



# PUBLIC ANGER GROWS AS SL PLUNGES INTO SEVERE TURMOIL

- GOVT. UNDER PRESSURE TO URGENTLY EASE THE ESCALATING CRISES
- PUBLIC ASK FOR SOME RELIEF FROM POWER AND FUEL CRISIS AND COST OF LIVING
- CEB WARNS POWER CUTS MAY INCREASE TO EIGHT HOURS DAILY BY MARCH END
- CONSUMER RIGHTS MOVEMENT SAYS PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOODS RISING DAILY
- ECONOMISTS SAY AN AGREEMENT WITH IMF WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE
- FINANCE MINISTER TO RUSH TO INDIA TODAY TO DISCUSS LOAN



- PRESIDENT SAYS TO PAY FOR FUEL IMMEDIATELY FOR POWER GENERATION
- SENIOR CEB SOURCES SAY POWER CRISIS RESULT OF ALL GOVERNMENTS FAILING
- DOLLAR SOLD AT OVER RS.260 IN BLACK MARKET, OFFICIAL RATE RS.203
- MASSIVE DRUG SHORTAGE EXPECTED IN THREE MONTHS

BY JAMILA HUSAIN

Public anger has grown in Sri Lanka as the government is struggling to sort the foreign exchange crisis, thereby leading to the massive power and fuel crisis, a halt in imports as well as a soaring cost of living with some terming the daily struggles as 'unimaginable'. In fact public confidence in this government has dipped with the escalating turmoils and people are urging for some relief from the President and Prime Minister to carry on with their daily lives. The opposition too have failed to play any vital role with statements being limited only to social media and protests being limited to Parliament. In fact, as much as the popularity of the government has dipped, popularity of the main opposition - the SJB has also dipped with public confidence on almost all parliamentarians now lifted.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## CEB tells Keheliya to pay up his mega electricity bill

Bill amounting to Rs. 12,056,803.38

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The Ceylon Electricity Board has urged Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella to pay up his overdue electricity bill for his residence which is amounting to a massive Rs. 12,056,803.38.

The CEB said this was for power consumed since February 2015 and the Minister had to date failed to settle the payment. CEB officials had made a field visit to the Minister's house on December 22, 2021, and had held discussions with his wife. They had also handed over a detailed report to her.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



## Water supply could be interrupted during power cuts: Trade Union

All water purification plants and pump houses are powered by electricity

BY CHATURANGA SAMARAWICKRAMA

Water supply will be interrupted during power cuts due to fuel shortage and thereby the consumers will face numerous inconveniences, convener of the Water Supply Trade Union's Collective Alliance, Upali Ratnayake said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Over five-hour power cuts today

- Permission granted due to lack of fuel

BY CHATURANGA SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) has approved the request made by the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) to have rotational power shedding over five hours for today. The permission was granted due to lack of fuel supplies for power generation.

Hence, PUCSL Chairman Janaka Ratnayake granted permission for a four hour and 40 minute-power cut for tomorrow for areas of A, B, C and 5 hours and 15 minutes in the other areas.

## Govt. to release Rs.80Bn by Monday to settle CEB loan: Amaraweera

BY CHATURANGA SAMARAWICKRAMA

The government is to release Rs.80 billion to pay off the loan which the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) had obtained to procure fuel from the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) for power generation. Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said Rs.80 billion is to be released from the treasury.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## SJB MPs hold protest in Parliament against power cuts

- Sessions suspended for half hour



BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Parliament sessions were suspended for about half an hour yesterday because of a protest held inside chambers by the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) against the power cuts. The MPs were seen flashing torches and holding placards.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## DOZENS KILLED AS RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

- Explosions heard across the country
- Tanks and troops enter Ukraine
- Ukraine says it is fighting back

Moscow and Kyiv (CNN): Russian forces have begun an attack on Ukraine, with reports of troops crossing the border to the north and south, explosions in multiple cities including the capital Kyiv and warnings from Russian President Vladimir Putin of bloodshed unless Ukrainian forces lay down their arms.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

### Russia-Ukraine military strength compared

	RUSSIA	UKRAINE
ARMY PERSONNEL	280,000	145,000
MAIN BATTLE TANKS	2,840	858
ARTILLERY	4,684	1,818
BALLISTIC MISSILES	150	90
COMBAT AIRCRAFT	1,160	125
HELICOPTERS	394	35
Troops	900,000	209,000
Reserves	2,000,000	900,000

Sources: © GRAPHIC NEWS

## Foreign Ministry issues advisory to Lankans living in Ukraine

In view of an escalation of the situation in Ukraine, the Foreign Ministry has instructed the Sri Lanka Embassy in Ankara, to take appropriate measures to coordinate the safe passage of the remaining Sri Lankan nationals in Ukraine.

Accordingly, 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: slemb.ankara@mfa.gov.lk.

## Sri Lankans living in Ukraine are safe: Envoy

- Over 70 Lankans are living in Ukraine, 14 are students
- The safety of Sri Lankans living in Ukraine has been ensured following the tensions that erupted after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a military operation in Ukraine.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Mob, attacks beach restaurant and chases away tourists in Hikkaduwa: 4 arrested

- The mob while under the influence of alcohol had damaged the property at the restaurant as they had not been permitted to enter the premises

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Four suspects have been arrested in connection with the attack on a beach restaurant at Nariigama in Hikkaduwa where a mob chased away foreign tourists and attacked the restaurant.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



### ECONOMIC CRISIS

#### DEBT

Sri Lanka has to settle US\$ 6.9 bn liabilities to be settled during 2022. Sri Lanka would also have to finance a current account deficit of around US\$ 2.5 to 3 bn for the year.

#### Electricity

Feb 24, 2022: The government has decided to release Rs. 80 bn from the Treasury by next Monday to settle a portion of the debt owed by the Ceylon Electricity Board to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

MP Udaya Gammanpila, told Parliament that despite the increase in the price of crude oil in the world market by 38% from December 20, the government has decided not to increase the price of oil in Sri Lanka.

#### Drug Shortages

- Paracetamol
- Panadol
- Panadeine
- Nitrofurantoin
- Nitrocontin
- Norfloxacin
- Magnesium Sulphate (Powder)
- Manorest
- Oxetol 300
- Phenobarbital

#### USD/LKR SPOT Indicative Rate

Source: CBSL

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# Daily Mirror

CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

## PUBLIC ANGER GROWS AS SL PLUNGES INTO SEVERE TURMOIL

- PRESENTLY SRI LANKA IS SEEING LONG QUEUES FOR FUEL, ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS AND EVEN MEDICINES
- THE PUBLIC HAVE COMPLAINED THAT ESSENTIAL DRUGS SUCH AS PANADOL AND EVEN INSULIN ARE VERY LIMITED IN THE MARKET

Presently Sri Lanka is seeing long queues for fuel, essential food items and even medicines with officials warning this will only deepen further in the coming months if the dollars fail to come in.

For that, the government is stubborn it does not want to go in for an agreement with the IMF, which many economists see as the most ideal solution for immediate relief, and instead hope countries will grant big loans which will help them out of the crisis with the dollars coming in.

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa is off to India yet again today, his second visit to New Delhi in two months, to discuss a one billion dollar loan agreement that will facilitate the imports of essential commodities and pharmaceuticals. The agreement is to be signed with an Indian Bank with the intervention of the Indian government.

The Daily Mirror learns that discussions to obtain loans are also ongoing with Saudi Arabia and China in order to increase Sri Lanka's foreign reserves, while presently Sri Lanka's foreign reserves stands at US\$2.3 billion dollars only as of end January.

This however, is not enough. In fact, in order to save dollars, Sri Lanka halted almost all its imports to prevent the dollars from going out. This has led to the country plunging into chaos and the lengthy queues for almost every essential needs.

### FOOD CRISIS IN SRI LANKA WHAT LIES AHEAD?

While food such as rice, milk powder, dhal and sugar are now limited, the prices of these items are also soaring. Chairman of the National Movement for the Protection of Consumer Rights, Ranjith Vithanage told Daily Mirror that in several areas these items were now not available and there was a limit that each individual could purchase. He said that items such as rice, sugar, flour and milk powder were being sold at different rates and there was no price controls as the government had cancelled the necessary gazette which made it mandatory for prices to be controlled on essential items. He said initially this was not so.

Prices of these items would only increase in a year or two and that too because of some reason. But now prices were fluctuating daily with no stable prices maintained. He said retailers sold it at much above the market rates and if today the price of a kilo of sugar was Rs.120 then tomorrow it could rise to Rs.240. "There is nobody monitoring this and these items are being sold at exorbitant rates. Even the locally manufactured items including basic vegetables are being sold at skyrocketing prices," Vithanage said. He further alleged that despite people standing in queues for hours to purchase these essential food items, they had received complaints that those who paid much higher prices behind closed doors were handed over the items first and there was no limits for them. This has severely angered the public but authorities have gone blind to it. Vithanage also said that with the country having no dollars, essential food items imported into the country remained stuck at the Colombo Port and till such time Sri Lanka's foreign exchange crisis did not ease, the shortage in all food items would continue and prices would continue to soar.

In fact this shortage has prompted the Consumer Affairs Authority to act.

A senior official of the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) told Daily Mirror that they are going to identify the existing essential goods stocks that are already with the importers as importers usually keep a backup stock that was sufficient for two months. Once they identify this, all these items will be immediately released into the market.

The officials said the government also intends to import critical item stocks from India, and preparations are being made. The CAA will next week meet the importers to get a count of their stocks.

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa however said yesterday that based on data available with the Sri Lanka Customs, essential goods that are required for three months have entered the country.

### MEDICINE SHORTAGE -



### PANADOL, PANADEIN, PARACETAMOL, INSULIN, SALINE AND OTHER ESSENTIAL DRUGS TO STOP IN THREE MONTHS

The public have complained that essential drugs such as Panadol and even insulin are very limited in the market and whatever stocks are available are being purchased by desperate customers. The All-Island Private Pharmacy Owners' Association (AIPPOA) said that this was because the ingredients required to manufacture these medicines had been halted due to the ban on imports. In fact the situation will worsen so much that in three months most of these essential drugs will not be available in the market with the government presently not having any backup solution.

"With the current dollar crisis in the country, the manufacturers and importers cannot manufacture or import the required medicine stocks as they are higher in price. If some of the drugs they import are subjected to a price control imposed on several drugs, they cannot sell them in the local market. Most of the drugs are sold at controlled prices," said.

### POWER CRISIS IN SRI LANKA ONLY TO DEEPEN - 10-HOUR POWER CUTS TO BE IMPOSED DAILY FROM MARCH

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka increased the power cut timings to over five hours today. In a special cabinet meeting held with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday, sources said the President was desperate that monies be released to clear the fuel stocks lying at the Colombo Port to ensure power cuts are limited as much as possible.

Sources within the CEB said the situation however was 'at its worst' and will only escalate further. With the lack of dollars to purchase fuel, these past few months, officials were compelled to switch to hydropower and have now used up the water from its reservoirs. "Now only the rains can save us and a miracle. If not we will be compelled to go in for 10-hour power cuts from March due to the lack of fuel supplies and lack of water," a senior CEB source said.

The Daily Mirror in its articles on the power crisis published last month had in fact predicted this. In previous articles, the Daily Mirror had said the power crisis would lead to long power cuts imposed daily and by March, a power supplying time would be released, similar to some African countries. The CEB is now preparing for the worse and have urged the public to use electricity sparingly. The Kelanitsa Power Plant has come to a complete halt due to the lack of fuel while other plants are running on a bare minimum. CEB officials said this however was not the fault of this government alone and even the past government was to blame for failing to take the country towards a self-sustained economy. "Only a miracle can now save us from the power cuts," CEB sources said.

### ECONOMIC CRISIS - WHERE DO WE STAND AT THE MOMENT

According to Deshal de Mel, Research Director at, Verité Research, Sri Lanka has had challenging macroeconomic and debt dynamics even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the country maintained access to global financial markets until early 2020 and was able to manage its external debt as a result. However, with the tax policy changes at end 2019 Sri Lanka lost access to global financial markets (Fitch revised Sri Lanka's credit rating to negative on 18th December 2019 citing reversals in tax policy). Subsequently, Sri Lanka has had to settle maturing debt out of its foreign exchange reserves, resulting in reserves declining rapidly in the last two years from US\$7.6bn at end 2019, de Mel said.

He further explained that Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves had declined to US\$ 2.3 bn by end January 2022, of which US\$1.57 bn was a yuan-denominated swap. "There is no clarity as to whether the yuan swap can be used to settle US dollar-denominated liabilities, therefore excluding the yuan swap, usable foreign reserves were at US\$ 790 mn as at end January - this is just around half a month of import coverage. Sri Lanka's monthly average imports

in 2021 was US\$ 1.7 bn - that was when oil was a lot cheaper than it is today," de Mel said.

Sri Lanka has to settle US\$ 1.84 billion foreign currency debt liabilities in the months of February and March 2022. This is excluding current account payments (that is payments for imports of goods and services). In addition to US\$ 6.9 bn liabilities to be settled during 2022, Sri Lanka would also have to finance a current account deficit of around US\$ 2.5 to 3 bn for the year.

"Given the country's low reserve position and large near term debt liabilities, Sri Lanka has had to ration the usage of foreign exchange to pay for imports of goods and services, resulting in limited availability of foreign currency to pay for critical imports including fuel. Sri Lanka's authorities expect to bridge the gap between maturing debt liabilities and limited reserves through bilateral loans and swaps, asset divestments, and tourism inflows. However the gap between near term debt liabilities and reserves is large and time is limited," de Mel said.

De Mel further said that to emerge from this crisis Sri Lanka's most pragmatic option would be to enter into negotiations with its foreign creditors with a view to restructuring its external debt. That could entail delaying capital payments to create some space for Sri Lanka to put in place the necessary fiscal reforms and build up reserves to improve its credit ratings and regain access to global capital markets in order to continue servicing its external liabilities.

"An agreement with the IMF would play an important role in providing a credible debt sustainability analysis that will be accepted by all stakeholders, and an IMF programme can unlock additional sources of financing for Sri Lanka whilst it navigates what could be a challenging restructuring process," de Mel said.

### DOLLARS SOLD AT RS.260 IN THE BLACK MARKET AS OFFICIAL RATE STANDS AT RS.203

Amidst all these crises, those who are travelling overseas are in for another shock. With banks giving limited dollars, that too after following some procedures, people were presently dependent only on the black market to purchase their dollars. Presently one US dollar is available at Rs.260 in the black market when compared to the official rate of Rs.203 sold by the banks.

### SJB MPs hold protest in Parliament against power cuts

- SJB MPs were seen flashing torches and holding placards

Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena who raised a point of order, minutes before the protest began requested Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana to carry out an investigation on a situation that had occurred at the Parliament entrance after an MP tried to bring in some object which contained harmful substances. "These objects could be used to prepare some harmful substances. An investigation has to be carried out immediately as the whole Parliament is in danger," he said.

SJB MP Harin Fernando who responded said an unwanted fuss had been created after he had carried three torches in his bag. "I brought those because of the power cuts. I cannot go to the toilet to relieve myself in darkness," he said. SJB MPs then took out torches and placards and began the protest.

Minister Gunawardena then said the protest should be stopped as it poses a danger.

The Speaker then suspended the sessions as the SJB MPs would not heed his request.

### DOZENS KILLED AS RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

- The first blasts were heard at around 5 a.m. Thursday, prompting immediate condemnation from the United States and its allies

The offensive that Russia called a "special military operation" came as world leaders attempted to avert catastrophe with a meeting of the United Nations Security Council amid warnings that a possible invasion could start the biggest war in Europe since 1945.

The first blasts were heard at around 5 a.m. Thursday, prompting immediate condemnation from the United States and its allies, which have threatened to enact "full scale" sanctions in response to Russian military aggression.

As air raid sirens rang out across Kyiv early Thursday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky moved to enact

martial law and government ministers accused Moscow of launching a "full-scale invasion." As dawn broke, heavy traffic could be seen clogging roads heading west out of the city, while further east, near the Russian border, the mayor of Kharkiv urged citizens not to leave their homes. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted on his official page that "peaceful Ukrainian cities are under strike" and called the situation "a war of aggression." And an adviser to the Ukrainian Interior Minister, Anton Geraschenko, told journalists Russia's "invasion has begun" with "missile strikes on Kyiv."

### Sri Lankans living in Ukraine safe: Envoy

- As the closure of airspace in Ukraine, we are looking into possible steps and action will be taken accordingly

Speaking to Daily Mirror, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Turkey M. Rizvi Hassen said they were monitoring and keeping a close eye on the situation.

"Out of over 70 Lankans living in Ukraine, 14 are students. However, eight students have already left Ukraine while several others have requested through the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara, Turkey to leave the country," he stated.

"As the closure of airspace in Ukraine, we are looking into possible steps and action will be taken accordingly. However, we are in touch with every Sri Lankan living in the country" he stressed.

### Water supply could be interrupted during power cuts: Trade Union

He said all water purification plants and pump houses are powered by electricity. During power cuts, those facilities would stop functioning and the process of purifying drinking water will be hampered. "There is no alternative power generation source to operate

purification plants and pump houses during power cuts," he said.

Therefore, the union requested relevant authorities to take pertinent measures to operate water purification plants and powerhouses during power cuts in order to avoid inconvenience caused to the consumers.

### CEB tells Keheliya to pay up his mega electricity bill

- Arrears of over Rs. 12Mn since February 2015

CEB officials had made a field visit to the Minister's house on December 22, 2021, and had held discussions with his wife. They had also handed over a detailed report to her.

The CEB had then sent a letter to the Minister on January 11, 2022, but the bill was yet to be settled.

Accordingly, the electricity bill

was overdue for the power supply taken to his premises located under account no. 0794072623 (Sarana Road, Off Bullers Road).

"This is an accurate statement of accounts calculated and surcharged based solely on your consumption and related arrears, and I kindly disregard the arrears mentioned in previous articles," the Deputy Manager mentioned in the letter.

The CEB requested the Minister to settle the due payment as soon as possible and requested the Minister to transfer the CEB consumer account under his name.

### Govt. to release Rs.80Bn by Monday to settle CEB loan: Amaraweera

- It has been decided not to increase fuel prices, considering the hardships faced by the public


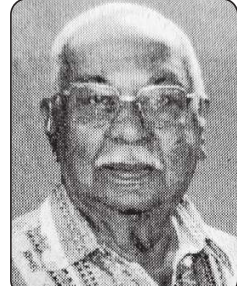
Although there was a fluctuation in fuel prices this time, it has been decided not to increase fuel prices, considering the hardships faced by the public.

"Although the price of crude oil has hit the highest point in recent times in the world market, the government has decided to keep fuel prices stable locally," he added.



### IN LOVING MEMORY

Of **JOYCE WEERASEKERA** and **DHANAPALA WEERASEKERA**

Birth : 10<sup>th</sup> November 1926  
Death : 08<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Birth : 26<sup>th</sup> May 1924  
Death : 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Fondly remembered and sadly missed by the family members and loved ones

15, Weerasekera Mawatha, Talawatugoda.

### COVID-19 Situation Report

As at February 24, 2022 (7:00 pm)

641,786	16,580	1,208	607,912	30	16,116
Total confirmed cases	Active cases	New cases	Recovered & discharged	Reported Deaths (Feb. 23)	Total Deaths

Source: Epidemiology Unit

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### Mob, attacks beach restaurant and chases away tourists in Hikkaduwa: 4 arrested

Police said the Hikkaduwa Police had launched an investigation following a complaint that a group of persons had entered a restaurant during a musical event and chased away foreign guests, and attacked the restaurant's with swords and clubs and also damaged two cars parked on the road last Sunday.

A senior police officer told Daily Mirror that investigations had revealed that the mob while under the influence of alcohol had damaged the property at the restaurant as they had not been permitted to enter the premises. The Police arrested three suspects in Gonapinuwala and Hikkaduwa a day after the attack while another suspect was arrested on Tuesday from Meetiyyagoda. Police also recovered a live grenade and two

swords from one of the suspects. The arrested suspects aged 31, 37 and 45 are residents of Gonapinuwala, Dodanduwa and Hikkaduwa.

It was revealed that one of the four suspects, was wanted for three murder cases pending in the Balapitiya High Court and Galle Additional Magistrate's Court while another suspect is the main suspect over an attempted murder in Meetiyyagoda.

Police said three suspects were produced before Galle Additional Magistrate's Court while the other suspect was produced before the Balapitiya Magistrate's Court and all of them were remanded till February 28. The Hikkaduwa Police are conducting further investigations to arrest another suspect in connection with the attack.



NEWS

# NO PRIOR NOTICE ON ARRIVAL OF TNA MPS; CONSPIRACY TO PORTRAY WRONG IMAGE ABOUT GOVT: PMD

BY SHEAIN FERNANDO PULLE

Referring to the protest staged by several Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentarians in front of the Presidential Secretariat last morning, the President's Media Division said, although they had arrived to submit a missive to the President,

there was no prior intimation of their arrival.

The protest was organised demanding the government to stop land grabbing under the guise of wildlife conservation and Mahaweli Development.

However, the PMD claimed that TNA MPs had scheduled to hand over a petition to the President and added there was no

prior intimation that they were to meet the President. "It is clear that their arrival without prior notice and the protest, which took place when the President was not in the office, was a deliberate conspiracy to portray a wrong image about the government at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva," the PMD added.

# Gazette issued revising scope of several ministries

BY CHATURANGA SAMARAWICKRAMA

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa issued a special gazette notification revising the scope of several ministries. The government has issued a special gazette notification stating special priorities, institutional and legal framework for institutions under the Presidential Secretariat - National Priority Programme.

As per the gazette, the legal framework of the Finance Ministry, Justice Ministry, Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation Ministry and Foreign Ministry have been revised.

# Veteran media personalities Sunil Madhawa, Bandula Padmakumara bid adieu

Two veterans of the media field Sunil Madhawa Prematilake and Bandula Padmakumara passed away following prolonged illnesses.

Sunil Madhawa Prematilake, who was at the age of 77 passed away on Wednesday night, whilst Bandula Padmakumara passed away yesterday morning at the age of 71.

The eldest son of celebrated poet and journalist Meemana Prematilake, Sunil Madhawa had served in many leading newspapers. Bandula Padmakumara, who had been the editor of several newspapers also served as the Chairman of Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (Lake House).



Bandula Padmakumara Sunil Madhawa

# Appeal For Donation

I am a father of a disabled son aged 13 years. He showed symptoms of paralysis because of a viral infection in the brain at birth. He has lost his sight in one eye and is nearsighted in the other eye, and he cannot walk.

As advised by Dr. Sunil Wijesinghe of Colombo Children's Hospital the dislocated hip bone of his left leg should be relocated. His knees should be operated on the same day as the nerves are pinched. The operation is due on March 11, 2022.

He is receiving education in a normal school in Grade eight using a wheelchair and his mother stays at school during school hours. He is clever, and my wife cannot do a job as she has to spend time with our child.

My son had to stay at Colombo National Eye Hospital from time to time until he was 5 years while undergoing seven surgeries. We had to take him to Colombo every week. So far he has been anaesthetised 17 times. He

had poor eyesight and did not respond well to physiotherapists at government hospitals. We could not make him cry because he had high pressure in his eyes and therefore we had to take him for private treatment.

We mortgaged our house and land to Rambukkana Sampath Bank because of the expenses we had to bear for the child. One of the main reasons for our financial difficulties was expenses for both indigenous and western medical treatments for 13 years. I have been unable to settle bank payments. Our child received treatments at Ragama Rehabilitation Hospital for six months. Our child needs to undergo the said operation prescribed by the doctors. I also have a child sitting for the A/L examinations at present.

I would greatly appreciate if I can find any donor willing to help me get through my financial hardships.



**Donations could be made to Commercial Bank Ltd Account No: 8500007810 to the credit of S. M. P. G. N. Banda No: 151, Gracelinwatta,, Randeniya, Hiriwadunna (Habarana) Contact No. 0725194888, 0764719350**



# Zahira College Old Boys' Association

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held In Sha Allah

Date : 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
 Time : 10.15 a.m.  
 Venue : Abdul Ghafoor Hall, Zahira College, Colombo  
 Presided over by : Mr. Alavi Mukthar.

Nominations are hereby called from the members who are not in arrears of membership fee up to the year 2021. Nomination forms duly filled shall conform to the specimen and shall be sent only by Registered Post addressed to the Presiding officer, Zahira College Old Boys' Association, No. 406, Orabi Pasha Road, Colombo 10 to reach on or before 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### Nominations called for following posts:

President, 3 Vice Presidents, Hony. General Secretary, Hony. Asst Secretary, Hony. Treasurer, Hony. Asst Treasurer, Hony. Editor, Hony. Social and Welfare Secretary, Hon. Sports Secretary, Hon. Internal Auditor, Hony. Information Technology Secretary, Hony. Coordinator for Affiliated Bodies and 15 committee members.

Log into [bit.ly/ZCCAGM](http://bit.ly/ZCCAGM) for the Nomination specimen form.

### Resolutions and or Amendments

Resolutions and Amendments to the Constitution may be submitted in writing duly proposed and seconded by two other members and shall be addressed to the Hony. General Secretary to reach on or before 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### Please Note:

**Registration and Gate will be closed at 10.00 a.m. Entrance will be only through the College Main Gate.**

**Health Guidelines defined by the Authorities due to the current pandemic will be strictly enforced during the AGM.**

Nuzri Munsoor  
 Hony. Gen. Secretary  
 Zahira College  
 Old Boys' Association

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\*10% is not a discount \*10% price difference does not apply for control priced items and selected other items. \*Conditions apply



<p><b>Rs. 45</b> Keells Marie 80g</p>	<p><b>Rs. 207</b> Keells Pasta Elbow 400g</p>	<p><b>Rs. 495</b> Keells Fat Spread 500g</p>	<p><b>Rs. 383</b> Keells Drinking Chocolate 200g</p>	<p><b>Rs. 46</b> Keells Laundry Soap Lemon 120g</p>	<p><b>10% off</b> on BOC debit cards  <b>20% off</b> on BOC credit cards  <b>on Keells Products</b>                  on Saturday &amp; Sunday for bills over Rs.2,000/- valid till 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</p>																											
<p><b>Best price for you</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Items &amp; QTY.</th> <th>Rs.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apple - Red 100g</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pineapple each</td> <td>290</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orange - Local 100g</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ash Plantains 100g</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salad Leaves (Lettuce) 100g</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iceberg Lettuce 100g</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keells BOPF Tea Leaves 400g</td> <td>441</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keells Mixed Fruit Jam 300g</td> <td>210</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keells Tomato Ketchup 405g</td> <td>282</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keells Atta Flour 1kg</td> <td>184</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keells Detergent Powder 500g</td> <td>115</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rice Samba Bulk - Local 1kg</td> <td>155</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Items & QTY.	Rs.	Apple - Red 100g	85	Pineapple each	290	Orange - Local 100g	29	Ash Plantains 100g	12	Salad Leaves (Lettuce) 100g	23	Iceberg Lettuce 100g	25	Keells BOPF Tea Leaves 400g	441	Keells Mixed Fruit Jam 300g	210	Keells Tomato Ketchup 405g	282	Keells Atta Flour 1kg	184	Keells Detergent Powder 500g	115	Rice Samba Bulk - Local 1kg	155	<p><b>30% Off</b>  <b>Rs. 469</b>                  Save Rs. 201 was Rs. 670                  Marina Refined Coconut Oil 675ml</p>	<p><b>25% Off</b>  <b>Rs. 150</b>                  Save Rs. 50 was Rs. 200                  Maliban Gold Marie 350g</p>	<p><b>Rs. 135</b>                  per 1kg                  White Sugar Bulk</p>	<p><b>Rs. 130</b>                  per 1kg                  Rice Ponni Samba Bulk - Imported</p>
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<p><b>Rs. 10</b>                  per 100g                  Banana Seeni</p>	<p><b>Rs. 20</b>                  per 100g                  Leeks</p>	<p><b>25% Off</b>  <b>Rs. 18</b>                  Save Rs. 7 was Rs. 25                  per 100g                  Cabbage</p>	<p><b>35% Off</b>  <b>Rs. 9</b>                  Save Rs. 5 was Rs. 14                  per 100g                  Cucumber</p>	<p><b>10% Off</b>  <b>Rs. 30</b>                  Save Rs. 5 was Rs. 35                  per 100g                  Sea Chicken</p>	<p><b>15% Off</b>  <b>Rs. 97</b>                  Save Rs. 18 was Rs. 115                  per 100g                  Chicken Drumstick Skinless</p>	<p><b>20% off</b>                  on fresh vegetables, fruits &amp; seafood                  On Sunday for Commercial bank credit cards for bills over Rs.3,000/- valid till 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</p>																										

All offers are valid from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. All discounts apply on a net value basis. Conditions Apply

Nexus offers are valid for purchases up to 3kg and a maximum of 3 items of the same kind, per day. Keells Deals & Fresh Deals are valid for purchases up to 5kg/5 items of the same kind, per day. Subject to availability. Prices and offers communicated may change without prior notice.





## POINT OF VIEW

# RUSSIA PLAYS INDIRA'S INDIA IN THE EIGHTIES



By  
**M.S.M.  
Ayub**

Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 21 recognized two breakaway regions in Eastern Ukraine, the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic as independent and instructed his Defence Ministry to send troops into those territories, for what he said peacekeeping in the two areas.

Yesterday he announced "military operations" in the same areas.

This follows a long-drawn conflict between Russia and the NATO over Ukraine's possible admission into the NATO which had resulted in over 100,000 Russian troops having been amassed along the Russian-Ukrainian border for the past few weeks. At a time when the mostly Russian speaking Donbas region in Ukraine which consists of Donetsk and Luhansk has still universally been recognized as a part of Ukraine, this move by Putin inevitably amounts to an invasion of Ukraine.

**The conflict reminds us of a similarly tense but not so drastic situation involving Sri Lanka and India in the early 1980s which ultimately had a heavy impact on the politics and lives of people in Sri Lanka, in the years that followed.**

In both cases, it was a matter of a small country acting against the security interests of a giant neighbour and the latter in turn taking heavy-handed action against the small country in violation of international laws.

Also in both cases, a community in the small country that is linguistically connected across the border to the bigger country has been used as a cat's paw by the bigger country to penalize the small country.

Another parallel is that both the bigger countries got an opportunity to claim that they were acting in the interest of that linguistically connected community in the smaller countries.

During the Cold War in the 1970s, Sri Lanka and India respectively under Prime Ministers Sirima Bandaranaike and Indira Gandhi were aligned to the Soviet Bloc. However, President J.R. Jayewardene who defeated Mrs Bandaranaike at the 1977 General Elections changed camp and strengthened the relationship with the US-led Western Bloc, irritating Indian Premier Indira Gandhi.

He further provoked Indian leaders by allowing Israel, a strong ally of the US to open an "Interest Section" within the US embassy in Colombo.

Despite Jayewardene not having any animosity towards India, these actions by him taken out of his strong anti-Socialist policy was treated by Indian leaders as a threat to their country. They felt that Jayewardene had allowed the West to encircle India, as the then Pakistan President General Zia-ul-Haq and Bangladesh after President Zia-ur-Rahman's tenure have been following a pro-Western policy.

Hence, India resorted to punitive actions against Sri Lanka using the Tamils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in Sri Lanka.

By the time, the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka had taken a drastic turn with the main Tamil alliance; the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) having adopted the Separatist Vaddukkoddai Resolution and dozens of Tamil armed groups having emerged to fight for Tamil Eelam, as they called it. The tens of thousands of refugees who by the early eighties had crossed the Palk Strait and taken refuge in Tamil Nadu had initially become a tool for Indira Gandhi to poke the finger into the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka.

Mrs Gandhi, in the guise of taking steps in the interests of the Tamils battered by the fighting between the armed forces and the Tamil armed groups in North-Eastern Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan refugees in India,



Ukrainian soldier stands in the trench on the line of separation from pro-Russian rebels, Mariupol, Donetsk region, Ukraine early this week



**As they attempted to isolate India forty years ago, the West takes steps now to isolate Russia by admitting countries of the former Soviet Bloc into the NATO's fold while Russia wants to prevent it from happening and be the leader of the region**

**The conflict reminds us of a similarly tense but not so drastic situation involving Sri Lanka and India in the early 1980s which ultimately had a heavy impact on the politics and lives of people in Sri Lanka, in the years that followed**

began to retaliate to the Jayewardene's pro-Western policy overtly by soft diplomacy – pressing Jayewardene to implement a power-sharing programme that would satisfy the Tamil leaders - but at the same time providing arms and ammunition, weapons training and funds to the main four Tamil armed groups in Sri Lanka.

In a parallel move with Putin's order to maintain peace in the Donbas region, the situation came to a head during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi - Indira's son - when he ordered the Indian Navy and the Air Force to violate Sri Lanka's territorial waters and the air space, in order to supply food to the

Tamils in the war-ravaged areas in Sri Lanka.

Finally, India and Sri Lanka signed a "Peace Accord" in 1987 providing for the creation of Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka which now is a part of the island's Constitution, while Tamils still calling for a lasting solution to the ethnic problem.

With the geopolitical context having been changed with the dissolution of the United Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), India, being now an ally of the US is just doing lip service to the Tamil interests.

In the current conflict involving Russia and Ukraine, Both the US and Russia want to make Ukraine a cog in their regional hegemonic dominance. Western countries want to admit Ukraine into the NATO which Ukraine also prefers.

Russia views this as a threat to its security. 14 countries - which were former republics of USSR and Yugoslavia as well as the former Socialist countries in Eastern Europe - have already joined the NATO. Russia wants to scuttle this trend from continuing and thereby preventing NATO tanks from rolling closer to its borders.

Russian President Vladimir Putin who minces no words in this regard has issued demands to the West, that Ukraine is prevented from joining the NATO military alliance. Putin views Ukraine as an extension of what he calls "Historical Russia" - a part of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, and within Moscow's "sphere of influence" today. However, the US argues that countries have the right to choose their own allies.

**Russia also wants NATO arms out of Eastern Europe, a ban on intermediate-range missiles in Europe - in effect, reinstating a Cold War-era treaty abandoned in 2019 by the Trump administration.**

It says Ukraine must meet its obligations under the 2015 agreements to end the fighting between Ukraine's army and pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas that has already killed over 15,000 people. The West argues that these demands violate the sovereign rights of independent Ukraine.

Russia, just like India did in respect of Sri Lanka in the eighties, wants to have leaders supportive of its policies and actions in neighbouring countries. But what worries is its choice to penalize those countries disagreeing to do so. After a street revolution ousted Ukraine's pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich in 2014, Russia annexed Crimea which was a peninsula in the south of Ukraine later that year.

Reminding India's sponsorship of separatism in Sri Lanka, Ukraine's desire to join the Western alliance also led to Russia's sponsorship of separatists in the country's eastern Donbas region, fueling a civil war.

**In essence, as they attempted to isolate India forty years ago, the West takes steps now to isolate Russia by admitting countries of the former Soviet Bloc into the NATO's fold while Russia wants to prevent it from happening and be the leader of the region.**

The conflict of interests of these two big powers would occasionally be indicated in various clashes in countries in the region. This time it is being manifested in Ukraine. However, in the event of a war, it would be the Ukrainian people who are going to pay the price, like Sri Lankans, especially the Tamils did, not the West or Russia.



## HONOUR TO THE DESERVING

**Ven. Palatuwe Jinaratana Thera awarded the honorary title of Saddarmacharya Pravachana Keerthi Sri Chandaratne**



By  
**Prasantha  
Lal De Alwis**

Ven. Palatuwe Jinaratana Thera was awarded the honorary title of 'Saddarmacharya Pravachana Keerthi Sri Chandaratne' and bestowed with the responsibility of the position 'Sub Sangha Nayake of the two divisions of Matara, Hambantota and Girituwa Pattuwa, by the unanimous decision of most Venerable Thibbotuwawe Sri Siddhartha Sumangala Maha Nayake Thera of the Malwatta Chapter of Shymopali Maha Nikaya and the Sangha Sabha on January 28, 2022.

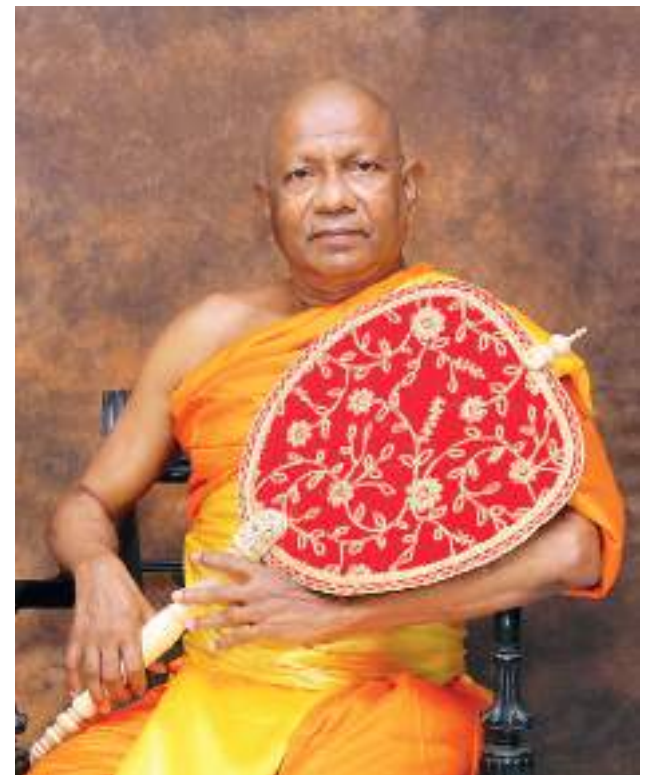
**The institute which was started in 1979, provides 50 technical courses to the youth of Sri Lanka and thereby providing advancement of career of the young people in specific and Sri Lanka in general**

**The presentation of the 'Sansas Pathra' and the felicitation ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Kettarama Purana Raja Maha Vihara, Palatuwa, under the patronage of the most venerable Dimbulkumbure Sri Saranankara Anu Nayake Thera of Malwatta Chapter.**

Ven. Palatuwe Jinaratana Thera was ordained on March 15, 1962, as a pupil of Malimbada Gunaratana Thera and now completes 60 years of monkhood. Ven. Thera joined the Sri Gnanissara Pirivena of Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Colombo on November 8, 1963, and pursued his studies in Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit and English Languages.

Being a resident of Gangarama Temple, Jinaratana Thera was privileged to associate Ven. Devundara Wachissara Thera and Ven. Galboda Gnanissara Thera popularly known as 'Podi Hamuduruwo'.

Mr Ranjit Wijewardene, the President of the Gangaramaya Dayake Sabha, recalls the dedicated, committed work of Jinaratana Thera, as a young monk even mixing concrete for the temple building, thereby building the infrastructure of Gangaramaya under the leadership of Podi Hamuduruwo. Jinaratana Thera was



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**During his stay in the USA for 20 years, whilst pursuing his studies, he served the community in social, cultural and social activities. After returning to Sri Lanka Jinaratana Thera continued to serve as a resident monk of the Gangaramaya, especially as head of the Sri Jinaratana Vocational Institute**

sent to the United States of America in 1982 to serve at the Buddhist Temple in New York, initiated by Podi Hamuduruwo.

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During his stay in the USA for 20 years, whilst pursuing his studies, he served the community in social, cultural and social activities. After returning to Sri Lanka Jinaratana Thera continued to serve as a resident monk of the Gangaramaya, especially as head of the Sri Jinaratana Vocational Institute.

The institute which was started in 1979, provides 50 technical courses to the youth of Sri Lanka and thereby providing advancement of career of the young people in specific and Sri Lanka in general.

In the year 2002, inheriting a proud heritage, he became the chief incumbent of Kettarama Purana Raja Maha Viharaya of Palatuwa, Matara, which was in a dilapidated condition. In developing the temple the Dharma Shala and the Buddhist Stupa were renovated, new Sanghawas to accommodate visiting monks were built and the Shrine room was re-created with new wall paintings.

With the selfless, continuous, committed service rendered, by Ven. Palatuwe Jinaratana Thera continues to gain immense respect from the Dayakas and the general public of Sri Lanka.

**The writer is a President's Counsel, LL.B/LL.M (Colombo)**



# PERA ALUMNI SUPPORT COVID RESPONSE EFFORTS

Another successful community service project by the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya-Colombo Chapter

The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya-Colombo Chapter is one of the most active University Alumni in Sri Lanka.

Its passion is to help citizens of the country during situations of national disaster. The highest strength of the Association is the membership of more than 2000 graduates, their commitment and the Leadership of Dr Vipula Jayampathi the President of the Association.

The Community Project was initiated by the Association to support frontline workers of the Health Sector who were working tirelessly to combat and control Covid-19 in the country and for the benefit of patients.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), hospital equipment, medical devices and lifesaving equipment/systems such as oxygen supply systems for critical patients and other supplies as required by the Hospitals and Health Institutions were donated under this programme.

The total value of donations was about Rs 20 million and the project continued for a couple of months.



**A dedicated team of the AAUP-CC coordinated the project liaising with needy Health Institutions and suppliers of equipment overcoming difficulties under challenging conditions due to the prevailed restrictions to control the pandemic situation at that time.**

22 Health Institutions consisting of six General/Teaching Hospitals (Colombo North Teaching-Ragama, Karapitiya Teaching, Cardiology Unit-NHSL, CSHW-Castle Street, Lady Ridgway, Colombo South Teaching-Kalubowila), Five Base Hospitals (Homagama, Balapitiya, Horana, Pimbura and Marawila), Four Divisional/District Hospitals (Gampaha, Wethara, Ambalangoda and Hikkaduwa) Two National Hospitals (Apeksha-Maharagama and Chest Hospital-Welisara) together with MOH-Colombo Fort, CMC-Maternity & Child Department, Covid Intermediate Care Centre-University of Peradeniya, Prison Hospital and Aparakka Ayurvedic Hospital across the country benefited by the donations of critically needed equipment.

The members of AAUP-CC and a large number of well-wishers coordinated by the President of the AAUPCC - Dr Vipula Jayampathi and the members of the association joined hands and contributed to the project in numerous ways.

**A dedicated team of the AAUP-CC coordinated the project liaising with needy Health Institutions and suppliers of equipment overcoming difficulties under challenging conditions due to the prevailed restrictions to control the pandemic situation at that time.**

The support received from the management and the staff of these Health Institutions were commendable and it encouraged the task team to continue the project adapting to the situation.

The suppliers provided the equipment and transportation at reasonable prices understanding the value of the project, the AAUP-CC said in the media release.

The Association was complemented by the recipient hospitals with a warm welcome and gesture of gratitude for stepping in to help them.

With the escalating number of infections, the University of Peradeniya established a Covid Intermediate Care Centre managed by the University Health Centre to cater to the infected staff, students and their immediate family members.

The Colombo Chapter of the AAUP made donations of medical and other equipment with the request of University medical officials.

Among these donations, the wall oxygen supply systems for Horana Base Hospital and Colombo South Teaching Hospital were more valued at the critical stages of the pandemic to directly save the lives of critical patients.

These two projects were done with the collaboration of the Peradeniya Engineering Faculty Alumni Association - Colombo Chapter (PEFAA CC) and the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka.

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**T20I JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS**

SRI LANKA TOUR OF PAKISTAN 2022 (WOMEN'S)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) & INVITATION TO BID**

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Corporate Houses/ Companies/ Parties for acquiring the **"BACK OF THE PLAYER JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS"** of the Sri Lankan Women's National Cricket Team for T20 International Matches to be played against Pakistan which is scheduled to take place in May 2022 (Away Series).

**Grant of rights:**  
Successful entity will be offered with the **branding/advertising rights** on the Back of the Sri Lanka National Cricket Team (Women's) T20I player jersey (upper areas) with dimensions of 32 Sq Inches (206.45 cm<sup>2</sup>) during 3 T20 International matches played during the Sri Lanka National Women's Team Tour of Pakistan along with related benefits.

**Eligibility Criteria/ Limitations:**

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting, gambling shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Marketing Agencies are eligible to participate in this EOI process.
- Sub-licensing of the rights to be granted herein will be permitted.
- Any Logo which at the discretion of SLC is considered to be immoral, will not be allowed to display.

**EOI Submission Procedure:**  
The EOI along with financial offer must be submitted to the Sri Lanka Cricket Headquarters at No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka before **3PM - Sri Lankan Time on 04<sup>th</sup> March, 2022** and should be sent in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket. Alternatively, firms are permitted to submit the EOI along with its financial offer and necessary documentation electronically via email at [sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk](mailto:sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk) on or before the deadline with all the hard copies of the same being couriered to aforementioned address.

**The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:**

- Certificate of Incorporation/ Business registration
- Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with Certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- Reference from a reputed International Bank certifying the financial stability (Bank Solvency Certificate)
- Updated auditor's report on financial statements (in case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).

N.B - If any Firm has submitted the abovementioned documents to SLC within a period of preceding 9 months during any other Tender process, such Entity will not be required to resubmit those documents unless any changes have been made to those documents/information.

**Financial Proposal Structure/ Payment Terms/ Submission of Sponsor's logo:**

- Financial proposal should state the figure of the NET Rights Fee offered in Sri Lankan Rupees and/or US Dollars (in words and numbers) excluding of VAT/ Tax/ any other deductions depending on local or foreign EOI Participant.
- The following payment structure shall apply in respect of the rights to be granted and rights fee there to shall be payable by the successful EOI participant to SLC in the following manner:
  - The total Rights Fee (i.e. the Offered Value) should be paid in full on or before **16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.
  - The Mode of Payment: Bank transfer to the SLC Designated Account/ Bank Draft issued in favor of SLC.
- Sponsor logo to be submitted on or before **8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.

If you require any further information in relation to this EOI, Please contact Business Development Manager - SLC via +(94) 779 429 035.

*The SLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The SLC also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time.*

Chief Executive Officer  
Sri Lanka Cricket

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# EDITORIAL

*"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own."*  
— ANDY WARHOL.

OUR THOUGHT

## FOOD ISSUES AND IMPENDING SHORTAGES

Sri Lanka is bracing for a food and drug shortage in the future. This is what the opposition harps on these days apart from maintaining that they are ready for any election.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) however states that there is no impending food shortage and that even the milk powder shortage has been sorted out completely. But the bottom line to all these criticism aimed at the government is taking place because there isn't sufficient production in the country. We only have to turn the pages of time to the year 1974 when the Srimavo Bandaranaike (Mrs B) regime caused a food shortage in the country thanks to her economic policies. There were bans on imports and Mrs B wanted all what we consumed produced on local soil. The result was starvation and malnutrition in the country.

**The food shortage has cropped up time and again in Sri Lanka. This is because the agriculture sector has been affected by either floods, or natural disasters. The deficit between what we have and wanted we need as consumption has been met through imports.**

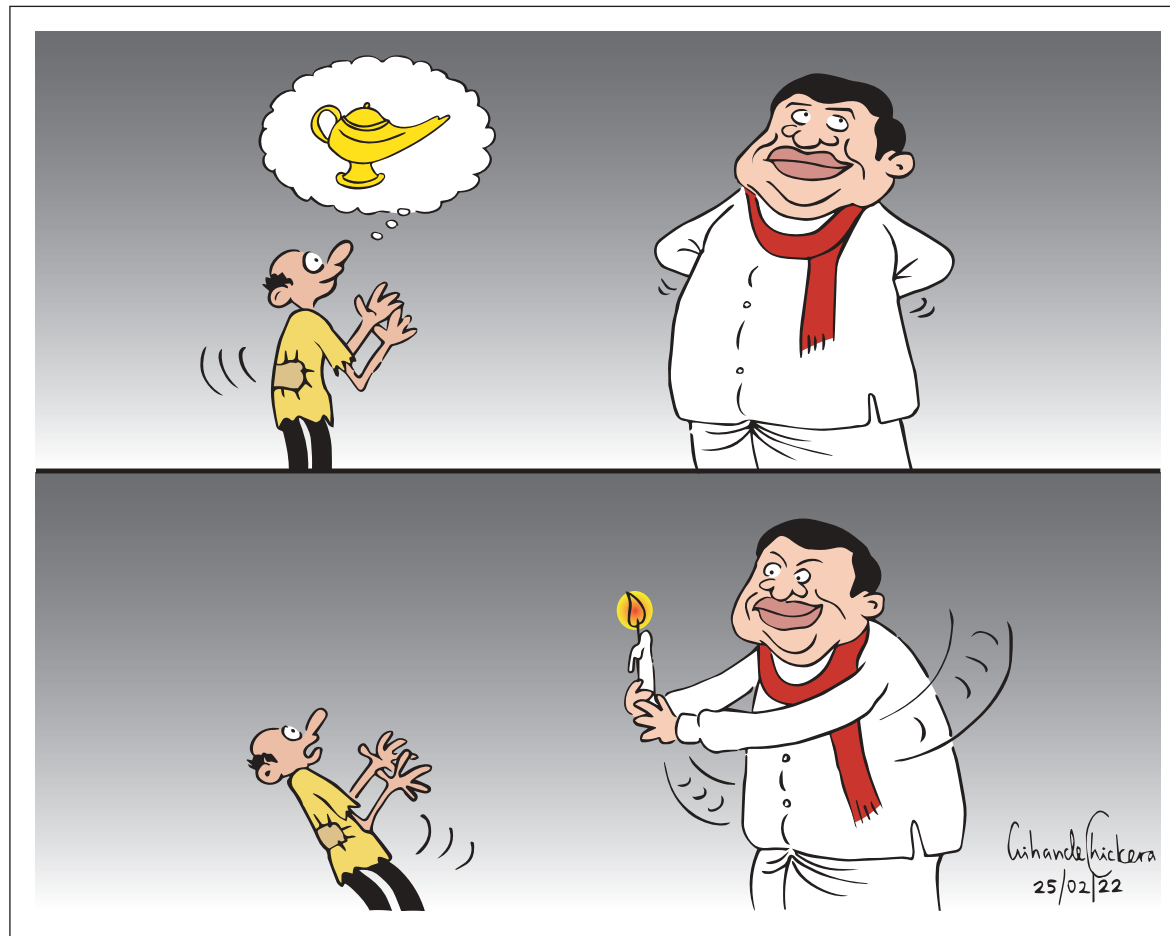
At present we are not any different from that time, if eras are compared. The present regime has heavily restricted imports and adding to the pile of problems the government banned the use of chemical fertilizer; an overnight decision taken without consulting agriculture professionals and entrepreneurs in the trade. Though the regime's intentions were good and done with the motive of having a healthy nation the decision severely affected production in agriculture fields. Local farmers are getting ready for the Yala season, but there are concerns regarding what the future holds because of issues associated with the lack of proper fertilizer. The farmers point out that the produce obtained from using the experimental organic fertilizer is below expectations.

The food shortage has cropped up time and again in Sri Lanka. This is because the agriculture sector has been affected by either floods, or natural disasters. The deficit between what we have and what we need as consumption has been met through imports. Sri Lanka might have been a self-sufficient country during the times of kings, but as the population increased and the land available for cultivation shrunk we have relied on imports.

The government maintains that those who criticise the regime and spread the view that there would be a food shortage must visit the economic centres in Dambulla, Bandarawela and Keppetipola and observe for themselves that vegetables are available there in plenty. The regime also maintains that the price of products at these centres is low.

The government assures people that their main meal-rice-would be an affordable item in the market. The state promises that rice during this season would be purchased at Rs 90 per kilo. That's a good price to purchase paddy when the CWE outlets are now selling samba rice at Rs 125 per kilo while up-market supermarkets are selling the same at Rs 155 per kilo. The government at present is attempting to make the farmer happy because its fertilizer programme has come under much criticism and the results have been a disaster. Farmers are carrying out protest after protest to nudge the government regarding the lack of fertilizer and also other issues such as compensation.

Just the other day the All-Island Private Pharmacy Owners' Association maintained that there would be a shortage of vital medicine stocks in three months time. This regime must heed the warnings given by experts and entrepreneurs in the business when there is impending danger. It would also serve the government well if all its departments maintain one voice regarding issues which have attracted the wrath of the citizens.



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## UKRAINE: "WAR IS A COWARDLY ESCAPE FROM PROBLEMS OF PEACE"



By Ameen Izzadeen

The war Europe feared has begun. Yet Russia's President Vladimir Putin is no Adolf Hitler or a mad man to trigger the Third World War or the biggest military conflict in Europe since the end of the Second World War. He is making calculated moves, leaving room for diplomacy. Even in his war declaration yesterday, he said he had no intention to occupy Ukraine. His message is clear: It is still not too late for diplomacy if Russia's security concerns are addressed. Yet, there is hardly a genuine effort aimed at de-escalation.

In the absence of such an all-out peace effort, developing countries, especially the poor in those countries, are hit hard. These countries, already struggling to cope with the economic blows from the covid pandemic, will slide deeper into the economic abyss.

With Russian troops entering Ukraine from the north, south and the east yesterday, oil prices shot up to US\$ 102 while the dollar made further gains, aggravating the forex crisis countries like Sri Lanka face. If no immediate measures are taken to de-escalate the crisis, more people will be dying from starvation in Asia, Africa and Central America than those dying in the Ukrainian war.

Invading a sovereign and independent nation is not the civilised way to solve problems between states. War is brutish and, as Thomas Mann, the World War II era famous German novelist said, is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.

President Putin's move, however justified it is from Russia's security perspective, is unacceptable and should be condemned.

But the blame is not his alone. The West, especially the United States, is equally to be blamed. Till yesterday, Putin was keeping the door for diplomacy open, provided whoever came to make peace was willing to listen to Russia's security grievances. The US did not want to recognise that a big power like Russia would not tolerate an enemy force on its border.

Russia opposes Ukraine's Nato membership, because it fears such a move will lead to the deployment of Nato troops and nuclear-capable missiles in Ukraine, in addition to the setting up of listening posts to spy on Russia and carry out subversive activities.

The larger conflict is one between Russia and the US. Ukraine is just a pawn in this geostrategic conflict.

Although the Cold War ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, there has been a trust deficit between the West and Russia.

Since the end of the Cold War, the US-led West has been taking one hostile measure after another to hamstringing Russia. These moves included:

- Extending moral support to the separatists in Chechnya
- Rejecting Russia's overtures for Nato membership, while enrolling former Soviet Republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as Nato members
- Despite Russia's protests, deploying anti-missile systems in Poland and the Czech Republic
- Initiating talks on Nato memberships with Georgia and Ukraine

of defusing the Ukrainian crisis in a manner that pleases both Russia and Ukraine, the US and its partner-in-war Britain ratcheted up tensions in Ukraine. Their behaviour was hardly an example for peaceful conflict resolution.

Reacting to Russia's decision to recognise Donetsk and Lugansk – the two autonomous territories in Ukraine's eastern region of Donbass – as independent states, US President Joe Biden on Tuesday remarked, "Who in the Lord's name does Putin think gives him the right to declare these new-so-called countries in territories that belong to his neighbours?"

Peace-loving people might well pose the same question to Biden, "Who in the Lord's name does the US think gives it the right to invade independent sovereign nations?"

Biden's query implied that he was calling on Putin to respect the rule-based international system. But the US has itself repeatedly violated and will violate with impunity international law to protect and promote its national interest, as has been seen in illegal US interventions in Iraq and scores of other countries.

In 2003, when the US and Britain were preparing to invade Iraq, millions of people pleaded with them not to do so. Yet the then US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair went ahead with the war to quench their thirst for innocent Iraqi blood, while lying to the world that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. The US and Britain were no different

from Putin's Russia.

As things stand today, Russia apparently has the upper hand, with the West's economic sanctions failing to deter the Russian invasion. Ukraine has been virtually abandoned by its Western allies whom it erroneously thought would militarily intervene to stop the Russian attack. Putin knows well that the US would not militarily take on Russia, a nuclear power. The maximum the US could do is imposing harsher sanctions on Russia. Putin does not mind. He knows that Europe needs Russia more than Russia needs Europe because Russia accounts for about 40 percent of Europe's energy supplies.

More over the rising energy prices are a boon to Russia, the world largest energy producer. It has surplus money to run the economy. On the contrary, the rise in oil prices would hit the West hard, along with the world's poor nations. Biden says it is a price worth paying for to defend Ukraine's freedom. His speech, however, has not gone well with the American people.

An immediate ceasefire with an assurance that the West is ready to offer a solution that addresses Russia's security concerns and restores Ukraine's sovereignty is the need of the hour. But who can play this peacemaker role? Perhaps, India, which is friendly with both the US and Russia.

### Russia launches full-scale invasion

Russia has launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air and sea in the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since World War Two

Explosions reported → Russian military incursions reported



- Engineering the 2014 Ukrainian revolution that led to the overthrow of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich
- Interfering in Russia's internal politics, by overtly supporting opposition politicians.
- Needless to say, these measures created a new cold war between the US and Russia. Russia hit back.
- It set up a military alliance called the Collective Security Treaty Organisation to counter Nato.
- It militarily intervened in Syria, upending the West's designs to overthrow Bashar al-Assad and instal a puppet regime.
- It is alleged to have intervened in the US presidential election and paved the way for the victory of rightwing demagogue Donald Trump.
- It has stepped up security ties with China to check the West's geopolitical ambitions.
- It is trying to bring about a world monetary system where the dollar will lose its importance.

These moves and countermoves which are part of what is known as hybrid warfare became catalysts for the Ukraine conflict.

Aware that Russia is capable of dealing devastating blows to Washington's hegemony, the US waited for the opportune moment to pounce on Russia. Thus instead

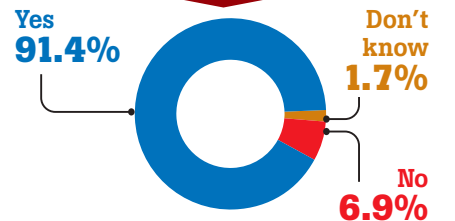
## DM Poll

Do you think the politicians are defrauding funds that are allocated for development work like road construction and other infrastructure development?

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

### LAST POLL

Do you think the Government should create more awareness among the people about the fast-spreading Omicron variant and tighten the existing health regulations in a backdrop where there is a surge in the COVID-19 patients and related deaths?



See web poll at [www.DailyMirror.lk](http://www.DailyMirror.lk)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The exclusion of run-getter Banuka

According to the reports reaching the General Public Bhanuka Rajapaksa deserved to be selected on his cricketing prowess, but was sidelined because he had failed a test called the Skin fold test.

This particular test according to the Press Trust of India was used by the BCCI as well, but was discontinued in 2017 as its accuracy was in doubt. Apparently it was replaced by Indian Trainer Shanka Basu by the a Genetic test called the DEXA which also identifies the healthy disposition of a person; the test has proven to be accurate to a greater degree. The important feature of this test is that it detect the fat in the body as a percentage of the total body weight which is more appropriate for fitness evaluation

What is the skinfold test? The thickness of these folds in the skin is a measure of the fat under the skin, also called subcutaneous adipose tissue. Skinfold thickness results rely on formulas that convert these numbers into an estimate of a person's percentage of body fat according to a person's age and gender. If Sri Lanka Cricket has observed the adverse reading on the presence of subcutaneous fat did they give Bhanuka a diet chart or a plan including exercises to reduce the numbers when it first came to light? The question is does the presence of this subcutaneous fat affect his performance at cricket in any way? And does it warrant disqualification from selection? If as the BCCI ascertained that these tests were inaccurate and required change we should have followed suit.

If as Dr Arjuna said in his statement to the media, it is a condition which can be corrected in course of time through diet and greater degree of exercise he should be in the touring side with the stipulation that he should adhere to strict diets and exercise. This is one of the problems we have at SLC. We identify good players, but fail to make them blossom by providing motivation and nurturing them.

It must be remembered that Bhanuka is touring India to play cricket and not to participate in a health and fitness competition and he has been found to be worthy of selection. Indian pace bowler Bhuvneshwara Kumar had a similar reading for this test, but in close association with Indian trainers correction was effected by close association between trainer and player and eventually he became a better bowler. Axing a player and demoralizing him is not the answer. Our middle order is presently wobbling without players of the caliber of Bhanuka and Niroshan Dickwella and reconsideration is of the utmost importance.

A READER

## 900,000 Sri Lankans refuse COVID-19 vaccines

### WEB COMMENTS

**RANDI** - You yourself are contradicting the point when you say that out of the deaths over 60% amounted to those who have either got two

doses or the booster dose  
**DAS** - Fools! They should be fined for endangering the rest of us

See more web comments at [www.DailyMirror.lk](http://www.DailyMirror.lk)

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# Health Capsule



## Cannabis compound CBD stops coronavirus in test tube, but can it treat COVID?

Early research suggesting that a popular non-psychoactive compound derived from marijuana might help prevent or treat COVID-19 warrants further investigation in rigorous clinical trials, researchers say. Several recent laboratory studies of cannabidiol, or CBD, have shown promising results. Marsha Rosner of the University of Chicago led a team that found CBD appeared to help curb SARS-CoV-2 in infected cells in laboratory experiments. Using small doses of highly purified CBD that approximate what patients receive in an oral drug already approved for severe epilepsy, Rosner and colleagues found that CBD did not keep the coronavirus from infecting cells in test tubes. However the findings don't say that this would work on patients; rather it makes a strong case for clinical trials. **Source: Reuters**

## Prenatal Infections

# Prevention starts young

BY MUQADDASA WAHID

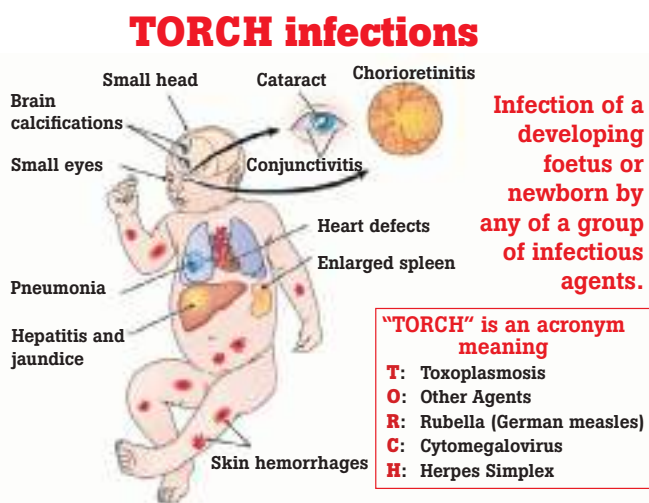
Pregnancy is a joyful news for many and is sometimes a long-awaited news for some, but the entire duration of pregnancy is one that should be spent with much care. Prenatal infections, also known as infections that occur before the birth of the baby, can occur in any trimester of the pregnancy. Speaking to the Daily Mirror Dr Surantha Perera, Consultant Paediatrician at the NICU, Castle Street Hospital for Women and Vice President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, shared that if the infections occur during the embryo stage it can cause issues with the development of the embryo and the embryo could even get destroyed. In later stages, depending on the trimester and the infection- the impact and complications could vary.

He explained that prenatal infections could be of either viral, bacterial or protozoal origin and the most common infections

were viral infections. He also shared that if the infections were one of the TORCH infections (Toxoplasmosis, Rubella, Cytomegalovirus, Herpes), then serious complications could occur. "These infections can cause serious complications depending on the trimester the mother contracted the infection in. In infections like chicken pox, if it occurs during the last trimester then there will be dominant skin lesions in the foetus and infant, while if it happens at 16-20 weeks, it could lead to loss of vision," he said adding that even COVID-19 can affect the foetus, but it is uncommon for



**DR. SURANTHA PERERA**  
Consultant Paediatrician at the NICU, Castle Street Hospital



COVID-19 to transmit from mother to foetus however 1-2% cases of COVID-19 being passed from mother to the foetus have been reported. He also shared that if the mother contracts or has contracted sexually transmitted infections (STIs), it can also cause complications.

## Preventive Measures are most important

Get vaccinated with all the necessary vaccines (Rubella, Tetanus) so as to prevent congenital Rubella infection and neonatal tetanus. Also protects the mother from these infections



Practice safe sex habits at all times, from the very first sexual encounter. Ensure responsible behaviour such as not having multiple sexual partners.

- From adolescence, live a healthy lifestyle (proper nutrition, adequate rest and moderate exercise).
- During pregnancy, avoid activities and places where one could get infected. Do not expose oneself to large gatherings.
- During pregnancy, seek immediate help if unwell (eg: having a fever).
- During pregnancy, remind the doctor regarding the regular scans to detect any issues and complications early on.

## What if an infection is detected?

If the mother seeks immediate medical attention when unwell during the pregnancy,

doctors would test and diagnose the cause as soon as possible. "We do a STI test on every expectant mother to test whether the mother is infected with a STI and once detected, measures will be taken to ensure the disease wouldn't be transmitted and to treat and manage any complications that can arise," Dr Perera noted, sharing that since foetal medicine and surgery is not available in Sri Lanka, the medical professionals provide counselling for the parents during the prenatal period. "Once the baby is born, the medical professionals will look into handling the complications and in some cases, treating the complications. But, most complications will be lifelong and cannot be treated, only managed," he remarked. Therefore, he stressed that taking preventive measures to prevent prenatal infections from an adolescent age is crucial to minimize and prevent the incidence of prenatal infections.



**Dr. Mahendra Perera, (MBBS, MD, Dip.RT)**  
Senior Lecturer & Consultant in Clinical Oncology & Radiotherapy  
Ex- Chairman Board of Study Oncology - Post Graduate Institute of Medicine  
Past President - Sri Lanka College of Oncologists  
Principal Investigator - International Multi-Center Clinical Trials

# BREAST CANCER AND ITS PRECISION

refined techniques in surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy mean that people live with lesser side effects than they used to experience in the 1970s and 80s. Breast cancer itself is becoming more personally tailored now because of its newer sub types. Genomic based investigations such as gene sequencing could well analyze the genetic makeup of your 'body cells' or the makeup of your 'cancer cells'. Based these genomic studies, specific drug molecules are developed to target the defective genes or defective pathways through cancer progression. There are many special tests that can tell your doctor more about breast cancer to decide on the best course of treatment for you. This termed 'Precision Medicine' which truly holds the promise of 'truly personalized treatment without uncertainties or

probability of dying of cancer other than from breast cancer. The term 'Statistical Cure' is used when a group of patients with breast cancer achieves cure in statistical

cancer have a higher chance of relapse leading to lesser chances of survival. It is generally believed once the breast cancer spreads to other organs, the chances of cure

alter its usual progression. **What are the current trends?**  
Once a patient is diagnosed of breast cancer

changes or alterations in the cancer to decide on the best drug for you.

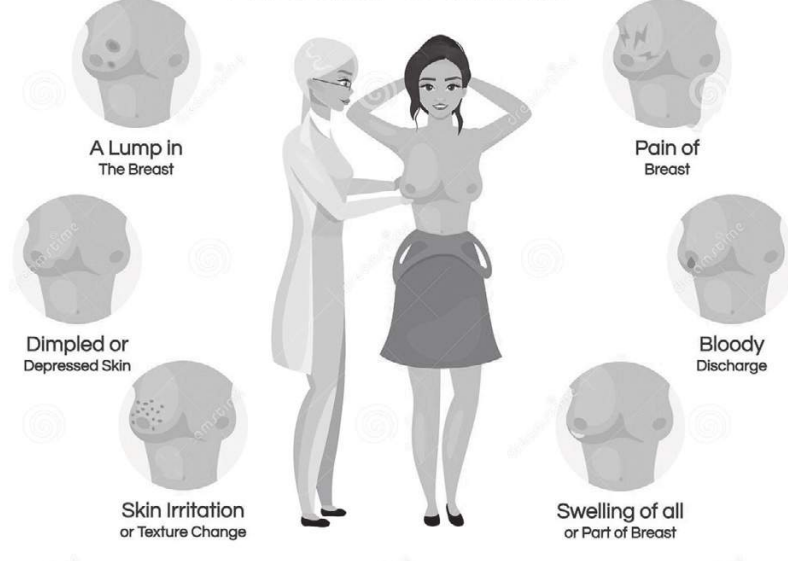
## Does the Breast cancer run in family?

Breast cancers run in families. Inherited gene mutations will increase your risk of breast cancer. We sometimes recommend a test called 'BRCA' gene testing for people with a strong family history of the breast cancer. Women who have these genes have an increased risk of developing breast cancer. This same 'BRCA' test is used to determine whether you would respond to a specific drug when your cancer is disseminated. Many newer genetic tests are available now, depending on a person's family history of cancer. However, one should not have a fear that, presence of such genes would necessarily give you breast cancer.

## How could I get my Breast Cancer treated?

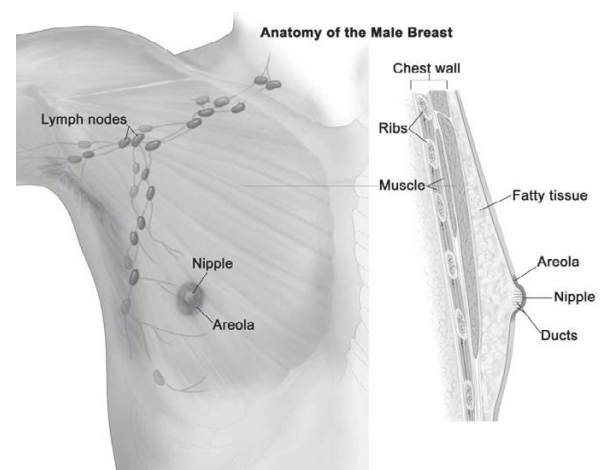
Early detection alone is not the cure for breast cancer always. But once detected early it could be successfully treated. Surgery remains the most definitive treatment for breast cancer. It could end up in total removal or partial removal of your breast whenever it is operable. Surgery alone cannot cure the breast cancer. Cancer needs a multi-modal treatment. Surgery could make matters poorer if it is performed at the wrong stage of breast cancer. Such advanced breast cancers should be initially treated with chemotherapy before removing surgically. In certain situations there is no need to remove the primary breast cancer at all. Making the correct decision for treatment is usually done in consultation with all specialties. Your doctor will tell you if it is so. Breast cancer is not limited to its local area - the breast alone. It is an illness within inside your whole body. After surgery, a significant proportion of breast cancer patients will have need of chemotherapy, radiotherapy or hormone therapy as a single modality or in combinations. It is this supplementary treatment labeled as 'adjuvant therapy' that remains the mainstay of breast cancer cure.

## Symptoms of Breast Cancer



she would need a proper biopsy sample which should be analyzed on basic testing as well as at an advanced genomic testing because, your genes may influence the way your body acts against cancer drugs. Such drug-gene interactions is called pharmacogenomics. It helps your doctor to see whether that particular drug could precisely work for you. At the same time if your cancer progresses

terms if their probability of survival becomes comparable to the probability of survival in the general population. The concept of 'Personal Cure' emerged with more cancer survivors. A significant number patients with breast cancer once achieves a 'Personal Cure' after curative treatment but, they will eventually die of a different cause such as cardiovascular disease, lung disease or stroke.

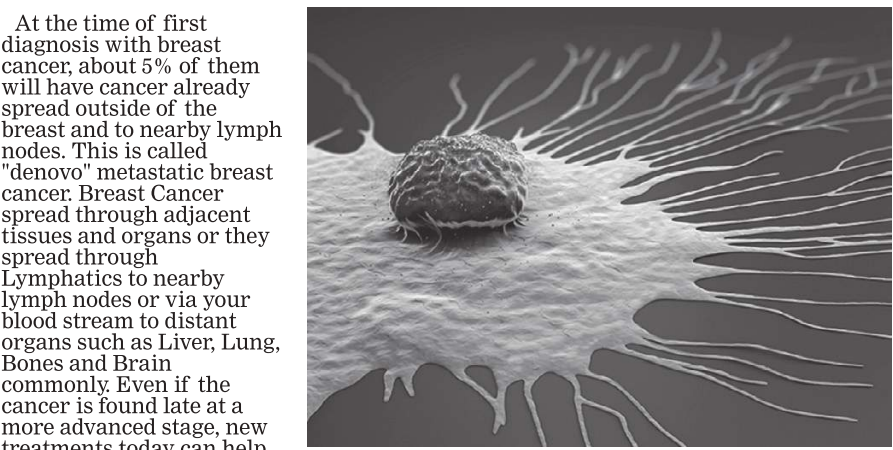


Breast Cancer is diagnosed early by mammogram (Stage I) has outstanding survival as high as 90% at even 25 years after diagnosis following any surgical resection alone. The survival of patients with stages II, III and IV breast

**How common is Breast Cancer?**  
More females are diagnosed with breast cancer than any other type of cancer. It is now estimated more than 25% of all female cancers. So that Breast Cancer has been largely spoken out in many platforms. Most speakers focus on its new treatment modalities that made a major breakthrough in breast cancer cure today. In fact breast cancer treatment has become a core model for research and treatments in other cancer as well. Most young breast cancer survivors who remained cancer-free, lived with excellent quality of life even after going through variety of psychological concerns.

**How long would they live?**  
The term '5-year survival' tells you what percentage of people diagnosed to have breast cancer would live at least 5 years after their cancer is found. On the average 5-year survival rate for women with non-metastatic (not spread) invasive breast cancer is around 85%. The average 10-year survival rate for women with invasive breast cancer is 75%. If the cancer has spread to the regional lymph nodes, the 5-year survival rate drops to 65%. If the cancer has further spread to a distant part of the body, such as liver, lung, bones etc., the 5-year survival rate drops down below 35%.

**How does the Breast Cancer spread?**



At the time of first diagnosis with breast cancer, about 5% of them will have cancer already spread outside of the breast and to nearby lymph nodes. This is called "denovo" metastatic breast cancer. Breast Cancer spread through adjacent tissues and organs or they spread through Lymphatics to nearby lymph nodes or via your blood stream to distant organs such as Liver, Lung, Bones and Brain commonly. Even if the cancer is found late at a more advanced stage, new treatments today can help many late breast cancer patients to maintain a good quality of life for a reasonable time.

**Are we searching and treating Breast Cancer too much?**  
Breast cancer patients are sometimes knowingly or unknowingly over-diagnosed or under-diagnosed. Accordingly some are over treated or under treated. This was specially seen when there were uncertainties raised by medical specialists on debatable clinical situations where they have to treat patients exclusively on available clinical evidence. But, what extent to treat precisely was not well understood until the newer investigations and newer drugs developed in the recent past. Currently any debatable clinical situations.

**What do you mean by Breast Cancer cure?**  
Essentially all untreated breast cancer patients would die of the disease. Their co-existing medical conditions also will increase with their age. So the older patients with breast cancer have a higher



# TOP STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



## Battle underway for airbase on Kyiv outskirts

**KYIV, (AFP) 24 FEB 2022** - Russian and Ukrainian forces are battling for control of an airbase on the northern outskirts of Kyiv, a senior Ukrainian officer said Thursday, as dozens of attack helicopters swooped on the area.



Smoke over the town of Hostomel in northwest Kyiv. Ukraine says battle under way for airbase near Kyiv (Courtesy NDTV)

"Fighting is underway for Gostomel airfield," armed forces chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi said in a statement posted online. Shortly earlier, AFP reporters had seen helicopters flying low over the city from the north. The Gostomel airfield, which is alongside the Antonov

airport, is immediately on the northern edge of Kiev, and the fighting there is the closest that Russian forces had got to the capital on the first day of their invasion.

Alexander Kovtonenko, a 30-year-old civilian living nearby, said that two fighter jets had fired missiles at Ukrainian ground units as the assault got underway.

## India cancels schedule of special flights to Kyiv

**INDIA FEB 24 (HINDUSTAN TIMES)**-The Indian embassy in Kyiv announced on Thursday the cancellation of schedule for special flights to bring Indian citizens home after Ukraine shut its airspace for civilian flights after Russia launched a military operation in the eastern European nation.

"This is to inform all Indian nationals in Ukraine that since the Ukrainian airspace has been closed, the schedule for special flights stands cancelled. Alternative arrangements are being made for evacuation of Indian nationals," the embassy said in a statement. The embassy also noted the once these 'alternative arrangements' have been finalised, it will convey information as soon as possible so that all Indians in Ukraine can move to the western part of that country.



A vehicle carries supplies in front of Parliament Hill after Canadian police evicted the last of the trucks and supporters occupying the downtown core in a protest against the Covid-19 vaccine mandates, Ottawa, Canada (Hindustan Times)

## Canada PM Justin Trudeau revokes state of emergency

**CANADA FEB 24 (HINDUSTAN TIMES)**-Just 9 days after he controversially imposed an emergency upon the country, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revoked those extreme powers on Wednesday.

At a press conference, Trudeau said the "situation was no longer an emergency". Later, he tweeted, "Today, after careful consideration, we're ending the use of the Emergencies Act. Existing laws and local law enforcement authorities can keep people safe, and we'll

continue being there to support provincial and local authorities to protect Canadians."

Interestingly, the revocation came 2 days after the Emergencies Act was ratified by the House of Commons in a vote on Monday night. However, it had yet to be affirmed by the Senate.

The emergency was announced on February 14 to counter the then ongoing truckers' protests under the banner of Freedom Convoy 2022, which had held the Canadian capital of Ottawa hostage since the end of January.

## Italy's Renzi quits Russian firm after Ukraine invasion

**ROME REUTERS FEB 24** -Former Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has resigned from the board of one of Russia's largest car-sharing services, Delimobil, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, his party said on Thursday.



Former premier Matteo Renzi (Reuters)

Founded in 2015 by Italian businessman Vincenzo Trani, Delimobil has around 7.4 million registered users in 11 Russian cities.

Renzi joined the company last year ahead of its planned public market listing in the United States. However, the firm subsequently

postponed the IPO blaming market conditions.

Renzi, who heads the centrist Italia Viva party, was the second former European premier to quit from a Russian firm in the wake of the assault on Ukraine.

Earlier, Finland's former Prime Minister Esko Aho told local media he had withdrawn from the board of Russia's largest bank Sberbank.

European leaders have roundly denounced the Russian invasion and have promised tough sanctions to punish Moscow.



Models of oil barrel are seen in front of displayed rising stock graph (Reuters)

## Oil tops \$105 after Russia attacks Ukraine

**LONDON REUTERS FEB 24** Oil prices jumped on Thursday, with Brent rising above \$105 a barrel for the first time since 2014, after Russia's attack on Ukraine exacerbated concerns about disruptions to global energy supply.

Russia launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air and sea in the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since World War Two.

The United States and Europe have promised the toughest sanctions on Russia in response.

"If sanctions affect payment transactions, Russian banks

and possibly also the insurance that covers Russian oil and gas deliveries, supply outages cannot be excluded," said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch.

At least three major buyers of Russian oil were unable to open letters of credit from Western banks to cover purchases on Thursday, sources told Reuters. "Russia is the third-largest oil producer and second-largest oil exporter. Given low inventories and dwindling spare capacity, the oil market cannot afford large supply disruptions," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

# RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE, DOZENS KILLED

**R**ussian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, killing dozens and forcing hundreds to flee for their lives. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, killing dozens and forcing hundreds to flee for their lives.

At least 68 people were killed, including both soldiers and civilians, according to an AFP tally from various Ukrainian official sources.



Russian air strikes hit military facilities across the country and ground forces moved in from the north, south and east, triggering condemnation from Western leaders and warnings of massive sanctions

In the deadliest single strike reported by the authorities, 18 people were killed at a military base near Ukraine's Black Sea port city of Odessa.

## Putin will decide when Ukraine offensive ends

**RUSSIA, (RT.COM) 24 FEB, 2022** - Russia's President Vladimir Putin has set the targets for the country's military attack against Ukraine and he will decide when the operation ends "based on results and expediency," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday. The operation "has its goals and they need to be achieved," the official

said, when asked by journalists when the offensive would end. In his Thursday morning address, Putin said he'd ordered Russian troops to attack Ukraine to demilitarize and, as he put it, "denazify" the country. He claimed Russia's national security was compromised by NATO encroachment in Ukraine.

## American national sentenced to death for beheading girlfriend

**ISLAMABAD AFP FEB 24, 2022**-A Pakistan court sentenced the scion of a wealthy industrialist family to death Thursday, for raping and beheading his girlfriend.

Mukadam, the 27-year-old daughter of a former ambassador, had made repeated attempts to escape the sprawling mansion but was blocked by two members Jaffer's staff.

American national of Pakistani origin Zahir Jaffer, 30, attacked Noor Mukadam at his Islamabad home in July last year after she refused his marriage proposal -- torturing her with a knuckleduster and using a "sharp-edged weapon" to behead her.

"The main accused has been awarded the death sentence," said judge Atta Rabbani at the Islamabad district court. Jaffer's parents, Zakir Jaffer and Asmat Adamjee, were found not guilty of attempting to cover up the crime.



Police officers escort Zahir Jaffer, a U.S. national of Pakistani origin, after court announced a death sentence to him for raping and beheading Noor Mukadam (Reuters)

## Kiev tells Ankara to close two straits that Moscow relies on

**UKRAINE, (RT.COM), 24 FEB, 2022** - Ukraine has asked Turkey to cut off Russian access to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits after Moscow launched an attack on multiple Ukrainian cities in the early hours of Thursday morning, Kiev's demand

to suspend Russian ships' access through the straits was conveyed by Ukraine's Ambassador to Turkey, Vasyl Bodnar, who also lobbied for the closure of Turkey's airspace to Russian planes, news agency Reuters reported. The move comes in response to Russian air and ground attacks launched on Ukrainian military installations, airports, and cities, including the capital, Kiev, throughout the course of Thursday. The offensive was dubbed a 'special military operation' by President Vladimir Putin.

## Omicron subvariant BA.2 disarming key antibody treatment: Study

**US FEB 24 (HINDUSTAN TIMES)**-Rapidly spreading subvariant, BA.2, could force doctors to rethink antibody treatments for Covid-19, according to a report by journal Nature. The report, based on several studies, suggests a steep drop in the ability of sotrovimab, one of the few therapies for Covid-19 caused by the Omicron, to neutralize BA.2. A team of US researchers of the department of microbiology, NYU found that the Omicron BA.2 is not neutralised by Regeneron, Eli Lilly, Sotrovimab and the Evusheld therapeutic monoclonal antibodies. Another team of researchers from Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons concluded



that BA.2 exhibited marked resistance to 17 of 19 neutralizing monoclonal antibodies, which had retained "appreciable activity" against BA.1. Both studies have not been peer reviewed and are available in pre-print. While BA.1 remains the most prevalent variant of concern in several countries, cases of BA.2 are rising in India, China, and Denmark.



# RANJITH RAJAPAKSE – BRC'S UNIQUE THREE-IN-ONE RECORD HOLDER

BY PREMASARA EPASINGHE

The word "record" is a permanent account, especially in writing facts, events for later use or reference. My memory goes back four and a half decades (1978/79). I still very well remember how three unforgettable cricket records were created at the picturesque, colourful Sinhalese Sports Club grounds at Maitland place, Colombo 7, in a Sara Trophy encounter when BRC met SSC.

The records were for a number 11 batsman scoring an unbeaten 101, a brilliant unfinished last wicket partnership of 158 runs with the late Ashok Witharana, a fast medium bowler - in a spell of 29 overs capturing six wickets for 112 runs. A Guinness World Record in First Class Cricket? Or a Sri Lankan record? Nobody has broken these records for over 40 years. It was an unforgettable match, where BRC humbled the SSC team which comprised seven Sri Lanka players. Two Sri Lankan players Sunil Wettimuny and Duleep Mendis scored 109 and 69 respectively for SSC in this Sara Trophy encounter and both Sunil & Duleep were victims of Ranjith Rajapakse.

## A Match Winner

The story is woven around the match winner - architect of the BRC victory Ranjith Rajapakse. He achieved a grand double with his 101 not out as No 11

batsman and also the unfinished 158 run partnership for the last wicket with late Ashok Witharana. The specialty was he scored his unbeaten century as the last man, a rare, fantastic achievement and captured six SSC front line wickets in 29 consecutive overs.

I represented Nalanda first eleven as wicket-keeper opening batsman in the year 1957. My prefects of games were T Candamamy and Stanley Moonasinghe. I was coached by the late Sir Gerry Goonaratne and Ranjith too was coached by him when he was playing for the first eleven.

## Product of Nalanda – A rare gem

When I served as a Graduate Teacher-Master in Charge of Cricket and Prefect of Games I had the good fortune of teaching and coaching cricket to Ranjith who represented Nalanda College in the Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Second Eleven and First Eleven. Even as a schoolboy he showed promise. He was a level-headed, dutiful, committed, disciplined student of the highest class. Unassuming Ranjith Rajapakse possessed an exemplary character. Ranjith was a rare gem.

## Team Before Self

I always advised my Nalanda Cricketers "Put the team before self" and taught them to be productive citizens with high moral values to serve the country loyally. I gave them a strong message

–Winning or losing does not matter, you should be men of honesty and integrity. I told them never stoop up to low practices and advised them to respect clergy and always stand for fair play and justice.

To motivate the students, I used to teach them lines from Vitai Lampada ("They Pass on The Torch of Life")

*There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night --  
Ten to make and the match to win --*

*A bumping pitch and a blinding light,  
An hour to play and the last man in.  
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,*

*Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,  
But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote --*

*'Play up! play up! and play the game!'*

## Credit and glory to Nalanda

During the period I was teaching at Nalanda Collage I had the fortune of producing a gentlemanly calibre of cricketers like the late Bandula Warnapura, late Anura de Silva, Palitha and Jayantha Seneviratne brothers, Ranjith Rajapakse, Lalith and Kalinga Kaluperuma brother, Kumar Dharmasena, late Anura Ranasinghe, late Sunil Jayasinghe, Daya Sirisena, Nandadeva Perera, Susantha Karunaratne, Lesli Narangoda,



Ranjith Rajapakse

Sarath Soysa, Dammika Samarawickrama, Chaminda Hadunhettige, Ramesh De Silva, Laksiri de Silva, Migara Perera and the list goes on and on. The above are some of the names comes to my mind. (Sorry if I have missed some)

## Giving Opportunity to out station cricketers

My chief character in the article Ranjith Rajapakse possessed a golden heart. Always helping the needy and he was an epitome of honesty and integrity. After leaving school at his latter stages of career he joined Associated Motorways and served as General Manager Logistics. He recruited many lads from outstation including TM Dilshan from Kalutara Town Club. Ranjith Rajapakse with sheer hard work, dedication and commitment elevated AMW from H Division to Mercantile A Division within a very short period of time comprising only out station cricketers. It is a great achievement indeed.

I wish to conclude my article by mentioning that I am very proud to state here my beloved student Ranjith Rajapakse, gentleman par excellence is undoubtedly a product of Nalanda Collage Colombo my alma mater.

## 3DH steals the show at Mercantile "E" Division Cricket

Perfect planning, brilliant execution and a highly professional approach instilled by their Manager Turlough de S. Wijeyeratne and captain Milan Abeysakera, saw 3DH international annex the Mercantile "E" Division 30-over league cricket tournament in grand style by defeating Fairfirst Insurance by three wickets recently.

This was their first appearance in the final in just their second season in Mercantile cricket but they played as though they had been doing it every year with not a trace of pressure generated by the sizeable crowd. Their opponents were gracing a final for the third time, taking the trophy on one previous occasion.

3DH International had their piece of luck on a perfect day for cricket by winning the toss and invited Fairfirst Insurance to take first lease of the wicket. Bowling with fire and nagging accuracy and backed up by some brilliant fielding they bowled out Fairfirst Insurance for 180 in 28.1 overs. Left arm spin of Denam Cramer (2 for 27) and right arm off spin of Kolitha Nayananda (3 for 27) troubled the Fairfirst batsmen. The bowlers were brilliantly supported by their fielders with Johanne de Zilwa and Sachintha Mahindasinghe being outstanding.

It was Inesh Fernando who steadied the ship for Fairfirst Insurance with a well compiled 72 with 3 sixes and 8 fours. He was well supported by Isuru Sampath (29) and Ashen Shamika (23).

3DH international in their run chase started off badly by losing both their openers with 17 runs on the board. But a valuable partnership of 52 runs for the fourth wicket between their captain Milan Abeysakera (76), and Shevon Fonseka (13) lifted the score to 101.

Very useful contribution came off the bat of Dineth Jayakody (19) and at one stage they were 147 for 7. With five overs remaining and 34 runs needed for victory, it was Vihan Gunasekera (16 n.o.) and Kolitha Nayananda (13 n.o.) guiding them to victory with an unbroken 36-run partnership for the eighth wicket to clinch the "DPGC" Challenge Trophy for the Mercantile "E" Division 30 over league cricket tournament, with five balls remaining.

The Fairfirst Insurance pace attack was impressive with Ishara Perera (3 for 27) standing tall and he was well supported by Dulip Silva with figures of 2 for 14.

The adjudicators quite rightly decided that 3DH International skipper Milan Abeysakera should be the Man of the Match for his splendid innings which took his team to victory.

### PUBLIC AUCTION AMANA BANK PLC

Notice of sale under section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act, No. 4 of 1990

#### Property 01 THE SCHEDULE

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked lot A1 with the building standing thereon (being a resurvey of Lot A depicted in Plan No. 1704 dated 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1974 made by S. Lokanathan, Licensed Surveyor) bearing Assessment No. 107, Wilson Street situated in Aluthkade-East within the Grama Niladhari Division of Aluthkade-East and in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Dam Street and within the Municipality and the District of Colombo Western Province.

Containing In Extent Three decimal Four Six Perches (OA., OR., 3.46P)

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot A1 with the building and everything standing thereon.

#### Property 02 THE SCHEDULE

All that Residential Apartment marked Unit 2 depicted in Condominium Plan No. 304 dated 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1975 made by D. S. Hettige, Licensed Surveyor and Leveler presently bearing Assessment No. 90, Prince's Gate comprising of Two Bed Rooms, One sitting Room, One Kitchen and One Toilet located on the Ground Floor of the Condominium Building situated at Prince's Gate, Hulftsdorp in Aluthkade East Ward No. 16, in the Grama Niladhari Division of Aluthkade East within the Administrative Limits of Colombo Municipal Council in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Colombo in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province and used as a Residence and having immediate access to common elements marked CE1 and CE2, the remaining portion of land CE3, Stairway CE4, Duct CE5, Spiral Stairs, CE6 Water Closets and CE7 Water Tank and pump and which said Unit 2, on the Zenith by the Centre of Floor of First Floor and on the Nadir by the Floor of the Unit and containing a floor area of Six Hundred Square Feet (600 Sq.Ft.) according to the aforesaid Condominium Plan No. 304.

#### The Schedule

All that undivided 10.811% share in the following Common Elements depicted in Condominium Plan No. 304 dated 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1975 made by D. S. Hettige, Licensed Surveyor and Leveler.

- (a) The land on which the building stands
- (b) The remaining portions of the land marked CE1 and CE2 in the Ground Floor Plan in Page 3
- (2) The Stairway marked CE3, Duct marked CE4 Spiral Stairs marked CE5, Water Closet marked CE6 and Water Tank and pump marked CE7 in the Ground Floor Plan in Page 3.
- (3) In the Foundation, girders, beams, supports, main walls and roofs of the building.
- (4) Installation for electricity, water, gas, sewerage, drainage and all other apparatus existing for common use
- (5) All other parts and facilities of the property necessary for or convenient to its existence, maintenance and safety or normal in common use.

Whereas **MOHAMED THOWFEK MOHAMED IFTHIKAR AND ABDUL HAMEED KANSUL MAHREEFA** as "Obligors" have made default in payments due on Primary Mortgage Bond No. 68 dated 02<sup>nd</sup> August, 2019 attested by F. F. Farshad, Notary Public of Colombo and on Primary Mortgage Bond No. 2209 dated 02<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018 attested by M. S. Ayubkhan, Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Amana Bank PLC bearing Registration No. PB 3618 PQ a company duly incorporated under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 and having its registered office and principal place of business at No. 486, Galle Road, Colombo 03 in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and there is now due and owing to the Amana Bank PLC as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 on the said Bonds; As per authority granted by the said Amana Bank PLC,

I shall sell by above mentioned property by way of Public Auction at the spot.

Property described in the 1<sup>st</sup> SCHEDULE ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2022 AT 10.30 A.M.

Property described in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCHEDULE ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2022 AT 11.30 A.M.

#### Access to the 1<sup>st</sup> Property: -

From near the entrance to the superior Court Complex at Aluthkade, proceed for a few distance along Hulftsdorp Street towards Maha Vidyalaya Mawatha to reach Wilson Street located on right hand side. Then proceed along this road for a distance of about 230 to 250 meters to reach the subject property, which is located on the left-hand side. This property bears Assessment Number 107, Wilson Street The subject property is located within 6°56'12.6"N 79°51'46.9"E GPS Coordinates and Identification of the property is very easy with referring to the location Map.

#### Access to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Property:

From Maradana Proceed along Panchikawatta Road and Sri Sangaraja Mawatha to Reach Prince's Gate located on left hand side. Then travel along this road for a distance of about 80 to 100 meters to the entire Condominium Building located on left hand side.

**Mode of Payment:** The successful purchaser shall pay to the Auctioneer the following amounts in cash upon conclusion of sale,

01. Ten percent of concluded sale price (10%)
02. The balance payment of the Ninety Percent (90%) should be paid to the AMANA BANK PLC within 30 days from date of auction.
03. Local authority charges One percent (1%)
04. Auctioneers commission of two and half percent (2.5%)
05. Total expenses incurred an advertising and other expenses (100%)
06. Clerk & Crier wages Rs. 1500/-
07. Notary expenses and other expenses Rs. 3500/-

For information relating to fees and other details contact the following officers.

#### REMEDIAL DEPARTMENT

Amana Bank Plc,  
No. 486, Galle Road,  
Colombo 03.  
Tel: 011-5238370 Ext: 2112

#### L. B. SENANAYAKE

Licensed Auctioneer, Valuer & Court Commissioner for the Commercial High Court of Colombo Western Province and District Court of Colombo State and Commercial Banks, No. 200, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hulftsdorp Street, Colombo 12.  
Tel: 077 3242954 - 011 2445393

### PUBLIC AUCTION AMANA BANK PLC

Notice of sale under section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by banks (Special Provisions) Act, No. 4 of 1990

#### SCHEDULE

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1 in the Plan No. 2613 dated 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 made by S. J. Jayawickrama, Licensed Surveyor and Leveler (being a subdivision of the allotment of land depicted as Lot C in Pan No. 1157 dated 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2001 made by Anil Nagawamuwa, Licensed Surveyor) of the land called Parangiyawatta presently bearing Assessment No. 18E (Former No. 18), Pirivena Road situated at Ratmalana North in Ward No. 24, Pirivena within the Grama Niladhari Division of 545 Pirivena in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Ratmalana within the Municipal Council Limits of Dehiwala Mount Lavinia in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 1 is bounded on North by Pirivena Road, on the East by Lot 2 hereof, on the South by property bearing Assessment No. 20, Pirivena Road and on the West by property bearing Assessment No. 18 (part) Pirivena (Lot B on Plan No. 1157) and

Containing in Extent Six decimal Five Naught Perches (OA, OR, 6.50P)

registered under Volume/Folio E 83/49 at Delkanda L/R together with the building and everything standing thereon

Whereas **Mohamed Ismath Mohamed Siddique Noor Mohamed** as "Obligor" has made default in payments due on Primary Mortgage Bond No. 239 dated 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 attested by G. S. J. Dabara, Notary Public of Colombo and Secondary Mortgage Bond No. 954 dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016 attested by S. F. Dayaratne, Notary Public of Colombo and Tertiary Mortgage Bond No. 1247 dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 attested by S. F. Dayaratne, Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Amana Bank PLC bearing Registration No. PB 3618 PQ a company duly incorporated under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 and having its registered office and principal place of business at No. 486, Galle Road, Colombo 03 in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and there is now due and owing to the Amana Bank PLC. As per authority granted by the said Amana Bank PLC,

I shall sell by above mentioned property by way of Public Auction at the spot.

Property described in the SCHEDULE ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> Day of March 2022 AT 11.00 A.M.

#### Access to the Property:

Depot at Ratmalana and turn on to left and proceeds along Pirivena Road for about 125 meters. Subject property is situated on the right-hand side of the said road. **Mode of Payment:** The successful purchaser shall pay to the Auctioneer the following amounts in cash upon conclusion of sale.

01. Ten percent of concluded sale price (10%)
02. The balance payment of the Ninety Percent (90%) should be paid to the AMANA BANK PLC within 30 days from date of auction.
03. Local authority charges One percent (1%)
04. Auctioneers commission of two and half percent (2.5%)
05. Total expenses incurred on advertising and other expenses (100%)
06. Clerk & Crier wages Rs. 1500/-
07. Notary expenses and other expenses Rs. 3500/-

The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol. For information relating to fees and other details to contact the following officers.

#### REMEDIAL DEPARTMENT

Amana Bank Plc,  
No. 486, Galle Road,  
Colombo 03.  
Tel: 0115238370 Ext: 2112

#### L. B. SENANAYAKE

Licensed Auctioneer, Valuer & Court Commissioner for the Commercial High Court of Colombo Western Province, and District Court of Colombo State and Commercial Banks, No. 200, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hulftsdorp Street, Colombo 12.  
Tel: 0773242954 - 0112445393

### PUBLIC AUCTION AMANA BANK PLC

Notice of sale under section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special provisions) Act, No. 4 of 1990

#### SCHEDULE

All that divided and defined allotment of land called Ambagahawatta bearing Lot No. 97A2 depicted in Plan No. 4833 dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 made by H. Anil Peiris, Licensed Surveyor 607, Havelock Road as registered at the Volume folio 257 in Registration Plan No. 4, Kirillapona at Kirillapona in Ward No. 45 (Pamankada East) within Municipal Council Limits of Colombo in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province, containing in extent Eight decimal Five Naught Perches (OA., OR., 8.50 P) according to the said Plan No. 4833.

The land described below is a subdivision of the land mentioned above:

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot A of the Land called Ambagahawatta depicted in Plan No. 6019 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014 (being a resurvey and subdivision of Lot 97A2 depicted in Plan No. 4833 dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 made by H. Anil Peiris, Licensed Surveyor and Leveler, registered in Volume folio 257 in Registration Plan No. 4 - Kirillapona) bearing Assmt. No. 607, Havelock Road situated along Havelock Road at Kirillapona in Ward No. 45 (Pamankada East) in Grama Niladhari Division Pamankada East of the Thimbrigasaya Divisional Secretariat Area within Municipal Council Limits of Colombo in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province.

Containing in Extent Five decimal Five Naught Perches (OA., OR, 5.50 P)

According to the said Plan No. 6019 and registered in SPE 88/76 at Colombo L/R as per Plan aforesaid, together with the building and everything standing thereon. Whereas **Mohamed Ismath Mohamed Siddique Noor Mohamed** as "Obligor" has made default in payments due on Primary Mortgage Bond No. 720 dated 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 attested by S. F. Dayaratne, Notary Public of Colombo and Secondary Mortgage Bond No. 954 dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 attested by S. F. Dayaratne, Notary Public of Colombo and Tertiary Mortgage Bond No. 1247 dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 attested by S. F. Dayaratne, Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Amana Bank PLC bearing Registration No. PB 3618 PQ a company duly incorporated under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 and having its registered office and principal place of business at No. 486, Galle Road, Colombo 03 in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and there is now due and owing to the Amana Bank PLC. As per authority granted by the said Amana Bank PLC,

I shall sell by above mentioned property by way of Public Auction at the spot.

Property described in the SCHEDULE ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> Day of March 2022 AT 02.30 P.M.

#### Access to the Property:

The property can be reached by traveling along Havelock Road, which branch off from Baudhaloka Mawatha at Thummulla Junction Up to Pamankada Passing W. A. Silva Mawatha Junction for about 275 meters. The property is situated on the left-hand side of said road.

**Mode of Payment:** The successful purchaser shall pay to the Auctioneer the following amounts in cash upon conclusion of sale.

01. Ten percent of concluded sale price (10%)
02. The balance payment of the Ninety Percent (90%) should be paid to the AMANA BANK PLC within 30 days from date of auction.
03. Local authority charges One percent (1%)
04. Auctioneers commission of two and half percent (2.5%)
05. Total expenses incurred on advertising and other expenses (100%)
06. Clerk & Crier wages Rs. 1500/-
07. Notary expenses and other expenses Rs. 3500/-

The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol.

For information relating to fees and other details contact the following officers.

#### REMEDIAL DEPARTMENT

Amana Bank Plc,  
No. 486, Galle Road,  
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Tel: 0115238370 Ext: 2112

#### L. B. SENANAYAKE

Licensed Auctioneer, Valuer & Court Commissioner for the Commercial High Court of Colombo Western Province, and District Court of Colombo State and Commercial Banks, No. 200, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hulftsdorp Street, Colombo 12  
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SPORTS

# KISHAN LEADS INDIA TO THUMPING T20 WIN OVER SRI LANKA



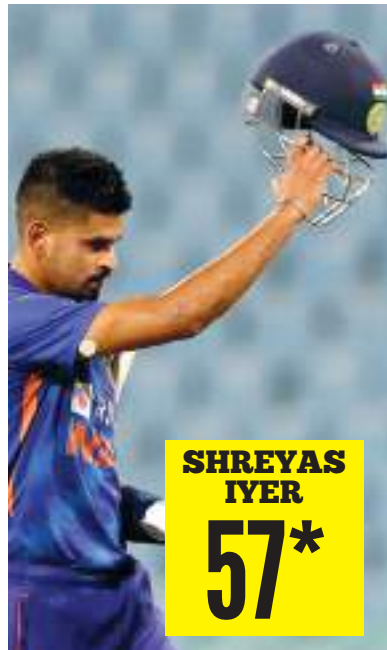
**ISHAN KISHAN**  
**89**

India maintained their red-hot form after their top order fired to secure a 62-run victory over Sri Lanka in the first Twenty20 International in Lucknow yesterday.

On a high after blanking West Indies 6-0 in one-dayers and T20 Internationals, the hosts racked up 199-2 riding blistering half-centuries by opener Ishan Kishan and number three batsman Shreyas Iyer.

They returned to restrict Sri Lanka to 137-6, completing a comprehensive victory despite resting Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant and missing Suryakumar Yadav through injury.

Dasun Shanaka won the toss but Sri Lanka immediately found themselves facing a batting onslaught from India openers Kishan and Rohit Sharma.



**SHREYAS IYER**  
**57\***

**Kishan clobbered three sixes and 10 fours in his 89 before Shanaka sent him back but Iyer ensured there was no respite for the Sri Lankans**

The left-right combination tore into Sri Lanka's attack as India cruised past the 100-mark in the 11th over.

The 111-run stand was broken when Lahiru Kumara removed Rohit for 44 but Kishan could not be denied his 50 which came off 30 balls.

Kishan clobbered three sixes and 10 fours in his 89 before Shanaka sent

him back but Iyer ensured there was no respite for the Sri Lankans.

The right-hander made an unbeaten 57 at two-runs-a-ball to take India close to the 200-mark.

Smarting from their 4-1 hammering in Australia and missing Wanindu Hasaranga, Kusal Mendis and Maheesh Theekshana, Sri Lanka began their chase poorly.

**Charith Asalanka top-scored with an unbeaten 53 but lack of partnerships hurt Sri Lanka in the one-sided contest**

Pathum Nissanka fell to the first ball from Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who went on to remove Kamil Mishara (13) in his next over.

Sri Lanka slumped to 57-4 at the halfway stage and were never really in the contest after their top order crumbled against India's clinical bowling.

Charith Asalanka top-scored with an unbeaten 53 but lack of partnerships hurt Sri Lanka in the one-sided contest. Dharmasala hosts the next two matches on Saturday and Sunday.

REUTERS

India	
R. Sharma b Kumara	44
I. Kishan c Lyanage b Shanaka	89
S. Iyer not out	57
R. Jadeja not out	03
EXTRAS: (w 6)	06
TOTAL: (two wickets in 20 overs)	199
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-111, 2-155	
BOWLING: D. Chameera 4-0-42-0, L. Kumara 4-0-43-1, C. Karunaratne 4-0-46-0, P. Jayawickrama 2-0-15-0, J. Vandersay 4-0-34-0, D. Shanaka 2-0-19-1	

Sri Lanka	
P. Nissanka b Kumar	00
K. Mishara c Sharma b Kumar	13
J. Lyanage c Samson b VR Iyer	11
C. Asalanka not out	53
D. Chandimal st Kishan b Jadeja	10
D. Shanaka c Kumar b Chahal	03
C. Karunaratne c Kishan b VR Iyer	21
D. Chameera not out	24
EXTRAS: (w 2)	02
TOTAL: (six wickets in 20 overs)	137
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-15, 3-36, 4-51, 5-60, 6-97	
BOWLING: B. Kumar 2-0-9-2, J. Bumrah 3-0-19-0, H. Patel 2-0-10-0, Y. Chahal 3-0-11-1, V. Iyer 3-0-36-2, R. Jadeja 4-0-28-1, D. Hooda 3-0-24-0	

## Brigitta Larsson-Flinth shines at Rotary Golf

**BY SHAMSEER JALEEL**  
Brigitta Larsson-Flinth won both the Nett and Gross events in the Ladies segment at the Rotary Golf event which took place at the Victoria Golf and Country club recently.

Larsson-Flinth was in sparkling form with her game. Meanwhile Linda Harris became runner-up in the Nett while Melanie Bond walked away with the runner-up in the Gross Ladies event. The Men's Nett was won by S. Srimahadevan with Dr. Amunugama ending runner-up.



Brigitta Larsson-Flinth (second from left) accounted for both Gross and Nett wins

## Dickwella and de Silva added to depleted Sri Lankan squad Available for the two T-20Is and Test matches

**BY BIPIN DANI**  
Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) added two more players to the squad for the T20Is against India, it is learnt.



Dhananjaya de Silva



Niroshan Dickwella

According to sources, the selectors have picked 28-year-old wicketkeeper batter Niroshan Dickwella and the 30-year-old all rounder Dhananjaya de Silva as cover in the depleted Sri Lanka T20I squad in India.

“Both players have reached Lucknow on Thursday morning. They are quarantined for two days in the hotel (same hotel where both the teams are staying),” the source added.

Dickwella and de Silva were not required to go to the ground for the first T20I as they are not available for the first match but will be considered for the selection for the remaining two T20Is to be played at Dharamshala on February 26 and 27.

They will also be part of the two Test matches to be played in Mohali (March 4-8) and Bangalore (March 12-16).

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's 24-year-old batter Avishka Fernando may be out of competitive cricket for about nine months, according to Dr. David Young, who performed a surgery on his right knee on Tuesday.

The surgery was performed at The Avenue Hospital in Melbourne.

Dr. Young is familiar among cricketers and has treated Lasith Malinga, Shoaib Akhtar and many other international players.

“Avishka tore the anterior cruciate in his right knee in a training mishap on 17 February at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). He had an anterior cruciate reconstruction”, Dr. Young said.

“He is expected to return to cricket training in six months and when performing well will return to competitive play probably in nine months.”  
“The surgery lasted over two hours,” he added.  
“The cricketer has been discharged from the hospital and will stay in Australia for a few more days. Dr. Young will see him again after a period of two weeks,” another source in the hospital further added.

## C'wealth Games Beach Volleyball Asia qualification to be held in SL

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Commonwealth Games qualification round (Asia) Beach Volleyball competition for men and women will be held on March 18 and 19 at Negombo Beach Park conducted by the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) in collaboration with the Asian Beach Volleyball Association.

Four countries including Sri Lanka will take part in this tournament, according to Sri Lanka Beach Volleyball Association President C. Ratnamudali. The other countries are Singapore, Maldives and Malaysia.

All participating countries will be allowed to compete with only one men's and women's team.

The two winning teams will qualify for the 2022 Commonwealth Games to be held from July 28 and August 8 in Birmingham, England.

A 24-member national pool (12 men and 12 women) have been selected in preparation for this tournament before the final team is selected before March 10.

Sri Lanka women and Iran men won the Central Asian Zone Beach Volleyball tournament held recently.

**INTERNATIONAL**

- Cricket : ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP 2nd Test - day 1 New Zealand vs South Africa (Christchurch)
- AFGHANISTAN IN BANGLADESH ODI SERIES 2nd ODI - (Chattogram)
- Football : PREMIER LEAGUE Southampton vs Norwich City (St. Mary's Stadium)
- SPANISH LA LIGA Levante vs Elche (Estadio Ciudad de Valencia)
- Tennis : MEXICAN OPEN (Princess Mundo Imperial)
- DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (Dubai Duty Free Tennis Centre)
- Golf : THE HONDA CLASSIC (PGA National Champion Course)

CM SportsDesk

## CH face out-of-form Army

CH and FC will look to secure their second win of the SLR Rugby League Tournament when they face Army Sports Club at Havelock Park today.

CH has had a tough start to their season losing three games in a row before they snatched their first win of the season against Navy Sports Club last week.

Rohitha Rajapaksa playing at fly half starred for CH scoring 13 points showcasing his skills with the boot in addition to the try he scored.

Hooker Prasath Madushanka has been a star at this level for years now with the former Ispithana forward developing a habit of scoring crucial tries in big games. They should look to capitalize on the momentum to have any chance of finishing in the top four with their chances of winning the league looks very



Rohitha Rajapaksa played a key role for CH & FC in their win over Navy SC last week

slim at the moment.

Army Sports Club has been a very consistent team for such a long time. They have always played very good rugby with their own soldiers but this season has been a nightmare for them. Having missed the chance to seal the opening day match with a misplaced penalty in the last minute, they continued to play poorly and things just got very bad for them

losing out to Air Force last week. Winger Sudaraka Dikkumbura is their super star having gone on to represent Sri Lanka in the last few years, so he should look to find a way to inspire that side.

Dhanushka Thalwatte lit up the tournament with two tries on the opening day will be a player Army will rely on moving forward.

Meanwhile, Air Force will host Navy Sports Club in their league match at Ratmalana. Air Force has been enjoying a great season and if they could get one over Navy, this could turn out to be their best season since 2016 where they beat rugby giants Kandy Sports Club.

Chathura Seneviratne has been a revolution for Navy and the former Joe's kicking sensation is finally living up to his expectations. (H.A)

## Yasas Anjana wins Thora Cup singles' title

TEXT AND PIX BY L D CHANDRASIRI - MATALE

Yasas Anjana won the tennis singles title at the "Thora Cup" novices tennis singles tournament 2022 concluded at Matala District tennis club courts in Matala.

Yasas beat Gihan Warnasiri 6-3 in the final.

The tournament conducted by Thora tennis academy

together with St.Thomas' college Matala saw fifteen young Thomians taking part in two groups.

Yewanthaka Dharmasinghe and Subath Abeywarne, both students of Dharmaraja College Kandy, bagged major honours in the open tennis encounter (two singles and a double) played at the same venue.



Subath Abeywarne and Yewanthaka Dharmasinghe

## Southern and Sabaragamuwa to kick-off Independence Trophy football semis today

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The first leg semi-finals of the Independence Trophy Ceylon Provincial League 2022 Football League conducted by Football Sri Lanka (FSL) between Southern and Sabaragamuwa will be held today (25) at 3:30 p.m. at Public Ground in Galle.

Sabaragamuwa were leading after the league phase with 17 points while Southern were placed fourth with 11 points.

FSL has decided to bring forward the matches to 3:30 p.m. because of the power cuts in the country.

The semi-final to be held at Duraipapp Stadium will not be played under lights.

Sabaragamuwa played seven, won five and drew two to remain unbeaten.

They beat Southern 1-0, Western 2-1, Rajarata 4-1, Central 2-0 and Uva 2-0.

They figured in 0-0 draws against Northern and Eastern.

Southern played seven, won three, lost two and drew two. They beat Central 1-0, Uva 3-1 and Rajarata 2-1.

Southern were engaged in



Southern Team



Sabaragamuwa Team

a 1-1 draw with Western and 0-0 draw against Eastern.

They lost to Northern 3-1 and Sabaragamuwa 1-0.

The first leg second semi-final between Northern and Eastern will be held on tomorrow (26) at Duraipapp

Stadium. The second leg semi-finals will be held on March 1 and 2. Eastern will meet Northern on March 1 at South East University ground while Sabaragamuwa take on Southern at Sivali grounds Ratnapura.





# Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business



**P2** Full Stock Market

**P3** SLI partners with SLIM Agrisaviya to nurture ...

**P6** Turning over a new leaf: How tech is transforming...

## Cabraal denies debt restructuring talks with bankers from Rothschild, Lazard

- Says discussions were only about offers of new financing
- Citing unnamed sources, Wall Street Journal reported that Lankan officials met with restructuring bankers from Rothschild & Co. and Lazard

Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal yesterday refuted the foreign media reports that Sri Lanka had discussed debt restructuring options with foreign restructuring bankers.

"A recent #media story seems to claim #SriLankan officials met some "#restructuring" bankers to

resolve its "#crisis". #SriLanka has not sought any "restructuring" assistance of its #debt & talks w/ #financiers &/or bankers have been only to discuss offers of new financing," Cabraal tweeted.

Citing unnamed sources, Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Wednesday reported that

Sri Lankan officials met with restructuring bankers from Rothschild & Co. and Lazard Ltd to resolve the country's foreign exchange and debt problems.

The bankers discussed the potential proposals to help the country to raise funds, including asset sales and securitised debt

facilities, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

WSJ said Rothschild declined to comment, while Lazard and the Sri Lankan government didn't immediately return the request for comment.

Sri Lanka has so far resisted seeking the support of the

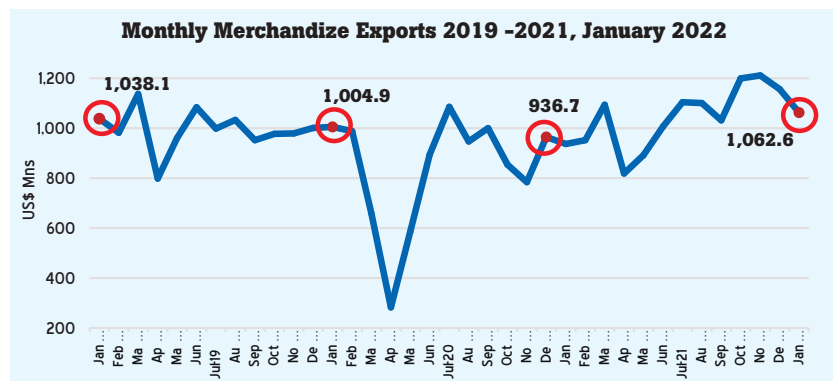
International Monetary Fund (IMF) to resolve its current economic difficulties, largely stemming from the pandemic and the sweeping tax cuts introduced by the current Rajapaksa government at the end of 2019.



**MORE ON P6** Ajith Nivard Cabraal

## January exports surpass US \$ 1bn

- Jan. exports up 5.7% to US \$ 1,062.63mn
- Supported by strong apparel sector performance
- EDB chief calls export performance "remarkable"
- Services exports estimated at US \$ 313mn, up 42.2%



Sources: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Customs & Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Sri Lanka's export sector good fortunes appear to be continuing in the new year as well, as January 2022 export earnings crossed the US \$ 1 billion mark, recording a 5.7 percent increase to US \$ 1,062.63 million compared to January 2020.

"Exports performance in January 2022 has been remarkable and the growth has been all encompassing, as almost all the major sectors have exhibited encouraging trends. We are hopeful that this trend will continue and we can see a strong recovery

through the end of the year," Export Development Board (EDB) Chairman Suresh de Mel said.

He commended the exporters and said going forward Sri Lanka needs to add more value to its exports and explore niche markets and diversify the product basket and markets.

While acknowledging the US and EU as the largest export markets for Sri Lanka as of now, de Mel said that Sri Lanka should expand its export market share in Asia. He pointed out that the

proposed preferential trade agreement with Bangladesh will certainly help in this regard.

Sri Lanka already has two free trade agreements with India and Pakistan.

Apparel and textile exports accounted for nearly half of the total merchandise export income in January 2022, as income from such exports rose 22.11 percent year-on-year (YoY) to US \$ 514.41 million.

**MORE ON P6**

## Exports to FTA partners up

During the month of January 2022, Sri Lanka's exports to the free trade agreement (FTA) partners accounted for 7.2 percent of total merchandise exports and such exports increased by 28 percent to US \$ 80.31 million.

Moreover, exports to India and Pakistan increased by 28.9 percent and 21 percent to US \$ 71.72 million and US \$ 8.59 million. Increased exports to India is mainly supported by increased exports of animal feed pepper, woven fabrics and apparel, the EDB said.

Exports to Pakistan were led by desiccated coconut, other articles of stones, woven fabrics and perfumes, cosmetics, shampoos and makeup preparations and electrical and electronic products.

## Govt. expects to finalise US \$ 1bn credit line from India following Basil's visit

- State Minister Semasinghe says SL talking with ME banks for US \$ 2bn
- By Yohan Perera and Ajith Sirivardana

for oil and another US \$ 1 billion facility for essential goods such as food and medicine.

Meanwhile, Semasinghe said that in addition to the Indian credit lines, the government is seeking funds from certain Middle Eastern banks.

Household Economy, Microfinance, Employment and Business Development State Minister Shehan Semasinghe, who was responding to a question raised by Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa yesterday, confirmed that discussions are currently ongoing with India to borrow further US \$ 1 billion.

"Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa will finalise this facility soon," he said.

Rajapaksa is expected to land in New Delhi to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitaraman and Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar.

India has promised Sri Lanka a US \$ 500 million credit facility



Shehan Semasinghe

"The government is seeking credit facilities to the tune of US \$ 2 billion from a number of Middle Eastern banks," he said.

Commenting on the government's plans to bolster its foreign reserves position, Semasinghe expressed confidence in Sri Lanka recording US \$ 15 billion in exports this year and said plans are afoot to send 300,000 Sri Lankans abroad with a view of increasing foreign remittance.

"We accept that there is a forex crisis, which has been caused by the wrong decisions made by every government that has ruled this country since 1977," he said.

**MORE ON P6**

## Maliban to set up US \$ 15mn pharmaceutical manufacturing factory

- Maliban Bio Ventures to begin construction of factory in June
- Operations expected to kick off by 2025
- Will initially focus on value addition of drugs for cancer
- By Shabiya Ali Ahlam



Maliban Group officials and Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceutical State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana (third from right) at agreement signing event in Colombo this week

commence manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

The Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceutical State Ministry approved the new venture of Maliban this Tuesday (22), for which an agreement was inked to kick off the setting up of the factory.

The pharmaceutical plant will be established under the banner Maliban Bio Ventures (Pvt.) Ltd and will be located in Oyamadu, Anuradhapura.

The factory will be set up with an investment of US \$ 15 million and is expected to start operations by 2025.

**MORE ON P6**

## Tea export volumes down in January

- Contracts by 1.44 MnKgs from Jan. 2021
- Exports of bulk and tea bags drop, packeted tea improves
- Iraq tops list as largest importer of Ceylon Tea

### Production marginally dips

The Ceylon Tea production in January totalled 22.82 MnKgs, a marginal dip of 0.36 MnKgs when compared with the quantities recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Production in high and medium grown elevations witnessed an increase, whereas low grown saw a dip over January 2021.

However, the production is an increase of 0.88 MnKgs from the January 2020 quantities.

The Ceylon Tea exports contracted in the month of January, with the total quantities reaching international markets amounting to 19.38 MnKgs.

The January export volume was a decrease of 1.44 MnKgs, in comparison to the 20.82 MnKgs exported in the corresponding period in 2021.

The main categories of bulk

tea and tea bags showed a decrease, while packeted tea showed an increase, the latest tea market report by Forbes and Walker Tea Brokers highlighted.

**MORE ON P6**

## Shares plunge 5% as economic crisis worsens; Russia invades Ukraine

**REUTERS:** Sri Lankan shares ended 5 percent lower on Thursday as the country struggles with its worst economic crisis in years, while global stock markets slumped after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

IT and energy stocks logged sharp losses on the CSE All-Share index that ended down 5 percent at 10,657.05 points.

The benchmark index witnessed its worst day in over a year and closed at its lowest level in more than three months.

Conglomerates Lanka Orix Leasing Company PLC and Expolanka Holdings PLC were the top drags to the index, ending 10.7 percent and 9.5 percent lower respectively.

Foreign investors were net buyers in the equity market, purchasing shares worth Rs.117.1 million while domestic investors offloaded shares worth Rs.3.66 billion rupees and were net sellers, [exchange data](#) showed.

**MORE ON P6**

## Oil rises above US \$ 105 after Russia attacks Ukraine

- Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine
- US and EU promise toughest sanctions on Russia
- Brent and WTI hit highest since 2014
- Analysts warn of inflationary pressures

### Brent rises above \$100

Oil hits highest level since 2014 after Russia attacked Ukraine



Source: Refinitiv

— \$

**REUTERS:** Oil prices jumped yesterday, with Brent rising above US \$ 105 a barrel for the first time since 2014, after Russia's attack on Ukraine exacerbated concerns about disruptions to global energy supply.

Russia launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air and sea in the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since World War Two.

**MORE ON P6**

## Seylan Bank delivers robust 4Q amid strong loan growth



Chairman Ravi Dias



Director/CEO Kapila Ariyaratne

Seylan Bank PLC reported some robust performance for the three months ended on December 31, 2021 (2Q22), with almost all key indicators having improved amid satisfactory growth in loans and capital left, which is going to get a further boost in the months to come.

The bank reported a net interest income of Rs.6.6 billion for the three months under review, up 40.4 percent from the same period in 2020, as the interest income increased while the interest expense declined, expanding the margins.

The net interest margin, the spread between what the bank pays for its deposits and other liabilities and the yield of its loans and other interest-generating assets, increased to

4.05 percent, from 3.63 percent during the year.

The bank reported earnings of Rs.2.64 a share or Rs.1.41 billion for the October-December 2021 quarter, up 67.9 percent from earnings of Rs.1.57 a share or Rs.841.3 million in the year earlier period.

The bank recommended the first and final dividend of Rs.3.00 a share on both voting and non-voting shares, to be paid in the form of scrip dividend.

For the year ended on December 31, 2021, the bank reported earnings of Rs.8.71 a share or Rs.4.65 billion, compared to Rs.5.69 a share or Rs.3.04 billion in FY20, up 53.1 percent.

The bank gave total loans of Rs.56.6 billion during the year,

translating to a 13.8 percent growth, out of which Rs.16.6 billion was booked in the final three months, slightly easing from 18.5 billion in the previous quarter.

The rock bottom interest rates helped banks to deliver strong financial performance during the two years of the pandemic, which also enabled it to secure some record amount of capital, in both debt and equity in 2021, locking in lower cost funds for the medium term.

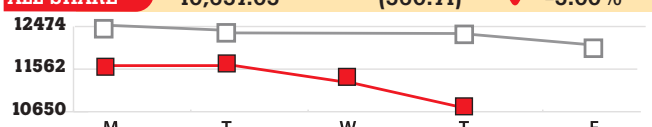
Showing that the momentum hasn't still faded, Seylan Bank this week announced the issuance of Rs.6.0 billion worth of debentures as part of its Rs.20 billion worth of debenture line-up for the year under its capital augmentation plan.

**MORE ON P6**

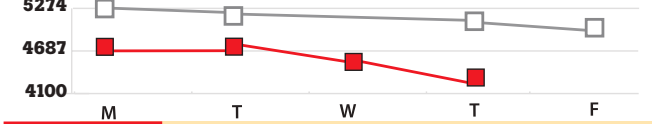


FINANCIAL MARKETS February 24, 2022

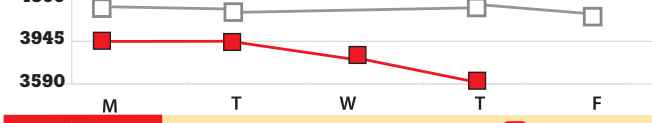
ALL SHARE 10,657.05 (560.71) -5.00%



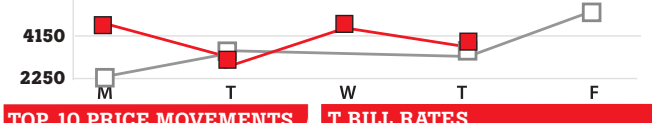
TOP 10 4,135.09 (317.59) -7.13%



S & P SL 20 3,594.12 (197.45) -5.21%



TURNOVER 3,710.32 Mn (813.30) -17.98%



TOP 10 PRICE MOVEMENTS T BILL RATES

Table with columns for stock name, price, change, and bill rates. Includes items like EXPO, LOLC, KJK, COM, DIAL, HAYL, VONE, MEL5, HNB, and CARG.

Unit Trust Prices as on 23. 02.2022

Table listing various fund names and their unit selling and buying prices. Includes funds like Astrue Active Income Fund, Comtrust Gilt Edged Fund, and many others.

Exchange Rates 24.02.2022

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies like Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Chinese Yuan, Euro, Japanese Yen, Singapore Dollar, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, and US Dollar.

Market Indicators 24.02.2022

Table of market indicators including Price Indices (CSE All Share Index, S&P 20 Index, etc.), Equities (Value of Turnover, Domestic Purchase, etc.), and Interbank - Interest Rates - Mid Rates (1 Month, 3 Month, 6 Month, 12 Month).

CSE Price List

Main Board price list table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A. (MOVING), OPEN, HIGH, LOW, V.W.A. (TODAY'S), CHANGE (RS).

Second Board price list table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A. (MOVING), OPEN, HIGH, LOW, V.W.A. (TODAY'S), CHANGE (RS).

Indices lose 5% during the day

SL equities closed in red today as a result of price losses in counters such as LOLC Holdings, Expolanka Holdings and Royal Ceramics. The market saw yet another trading halt today as the S&P SL20 fell over 5%.



interest was noted in Browns Investments, LOLC Finance and SMB Leasing voting & nonvoting. Foreign participation in the market activity remained at subdued levels with foreigners closing as net buyers.

Diversified Financials sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to LOLC Holdings and LOLC Finance), whilst the sector lost 7.84%. The share price of LOLC Holdings moved down by Rs 93.50 (10.14%) to close at Rs 828.75.

The share price of Expolanka Holdings decreased by Rs 25.75 (9.68%) to close at Rs 240.25. Browns Investments and Hayleys were also included amongst the top turnover contributors.



## People's Bank rewards foreign remittance draw winners



People's Bank picked the first batch of winners of the 'People's Remittance Vaasi Kotiyai, Ewannai Dinannai Draw' where the daily and Weekly Winners for the first two weeks of February were selected.

The event was held at the People's Bank Overseas Customer Services premises at Colombo 10 recently.

Accordingly, prizes of Rs.10,000 each will be presented to 14 daily winners while the two weekly winners will be awarded 22-carat gold sovereigns.

People's Bank Senior Deputy General Manager (Payments and Digital) K.B. Rajapakse, People's Bank Senior Deputy General Manager (Overseas Customer Services) Rohan Pathirage, People's Bank Deputy General Manager (Retail Banking, Process Management and Quality Assurance) Renuka Jayasinghe, People's Bank Head of Marketing, Nalaka Wijayawardana Head of Marketing, People's Bank Chief Manager (Overseas Customer Services) Renuka Arunachalam

Chief Manager (Overseas Customer Services), and People's Bank Chief Manager (Audit) Mohamed Ruwaiz participated in the event.

People's launched the 'Vaasi kotiyayi' promotion from 1 February 2022 to encourage and appreciate Sri Lankan migrant workers who work tirelessly to strengthen the country's economy and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Under the promotion, the grand draw winner who will be selected at the year end, will be presented with a grand prize of Rs.10 million. Additionally, the daily winners will receive Rs.10,000, and the weekly winner will receive 22-carat gold sovereigns. The monthly winners will get Rs.1 million each.

All customers who remit money through People's Bank using any method during the period 1 February to 31 December 2022 are eligible to enter the draw. Customers can also increase their chances of winning by remitting more money.

# SLI partners with SLIM Agrisaviya to nurture agri sector

Sri Lanka Insurance (SLI) partners with Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) as the insurance partner for the 'Agrisaviya', the first Agri-Business Management and Entrepreneurial Programme offered in Sri Lanka.

The certificate in Agri-Business and Entrepreneurship (CABE) programme is a first-of-its-kind qualification available in Sri Lanka to transform farmers into 'Agriprenuerers'.

The agriculture sector of Sri Lanka is one of the most important sources of employment for the majority of the workforce in Sri Lanka. Approximately 2.1 million persons or 25.5 percent of the total employed population, are engaged in agriculture,

inclusive of forestry and fishery.

As the national insurer, Sri Lanka Insurance has always been keen on empowering the working population who are driving the economy forward. Being the insurance partner for the 'Agrisaviya' is yet another initiative to uplift the living standards of those who are engaged in the agriculture sector while contributing towards the national development of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Insurance said.

Although 25.5 percent of the population in Sri Lanka engages in agriculture, the sector's contribution to GDP is as low as 7.3 percent. Despite the geographical advantage of the country, and the history of being an agriculture-based economy,

Sri Lanka has a declining trend of contribution to the country's production due to a lack of value additions.

The 'Agrisaviya' programme will help bridge the knowledge gap of the sector with the contribution of Sri Lanka Insurance as the insurance partner.

The programme will empower and transform the agricultural sector in building a passion for employment with professionalism. The programme inspires youth to join the agriculture sector by making it attractive and grooming 'Agriprenuers' to generate higher income to ensure inclusive growth and eliminate inequalities in the long run.



From left: AgriSaviya National Initiative Project Chair Charaka Perera and Sri Lanka Insurance CEO Chandana L. Aluthgama exchange agreements

## Orient Finance records Rs.129mn PAT for 3Q

Orient Finance PLC recorded a Profit Before Tax (PBT) income of Rs.139 million for the three months ended December 31, 2021 (3Q22), demonstrating a growth of 97 percent in comparison to the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

The Profit After Tax (PAT) for the period was Rs.129 million, or 61 cents a share compared to earnings of Rs.66 million or 32 cents a share.

The company's net operating income for the period was Rs.465 million, indicating an increase of 35 percent when compared to the previous financial year.

The total assets of Orient Finance for the period stood at Rs 17.1 billion, up from Rs 14.9 billion recorded as of March 31, 2021. The increase signals a robust position.

"Our consistent customer-centric approach that



Orient Finance Chairman Anil Tittawella



Orient Finance Director and CEO K.M.M. Jabir

took into account the specific challenges of the pandemic economy enabled us to continue to remain profitable and look after the interest of all our stakeholders.

"This falls in line with our sustainable approach to business. We operate based on well-researched market data and insights to achieve steady growth and build wealth on behalf of our customers," said Orient Finance Chairman Anil Tittawella

commenting on the performance.

Orient Finance Director and CEO K. M. M. Jabir pointed out that in spite of the overwhelming and complex challenges of the past couple of years, the entity has been able to achieve steady growth. "Our performance in the third quarter of the financial year 2021 is indicative of our innate ability to navigate troubled waters skilfully and with foresight," he said.

## Abans Finance records best ever 9-month PAT

Abans Finance PLC, a member of Abans Group, recorded its best ever Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 306 million for any financial year during the nine months ended December 31, 2021. The firm's total assets reached close to Rs.10 billion.

The rise in PAT translated to a 63 percent increase Year-on-Year (YoY).

By setting the company's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in line with its long-term sustainability goals within a framework of balanced score card, the management team is optimistic on the sustainability of its profit momentum and growth in portfolio in the coming years. As a result the management is expecting to close the FY 2021/2022 with a sustainable material growth in YoY performance.

The management attributed the improved financial performance of the company

to the teamwork of its staff, particularly amid the challenging operating environment.



# VENTURE ENGINE

## 2021/22

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Powering Innovation



# SAMPATH BANK PLC

## INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(In terms of rule 7.4 of the Colombo Stock Exchange)

Company Number: PQ144

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

	Bank						Group					
	For the year ended 31st December			For the quarter ended 31st December			For the year ended 31st December			For the quarter ended 31st December		
	2021 (Audited) Rs 000	2020 (Audited) Rs 000	Change %	2021 Rs 000	2020 Rs 000	Change %	2021 (Audited) Rs 000	2020 (Audited) Rs 000	Change %	2021 Rs 000	2020 Rs 000	Change %
<b>Gross income</b>	104,570,383	102,338,976	2.2	27,894,042	24,228,975	15.5	113,875,143	109,267,964	3.5	30,350,976	26,094,824	16.4
Interest income	85,966,952	88,628,336	(3.0)	22,742,253	20,608,189	10.4	90,427,928	94,647,361	(2.3)	24,442,284	22,115,187	10.5
Less: Interest expense	44,317,761	54,804,918	(19.1)	10,785,678	12,781,343	(15.8)	46,906,728	57,820,028	(18.9)	11,414,516	13,699,975	(15.2)
<b>Net interest income</b>	41,649,191	33,823,418	23.2	11,978,575	7,826,846	53.0	43,521,200	36,827,333	18.2	13,027,768	8,415,212	56.0
Fee & commission income	13,239,848	9,775,379	35.4	4,215,896	2,819,179	49.5	14,236,984	10,270,563	38.6	4,507,244	2,980,065	51.2
Less: Fee & commission expense	1,704,995	1,320,563	33.7	581,980	355,831	63.8	1,785,975	1,321,437	33.6	562,363	339,980	65.6
<b>Net fee &amp; commission income</b>	11,534,853	8,454,796	35.7	3,633,916	2,463,348	47.5	12,450,999	8,949,126	39.4	3,944,881	2,640,085	49.3
Net gain from trading	389,243	24,767	1,510.7	497,637	367,326	35.5	396,243	24,767	1,510.7	497,637	367,326	35.5
Net gain on derecognition of financial assets - at fair value through profit or loss	114,418	243,977	(53.1)	34,184	21,898	56.1	114,418	243,977	(53.1)	34,184	21,898	56.1
- at fair value through other comprehensive income	30,313	179,418	(83.1)	-	27,060	(100.0)	30,313	179,418	(83.1)	-	27,060	(100.0)
- at amortised cost	5,682	419	1,256.1	-	-	-	5,682	419	1,256.1	-	-	-
Net other operating income	4,794,047	3,486,660	37.5	504,272	365,323	30.9	5,866,575	3,941,459	47.8	669,627	572,369	15.9
<b>Total operating income</b>	68,487,547	46,213,475	47.2	16,646,384	11,061,801	50.1	64,396,446	50,666,450	27.6	18,353,795	12,261,869	49.7
Less: Impairment charge	17,084,814	11,782,701	45.0	7,243,555	677,921	968.5	18,559,200	13,200,926	40.6	7,387,705	1,043,096	608.2
<b>Net operating income</b>	51,402,733	34,430,774	49.3	9,402,829	10,413,880	(9.7)	45,837,246	37,465,524	22.3	10,966,090	11,218,773	(2.3)
<b>Less: Operating expenses</b>												
Personnel expenses	9,542,966	10,233,006	(6.7)	891,046	2,638,751	(66.2)	10,916,278	11,227,349	(2.8)	1,266,286	2,887,112	(56.2)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	2,454,371	2,454,105	-	370,727	681,872	(45.6)	2,491,340	2,518,453	(1.1)	524,110	696,323	(21.3)
Other expenses	8,670,687	7,408,346	17.0	2,834,431	1,900,872	49.1	9,311,739	7,835,911	18.8	2,906,867	1,903,516	45.9
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	20,668,024	20,095,459	2.8	4,096,176	5,221,496	(21.6)	22,718,357	21,581,713	5.3	4,793,263	5,595,951	(15.4)
<b>Operating profit before taxes on financial services</b>	30,734,669	14,335,315	114.4	5,306,643	5,192,305	2.2	23,118,889	15,883,810	45.3	6,263,827	5,665,922	10.6
Less: Value added tax on financial services	3,900,725	3,163,428	23.3	794,775	1,006,817	(21.1)	4,295,777	3,394,281	26.6	505,203	1,078,419	(14.2)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	16,833,944	11,171,887	50.6	4,511,868	4,185,488	7.8	18,823,112	11,899,529	58.3	5,758,624	4,587,503	25.7
Less: Income tax expense	4,376,447	3,146,740	38.1	1,035,620	1,251,157	(17.2)	4,988,845	3,447,863	44.1	1,280,400	1,354,521	(5.5)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	12,457,497	8,025,147	55.2	3,476,248	2,934,331	18.5	13,834,267	8,451,666	64.1	4,478,224	3,232,982	38.7
Attributable to:												
Equity holders of the Bank	12,457,497	8,025,147	55.2	3,476,248	2,934,331	18.5	13,834,267	8,451,666	64.1	4,478,224	3,232,982	38.7
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Earnings per share - Basic/Diluted (Rs)</b>	10.89	7.61	55.2	3.94	2.96	18.5	12.11	7.38	64.1	3.55	2.82	25.7

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at	Bank			Group		
	31st December 2021 (Audited) Rs 000	31st December 2020 (Audited) Rs 000	Change %	31st December 2021 (Audited) Rs 000	31st December 2020 (Audited) Rs 000	Change %
	<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash & cash equivalents	22,882,969	28,053,585	(21.2)	23,027,588	28,218,921	(21.2)
Balances with Central Bank of Sri Lanka	30,874,586	13,335,178	131.5	30,874,586	13,335,178	131.5
Placements with banks	2,739,514	3,238,166	(15.1)	2,739,514	3,238,166	(15.1)
Reverse repurchase agreements	2,752,011	4,450,557	(38.2)	4,861,922	8,231,719	(22.0)
Derivative financial instruments	1,399,119	2,196,515	(36.0)	1,399,119	2,196,515	(36.0)
Financial assets recognised through profit or loss - measured at fair value	3,907,704	9,313,628	(58.0)	3,907,704	9,313,628	(58.0)
Financial assets at amortised cost						
- loans & advances	762,588,294	720,215,247	5.9	795,804,353	752,437,782	5.8
- debt & other instruments	293,786,967	275,091,572	6.8	294,867,208	275,125,717	7.1
Financial assets - fair value through other comprehensive income	43,094,145	24,237,893	77.4	43,094,201	24,237,859	77.4
Investment in subsidiaries	3,593,360	3,590,774	4.8	-	-	-
Property, plant & equipment	7,817,923	8,126,285	(3.8)	16,337,516	15,891,415	2.8
Intangible assets	544,916	753,615	(27.7)	567,681	791,689	(28.3)
Right-of-use assets	3,265,318	3,280,166	(0.5)	3,031,790	2,905,661	4.3
Current tax receivables	-	-	-	4,177	42,883	(90.3)
Deferred tax assets	6,157,969	4,634,040	32.9	6,242,982	4,693,496	34.2
Other assets	14,798,621	9,013,993	63.2	16,162,339	10,084,789	60.3
<b>Total Assets</b>	1,199,913,395	1,110,271,124	8.1	1,242,632,658	1,149,685,428	8.1
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Due to banks	23,653,247	35,085,294	(32.8)	31,532,293	42,905,046	(26.5)
Derivative financial instruments	607,923	2,030,947	(70.1)	607,923	2,030,947	(70.1)
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	4,157,862	3,399,896	22.3	4,157,862	2,308,896	86.2
Financial liabilities at amortised cost						
- due to depositors	977,945,952	886,724,901	10.4	994,317,574	902,498,738	10.2
- due to other borrowers	14,434,115	15,489,793	(6.8)	14,434,115	15,489,793	(6.8)
- due to debt securities holders	31,096,592	30,790,007	0.7	37,274,207	37,078,483	0.5
Retirement benefit obligation	2,073,127	6,871,992	(62.6)	2,706,462	6,988,658	(61.3)
Dividend payable	148,032	121,270	22.1	148,032	121,270	22.1
Current tax liabilities	7,524,844	4,674,756	61.0	8,375,511	4,792,904	74.7
Deferred tax liabilities	-	-	-	979,815	1,485,302	(34.0)
Other liabilities	19,110,242	18,533,954	3.1	20,913,538	19,572,736	6.9
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,091,141,736	1,082,722,320	7.8	1,115,447,132	1,035,279,774	7.7
<b>EQUITY</b>						
Statutory capital	47,622,493	47,622,493	-	47,622,493	47,622,493	-
Reserves						
Statutory reserve fund	9,075,000	4,450,000	14.0	9,075,000	4,450,000	14.7
Other reserves	57,247,452	51,297,588	11.6	60,381,178	54,295,381	11.3
Retained earnings	8,936,714	4,188,723	116.2	13,866,847	7,900,780	75.5
<b>Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Bank</b>	118,751,659	107,568,894	10.4	127,165,518	114,414,654	11.2
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Equity</b>	118,751,659	107,568,894	10.4	127,165,518	114,414,654	11.2
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	1,199,913,395	1,110,271,124	8.1	1,242,632,658	1,149,685,428	8.1
<b>Commitments &amp; contingencies</b>	392,079,682	482,405,749	(18.7)	389,844,633	477,967,519	(18.4)
Net asset value per share (Rs)	103.77	93.98	10.4	111.54	99.98	11.2

#### Memorandum information

Number of employees	4,013	4,048
Number of branches	229	229

#### CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above Financial Statements are in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

(Sgd)

Ajantha de Vas Gunasekera  
Executive Director / Group Chief Financial Officer

We, the undersigned, being the Chairman and the Managing Director of Sampath Bank PLC, certify jointly that:

- the above statements have been prepared in compliance with the format and definitions prescribed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka; and
- the information contained in these statements have been extracted from the audited Financial Statements of the Bank and its subsidiary companies.

(Sgd)

Harsha Amarasekera  
Chairman  
15th February 2022

(Sgd)

Nanda Fernando  
Managing Director

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Bank						Group						
	For the year ended 31st December			For the quarter ended 31st December			For the year ended 31st December			For the quarter ended 31st December			
	2021 (Audited) Rs 000	2020 (Audited) Rs 000	Change %	2021 Rs 000	2020 Rs 000	Change %	2021 (Audited) Rs 000	2020 (Audited) Rs 000	Change %	2021 Rs 000	2020 Rs 000	Change %	
<b>Profit for the period</b>	12,457,497	8,025,147	55.2	3,476,248	2,934,331	18.5	13,834,267	8,451,666	64.1	4,478,224	3,232,982	38.7	
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>													
Items that will be reclassified to profit or loss:													
Debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income:													
Loss arising on re-measurement	(1,381,203)	(8,035)	(17,100.5)	(444,256)	(123,940)	(258.4)	(1,381,203)	(8,035)	(17,100.5)	(444,256)	(123,940)	(258.4)	
Reclassification to profit or loss	(30,313)	(179,418)	83.1	(27,060)	100.0	(30,313)	(179,418)	83.1	(27,060)	100.0	(30,313)	(179,418)	83.1
Changes in impairment for expected credit losses	34,373	19,527	76.0	25,764	1,709	1,407.5	34,373	19,527	76.0	25,764	1,709	1,407.5	
Deferred tax effect including the effect of rate change on the opening balance	325,010	47,018	591.2	103,438	41,802	140.3	325,010	47,018	591.2	103,438	41,802	140.3	
<b>Net other comprehensive income to be reclassified to profit or loss</b>	(1,052,133)	(126,903)	(776.2)	(318,054)	(167,489)	(195.9)	(1,052,133)	(126,903)	(776.2)	(318,054)	(167,489)	(195.9)	
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:													
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income:													
Gain/(loss) arising on re-measurement	670,639	1,555,933	(56.9)	(1,010,3									



# SAMPATH BANK PLC

INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(In terms of rule 7.4 of the Colombo Stock Exchange)

Company Number: PQ144

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Bank (Audited)	For the year ended 31st December 2020						
	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserve Fund	Other Reserves			Retained Earnings	Total Equity
			Revaluation Reserve	FVOCI Reserve	General Reserve		
	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000
Balance as at 1st January 2020	47,622,493	4,940,000	2,993,599	807,879	43,435,171	6,106,542	105,005,784
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	8,025,147	8,025,147
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	1,338,324	-	(2,853,035)	(1,514,711)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	1,338,324	-	5,172,112	6,513,436
Transactions with equity holders, recognised directly in equity, contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Final dividend for 2019: cash	-	-	-	-	-	(4,482,131)	(4,482,131)
Unclaimed dividend adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	20,615	20,615
Total contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	20,615	(4,461,516)
Transfer to reserves during the year	-	410,000	-	-	-	3,090,000	(3,490,000)
Balance as at 31st December 2020	47,622,493	4,430,000	2,993,599	1,838,203	46,455,786	4,188,723	107,548,804

Bank (Audited)	For the year ended 31st December 2021						
	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserve Fund	Other Reserves			Retained Earnings	Total Equity
			Revaluation Reserve	FVOCI Reserve	General Reserve		
	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000
Balance as at 1st January 2021	47,622,493	4,430,000	2,993,599	1,838,203	46,455,786	4,188,723	107,548,804
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	12,457,487	12,457,487
Other comprehensive income	-	-	166,311	(212,468)	-	1,625,424	1,879,267
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	166,311	(212,468)	-	14,082,911	14,336,754
Transactions with equity holders, recognised directly in equity, contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Final dividend for 2020: cash	-	-	-	-	-	(3,147,028)	(3,147,028)
Unclaimed dividend adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	13,119	13,119
Total contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	13,119	(3,133,909)
Realised gain (net of tax) from derecognition of equity instruments at FVOCI	-	-	-	(7,086)	-	7,086	-
Transfer to reserves during the year	-	625,000	-	-	-	6,000,000	(6,625,000)
Balance as at 31st December 2021	47,622,493	5,055,000	3,159,910	1,618,637	52,466,925	8,606,714	118,791,680

Group (Audited)	For the year ended 31st December 2020								
	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserve Fund	Other Reserves			Retained Earnings	Total Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Bank	Non Controlling Interest	Total Equity
			Revaluation Reserve	FVOCI Reserve	General Reserve				
	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	
Balance as at 1st January 2020	47,622,493	4,204,000	5,992,382	807,879	43,435,171	8,424,692	111,496,627	111,496,627	
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	8,442,516	8,442,516	8,442,516	
Other comprehensive income	-	-	331,244	(212,468)	-	(1,625,636)	2,048,312	(1,587,324)	
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	331,244	(212,468)	-	6,816,880	7,419,543	5,855,192	
Transactions with equity holders, recognised directly in equity, contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Final dividend for 2019: cash	-	-	-	-	-	(4,482,131)	(4,482,131)	(4,482,131)	
Unclaimed dividend adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	20,615	20,615	20,615	
Total contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	20,615	(4,461,516)	(4,461,516)	
Transfer to reserves during the year	-	431,000	-	-	-	3,000,000	(3,431,000)	-	
Balance as at 31st December 2020	47,622,493	4,635,000	5,992,382	1,638,203	46,455,786	7,900,780	114,414,654	114,414,654	

Group (Audited)	For the year ended 31st December 2021								
	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserve Fund	Other Reserves			Retained Earnings	Total Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Bank	Non Controlling Interest	Total Equity
			Revaluation Reserve	FVOCI Reserve	General Reserve				
	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	Rs 000	
Balance as at 1st January 2021	47,622,493	4,635,000	5,992,382	1,638,203	46,455,786	7,900,780	114,414,654	114,414,654	
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	13,856,461	13,856,461	13,856,461	
Other comprehensive income	-	-	331,244	(212,468)	-	(1,625,636)	2,048,312	(1,587,324)	
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	331,244	(212,468)	-	12,230,825	15,904,773	12,269,137	
Transactions with equity holders, recognised directly in equity, contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Final dividend for 2020: cash	-	-	-	-	-	(3,147,028)	(3,147,028)	(3,147,028)	
Unclaimed dividend adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	13,119	13,119	13,119	
Total contributions by and distributions to equity holders	-	-	-	-	-	13,119	(3,133,909)	(3,133,909)	
Realised gain (net of tax) from derecognition of equity instruments at FVOCI	-	-	-	(7,086)	-	7,086	-	-	
Transfer to reserves during the year	-	680,000	-	-	-	6,000,000	(6,680,000)	-	
Balance as at 31st December 2021	47,622,493	5,315,000	6,293,626	1,618,637	52,466,925	13,886,847	127,985,518	127,985,518	

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31st December	Bank		Group	
	2021 (Audited) Rs 000	2020 (Audited) Rs 000	2021 (Audited) Rs 000	2020 (Audited) Rs 000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
Interest receipts	76,896,422	74,588,809	83,302,263	80,545,049
Interest payments	(43,695,551)	(55,793,661)	(46,500,115)	(58,652,321)
Net commission receipts	11,414,962	8,393,149	12,411,338	8,807,479
Cash payments to employees	(9,812,570)	(8,798,333)	(10,953,167)	(9,784,066)
Taxes on financial services	(4,840,804)	(3,335,961)	(5,258,895)	(3,566,754)
Receipts from other operating activities	4,461,914	3,167,466	5,864,449	3,722,591
Cash payments to other operating activities	(8,050,975)	(7,290,842)	(8,258,051)	(7,451,105)
<b>Operating profit before changes in operating assets &amp; liabilities</b>	<b>26,543,418</b>	<b>10,979,887</b>	<b>30,516,837</b>	<b>13,720,871</b>
<b>(Increase)/decrease in operating assets</b>				
Balances with Central Bank of Sri Lanka	(17,539,378)	17,693,092	(17,539,378)	17,693,092
Financial assets at amortised cost - loans & advances	(48,013,349)	(27,967,061)	(50,568,257)	(31,805,939)
Other assets	(9,726,619)	(2,787,057)	(9,125,405)	(3,184,906)
	<b>(74,279,346)</b>	<b>(13,061,061)</b>	<b>(77,254,121)</b>	<b>(17,298,753)</b>
<b>Increase/(decrease) in operating liabilities</b>				
Due to banks	(11,746,505)	(16,030,070)	(11,697,688)	(19,625,480)
Re-purchase agreements	782,761	(12,997,979)	1,875,781	(14,069,979)
Financial liabilities at amortised cost - due to depositors	91,734,741	169,317,597	91,509,991	173,112,538
Financial liabilities at amortised cost - due to other borrowers	(918,501)	9,767,293	(918,501)	9,767,293
Other liabilities	(412,389)	1,385,374	(364,703)	1,503,883
	<b>79,490,637</b>	<b>151,452,215</b>	<b>80,504,799</b>	<b>150,491,245</b>
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities before income tax</b>	<b>31,753,009</b>	<b>149,361,842</b>	<b>33,767,506</b>	<b>146,913,363</b>
Income tax paid	(3,558,857)	(6,398,923)	(3,788,355)	(6,924,116)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>28,194,152</b>	<b>142,962,919</b>	<b>29,979,151</b>	<b>139,989,247</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(466,451)	(478,367)	(1,679,810)	(1,441,076)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant & equipment	9,716	3,465	46,931	5,110
Net cash flow from reverse repurchase agreements	1,700,000	(4,450,000)	1,371,251	(3,926,770)
Net cash flow from financial assets - FVPL	5,282,016	2,187,141	5,282,016	2,187,141
Net cash flow from debt instruments at amortised cost	(18,252,862)	(114,313,448)	(19,118,758)	(114,332,293)
Net cash flow from financial assets - FVOCI	(18,772,514)	(5,185,084)	(18,772,514)	(5,185,084)
Purchase of intangible assets	(181,605)	(199,307)	(191,750)	(201,945)
Dividend received from financial assets	174,368	69,329	174,608	69,849
Dividend received from subsidiaries	5,123	4,828	-	-
Investment in subsidiaries	-	(700,000)	-	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(30,582,009)</b>	<b>(123,094,283)</b>	<b>(32,888,026)</b>	<b>(122,828,071)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
Proceeds from the issue of debentures	6,000,000	-	7,500,000	2,000,000
Redemption of debentures	(6,000,000)	(7,000,000)	(7,078,010)	(7,000,000)
Repayment of secured loans	-	-	(447,110)	447,110
Dividend paid	(3,147,028)	(4,482,131)	(3,147,028)	(4,482,131)
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(1,335,139)	(1,065,454)	(728,618)	(742,786)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(4,482,167)</b>	<b>(12,547,585)</b>	<b>(3,906,746)</b>	<b>(6,777,806)</b>
<b>Net cash (used)/generated during the year</b>	<b>(6,789,127)</b>	<b>7,351,871</b>	<b>(6,866,641)</b>	<b>7,363,367</b>
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>31,944,412</b>	<b>24,593,241</b>	<b>32,108,632</b>	<b>24,725,485</b>
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>25,155,285</b>	<b>31,945,112</b>	<b>25,241,991</b>	<b>32,108,852</b>

## DEBENTURE INFORMATION

### (a) Market Values

Debtors - 2017/2022	Highest (Rs)		Lowest (Rs)		Quarter End (Rs)	
	2017	2022	2021	2020	2021	2020
Floor - 12.50%	N/T	1,03,75	N/T	1,08,74	N/T	1,18,75
Debtors - 2018/2023	Highest (Rs)		Lowest (Rs)		Quarter End (Rs)	
	2018	2023	2021	2020	2021	2020
Floor - 12.50%	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Debtors - 2019/2024	Highest (Rs)		Lowest (Rs)		Quarter End (Rs)	
	2019	2024	2021	2020	2021	2020
Floor - 13.90%	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Debtors - 2021/2028	Highest (Rs)		Lowest (Rs)		Quarter End (Rs)	
	2021	2028	2021	2020	2021	2020
Floor - 9.80%	N/T	N/A	N/T	N/A	N/T	N/A

### (b) Interest Rates

Debtors - 2017/2022	2017		2018	
	Coupon rate	Effective rate	Coupon rate	Effective rate
Floor - 12.50%	12.50%	12.90%	12.50%	12.90%
Debtors - 2018/2023	2017		2018	
	Coupon rate	Effective rate	Coupon rate	Effective rate
Floor - 12.50%	12.50%	12.90%	12.50%	12.90%
Debtors - 2019/2024	2017		2018	
	Coupon rate	Effective rate	Coupon rate	Effective rate
Floor - 13.90%	13.90%	13.90%	13.90%	13.90%
Debtors - 2021/2028	2017		2018	
	Coupon rate	Effective rate	Coupon rate	Effective rate
Floor - 9.80%	9.80%	9.80%	N/A	N/A

### (c) Interest Rate of Comparable Government Securities

	2021	2020
3 Month Treasury Bill	5.25%	4.60%
6 Month Treasury Bill	5.35%	4.80%
5 Year Treasury Bond	5.65%	5.01%
7 Year Treasury Bond	5.52%	4.98%

### (d) Current Yield & Yield to maturity

Debtors - 2017/2022	Floor	
	2021	2020
Current yield	N/T	11.50%
Yield to maturity of last trade	N/T	1.62%
Debtors - 2018/2023	Floor	
	2021	2020
Current yield	N/T	N/T
Yield to maturity of last trade	N/T	N/T
Debtors - 2019/2024	Floor	
	2021	2020
Current yield	N/T	N/T
Yield to maturity of last trade	N/T	N/T
Debtors - 2021/2028	Floor	
	2021	2020
Current yield	N/T	N/A
Yield to maturity of last trade	N/T	N/A

### (e) Ratios - Bank

|--|



## Meta partners with NYSC to boost economic growth in SL

Meta, formerly known as Facebook, has partnered with Sri Lanka's National Youth Services Council (NYSC) to launch an entrepreneurship programme boosting economic growth for the country.

Through the initiative Meta Boost, the programme aims to train around 750 Youth Services Officers of NYSC, who will in turn empower more than 50,000 local entrepreneurs, who are using digital platforms to grow their businesses.

This training is part of NYSC's Hope 4 Sri Lanka initiative that connects thousands of entrepreneurs across the country with funding, resources and knowledge. Meta Boost will help them utilise online platforms to reach their markets and engage with customers.

At the launching ceremony, Sports and Youth Minister and Digital Technology and Enterprise Development State Minister Namal Rajapaksa spoke about the importance of digital skills to support the country's economic development.

"In today's Digital Sri Lanka, it is important to build the capacity of entrepreneurs that are making a huge impact on our economy," said Rajapaksa.

"We are encouraged by programmes like Meta Boost and the Hope 4 Sri Lanka initiative of the National Youth Services Council that support entrepreneurs and help them drive business. We thank Meta for the partnership as we continue to build a hopeful future where businesses thrive."

NYSC Chairman Damitha Wickramasinghe also spoke at the event and appreciated how Meta identifies needs of the country



Sports and Youth Minister and Digital Technology and Enterprise Development State Minister Namal Rajapaksa speaks about importance of digital skills and partnership with Meta



Meta Head of Public Policy South Asia Sarim Aziz gives his remarks at the launch

and designs its programmes in collaboration with key stakeholders to support economic development and the digital economy of Sri Lanka.

A recent survey conducted by DAI Global in partnership with IPSOS shows that half of surveyed small and medium businesses in Sri Lanka used digital tools for business purposes last year. Around 83 percent of them believe that Meta apps helped them adapt during the pandemic. However, both online and offline entrepreneurs said they faced difficulties when using online platforms - 45 percent of them think it is due to their lack of knowledge of how to utilise digital tools.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic challenges for people around the world," said Meta Head of Public Policy South Asia Sarim Aziz. "At Meta, we understand that it's crucial to provide training to small businesses so they can navigate digital platforms and the tools that are available to them. We are happy to partner with NYSC to support Sri Lankan entrepreneurs and play a part in boosting the country's economic development"

Through the Meta Boost programme, the company has been supporting local entrepreneurs around the world and helping them stay resilient and grow their businesses, even during the pandemic. To know more about how Meta helps businesses find and engage with customers, check out Meta for Business.

# Successful Venture Engine Finale kick-starts local start-up sector

Venture Engine has spotlighted the resurgence of the start-up sector with its successfully concluded Finale, which was held on February 23, 2022.

This event not only showcased the resilience of Sri Lanka's start-ups but also that the sector is rebounding.

"Despite the setbacks experienced by the start-up sector, due to COVID-19, a lack of foreign exchange, etc. we are pleased to have successfully completed Venture Engine's tenth year. This is a testament to the strength of this programme, which has helped fast track some of Sri Lanka's top fundable start-ups from idea to late stage in a very short time span. In many ways, our journey this year has mirrored that of our start-ups," commented BOV Capital, Lankan Angel Network and Venture Engine Founder Prajeeth Balasubramaniam.

The winner of Venture Engine in 2022 was Sri Lanka's first 'Buy Now, Pay Later' platform Mintpay (FinTech). One-to-one online tutoring platform Tutopiya (EdTech) was adjudged the First Runner-Up, while non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace Hyperglade (Web 3.0) was recognised as the Second Runner-Up. Tutopiya Founder Nuha Ghouse received the Trailblazer Award, which was given out in 2022 for the first time.

Continuing to promote initiatives that help innovative start-ups to accelerate their growth and scale, Venture Engine has, this year alone, awarded more than Rs.7 million in prize money and grants to start-ups, in celebration of its 10th anniversary. Along with BOV Capital, the Indian Angel Network is also a founder of Venture Engine, with the Lankan Angel Network (LAN) being its



Venture Engine 2022 winner Mintpay



Venture Engine 2022 Impact Award winner Quick Help

Investment Partner and the Ford Foundation its Platinum Sponsor.

Quick Help, which offers online access to home improvement services like plumbing, carpentry, domestic help, etc. was recognised

with Venture Engine's Impact Entrepreneurship Award, which was sponsored by Indian Venture Capital firm Aavishkaar, Venture Engine's Gold Sponsor. Hatch was the Silver Sponsor. Other sponsors and partners



Venture Engine 2022 Trailblazer Award winner Tutopiya Founder Nuha Ghouse

included Dialog Axiata PLC, KPMG, PwC, AOD, Shift and CPP, ICTA, SL@100, Council for Startups and SLASSCOM.

The local panellists at the Finale were ICTA Chairman Oshada Senanayake, Dialog Axiata PLC COO Lasantha Theverapperuma, Calcey Technologies Founder/CEO Mangala Karunaratne, nCinga Chairman Imal Kalutotage and KPMG Sri Lanka Principal Shiluka Gunawardena as well as LAN Patrons and Board Members Indian Angel Network Co-Founder Padmaja Ruparel, Sequoia Capital India Managing Director Rajan Anandan, former CIMB Investment Bank Sri Lanka CEO Anarkali Moonesinghe and HATCH Founder Jeevan Gnanam.

The Finale also featured the participation of potential investors from Citi Group, Sequoia Capital, Aventus Capital, Aavishkaar Capital, SBK Ventures, Advantedge Founders Fund, Waterbridge Ventures, K3 Ventures, the Indian Angel Network and Singapore Angel Network, which joined in from abroad via Zoom.

## Contd. from Page 1

### Cabraal denies...

Cabraal had earlier expressed confidence in restructuring the country's debt on its own with the locally available expertise and without the backing of the IMF or any other such institution. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis marred by an unprecedented foreign exchange crisis and a massive foreign debt pile. The foreign exchange shortage has resulted in hours-long power outages, as power plants and petrol pumps have run dry. Sri Lanka's foreign reserves had dwindled to US \$ 2.36 billion by end of January 2022, from US \$ 7.5 billion at the beginning of 2020. But some analysts said usable reserves are significantly less than that. For this year, Sri Lanka has about US \$ 6.9 billion foreign debt repayment, including the interest. The country repaid US \$ 500 million sovereign bond in January and the next big repayment of a US \$ 1 billion sovereign bond is scheduled in July. The Central Bank and the government have pledged that they are committed to honouring all the debt repayments that fall due.

### January exports...

Earnings from tea exports fell 9.66 percent to US \$ 91.23 million amid the decline in bulk tea exports. Export earnings from rubber and rubber-based products increased 3.5 percent to US \$ 87.12 million amid higher pneumatic and retreaded tyres and tubes and industrial and surgical gloves. Earnings from coconut and coconut-based products rose 26.02 percent to US \$ 68.28 million. Export earnings from the electrical and electronics components increased by 12.62 percent to US \$ 35.87 million, with strong performance in exports of insulated wires and cables switches, boards and panels and electrical transformers.

### Govt. expects...

At the same time, the State Minister said the developments in Ukraine will have an adverse impact on Sri Lanka, especially when it comes to fuel supply.

### Maliban to...

As the necessary approvals have been obtained, come June the construction of the factory will commence, Maliban Bio Ventures CEO S.M.D. Suriyakumara told Mirror Business. The 40,000-50,000 square feet factory will be constructed over a land area of four acres. For the first few years of operations, the factory will focus entirely on the value addition of monoclonal antibody (mAb) drugs for cancer. Only after bringing in the required technology the factory will commence the manufacturing of the drugs for cancer. Sri Lanka currently imports its entire requirement of drugs for the treatment of cancer. In March 2021, the Cabinet nod was given to the setting up of a pharmaceutical manufacturing zone in Anuradhapura. A total of Rs.30 billion is expected from selected 24 local investors. The government has given the investors a time frame of 36 months to kick off the operations. The objective of the pharmaceutical manufacturing zone is to encourage local manufacturing of medicinal drugs in the country, so that Sri Lanka eventually becomes self-sufficient in this regard. Sri Lanka is on the brink of facing a massive drug shortage, as imports of the same are hampered due to the lack of foreign exchange in the country. The All-Island Private Pharmacy Owners' Association (ACPPOA) cautioned earlier this week that the country would face a drug shortage within the next three months.

### Tea export...

The FOB value of Rs.948.24 increased by Rs.24.25, when compared to the Rs.923.99 of January 2021. Despite the increase in the rupee FOB, it reflected a lower value in US dollar terms. For January, Iraq emerged as the top importer of Ceylon Tea, with a 112 percent increase year-on-year (YoY). Russia became the second largest importer, with an 83 percent increase in imports when compared with January 2022.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was ranked as the third largest importer while Libya (384 percent increase YoY) and Iran (25 percent increase YoY) secured the fourth and fifth positions.

The other notable importers were Azerbaijan, China, Saudi Arabia and Chile. Meanwhile, imports from Turkey dropped significantly by 83 percent, pushing it down to the 10th position from the second position in 2021. Similarly, Syria dropped to the 16th position, from the 10th position it occupied in 2021, with a decrease of 61 percent YoY.

### Shares plunge...

The equity market turnover was Rs.3.71 billion. The trading volume dipped to about 164 million shares from 188.5 million shares in the previous session. The Sri Lankan rupee weakened to 202 against the dollar, hitting their lowest level in over 10 months Earlier this week, a Cabinet spokesman had said that a war in Ukraine would really hurt Sri Lanka as the country faces an acute fuel shortage.

### Oil rises...

The United States and Europe have promised the toughest sanctions on Russia in response. "If sanctions affect payment transactions, Russian banks and possibly also the insurance that covers Russian oil and gas deliveries, supply outages cannot be excluded," said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch. Brent crude rose US \$ 8.24, or 8.5 percent, to US \$ 105.08 a barrel to 1045 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude jumped US \$ 7.78, or 8.5 percent, to US \$ 99.88. Brent and WTI hit their highest since August and July 2014, respectively. "Russia is the third-largest oil producer and second-largest oil exporter. Given low inventories and dwindling spare capacity, the oil market cannot afford large supply disruptions," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo. "Supply concerns may also spur oil stockpiling activity, which supports prices." Russia is also the largest provider of natural gas to Europe, providing about 35 percent of its supply. Global oil supplies remain tight as demand recovers from pandemic lows. Underscoring the tight market, premiums on crude contracts for loading in one month over contracts for loadings in six months, a metric closely watched by traders, hit a record high at US \$ 11.55 a barrel. "This growing uncertainty during a time when the oil market is already tight does leave it vulnerable and so prices are likely to remain volatile and elevated," said Warren Patterson, Head of ING's commodity research. Analysts believe that Brent is likely to remain above US \$ 100 a barrel until significant alternative supplies become available from OPEC, US shale or Iran, for example. The United States and Iran have been engaged in indirect nuclear talks in Vienna that could lead to the removal of sanctions on Iranian oil sales. Iran's top security official Ali Shamkhani said on Twitter yesterday that it is possible to achieve a good nuclear agreement with Western powers after significant progress in negotiations. Analysts are warning of inflationary pressure on the global economy from US \$ 100 oil, especially for Asia, which imports most of its energy needs. "Asia's Achilles heel remains its vast import needs for energy, with surging oil prices bound to take a hefty bite out of income and growth over the coming year," said HSBC economist Frederic Neumann.

### Seylan Bank...

Meanwhile, Seylan had made a provision of Rs.4.12 billion in the quarter for possible bad loans, compared to Rs.1.58 billion in the year earlier period. For the full year, the bank made provisions of Rs.10.4 billion, up 49 percent from what it provided for in 2020. However, the bank reported higher asset quality, as the gross non-performing loans ratio was reported at 5.94 percent by the year end, compared to 6.43 percent at the start of the year. The government holds a 32.61 percent stake in Seylan Bank via Sri Lanka Insurance Corp., the Employees' Provident Fund, Bank of Ceylon and the Employees' Trust Fund. Billionaire businessman Dhammika Perera has a 9.49 percent stake in the bank, being its fourth largest shareholder, while Brown & Company PLC has a little over 14 percent stake in the bank. LOLC Holdings PLC owns 51.60 percent of the non-voting shares of the bank.

# Turning over a new leaf: How tech is transforming Sri Lanka's tea industry



BY SOOK HOON CHEAH

Tea is a drink with endless variations – whether you like it with a serving of scones or spiced, like Indian Chai or infused with mint like Moroccan tea or even Japanese Matcha. It's the most popular drink in the world after water, with a staggering 3.7 billion cups consumed globally every day.

In Sri Lanka — the home of Ceylon Tea — it's also central to the economy. Ceylon Tea finds its way from the island's mountain estates onto breakfast tables around the world. The industry provides income to about a 10th of Sri Lanka's population. It's a hugely important source of employment in rural areas, where smaller farms account for about 70 percent of total tea production.

### From live auctions to a digital platform

The COVID-19 pandemic has been bruising Sri Lanka's economy. Tea had a particular point of vulnerability. For 137 years, live auctions were the fulcrum of the industry, where the island nation's eight brokers sold tea to exporters and tea brands, who prepared the final product and distributed it to supermarket shelves in more than 100 countries.

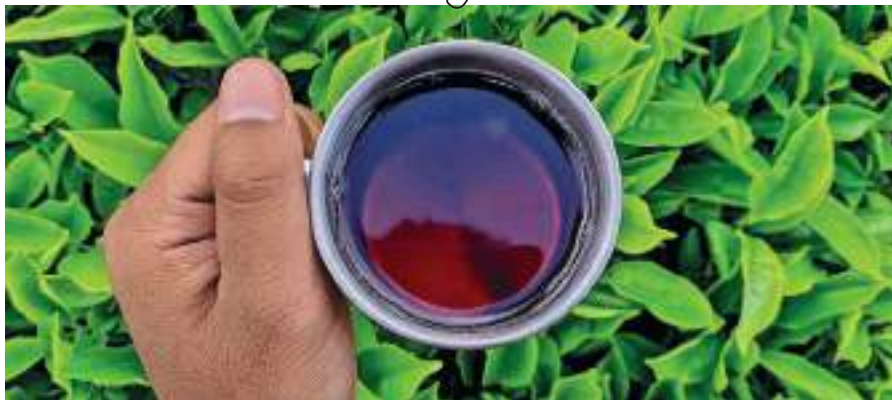
The auctions threatened to grind to a halt entirely in the early days of the pandemic, as governments everywhere restricted movement and enforced social distancing. So, the Sri Lanka Tea Board and CTTA turned to a local Microsoft partner, CICRA Solutions, to create an alternative. "The entire team worked tirelessly – almost 20 hours a day – to ensure that tea factories get their price for their production and in return can pay salaries and bonuses to estate employees before the traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year," said CICRA Holdings Group Director and CEO Boshan Dayaratne.

Buying and selling are now conducted safely and securely via the Colombo Tea e-Auction platform, which uses Microsoft Azure as its cloud platform. It is now used by all of Sri Lanka's eight tea brokering companies and over 300 tea buyers and exporters. It has five concurrent virtual auction rooms, which are connected via Microsoft Teams. Users of the e-auction have access to analytics and digital dashboards.

Eighteen months on, Sri Lanka is selling as much tea as ever and the industry is looking towards a more profitable and sustainable future.

### Continuity turns into transformation

Currently, the e-Auction sells 3.5 lots per minute but the goal is to achieve five lots per minute to reduce the auction time to just one



day a week instead of the current two.

The system works and it had an almost immediate impact that helped the industry navigate the economic shock of the pandemic, according to CTTA Chairman Jayantha Karunaratne.

"About two million people depend on this industry for their livelihood. We had to keep them paid and safe. With the new system in place, the industry could continue to operate and we saw tea prices increase by about 9 percent, which benefitted the whole industry down to the producer level," he said.

Last year the system facilitated the sale of 278 million kgs of tea, contributing US \$ 1.2 billion to the country's export revenues. That was only a slight drop from the pre-pandemic levels and Sri Lanka's exports for 2021 are expected to grow an additional 8 percent over 2020. That's an astounding feat considering the challenges the industry faced, both locally and globally.

But if the changes were initially about survival, they are also helping to secure the future of the industry. Now that the system is well-established, the industry has found that it's a better way to do business too, according to Huzefa Akbarally, Director of Sri Lanka's biggest exporter Akbar Brothers Tea.

"If you ask stakeholders, many will admit they were reluctant at first but now they can't imagine going back to the old auction system. Most of them want to keep the e-platform because they've found it ensures a level playing field and keeps the process fair and transparent," he said.

### Reading tea leaves

Now that the industry has tasted the impact of technological solutions, it is looking at the future. Most of the key players expect there'll be more changes ahead, both to help the industry remain globally competitive and to ensure that it's more sustainable.

The auction system has already been upgraded from its initial version. After a tender process evaluating over 70 local and international solution providers, in September 2021, the CTTA went live with a modern, real-time e-Auction platform provided by OKLO Private Limited, a technology solutions provider in Sri Lanka.

"OKLO's SmartAuction platform was specifically designed to handle the complex and varying requirements of buyers, brokers

and producers alike. As we work with CTTA on their journey to automate the tea industry, we hope to incorporate AI and other complementing technologies to truly make the auction platform a game-changer," said OKLO Private Limited Managing Director Thilanka Withanage.

But greater efficiency isn't the only area the industry hopes to improve. Environmental sustainability is high on the agenda too. Sri Lanka has the world's only certified ozone-friendly tea and the industry is working to reduce its carbon footprint. Also, it's using satellite mapping to minimise the industry's impact on Sri Lanka's forests and its water supply.

"We've got a lot of plans. We're thinking about bringing the whole value chain downstream, right up to the producer and farmer level and upstream to the buyer. We want to introduce things like traceability — what we call from the leaf to the cup — for all consumers," said Anil Cooke, Head of the Colombo Brokers Association.

The Sri Lankan tea industry has been filling cups for over a century. But even if its products are steeped in tradition, it's a sector that will benefit from an innovative approach to technology. When the pandemic hit, their livelihoods were suddenly at risk. But innovative technologies — created with Microsoft's help — not only allowed the industry to navigate the initial economic shock but have also helped the industry transform.

(Sook Hoon currently operates as General Manager of Southeast Asia New Markets at Microsoft and she is responsible for accelerating customers' digital transformation in the region and scaling the partner ecosystem across Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Hoon brings 25 years of technology leadership experience and is a 21-year veteran of Microsoft. She has extensive experience in leading scale business across corporate and small to medium enterprises as well as building partner ecosystem across Asia Pacific. Prior to this role, she was Director for Small-Medium Businesses in APAC and before joining Microsoft, Hoon worked for Sybase in a regional capacity)



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### MADEA, MRS BROWN TEAM UP IN CROSS-DRESSING NETFLIX COMEDY

When two cross-dressing matriarchs across the Atlantic collide, the comedy goes global in "A Madea Homecoming" on Netflix. Madea is the feisty, wise-cracking old woman who has been portrayed on film by Tyler Perry since 2005, while Agnes Brown of hit Irish sitcom "Mrs. Brown's Boys" has been the alter ego of Brendan O'Carroll since 2011. **REUTERS**

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# The Ayurveda Pavilions

It was 15 years ago that I was at the Pavilions for thirty days. I was at the Pavilions the past fortnight following a consultation with Dr. Dinesh Edirisinghe, Consultant Ayurvedic Specialist at the Pavilions, who suggested that a two week stay at the Pavilions would be best for him to sort out the issues I had. This visit had nothing to do with a weight loss programme as I knew that I would not be able to walk on the colourful strip or the wide beach in Negombo; walking wearing a face mask I cannot do. I could walk around the property checking out all the medicinal herbs and trees growing in plenty and at most times someone would be around to explain the use of such plants for ayurveda treatments.



Sri Lankan Ayurveda is completely different to Indian even though it originated in India. The secrets of Ayurveda were brought to Sri Lanka by Sage Pulastya in 247 BC during the reign of King Devanampiyatissa. Together with this knowledge and of our own remedies of ancient Sri Lankan natural medicines, our very own Ayurveda was founded. Quality of the mind as well as loving yourself (and not being egotistic) is the basic principle whilst purifying one's mind and soul. Ayurveda is associated with Buddhist philosophy, yoga, meditation, astrology, gem therapy (colour therapy), healthy meals, external body treatments, internal oral natural medicines and music therapy. Most importantly having a positive attitude and not being negative. There is so much to learn on this subject. Dr Dinesh had set up a 14-day programme, which included a daily massage for two and a half hours; inhalations and steam room; oral herbal medication and a diet according to one's body type. All meals were vegetarian which were delicious. As the days went by and I being quite the carnivore did

miss my eggs, fish meat etc. Owing to this I drove Chef Rohan round the bend requesting for a variety in my meals whilst sticking to what I was supposed to have. Chef Rohan very kindly obliged. My friend Manomi flew down from the USA when she learned that I was checking into the



Pavilions. It was a delightful to have her for company albeit we met mostly at mealtimes. Surprisingly, we were in bed before nine at night and woke up early and followed our scheduled daily routines. It was a completely relaxed and fulfilling two weeks. I will recommend it to most

people who feel the need a change in lifestyle or to get to the root of some internal issues in the body and do whatever is needed. I know many cannot put up with the aroma of the oils but at the Jetwing Ayurveda Pavilions once you shower after the treatments for the day there are no lingering smells. The plus factor is that the villa you are in is also pristine clean. Daily yoga classes are available at six each morning. Music therapy, water exercises plus weekly cookery demonstrations are also part of the package. I recommend the normal vegetarian menu curated by Chef Rohan to anyone visiting Negombo since you do not need to be a guest to enjoy the food. Both Manomi and I enjoyed our two weeks. The General Manager, Mr Aruna Ekanayaka and the entire team at the Pavilions were more than willing to accommodate all our whims and fancies. The masseurs were very professional and well trained. There was a smile on everyone's faces in the usual Jetwing manner. Finally, the both of us were very taken up by the Consultant Dr Dinesh Edirisinghe and recommend him highly to anyone who wishes to get any form of treatment at the Jetwing Ayurveda Pavilions.

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LANKA SPORTREIZEN LAUNCHES

# COLOMBO'S FIRST FULL FLEDGED WATERSPORTS CENTRE

BY RIHAAB MOWLANA

Sri Lanka's commercial capital and most populous city Colombo is noted for its plethora of dining and shopping offerings, significantly fewer cultural and religious places of interest, but not much else. Locals and tourists alike head to various parts of the island for a dose of fun outdoor adventures. Hoping to put an end to this predicament, Lanka Sportreizen (LSR) recently launched "The Clubhouse" at the Colombo Port City, a fully equipped water sports centre.



A destination management company enrolled with the Sri Lanka Tourist Development Authority for over two decades, LSR has continued to venture into various domains, and established water sports centre operators maintaining centres on the Southwest Coast and the East Coast – one of which is its five-star Golden Palm-certified PADI Resort in Sri Lanka.

Speaking at the launch of The Clubhouse at the Port City, Chairman of LSR Thilak Weerasinghe stated: "We aim to make water sports accessible to all, right in Colombo, by providing a variety of activities for individuals and groups. This will make the Water Sports Centre the premier water sports facility for families, athletes, and all members of the public who have an affinity to water sports and entertainment".

In keeping with their quest to offer a wide range of watersports activities, LSR's Water Sports Centre in Colombo offers jet scooter rides, scuba diving, open sea diving, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, banana boat rides, tube boat rides, canoeing, water skiing, speed boat rides, deep-sea fishing, angle fishing, and night fishing, to name just a few. Visitors can also take the sunset cruise, bound to be a breathtaking experience with stunning sunset views.

Guests can unwind and enjoy light meals, snacks, or comfortable mocktails at the Clubhouse, which draws inspiration from the bohemian hotels in Bali. The space livens

up at night with live music and makes for a laidback, yet fun ambiance. Weerasinghe added: "When you walk through, your passion for all things marine aligns with ours! Fuelled by our love for the water, our mission is simple; to help create lasting memories for the water sports community and give you the best on-the-water experience."

The Water Sports Centre maintains the highest international quality and safety standards, offering both Beginner and Intensive course options for certain activities depending on the experience level of the guests. All activities are carried out by certified trainers and guides to ensure that guests are absolutely safe and secure. Being a PADI Five-Star Golden Palm Dive Centre, they offer the full suite of PADI dive courses, snorkelling, open sea dives, pool sessions, scuba diving courses, and lots of fun activities, with an emphasis on safety.

Trained personnel are available at all times, while LSR remains in contact with Navaloka Hospitals for first aid and emergencies, leaving guests free to indulge in the thrilling experiences of snorkelling, kite surfing, and scuba diving, which will leave them truly refreshed.

These water sports will also allow visitors to discover the richness of the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, offering adrenaline junkies easy access to their fix in the heart of the city, as well as providing a relaxed way to bask in the sun, sand and surf. Clubhouse is open everyday from 10am to 8.30pm.



PIGS BY Kushan Pathiraja

# #NoGuti : Campaign to End Violence Against Children in Sri Lanka



Dr. Tushara Wickramanayaka

BY KAMANTHI WICKRAMASINGHE

Over the past 16 months, 11 children have succumbed to incidents of grave sexual abuse, harassment and neglect by their nearest and dearest in Sri Lanka. These events take place in a country that was one of the first to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Stop Child Cruelty Trust (SCC) was initiated by Dr. Tushara Wickramanayaka who has been advocating for a safe and secure environment for all children. However, to broaden the scope of this vision, Sri Lanka's first Child Protection Alliance (CPA) was established in collaboration with several other civil organisations who are passionately



Umara, Adithya and team

committed towards ending all forms of abuse and harassment against children.

Recently, the SCC along with the CPA launched the #NoGuti campaign to end violence against children. One of the goals of this campaign is to implement

the historic Supreme Court ruling of February 2021 which prohibits corporal punishment through Penal Code revisions.

"Children comprise 25% of our population but relevant authorities haven't been actively involved in enforcing the

law to protect their rights and ensure their safety," opined Dr. Wickramanayaka. "30 years ago Sri Lanka ratified the UNCRC but this country has been considered one of the least safe countries for children, out of 196 other countries. This is a disaster. This is a country that chooses to ignore harassment against children or keep quiet when the neighbour's child is ill-treated. As such, several civil organisations have joined hands with Sri Lanka's first Child Protection Alliance since we cannot keep quiet." She further said that child protection needs to be politicised.

"Therefore every politician and every party should keep this at the heart of any policy that talks about national security. Last year Japan put child protection at the heart of their national security agenda. In 2018 Bangladesh added a new section for children in their Constitution thereby giving them special rights and protection. That is the kind of vision that Sri Lanka should be striving for. A child's initial guardianship is with parents and the last is with the state. The #NoGuti campaign has three objectives; one is to activate the state apparatus. We also aim to end corporal punishment in schools and I request the Ceylon Teachers Union to join hands with us. Protecting children is a social responsibility. For this, we have invited several prominent personalities to join hands with us as child protection ambassadors. People could contact us via the website or social media and we have opened these platforms for the citizenry to inform us about any incidents of abuse, harassment and violence against children."

As child abuse cases have escalated over the past few months, several prominent personalities representing various fields were inducted as Sri Lanka's first ever 'Child Protection Goodwill Ambassadors' who have volunteered to take the lead in raising their voices to ensure a safe environment for children. The Ambassadors include Umara Sinhawansa, Otara Gunawardena, Dinakshie Priyasad, Niranjani Shanmugaraja, Adithya Weliwatta, Abisheka Fernando, Kaushalya Fernando, Dr. Visakesa Chandrasekaram, Saranga Disasekara and Harith Wijeratne. The event also witnessed the launch of a special song, sung by Umara Sinhawansa, Adithya Weliwatta and Voice 2021 winner Harith Wijeratne drawing the audience's attention to the plight of victims of child abuse.

The SCC/CPA aims to continue their collaborative efforts to build a self-governing ethical code of behaviour to safeguard and promote the rights of victims of child abuse, while also preventing re-victimisation in the community. Those interested in contributing towards this cause could visit [www.stopchildcruelty.com](http://www.stopchildcruelty.com) or visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stopchildcruelty](http://www.facebook.com/stopchildcruelty).



Members of the Child Protection Alliance with the newly appointed Child Protection Goodwill Ambassadors





# CLUB VILLA BENTOTA

Bawa's iconic architecture by the sea

BY SANATH WEERASURIYA

Bentota, the lengthy stretch of golden sand, is one of the oldest tourist destinations in Sri Lanka, starting its tourism operations in the late sixties and developing into a full-scale destination status during the tourism boom in the 70s. The stretch of unspoiled beach from the Bentara River mouth towards the south of the coastal belt attracted hundreds of European tourists in the seventies era opening a new avenue for star class resorts to set up their destination homes. Passing the busy beach front properties in the bay towards south, tucked behind the palms at discrete distances 'Club Villa Bentota' stands tall with its aesthetic style structure blends with the Colonial touch. The Club Villa is designed by veteran architect **Geoffrey Bawa**, Asia's most celebrated and famous architect, showcasing his unique capability to blend modern functionality with colonial charm.

Built as 'Mohotti Walawwa' in the pre Independent era, the seventeen room 'Club Villa' is one of the best designed Walawwas by Geoffrey Bawa, mixing the authentic Sothorn architectural elegance with Colonial allure. Bawa sought to reduce the barrier between the indoors and outdoors, where guests to the property could experience a series of alfresco terraces, open spaces, balconies and courtyards mediating between the rooms and gardens. Surrounded with lush green gardens and lily ponds, this unique boutique villa property is designed to feel like a home away from

home with a memorable holiday. Down the line 'Mohotti Walawwa' changed hands with several owners and since early 2017, the property was brought under the management of Bansi Group of Companies headed by Japanese entrepreneur **Toyo Hiko Murakami** and **Sunil Wickrama** as Director /CEO. 'Club Villa is a luxury boutique hotel catering to high-end Sri Lankan and foreign travellers. The Villa is popular with European and Japanese clientele. After acquiring the property in 2017, we have done few interior changes with popular Japanese

**The room rates at Club Villa ranges from Rs 27,000/- to 42,000/- on FBD basis. Special seasonal discount are on offer for Sri Lankan travellers.**



Chairman Toyo Hiko Murakami



Director Sunil Wickrama

architect **Kengo Kuma**, who designed the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Stadium. We have also obtained the approval for helicopter landing on the beach and guests can come straight from the Airport' said Sunil Wickrama, the Director of the property. Set on two and half acres of land, 'Club Villa Bentota' boasts of having 17 rooms inclusive of a One Club Suite, seven deluxe rooms and nine standard rooms with all modern amenities and services. All rooms are provided with modern conveniences including a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, mini bar, complimentary tea coffee making facilities, en-suite bathroom fitted with all luxury amenities and free Wi-Fi throughout the property. Each room is individually decorated with handpicked furniture from the colonial Dutch period. Apart from the common amenities, the Club Suite offers separate living area, private garden and a long split level luxurious bathroom and Jacuzzi. The Deluxe rooms are mainly located on the first floor which offers a private balcony, large bay windows and Mezzanine floors that provides additional living space.



Team Club Villa with Karu



The dining experience at Club Villa Bentota is always something to look forward to, as the team of chefs headed by Tokyo trained Executive Chef Lakruwan Ranahansa is a master in global cuisine and especially Japanese, Italian, French and seafood preparations. 'Chef Karu is a veteran in local cuisine and fusion food. He has served Geoffrey Bawa at his Lunu Ganga Estate, Bawa's country retreat, for 35 years before moving over to Club Villa' said Sunil. The main Restaurant, which is an open space, creates a soothing atmosphere with view of the pool and the garden overlooking a green patch ahead of the beach and blends with the sound of Colombo or Galle bound trains. Breakfast, lunch or dinner, the Restaurant brings the seamless integration of flavours and cuisines from around the World under the guidance of Chef Lakruwan and Karu.

'The Villa always prepared to serve guests with the finest of an international fusion of cuisine to delight their taste-buds. The team of creative chefs stimulates the visitors' culinary senses with top quality food, with a strong emphasis on Sri Lankan cuisine' said Deepal de Silva, the General Manager of the Villa.

Italian style Cheesy chorizo lasagne, beef cheek lasagne, Sri Lanka 'embul thiyal style black pork curry', sea food preparations- Barbecued Lobster, grilled sea fish and crab are popular with our guests. Lasagne and 'embul thiyal style black pork curry' are two of the favourite dishes of Geoffrey Bawa' said Karu. 'Guests can have their dining experience at the restaurant, terrace or on the beach according to their choice. We are ready to serve them' Deepal added.

Being located within close proximity to the town of Aluthgama, guests can make a visit to fishing harbour and water sports at Bentota, **Madu Ganga River Safari**, **Geoffrey Bawa Estate in Lunuganga**, **Brief Garden in Dedduwa**, **diving and snorkelling in Hikka**, **Galle Dutch Fort**, **Kosgoda Turtle Hatcheries** or can get an experience by pulling of traditional 'Maa del'.

'The Resort is an ideal location for corporate events and day outings. Garden Night Weddings are very popular with Sri Lankans, while beach weddings are mainly designed for foreigners. Our in-house Spa is a special attraction. It offers the services with a trained masseuse specialising in healing Ayurvedic treatments' Sunil added.

For more details log onto [www.clubvillabentota.com](http://www.clubvillabentota.com) or email [infor@clubvillabentota.com](mailto:infor@clubvillabentota.com)

PIX BY **Shan Bandu Weerasinghe**

## 'Raid Amazonas 2022' insignia on SriLankan Airlines flights

SriLankan Airlines adorns one of its aircraft with customised livery to reaffirm its status as the official airline of the much-awaited 'Raid Amazonas 2022'. Raid Amazonas 2022 is an annual sporting event that features a large number of French female athletes competing their way to victory through multiple sports events and activities against the backdrop of an iconic tourist destination. Every year, the event highlights an attractive tourist destination through inherent features such as its ecological beauty, citizens' way of life and culture, which are prominently showcased to the world through global media that follow the athletes in their trail. The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the event will take place in the areas surrounding the iconic Sigiriya rock fortress, rich in ecological beauty, cultural heritage and attributes of authentic village life in Sri Lanka. The first leg will take place from 13-23, March 2022 and the second leg is scheduled from 27 March - 6 April 2022. Over 550 participants are expected to join the event, including athletes and officials.



The event will take place in the areas surrounding the Sigiriya rock fortress

The SriLankan aircraft with the special livery features iconic Sigiriya, the vibrant and unique backdrop of this year's event. This aircraft will be deployed to bring

in athletes and officials from Paris to Sri Lanka for the event and would also continue to fly to many of the airline's other destinations in its scheduled operations, thus portraying Sri Lanka's stature as a sports and adventure destination. SriLankan Airlines, a forerunner in the country's tourism promotion endeavours this to inspire many discerning travellers from France to explore Sri Lanka in the future, supported by the airline's direct connectivity between the two countries.



## 'One Island, A Thousand Treasures'

'One Island, A Thousand Treasures' the latest tourism initiative by Cinnamon Hotels and Resorts was launched on 22nd February under novel destination promotion campaign in partnership with Sri Lanka Tourism. 'One Island, A Thousand Treasures' is a unique campaign to let the world rediscover Sri Lanka as a must visit authentic destination. This destination promotion campaign in partnership with Sri Lanka Tourism and SriLankan Airlines among others, will unveil the unknown stories behind Sri Lanka and paint a unique picture of culturally relevant stories just waiting to be explored by the world. Cinnamon Hotels and Resorts Marketing Vice President Dileep Mudadeniya said the aim of the initiative is to play a proactive role to entice global travellers to experience Sri Lanka by showcasing the nation's unique places, people and experiences beyond the usual sites and excursions. These stories will be promoted via digital platforms to engage an international audience through social media and

programmatic digital marketing, to encourage travellers to visit and experience Sri Lanka. He said that a panel of judges will consider all submissions via video or pictures for three months after which Cinnamon will substantiate same and amplify selected ones to the global stage via network of global travel influencers, website of Cinnamon as well as Sri Lanka tourism thereby using those ideas to woo travellers to the country. He said selected submissions will qualify to enjoy complimentary stay at resorts, travel overseas via SriLankan Airlines or win vouchers from Keells Super. 'We hope to use the selected submissions as Sri Lanka's emotional selling proposition to global travellers,' Mudadeniya added. Cinnamon said the 'One Island, A Thousand Treasures' initiative targets the creation of new business opportunities for local communities including the revival of local arts and crafts. By promoting the niche, lesser-known experiences, and history of Sri Lanka, not only will the country have more to offer tourists, but it will also

help more industry stakeholders - a key objective of the campaign. Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimaril Fernando described the Cinnamon initiative as timely and fabulous. 'Authentic storytelling is 22 times more effective than an advertisement,' she said, adding that cookie cutter type product offerings won't help Sri Lanka to achieve desired higher goals via tourism. 'This initiative is also in line with the people-centric economic development thrust of the Government,' she added. Digital content creators can record their discovery and share it with the Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts Team via the One Island, A Thousand Treasures website or through Facebook, Instagram or YouTube tagging @CinnamonHotels and #OneIslandThousandTreasures. Upon submission of an authentic Sri Lankan story of a unique place, people or culture, an independent panel experts will review each entry. For further details, visit [www.OITT.lk](http://www.OITT.lk) or follow Cinnamon's social media channels.

### GAMES & CARTOONS

4669

# Sudoku

	7							9
8				9	7			6
5				3				2
	9		2					4
				8	3			
9		8	7					6
	2	9						5
3	1							7

SOLUTION NO. 4668

2	6	7	4	1	8	5	3	9
3	1	5	9	2	7	4	8	6
8	4	9	5	3	6	2	1	7
4	8	2	1	9	3	7	6	5
9	7	6	8	5	2	1	4	3
1	5	3	7	6	4	8	9	2
7	3	8	2	4	9	6	5	1
6	2	1	3	8	5	9	7	4
5	9	4	6	7	1	3	2	8

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. The solution will be published on next game page.

# DailyMirror CROSSWORD

## CLUES FOR CROSSWORD NO. 1442

### Solution for No. 1441

1	A	2	D	3	C	4	A	5	P	6	H				
7	A	V	I	A	R	Y	8	M	A	I	L	E	D		
	O	G		C		I		E							
9	S	W	I	G	10	L	I	T	E	R	A	R	Y		
		E		I		Y		C		L					
11	A	C	T	R	E	S	S	13	H	E	R	O	N		
		I				T		14	B			O			
15	K	N	I	F	16	E	17	T	E	A	18	T	I	M	E
		N		O		B		D		A					
20	W	A	R	C	H	E	S	T	21	W	I	22	L	Y	
		B		S		R		I		D					
23	M	A	L	L	E	T	24	M	A	R	K	K	A		
		R		E		H		E		Y			E		

### Across

- Fasten (6)
- Mariner (3,3)
- Animation (4)
- A workplace where dairy produce are produced (8)
- Someone who imputes guilt or blame (7)
- Unsound (5)
- (music) Speed at which a composition ito be played (5)
- Synergism (7)
- Undo the buttons of (8)
- Used to express surprise (4)
- Sun worshipped as a God (3,3)
- Defroster (6)

### Down

- Rent (4)
- Number puzzle (6)
- Instructor (7)
- Flexible twig of a willow tree (5)
- Wealth regarded as an evil influence (6)
- Sorrowful through loss or deprivation (8)
- Clear (5-3)
- The act of singing psalms or hymns (7)
- Dive (6)
- Issue an injunction (6)
- Musical composition (5)
- Pitcher (4)

Due to the prevailing situation in the country there will be no crossword competition. The publication of the crossword is purely for your enjoyment.





**Akash Paranavithana**

Fond of creating abstract concepts, he takes something that is not visible to the naked eye and creates it to something tangible. His brand MAEL CEYLON focuses on high street wear and accessories. In this collection Akash has used zero waste patterns, used patchwork and safety pins to reduce waste.



**Chamanka Hewage**

His brand PANTHER espouses the idea of art in fashion and celebrates fashion by connecting many different backgrounds like music and choreography. This season the collection was designed based on the street x techwear fashion trends and the entire collection is inspired by the famous Spanish poem Le Jardin by Jaques Prévert.



**Githmi Samarasekara**

Striving to capture the uniqueness of Sri Lankan culture as inspiration for this collection Githmi has spun formal design essence in to modern fashion concepts. Her brand Gi focuses on a mix of formal and casual looks and is an eco conscious brand. He has used natural dyeing techniques mainly tea dye, complicated pattern cutting, draping and tailoring to elevate her collection.



**Harinda Gunawardhana**

Using batik in a contemporary abstract manner Harinda has created a collection which pays homage to power dressing which was popular in the 1980s. He has used eco-friendly fabrics, and home based artisans with a view of helping to elevate the batik craft sector. His brand HARID fosters self love and confidence while promoting the value of being comfortable with oneself.



# HSBC

# COLOMBO FASHION WEEK

DAY 01



**Hashintha Halwala**

An illustrator by profession Hashintha was inspired to dip his toes into fashion design after interning backstage at Colombo Fashion Week. His brand DEV HALWALA consists of active wear. He has used natural and synthetic fabrics and the garments have varied aesthetic details such as embroidery.



BY TINA EDWARD GUNAWARDHANA

The emerging designers held the audience in thrall on Day 1 of HSBC Colombo Fashion Week held at the Shanrgi-La hotel in Colombo. Eight young designers took to the runway to showcase their collections. Brimming with new ideas on sustainability, preserving artisanal crafts, using zero waste patterns and natural dyes the clutch of emerging designers presented collections which were both sleek and stunning. Ones to watch included Hashintha Halwala's monochrome collection coupled with his use of pleats was slick on the runway while Mikhail Hameed, clearly a chip off the old block presented a collection of menswear which personified streetstyle with a dash of panache. Hirushi Jayatilake's selection of fabrics added a touch of blingtastic glamour to the runway. Using a bold colour palette of red and purple coupled with black and white Harinda Gunawardhana's collection which incorporated batik added a dramatic vibe to the evening.



**Hirushi Jayatilake**

Inspired by the ironworks at the V&A museum in London this women's wear brand HIRUSHI is a Sri Lankan label based in London and Sri Lanka. The collection is a mix and match of elegant boho chic and sophisticated style which brings out the essence of the carefree seventies to the present 21st century with fresh, effortless looks designed for the young at heart.



**Mikhail Hameed**

Introducing his brand ALTY this collection was inspired by the synergy of nature. With wide and A line silhouettes and with the play of proportion, using sleek lines and muted tones coupled with the use of sustainable fabrics of organic cottons and repurposed waste has added an interesting element to this collection.



**Prasadi Weerakkodi**

Celebrating the diversity of the human figure, Prasadi has created a collection using the notion of "toned gap dressing". Prasadi seeks fashion as a language that allows individuals to communicate with one and another.







**THE BEST DRESSED**  
**COLOMBO FASHION WEEK DAY 01**  
**BY DANU**







Roger

Shyamalee  
Tudawe



Hi!!

COLOMBO IS TALKING ABOUT

PERFORMANCE

# ROGER FROM THE JETS at Galadari

The Galadari Colombo experienced a spellbinding performance by Roger Menezes. Roger lit-up the hotel's lobby with his mesmerizing performances.

Roger Menezes performed with many top bands in Sri Lanka in the 60's and 70's. He had his own group 'Roger and the Webs' and played drums for the 'Savages', 'Thunderbirds' and the 'Fireflies'. Roger played guitar for 'Sam the Man' and the 'Jetliners'. He migrated to Sydney Australia in 1973 and

has since then visited the island a few times. He however, came back after 20 years to ignite his musical memories here in Sri Lanka. Besides his day job in Sydney, Roger has his own group with his wife Cheryl called 'Stay Tuned' where they perform at corporate functions. 'Stay Tuned' also participated in the musical part for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. They also had New Year's Eve performances for 5 years running at the Sydney landmark Centre Point Tower.



Kumar



GM Galadari Hotel Sampath Siriwardena and Surakshi



Anuradha and Tashya



Chamika



Gayani

GLAM PICS!



PIX BY Nimalsiri Edirisinghe

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# HURT TO HEALED

How 'Save A Paw With Love' Is Giving Hope And A Home To Rescued Dogs



BY PANCHALI ILLANKOON

When Shivanthi sends an urgent request for funds for a stabbed dog, the pictures are horrifying. Shadow, a family-owned street pooch from Pothuhera has been stabbed in the head twice by an animal farmer in the area. The stab wounds are so deep that his skull is visible. His owners rush him to the vet for stabilising, praying that Shadow can make it through. Horrifyingly, this is not the first dog that has been stabbed by the same farmer – according to the villagers, Shadow is the seventh to meet his cruelty. The only difference between Shadow and the unfortunate dogs before him is that Shadow has owners who are not willing to let this brutality go. Shivanthi and the Save a Paw with Love Foundation stepped up to heal him completely and Shadow's case joins the numerous animal cruelty legal actions instituted by Shivanthi in court. Shadow's hurt to heal story is a happy one; he's completely recovered and doing well. So many other dogs in similar situations however, aren't.

Increasing rescues done by the Foundation only highlights growing slacktivism among animal support communities where animal lovers are happy to be vocal on social media but rarely acts in aid when needed. Simon, who was rescued from the streets of sacred Anuradhapura, had a severe case of maggots that ate into his skull so deeply, his brain was visible. Multiple vets around the area had refused to treat him. In Kothmale, an accident victim dog with a completely fractured jaw was left without any medical help for 4 days before he was rescued by the team. These cases are so common, it's hardly shocking anymore. "Every day we are getting calls for a rescue. My phone never stops ringing" shares Shivanthi.

Shivanthi Sansoni has dedicated her life and funds to her foundation, Save a Paw with Love. Save a Paw with Love started their rescue efforts back in 2016 as a foundation to rescue stray dogs who are in dire need due to injuries, accidents, ailments and abuse and they assist and support in rehabilitation, treatment and re-homing of these rescues. Earlier the foundation managed 2 shelters in Ja-Ela and Horana before moving to a newly built shelter in Ragama called Charles Home Shelter. Charles Home houses a large number of dogs, currently 300+, either as a transitional home for their rehabilitation and recovery or as a forever home for the rest of their lives. Many of these dogs who find their home at the shelter has suffered immensely at the hands of their owners or others, having either been left to die after a reckless driving accident or subjected to abusive practices such as being burnt alive, canned, shot, beaten or stabbed. With 90 disabled dogs being cared for at the shelter and nearly 300 stray dogs relying on them, Charles'

Home runs a massive operation on the daily. A typical day begins at 6.30am for the staff. Some staff members are in charge of disposing the waste and cleaning out the compound while others are in charge of preparing the morning meal of eggs, dog dry food and liver paste. The disabled dogs are washed, bladders physically emptied, bedding changed and resting area completely disinfected and cleaned before their meals are fed. The in-house vet and nurse run a 24-hour medical clinic and spend their day monitoring the dogs in the ICU, dispensing medicine and doing medical checks and treatments. At 3pm, lunch is prepared with rice, pumpkin and fresh fish. When mealtime is over, the staff repeats the morning process - dispose the waste, clean and disinfect the compound, clean and relieve the disabled dogs. On a good day, their work finishes at 8pm but it's not uncommon for their day to go on



much later. This process gets repeated every day. With an operation so big, the costs are staggering. Charles' Home is situated on rented land, the staff must be paid, the on-site medical clinic maintained, surgery and medicine costs covered, daily food needs met and a few more sudden costs add up to an expensive running cost of over a million rupees per month. In light of increasing food costs and increasing prices and shortage of medicine, as a foundation reliant on donations, Save a Paw with Love has found it financially challenging to meet their daily operations when people tighten their purse strings in the current economic backdrop. "The work we do has always been difficult and challenging, but these past couple of months has been more demanding with the constant increases in prices of food and medicine. Most of the medicines that we used to save the lives of these rescues are now very expensive and they are not costs we can dispose of because we need it to save their lives" comments Shivanthi, "I understand that it is a difficult time for everyone but we would be grateful for any donation - whether it is in money or in supplies. It would help our operations immensely". Already at capacity, Charles' Home Shelter is hoping to expand its compound and medical clinic. They are also looking for material donations - surgical instruments, sterilisers and a microscope for the medical clinic and a washer and dryer as well as old blankets and beddings for the disabled dogs. Donors can sponsor the daily meal cost of the shelter (Rs. 20,000) or donate food supplies, particularly rice, eggs, chicken liver and vegetables.



For more information on their work and to donate, follow them on Instagram @save\_a\_paw\_with\_love or visit their website www.saveapawwithlove.com.



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