPS/2021/03(R)	Construction of Vegetable and fish market with all necessary amenities at Mailankadu market, Eralalai	10.762	3,500.00	90 Days	C6 or Above Buildings	77 Days	108,000/=	11.07.2022	
LDSP/NP/JAF/VSPS/PT1/01	Reconstruction of Evinai Veethi, Eralalai	4.586	2,000.00	90 Days	C8 or Above Highway	63 Days	46,000/=	27.06.2022	
LDSP/NP/JAF/VSPS/PT1/02	Reconstruction of Paddyolai Veethy	1.829	2,000.00	60 Days	C9 or Above Highway	49 Days	19,000/=	13.06.2022	

Chairman, Local Authority, Procurement Committee, Valikamam South Pradeshiya Sabha, Northern Province. Tel :021-224 0017.

26.02.2022

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## BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

#### DISPOSAL OF IDLING ITEMS LYING AT NWS & DB PREMISES IN BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)

CONTRACT No : BOI/BEPZ/ES/2022/01

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for **Disposal of Idling Items Lying at NWS & DB Premises in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ), Walgama, Malwana.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Those who are interested to dispose of idling items lying at NWS&DB Premises in BEPZ are eligible to submit Bids
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana on Tele : 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **23 February 2022 until 15 March 2022 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 1,000.00 + VAT** in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana at or before **14.00 hrs on 16 March 2022**. Please mark clearly on the envelope containing the bid "**Disposal of Idling Items Lying at NWS & DB Premises in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ).**" Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All Bids shall be valid up to **14 May 2022**.
- All Bids shall be accompanied with a copy of bid deposit of **Rs. 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand)** deposited in cash to the Shroff of Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone and Bids submitted without a copy of the receipt of deposit will be rejected or all bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rupees **Fifty Thousand (Rs. 50,000/=)**. Bid Security shall be valid up to **13 June 2022**.
- A Pre Bid meeting will be held at **10.00 hrs on 03 March 2022** at the Office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone at Walgama, Malwana.

**CHAIRMAN**  
**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

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# Ushan and Sangeeth fastest at Eliyakanda

PRIYAN DE SILVA

Ushan Perera driving a Mitsubishi Evolution clocked 32.943 seconds to win the SLGT cars up to 3500cc event and record the fastest time at the 26th edition of the Southern Eliyakanda Hill Climb while Sangeeth Suriyage recorded a time of 33.689 seconds to be the fastest on two wheels at the meet.

Course record holder Ashan Silva and Jaden Gunawardena the fastest on four wheels and two wheels respectively were notable absentees at the event.

Ashan rewrote the record books with a time of 31.260 seconds at the 25th edition while Jaden recorded the fastest time for motorcycles (33.630 seconds) in the same year.

In addition to the SL GT cars up to 3500 cc event Ushan won the open event for Diesel and Petrol vehicles. Mevan Perera recorded a time of 36.803 seconds to be the fastest Formula car driver.

11 year old Akash Sethum Weerasinghe from Nuwara Eliya was the youngest to negotiate the Eliyakanda track on Sunday while 74 year old Cassim Wahab was the oldest. S A Lakshika was the only female driver at the hill climb.

There were spills galore at Eliyakanda on Sunday and Race Director Andrew Silva said that it was probably because the track was not its usual as it had been hardly used and had also been covered by fallen leaves for extended periods of time.

The 26th edition of the Southern Eliyakanda Hill Climb was sponsored by SLT-Mobitel, Nippolac Paint, Freelan Industries, Wurth Lanka, MBSL, Harischandra Mills, 3M, Mobil, Iornman, MSN and tudo lk

**MOTOR CARS**  
**Event 01 - SL-N Ford Laser / Mazda 323 up to 1500cc**

1. Susantha Gunawardena (Mazda Familia) 40.340 seconds, 2. Shenal Gunawardena (Mazda Familia) 40.383 seconds, 3. Tharindu Dharmarathne (Mazda Familia) 40.721 seconds

**Event 02 - SL-N Ford Laser / Mazda 323 up to 1300cc**

1. Susantha Gunawardena (Ford Laser) 40.472 seconds, 2. Shenal Gunawardena (Ford Laser) 40.525 seconds, 3. Dammika Peiris (Ford Laser) 40.697 seconds

**Event 03 - Formula McLaren 1300cc**

1. Chandima Gunarathne (Formula McLaren EFI) 38.156 seconds, 2. Mevan Perera (Formula McLaren EFI) 38.752 seconds, 3. Eshan Siriwardena (Formula McLaren) 38.786 seconds

**Event 04 - Formula Cara Modifiee (up to 1665cc)**

1. Mevan S Perera (Formula McLaren



Fastest driver at the meet Ushan Perera receives his trophy from Prabhath Dahanayaka Chief Marketing Officer SLT. Pictures by Priyan de Silva

special) 36.803 seconds, 2. Chandima Gunarathne (Formula McLaren special) 37.138 seconds, 3. Ryan Gray (Formula McLaren special) 37.562 seconds

**Event 05 - Diesel up to 5500cc**

1. Zaakir Wahab (Ssangyong Korando C) 42.560 seconds, 2. Cassim Wahab (Ssangyong Korando) 56.067 seconds

**Event 06 - Open for Diesel & Petrol vehicles (SUV allowed)**

1. Ushan Perera (Subaru Forester) 36.215 seconds, 2. Sanjeeva de Mel (Subaru Forester) 37.822 seconds, 3. Javidh Wahab (Subaru Forester) 40.095 seconds

**Event 07 - SLA cars up to 1050cc**

1. Chamika Ranathunga (Nissan March) 37.623 seconds, 2. Dilupa Palliyaguru (Nissan March) 37.831 seconds, 3. Dilanka Wijesuriya (Nissan March) 38.122 seconds

**Event 08 - SLA Mini 7**

1. Imraz Payroze (Austin Mini) 39.251 seconds, 2. Sandaru Weerasinghe (Autobacs Mini) 40.128 seconds, 3. Neel Weerasinghe (Autobacs Mini) 41.217 seconds

**Event 09 - SL- H cars up to 1618cc**

1. Kesara Godage (Honda EG 6) 35.651 seconds, 2. Viren Borheju (Honda EK) 35.758 seconds, 3. Zaakir Wahab (Honda Civic) 35.920 seconds

**Event 10 - SL H Subaru Legacy cars up to 2000cc**

1. Asanka Bandara (Subaru Legacy) 37.394 seconds, 2. Malinda Gunasekera (Subaru Legacy) 37.604 seconds, 3. Malika Dilshad (Subaru Legacy) 37.690 seconds

**Event 11 - Mini up to 1275 - one make**

1. Sandaru Weerasinghe (Autobacs Mini) 39.844 seconds, 2. Channaka Rathnayaka (Austin) 40.137 seconds, 3. Neel Weerasinghe (Autobacs mini) 41.352 seconds

**Event 12 - SL GTCars up to 3500cc**

1. Ushan Perera (Mitsubishi Evolution) 32.943 seconds, 2. Abeeth Dangalla (Mitsubishi Evo 8) 32.985 seconds, 3. Darin Weerasinghe (Mercedes A45 AMG) 34.020 seconds

**Event 13 - SL- E cars up to 1000cc - One make Nissan March**

1. S K Kisal (Nissan March K11) 40.398 seconds, 2. Daham Jayanith (Nissan March) 40.652 seconds, 3. Adeesha Kithwith (Nissan March) 40.822 seconds

**Event 14 - SL-E Ford Laser / Mazda 323 up to 1300cc**

1. Thenuka Liyanarachchi (Mazda Familia) 40.239 seconds, 2. Rasitha Pasan (Ford Laser) 40.562 seconds, 3. Chamath Palliyaguru (Ford Laser) 40.652 seconds

**Event 15 - SLS cars up to 1500cc**

1. Zaakir Wahab (Honda Civic) 36.882 seconds

**MOTOR BIKES**

**Event 16 - Group O - Standard Motorcycles 125 cc 4T**

1. Maheel de Silva (KTM Duke 125) 42.355 seconds, 2. Sanjeeva Udaya Kumara (Honda JX 125) 42.442 seconds, 3. Dilan Rathnayaka (Japan JX) 43.475 seconds

**Event 17 - Group O - Standard motorcycle 160cc 4T**

1. Vinula Pathirage (Japan JX) 39.95 seconds,



Fastest Rider of the meet Sangeeth Suriyage receives his award from Ashaar Hameem President SLAS

2. Dinesh Priyankara (Honda CBR 150RR) 39.573 seconds, 3. Nikila Pathirage (Honda CBR 150) 40.170 seconds

**Event 18 - Group M - Standard modified motorcycles 125cc 2T**

1. Heshan Pasindu (Yamaha TZR 124) 36.885 seconds, 2. Rusith Shamika (Yamaha TZR) 41.490 seconds, 3. Dammika Nishantha (Yamaha TZR 125) 41.497 seconds

**Event 19 - Group M - Super Sports 250cc 4T**

1. Vinula Pathirage (Honda CBR 250) 35.942 seconds, 2. Nipun Dilanka (Honda CBR 250RR) 36.455 seconds, 3. Dinesh Priyankara (Honda CBR 250RR) 37.346 seconds

**Event 20 - Group M - Super Sports 600cc 4T**

1. Nipun Dilanka (Honda CBR 600RR) 38.970 seconds, 2. Dinesh Priyankara (Honda CBR 600RR) 39.496 seconds, 3. Dumindu Koswatta (Honda CBR 6) 41.769 seconds

**Event 21 - Group M - Super Sports 1000cc 4T**

1. Basith Bakir (Ducati Panigale) 37.572 seconds, 2. Maduranga Caldera (BMW S1000RR) 38.144 seconds, 3. Isuru Murumudalige (Yamaha R1) 45.365 seconds

**Event 22 - Group M - Sports touring motorcycles 600cc**

1. A D S A Supun Suraj (Honda Hornet 6) 36.967 seconds, 2. Mangala Pathirage (Triumph Street Triple) 39.701 seconds, 3. K D S Sandaruwan (Honda Hornet 6) 41.185 seconds

**Event 23 - Group M - Sports Touring motorcycles over 700cc**

1. A D S A Supun Suraj (Yamaha MT 09) 35.735 seconds, 2. K D S Sandaruwan (Yamaha MT 09) 41.352 seconds, 3. Mangala pathirage (KTM Super Duke 1290R) 42.330 seconds

**Event 24 - Group M - Street Trail 250cc 2T & 4T**

1. Sarath Kumarasinghe (Yamaha WRF 250) 38.283 seconds, 2. Maheel de Silva (Kawasaki Tracker) 38.337 seconds, 3. S Vasudevan (Yamaha WRF 250) 39.436 seconds

**Event 25 - Group SM - Street Mortard 250 - Club event**

1. Maheel de Silva (Kawasaki Tracker) 37.768 seconds, 2. R M Mimshad (Kawasaki Tracker) 38.417 seconds, 3. Udaya Chandimal (Kawasaki Tracker) 38.794 seconds

**Event 26 - Group SM- Supermoto 250**

1. Dushan Suriyage (Yamaha PPLK 450) 34.064 seconds, 2. Isuru Maduranga (Yamaha YZ 250cc) 34.225 seconds, 3. Sachira Rajakaruna (Yamaha YZ 250F) 35.190 seconds

**Event 27 - Group SM- Supermoto 450**

1. Sangeeth Suriyage (Yamaha PPLK 450) 33.689 seconds, 2. Vinula Pathirage (Yamaha YZ 450F) 39.758 seconds, 3. Nikila Pathirage (Yamaha YZ 450F) 42.394 seconds

**Event 28 - classic Standard Motorcycles 250 cc**

1. Sarath Kumarasinghe (Honda CRM 250) 39.131 seconds, 2. S Vasudevan (Honda CRM 250) 41.197 seconds, 3. Jayampathi Dissanayaka (Hasquwana 125) 41.629 seconds

## Sumalka Theekshana Fernando the athletic and cricket star

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Corr. All round Cricketer top order right hand batsman, right arm leg spinner, safe fielder, under 13 and 15 Cricket Captain, Member of the under 15 Cricket Squad 2019, Best Bowler of the 2021 Big Match, under 9 Athletic Champion Juwan Jamislaghe Sumalka Theekshana Fernando has brought honour and immense glory to his alma mater Prince of Wales' College Moratuwa with his deeds in Cricket and Athletic fields.

Sumalka was born on 14 th April 2004 in Lunawa Moratuwa and when he was in grade three he commenced Athletics and participated for the Inter House Sports Meet for Team Events and in 2013 he took part for the school meet and swept the board in Long Jump, Javelin and High Jump and became the Under Nine Champion and in the following year too he took part for the sports meet and up to 2019 he participated for the Inter House Meets and excelled in field events too and in 2019 he represented the school in Javelin at the Divisional Educational Meet and came second.

From his smaller days he had a liking to Cricket and his Parents Susantha Kumara



Prince of Wales' College First Eleven Cricket Team posed for a photograph after beating their arch rivals St. Sebastian's College Moratuwa in the 36 th Annual One Dayer after a hard fought battle by two runs at De Soysa Stadium Moratuwa. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent).

scored 380 runs with three half centuries and in his second year he played for the division one and in 2017 he captained the team and collected 390 runs with four fifties and his under 15 was in 2018 and 2019 and in his first year he scored 240 runs with two fifties and claimed 13 wickets and captaining the team in 2019 he collected 390 runs with four fifties and grabbed twelve scalps.

Same year he played for the Prima Cup District Team and went on to play for the Provincial Tournament.

There was no under 17 tournament in 2020 and 21 and as an under 17 player he was selected to the School Limited Over Tournament held in 2021 and this year he played in eight matches and got a fifty and captured 18 wickets and due to this performances he was selected for the this years Big Match and he scored 23 runs and bagged 5 for 39 and earned the Best Bowlers Award and played for the One Dayer and scored 41 runs which Cambrians beat their arch rivals Sebastians by two runs.



Fernando and Puimi Chaturika Fernando admitted him to Rathan Peiris Cricket Academy in 2012 and in the following year he was admitted to the School Cricket Academy and attended practices for three years and in 2015 he was selected to the under 13 division three team and

## Kanchana continues to head Ratnapura District Taekwondo Association

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

For the seventh occasion Chairman of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council Kanchana Jayaratne has been appointed as the President of Ratnapura District Taekwondo Association at the annual general meeting held in Ratnapura recently.

Kanchana Jayaratne, the Vice President of Sri Lanka Taekwondo Federation has also been awarded the



The newly elected President of Ratnapura District Taekwondo Association Kanchana Jayaratne expressing his views after the election.

International Taekwondo Federation Grade 6 Honorary Award. The Korean Government has also commended Kanchana Jayaratne for his efforts to promote and promote the sport of Taekwondo in Sri Lanka. The key posts of the new officers elected to the Ratnapura District Taekwondo Association for the year 2022 are as follows:

**President:** Kanchana Jayaratne

(Chairman, Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council)

**Secretary:** B. Kanishka Srimal

**Deputy Chairman:** Tyrone Attanayake (Mayor of Ratnapura Municipal Council), Sumudura Wijesena

**Deputy Secretary:** K. L. T. Kuruppu, Mrs. Shyama Dilani Premathilaka

**Treasurer:** M. E. Rasika Dharmapriya

**Chief Organizer:** Manjula Premakumara

## Sainthamaruthu Eastern Pearls CC champions

Text and Picture by: I.L.M. RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Corr.

Sainthamaruthu Eastern Pearls Cricket Club team beat Eastern Challengers Sports Club cricket team, Sammanthurai by three runs in the final to emerge champions of the 'Hijra Festival Night Champion Trophy-2022' limited overs floodlit Cricket Tournament conducted by Akkaraipattu Hijra Sports Club at the Public PlayGrounds, Akkaraipattu recently.

Altogether 65 Prominent Cricket Teams from the Ampara district took part in the tournament. Eastern Pearls Cricket Club team, Sainthamaruthu beat Eastern Challengers Sports Club cricket team, Sammanthurai in the final Sammanthurai Eastern Challengers Sports Club cricket team batted first scored 56 runs at the end of 5 overs for the loss of 4 wickets. Sainthamaruthu Eastern Pearls Cricket Club team, in reply scored 56 runs at the expense of four wickets in their allocated 5 overs. To decide the winner a super over was given to each team. In the super over Sainthamaruthu Eastern Pearls Cricket Club team scored 14 runs, in reply Sammanthurai Eastern Challengers Sports Club cricket team scored only 11 runs and lost the match.

Man of the series secured by A.M.Risath and man of the match secured by M.Farhan of Sainthamaruthu Eastern Pearls Cricket Club and awarded prizes. The awards cere-



The skipper of the champion Sainthamaruthu Eastern Pearls Cricket Club team receiving the trophy from Akkaraipattu Municipal Councillor Azmy A Gaffoor

mony and final match was held under the patronage of the Akkaraipattu Hijra Sports Club President and Akkaraipattu Municipal Councillor Azmy A Gaffoor. Digamadulla District Parliamentarian and National Congress (NC) Leader A.L.M. Athaullah participated as the chief guest at the award ceremony.

## Veteran athlete Narasinghe clinches three Gold Medals

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-Kandy Sports special Correspondent

N.L.W.Narasinghe of Kandy District came out with flying colours to win 1500, 2000 Metres.

obstacle race and 5000 Metres, race at the Veterans Athletic Championship participating in the

80 - 85 age group securing three Gold Medals which is a rare achievement. This veteran Athletic Championship was held at the Sugathadasa Stadium

on 19th & 20 th of February, 2022 and in addition he was placed third in the 800 Metres, race in the same age group. In this event the first two places were won by two Indian Athletes. Before this as an experienced Athlete he has

won many International Veteran Meets especially in 2013 he has won 5000 Metres, in the Masters Games in Geelong, Australia and in the year 2006 he has won 5000 Metres, in India competing in the Vet-

erans Meet in his age group. Apart from that in the year 2002 a meet was held from 2nd to 7th December, 2019 in China and Malaysia and he has won 5000 and 2000 Metres, events by securing the second Place and obtained two Silver Medals.

Narasinghe has been in the Athletic Field since 1985 and since then he has been among the first three in whatever event he has taken part in. He has been an Arts Degree holder of

the University of Peradeniya and was a Principal in a Government School in Ratnapura. He says that as he was

involved in Athletics from his younger days he is still physically fit although he is 85 years old and he has enough time and space to do fitness exercises in his home town but at present he is residing in Gannoruwa, Kandy. His advice to the present day athletes is to pay more attention to their physical



N.L.W. Narasinghe with the Medals he has won. (Pix. by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports spl.corr)

## Janaka Pathirana promoting cricket in Kandy in a big way

HAFIZ MARIKAR

Janaka Pathirana who has been a long time secretary of the Central Province Cricket Association and Kandy District cricket Association has given his best for the game of cricket. He is a lover and promoter of the game and is giving his best for the game of cricket over here. Kandy has a proud record of producing some of the top most sports personalities. He is the long time secretary of the Central Province Cricket Association and Kandy District Cricket Association.

He is well supported by the CPCA president Sarath Ekanayake and KDCA president Roland Perera. Janaka Pathirana goes out of his way to keep the game of cricket alive at club level. He started his cricket at St. Sylvester's College, under the guidance of Mal-

colm Perera was a seam bowler and a right hand middle order batsman. He was an all-rounder. He can be seen at every cricket match let it be school or club. During his school days he was a top class athlete, in 100 and 400 metres, winning at school meets and zonal meets. He is the man who is handling the affairs at the Pallekele Stadium, and keeping the stadium at its best. He was one of the founder members of Kandy Youth Cricket Club and later was President of the club for over Five years.

Then was the Assistant secretary of Kandy District Cricket Association, President in the years 2017 and 2018 and also served on the Executive committee of Sri Lanka Cricket in 2002 and 2003. and the venue manager of Pallekele International stadium





Charith Asalanka has to continue his form.

## Sri Lanka face uphill task in second Twenty20 game today

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Sri Lanka cricket team has an uphill task to stay alive in the Indian T-20 series when they will meet India once again today (26) in the second T-20 game which is scheduled to be played at Dharamsala commencing at 7 pm (Sri Lanka time) India led by Rohit Sharma come into this game with confidence after their 62 run victory at Lucknow in the first game on Thursday.

Dasun Shanaka's team face a big challenge as their team completely failed in all three departments at the first T-20. With a misfiring top-order and absence of frontline spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga, Sri Lanka struggled to compete in the first game.

After considering the MRI scan reports of Kusal Mendis and Maheesh Theekshana, the doctors have advised them to skip this series due to their injuries, and especially at this stage team management does not want to risk these players. In the meantime, the selectors tried to add two more players Dhananjaya de Silva and Niroshan Dickwella (both are already in the Test squad) to the T-20 squad for the next two matches but it is also very unlikely as both players are already in the hotel for a quarantine period of four days and they have a slight chance to join the team only for final T-20 tomorrow. Both players are at the same hotel with the teams but due to the Covid protocol they have to stay for a four-day quarantine period before joining the team and this was

confirmed by the Sports Medical Unit Doctor.

Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka said Indians batted beautifully and read the conditions very well in the first game but the Sri Lanka team fared badly in all three departments. The deputy skipper Charith Asalanka played a fighting unbeaten century and Shanaka believes Aslanka will be in good form throughout the series. Unfortunately, the Sri Lankan bowling attack was not up to expectations and they have to come back strongly in this game.

Very few team changes can be expected for today's game. According to a senior official of the SLC Dhanushka Gunatilleka would replace either Janith Liyanage or Dinesh Chandimal. If Chandimal won't play

then Kamil Mishara will keep wickets while Binura Fernando may be selected to strengthen the pace attack

Sri Lankan team has a problem giving more dot balls and they should rectify while during the power play they have to get maximum runs without losing wickets and top-order batters have more responsibility. The inform opener Pathum Nissnaka was out for a first-ball duck in the last game and hopes he can play a long innings to build up the innings today. The seamers Dushmantha Chameera, Lahiru Kumara were punished by Indian batters while Chamika Karunaratne had to face the same fate during the first game. Sri Lankan fast bowling coach Lasith Malinga is not available for this series and that has highly affected the Sri Lankan bowlers.

### Inter-School Under-19

## Raveen and Vinuja hit half-centuries for Nalanda

Skipper Raveen de Silva (77) and Vinuja Ranpul (75) made fine knocks as Nalanda College scored 304 all out while St. Peter's were 19 for 1 wicket before bad light stopped play during their Under 19 Inter-school Cricket match which was played at Bambalapitiya, yesterday.

Two National youth caps Raveen de Silva struck 7 fours and 3 sixes for his 81 ball knock while Ranpul played a more aggressive style scoring 75 in 78 balls with 10 fours and 2 sixes to build up their innings. Wanuja Sahana, Peterite and national under 19 leg spinner, was the successful bowler taking 3 for 91 in his 25-over spell while Shannon Rodrigo took 2 for 22. St. Peter's lost their opener Vishen Halambage for 8 runs while Nalandian Minod Caldera took a wicket by taking a return catch.

Meanwhile, St. Benedicts were strongly placed in their under 19 match against St. Anne's Kurunegala played at St. Benedict's grounds yesterday. St. Benedict's scored 207 all out with Ashen de Soya top scoring 56 while St. Anne's were struggling as they were pulled out for 56 in their first innings force to follow on.

**Chief scores**

● **At Bambalapitiya.**  
● **Nalanda:** 304 all out (Risath Jayaratne 22, Vinuja Ranpul 75, Raveen de Silva 77, Kushmitha Silva 23, Eranga Jayakody 47, Sajitha Vithanage 22\*, Wanuja Sahana 3/91, Shannon Rodrigo 2/22)

● **St. Peter's:** 19 for 1 wicket at close

● **At Kotahena**  
● **St. Benedict's:** 207 all out (Sharujan Shanmu-

ganathan 20, Ashen de Soya 59, Shenal Samarathunga 28, Dilan Thabrew 33, Kojitha Himasara 16, Risitha Perera 2/32, Manaan Muzammil 3/39, Pasidu Tennakoon 3/58)

● **St. Anne's:** 56 all out (Risitha Perera 19, Manaan Muzammil 20, Hasanga Nanayakkara 2/9, Dilan Thabrew 2/23, Ashen de Silva 2/5, Chamath Chaturaya 3/19)

● **At Dambulla**  
● **Kingswood:** 143 all out Dumindu Bandara 25, Amesh Rupasinghe 19, Hasintha Polkotuwa 45, Ravinhdh Tharinda 20, Isuru Gunasekara 3/36, Sahshika Basnayake 3/33, Kavishka Imesh 2/8

● **St. Sylvester's:** 126 for 5 wickets at close (Kavishka Imesh 25, Maleesha Silva 42, Kavishka Dilshan 18 (retired hurt), Chamudika Abeyaratne 3/14, Ravindu Tharinda 2/ 22). (D.R.)

### International Weightlifting Championships

## Srimali wins gold in Singapore

Sri Lanka's weightlifter Srimali Samarakoon won a gold medal competing in the women's 49 kg category at Singapore International Weightlifting championships which started in Singapore yesterday.

Srimali lifted 65kg from snatch method while 86 kg from clean and jerk method with a total of 151 kg to take the gold medal. Twenty-one-year-old Samarakoon is an outstanding woman weightlifter who also won the 45kg gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships held in Uzbekistan last December.

Srimali is a past pupil of Habarana Central College who did her higher studies at Mahamaya Girls' College in Kandy and entered the University of Sri Jayawardenepura. She is one of the most promising weightlifters on the National team.

Meanwhile, the second Sri Lankan medal was won by Dilanka Isuru Kumara who clinched the bronze in the 55kg weight category yesterday Dilanka was able to lift 238kg (snatch 106kg, clean and jerk 132 kg) to take the bronze. This tournament will continue until Sunday (27) while the



Srimali Samarakoon poses for a picture with her gold medal.

17-member Sri Lanka team is taking part in this event which is the final chance for Sri Lanka players to qualify for the next Commonwealth Games. Two experienced weight lifters Chinatana Geethal Vidhanage and Thilanka Palangasinghe already qualified for Commonwealth Games are not competing in this event. (D.R.)

## Can underdogs CR manage to sink the Police battleship today?

**INDIKA WELAGEDARA**

CR & FC will travel down to Police Park to take on an on-song Police Sports Club outfit in week six of the SLR Inter-Club league rugby first round match to be played at Police Park, starting at 4.15 pm today.

The visitors come into the game against Police as favourites for the first time after a long period.

Can CR manage to sink the Police battleship to earn a much-needed second win to the season, which will be the million dollar question the entire rugby-loving public will ask?

CR & FC have dominated the Police outfit in the past, however, the power has shifted in the past few years with the Police coming close and winning the last time these two teams met.



Iroshan Silva (Captain-Police)



Kavindu de Costa (Captain-CR & FC)

CR & FC beat Police 38 points to 17 at Police Park, but the Cops got their revenge by defeating the lads from Longden Place 27-16 in 2019 and continued their dominance over the CR & FC outfit. The hosts have begun the 2022

Inter-Club league rugby season with a (0-12) lost against the Navy Sports Club at Police Park but came back to beat the high riding Air Force Sports Club by (11-3) at Police Park in flying fashion, winning their first game for the sea-

son. But Police lost against the formidable unbeaten Havelock Sports Club when they went down fighting (17-21) at Police Park last week.

CR & FC on the other hand, got off to a (16-16) draw against Army SC and lost (11-19) to Air Force SC, but got into a winning start at Longden Place by beating mighty CH and FC (27-22), but faced an honorable defeat against the defending champs Kandy SC (26-45) where they fought to the very end up in Nittawela, Kandy last week.

A game against the formidable Police poses a different threat at Police Park today, however, if recent form is anything to go by; the CR & FC come in as clear underdogs and should be able to edge out the favourites Police.

### Ceylon Provincial League Tournament

## Sabaragamuwa clear first hurdle

**ALTHAF NAWAZ**

Sabaragamuwa cleared the first hurdle when they edged out Southern Province 1 goal to nil in the semi-final of the Ceylon Provincial League Tournament played for the Independence Trophy at District Sports Complex grounds in Galle yesterday.

After a barren score sheet in the first half, the winners changed their tactics in an attempt to break the deadlock in the second half, to win the first leg and keeping their hopes alive of qualifying for the finals.

A team with only a single national player (Mohamed Shifan) in their ranks strove hard from the start against another young side at their home ground. After changing gears with an offensive playing mode, the under-21 striker A.H.M. Mushfik's spectacular goal in the 60 minute saw them home which eventually put them one up in the competi-



S.D.S.Silva (maroon jersey) of Sabaragamuwa team is in a tussle to clear the ball against Southern which they won 1-0.

tion. The second leg is scheduled to be played on 2 March at their home venue at Seevali grounds, Ratnapura. Today the strong Northern team will take on Eastern at Durayappa Stadium in Jaffna in the second semi-final at 3.30 p.m.

### Gallant CH beat fighting Army 33-23

**INDIKA WELAGEDARA**

CH and FC propelled by their run and pass game, enable them to win over fighting Army SC outfit 33 points (5 tries, 4 conversions) to 23 (3 tries, 1 conversion, 2 penalties), in their Dialog 'A' Division League Rugby tournament first-round match played at Havelock grounds in Havelock Park yesterday.

It was CH's three quarters that paved the way for this victory. The CH 'eight' also gave a good display to outplay their famed counterparts in the loose.

The CH and FC outfit went into halftime with a close lead of 12-11 with tries coming from prop Ashan Darling, centre Kushan Induni with one try was converted by fly-half Rohitha Rajapaksa.

Meanwhile, for the Army the try was scored by number eight Danushka Wijethilake, and Madushan

Hettiarachchi put over the two penalties.

In the second half, centre Hirantha Perera, flanker Omalka Gunaratne, and replacement full-back Mohamad Abzal scored one try each for CH while Rohitha Rajapaksa slotted in the three conversions.

For the losing Army, winger Sudaraka Dikkumbura and center Danushka Thalwatte scored one try each, while Hettiarachchi put over the solitary penalty.

**Airmen beat Navy 12-10**

In another game, Air Force SC beat Navy SC by 12 points (2 tries, 1 conversion) to 10 (2 tries) at Ratmalana. At Half time the scores were 5 all.

Gimhana Silva and Vimukthi Fernando scored the tries and Faris Ali put over one conversation for Air Force. For Navy Yoshitha Rajapaksa and Sajith Saranga scored one try each (10).

### Central Youth CC beat Up-Country SC by 4 wickets

**HAFIZ MARIKAR**

In the 36th Kandy District Cricket Association limited-overs qualifying tournament Group "B" match, Central Youth Cricket Club beat Up-Country Sports Club by four wickets at Pallekele Prison Ground yesterday.

Batting first, Up-Country SC were all out for 152 in 33.4 overs. In reply, Central

Youth CC scored 153 for 6 wickets in 28.04 overs.

● **Up-Country SC:** 152 all-out in 33.4 overs - Wasula Kahavita 29, Ishara Polgolla 27, Mishan Athauda 4 for 42, Dinusha Ruwan 2 for 25, and Binura Rajapakse 2 for 33.

● **Central Youth CC:** 153 for 6 in 28.4 overs - Kasun Darshana 69, Thineera Akalanka 29 not out, Adela de Silva 2for 24.

### National Super League 4-day Tourney

## Jaffna makes massive total of 555 against Galle

Jaffna team made a massive total of 555 all out in their first innings while Colombo made a poor start with 3 for 2 wickets at close of the second day's play in the National Super League four-day Cricket fixture played at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium Hambantota, yesterday.

Jaffna, resuming at the overnight score of 311/4, and national under 19 skipper Dunith Wellalage once again scored 74 with 11 fours in his 184-ball innings while Santhush Gunathilleka (61) and Geeth Kumara (63 not out) made two more useful knocks to build up the Jaffna innings. Colombo leg spinner Prabath Jayasuriya made a marathon spell of 62.4 overs taking 6 for 169. Lahiru Madhshanka and Sammu Ashan took two wickets each.

Colombo openers Niupn Dhananjaya and Shevon Daniel were unable to make a good start with Dhananjaya being out for 1 off the bowling of Kalhara Seneviratne. The nightwatchman batter Himesh Ramanayake was out for 2 runs off a delivery made by leg spinner Dunith Wellalage finishing the day with 3 for 2 wickets.

Meanwhile, Kandy scored 482 all out while Galle replied by making 185 for three wickets at close of the second day in their match played at Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The rain interrupted the game during the Galle innings. Kandy skipper Kamindu Mendis scored a fine knock of 111 with 14 fours while Galle opener Pabasara Waduge made an unbeaten century with 6 fours and 4 sixes.

**Chief scores**

● **At Hambantota. Jaffna:** 555 all out (Kalhara Seneviratne 29, Dunith Wellalage 74, Santhush Gunathilleka 61, Geeth Kumara 63\*, Lahiru Madushanka 2/69, Prabath Jayasuriya 6/ 169, Sammu Ashan 2/62) ● **Colombo:** 3 for 2 wickets at close

● **At Galle. Kandy:** 482 all out (Kamindu Mendis 111, Sahan Arachchige 52, Pulina Tharanga 20, Heshan Hettiarachchi 4/ 64, Nimesh Vimukthi 3/120, Chanaka Ruwansiri 2/96)

● **Galle:** 185 for 3 wickets at close (Sangeeth Cooray 36, Pabasara Waduge 100\*, Hashan Dumindu 23). (D.R.)