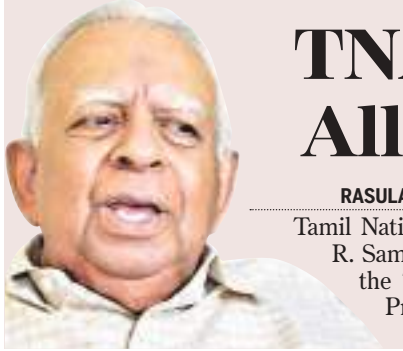




# Daily News

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## TNA supports forming of All-Party Govt. - Sampanthan

**RASULA DILHARA, NORTH CORR.**  
Tamil National Alliance (TNA) Leader R. Sampanthan said on Sunday that the TNA is ready to accept the President's invitation to form

an All-Party Government. Speaking to the media, the leader of the Tamil National Alliance said that the President's efforts to form an All-Party Government will be fully supported by his party. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Cabinet nod for final Draft of 22A to Constitution

**LAHIRU FERNANDO**  
The Cabinet of Ministers approved the final Draft of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution presented by Minister of Justice and Constitutional

Reforms Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC yesterday. The Draft Bill was to be published in the Gazette last night, the Minister told the *Daily News*. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## LITRO TO REDUCE DOMESTIC LP GAS PRICES FROM AUG. 5

**AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI and DHARMASRI ABEYRATNE**

The prices of domestic gas cylinders will be reduced from August 5, LITRO Gas Lanka Limited Chairman Muditha Peiris revealed yesterday (01). Hence, the price of a 12.5 kg LP Gas cylinder will be reduced by more than Rs.50. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



# IMF STAFF-LEVEL AGREEMENT BY END OF AUGUST - PRESIDENT

**BY PHILIP WEN and TRIPTI LAHIRI**

President Ranil Wickremesinghe said that he expects the IMF staff-level agreement to be reached by the end of August, after which the country would be able to hold further talks with sovereign bondholders and bilateral creditors.

Any preliminary agreement would still require IMF board approval for the disbursement of funds, a process that could take months, the President said.

"I think we've already hit the bottom," Wickremesinghe said in

an interview on Sunday with The Wall Street Journal. "I can see the light at the end of the tunnel; it's how fast we can get to it."

He also acknowledged that it will take months before most Sri Lankans, who have faced runaway inflation and long queues for fuel and cooking gas, will begin to see their economic circumstances improve markedly.

"We are down to the nitty-gritty," he said. "We would have had it in July if it were not for the unstable political condition."

Once an IMF agreement is in

place, the country will have to work out debt restructuring with creditors with differing approaches, the President said.

"It's an issue between the different approaches to debt relief between India and Japan on one side, supported by the U.S., and China on the other side," he said.

"It's a question of getting them to agree on one plan. It's a question of how do you deal with the haircut? How do you deal with having new money given to pay off the old loans?" **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Auto Diesel price reduced

**P.K. BANDARA**

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation yesterday reduced the price of Auto Diesel by Rs. 10. Accordingly, the new price of a **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Pakistan President extends best wishes to President

The President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi has extended his best wishes to President Ranil Wickremesinghe on his election to the office of Presidency. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## SHOWERY, WINDY CONDITIONS LIKELY TO ENHANCE

Showery and windy conditions are likely to enhance in the Western and Southern sea areas and over the southwest quarter of the island during the next few days with the strengthening of Southwest Monsoon, the Meteorology Department said yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## TWENTY-TWO UNDERWORLD SHOOTINGS IN LAST 60 DAYS RESULT IN 20 DEATHS

**GAYAN KUMARA WEERASINGHE**

Exactly 20 people have been killed in 22 shootings in the last 60 days between May 31 and July 31 and which are said to be connected to underworld criminals who have fled the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## NAVY NABS ANOTHER 47 ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

A special operation carried out by the Navy and the Wennappuwa Police at Wennappuwa on July 31, led to the apprehension of 47 suspected illegal migrants attempting to leave the country by sea. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: 11 PETITIONS FILED

**DILSHAN THARAKA**

Eleven Fundamental Rights (FR) petitions were filed in the Supreme Court yesterday seeking a declaration that their Fundamental Rights have been violated due to the obstruction by security personnel including the Army while they were engaged in a peaceful protest against former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Government in the Galle Fort area. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Activist Dhaniz Ali remanded until Aug. 15

**SHAVINI MADHARA**

Activist Dhaniz Ali who was recently arrested for forcibly entering the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and disrupting the broadcast, has been remanded until August 15 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Nandana Amarasinghe. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## 'Ratta' arrested Travel ban imposed on him

The Police yesterday arrested a key figure in the 'Aragalaya' protest, YouTuber Ratindu Senaratne alias 'Ratta'. Earlier, the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## National Fuel Pass implemented at CEYPETCO and LIOC locations



Filling stations across the country started issuing fuel only under the National Fuel Pass QR System from yesterday. Here, a worker at a filling station in Thalawatuwoda checking the QR Code of a customer before issuing fuel. *Picture by Sulochana Gamage*

**AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI**

The National Fuel Pass was implemented at all CEYPETCO and LIOC locations island-wide from yesterday (01). The Ministry of Power and Energy stated that the fuel pass should be strictly adhered to.

The Ministry issued a statement observing that the newly introduced system reached the milestone of trialling its QR-based fuel distribution system at more than 1,000 stations with over 1,000,000 transactions to date. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Indian PM congratulates Dinesh



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated newly elected Prime Minister Dinesh Gunewardena.

The Indian Prime Minister in a message to his Sri Lankan counterpart said "You have assumed office at an important juncture for Sri Lanka. I hope under your leadership, Sri Lanka will witness quick economic recovery, ensuring the prosperity and well-being of its people. I would like to assure you that as a dependable friend and close neighbour India shall continue to support the people of Sri Lanka guided by our 'Neighbourhood First' policy. I look forward to working with you to further strengthen and expand our exemplary bilateral relations based on millennia-old civilizational ties."

## Wimal calls for APC to solve current crisis

**NUWAN KODIKARA**



In a letter to President Ranil Wickremesinghe, National Freedom Front Leader MP Wimal Weerawansa has requested that an All-Party Conference (APC) be convened immediately to find solutions to the current crisis. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## NIC number to be included in Birth Certificate of children

**SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE**

The Department of Registration of Persons has decided to include the National

Identification Card (NIC) number in the Birth Certificate issued to children born in this country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Implement National Integration Programme to overcome crisis - Opposition Leader

**AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI**

Eventhough there are numerous discussions on reviving the crisis hit country, most of these discussions concentrate more on taking Ministerial posts and gaining political mileage, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said yesterday (01). **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## SC extends travel ban on Mahinda and Basil

**DILSHAN THARAKA**

President's Counsel Chandaka Jayasundara said before the Supreme Court that "The people did not know anything about the country going bankrupt, while the authorities knew it since May 2019 and they did nothing to prevent it."

He said that politicians including former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and officials including former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabral knew that the country will be bankrupt in 2022, in 2019 and it is not clear which of them is responsible for this crisis. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Seven balck marketeers fined Rs.880,000

**ANANDA KARUNADASA, ANURADAPURA CORR.**

Anuradhapura Additional Magistrate Rudrika de Silva Hewawasam and Kahtagasdigiliya Magistrate Wimal Weerasinghe imposed fines amounting to Rs.880,000 on seven shopkeepers who were found guilty before the Court for selling rice at prices higher than the Government controlled price in violation of the Consumer Act. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

**RAPID SPREAD OF OMICRON SUBVARIANT**  
**PEOPLE URGED TO EXERCISE "HIGHEST LEVEL OF VIGILANCE"**

**ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA**  
Sri Lankan Health Authorities have urged people to exercise the "highest level of vigilance" since the latest Omicron subvariant of COVID-19, BA.5, is spreading rapidly across the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Drug issue will be completely solved by August end - Minister

**ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA**

Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that the prevailing drug issue in the country will be completely solved by the end of August. **▶ TO PAGE 02**




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**Pakistan President extends...** From page 01

Issuing a special congratulatory message to the President, the President of Pakistan has stated that it is his hope to further strengthen the existing relations between the two countries for the betterment of both countries, the President's media division said.

Dr. Arif Alvi has stated that under the leadership of President Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka will overcome the existing economic challenges and Pakistan will work very closely with Sri Lanka by developing cooperation in all fields.

**Travel ban imposed...** From page 01

yesterday issued an order preventing Ratindu Senaratne (Ratta) and another suspect named Haritha Darshana from travelling overseas. The order was made by Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage.

The Police further informed the Court that a case was filed against the suspects for being party to unlawful assembly at the Fort Police Jurisdiction, and there is a risk of them traveling overseas.

**NIC number to be included...** From page 01

The a pilot project of the programme was implemented yesterday (01). This pilot project is being implemented at the regional secretariats of Gampaha, Dehiwala, Haguranketha, Kurunegala, Ratnapura and Tamankaduwa.

The Department said that when a request is made from the Department of Registration of Persons to obtain a National Identity Card after reaching the age of 15, the National Identity Card will be issued according to the relevant number.

**Violation of Fundamental...** From page 01

The petitions have separately demanded compensation of Rs. 5 million for the violation of those Fundamental Rights. These petitions were filed by 11 lawyers in Galle including Attorney-at-Law Nalani Kamalika Manatunga through Attorney-at-Law Manoja Gunawardena.

The petitions have cited 11 respondents including Galle Police OIC, OIC of the Minor Complaint Division, the Galle Senior Superintendent of Police, the Galle Deputy Inspector General of Police, the Galle Army Commander, the Inspector General of Police, Public Security Minister Tiran Alas, the Army Commander and the Attorney General, as the respondents.

The petitions say that the petitioners were prepared to enter the Galle Fort area on the third day of the first Test match between Sri Lanka and Australia which was held in Galle on July 01 and engage in a peaceful protest against the then President and the Government.

The petitioners said that the security personnel who came to the place acted in an arbitrary manner and removed the protest placards and disrupted the peaceful protests.

The petitioners point out that it is a violation of their right to freedom of expression.

The petitioner lawyers seek from the Supreme Court to rule that their Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the provisions of the Constitution, 11, 12(1), 12(4) have been violated.

**Cabinet nod for final...** From page 01

According to Minister Rajapakse, the Draft Bill will be presented to Parliament on a day after seven days from the publication in the Gazette, which is after August 9. When asked, the Minister said this is the original Bill he presented to the previous Cabinet and no changes have been made to it.

"Once it is presented to Parliament, the public will be given a period of seven days to raise objections and challenge it in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has three weeks to deliver the judgment on these objections if any.

Following this process, the Bill could be debated in the House," he further said.

When the 22nd Amendment is passed into law, it will be included in the Constitution as the 21st Amendment to the Constitution.

**Implement National...** From page 01

Premadasa suggested that a National Integration Programme be implemented to solve the crisis and the country should be burdened by the appointment of a large Cabinet. Premadasa made these observations during a meeting held between the Grama Niladhari Association at the Opposition Leader's office.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa also said that the Samagi Jana Balawegaya will continue to assist the Government regarding fulfilling the essential needs of the people, such as providing medicine.

"The President has requested our help to strengthen the Health Sector in the country. We will provide medicine, equipment and other relevant assistance in response to the President's request. However, we do not want Ministerial, State Minister, Deputy Minister portfolios," Premadasa stated.

The Opposition Leader demanded that the Government ensures the democratic rights of the people.

**Activist Dhaniz Ali...** From page 01

The Magistrate ordered that the bail order will be announced on that day. The Magistrate also dismissed the request to conduct an identification parade.

When the matter was taken up, the Cinnamon Gardens Police informed the Magistrate that the Government had lost an amount of Rs. 181,400 due to the disruption of the broadcasting activities of the television corporation.

The 31-year-old, a resident of Webada in Kurunegala, was taken into custody in connection with the forcible entry to Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) and attempt to disrupt telecasts on July 13.

On July 13, Danish Ali along with one of his aides had forcibly entered the national television Rupavahini and threatened the journalists and the staff who had disrupted the scheduled TV programme on air to broadcast his own message.

Attorney-at-Law Gunarathna Wanninayake appearing on behalf of the suspect pleaded that his client be released on bail.

**IMF staff-level agreement...** From page 01

Lanka needs to secure upwards of US\$3 billion from other sources next year to help pay for key imports like fuel, food and fertilizers.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said he was keeping an eye on the process that unfolded in Zambia. Over the past two years, the African copper producer has been undergoing debt restructuring of

US\$17 billion in foreign-currency debt under a plan developed by Group of 20 countries during the pandemic and that China signed on to. The framework expects bilateral lenders and private lenders such as multinational banks to accept similar write-downs but is meant to aid the world's poorest nations, which doesn't include Sri Lanka.

**Showery, windy conditions...** From page 01

Showers or thundershowers will occur at times in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Northern and North-Western Provinces and in Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Galle and Matara Districts. Heavy falls above 100 mm can be expected at some places in the aforesaid areas.

Showers or thundershowers may occur at several places in Uva Province and in the Ampara district during the afternoon or night.

Strong winds of about 50 kmph can be expected at times along the western slopes of the Central hills and in the Western and Southern Provinces.

The public is requested to take adequate precautions to minimize damages caused by temporary localized strong winds and lightning during thundershowers.

Meanwhile, the sea areas off

the coast extending from Beruwala to Pottuvil via Galle and Hambantota will be very rough. The sea areas off the coast extending from Beruwala via Colombo will be rough at times. The sea areas off the coast extending from Puttalam to Kankasanturai via Mannar will be fairly rough at times. The other sea areas around the island will be moderate.

There is a possibility to increase swell waves (about 2.5-3.5 m) in the sea areas off the coast extending from Beruwala to Pottuvil via Galle and Hambantota.

"Therefore, it is advised not to venture into fishing and naval activities in the sea areas off the coast extending from Beruwala to Pottuvil via Galle and Hambantota until further notice," the Meteorology Department further said.

**Twenty-two underworld...** From page 01

On May 31 a person was killed and another seriously injured in a shooting incident that took place at Bastian Mawatha, Colombo which according to sources is related to underworld rivalry.

With that shooting, 22 shootings have been carried out by the underworld with 16 of them occurring in the Western Province and six in the Southern Province.

The highest number of shootings and killings have taken place in the Colombo district. In Colombo, 10 shootings had taken place with eight deaths reported.

Altogether 14 people have been killed in shootings in the Western Province with 8 deaths reported in Colombo, four in Gampaha and two in Kalutara.

The number of people who have been killed in underworld shootings in the Southern Province is six with five from the Galle District and one from the Hambantota District.

Police have not been able to solve most of these murders so far. This is because all the killings are said to be coordinated by underworld criminals residing outside the country.

Police investigations have revealed that these murders were coordinated by individuals residing in countries such as France, Dubai and India.

These killings took place at Bastian Mawatha, Colombo, Aluthgama, Panadura, Abangama, Tangalle, Modara, Wattala, Peliyagoda, Moratuwa, Ratmalana, Ambalangoda, Gampaha, Rathgama, Kotahena and the Wellampitiya Police Divisions.

**Drug issue will be completely...** From page 01

The Minister further pointed out that the economic and political crisis in the country would also be resolved with the situation returning to normal.

Minister Rambukwella was speaking at a ceremony to receive the first batch of medicines and equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million from the Japanese people for the health sector in Sri Lanka recently.

These drugs are given for high blood pressure, diabetes, heart, kidney and liver complications. Especially, among the donated medicines are drugs for pregnant mothers, diabetes patients together with vitamins such as calcium for pregnant mothers, diabetes patients.

The value of this first stock is estimated at US\$ 107,650. The donation was provided by the Japanese Government

through UNICEF. The Minister friendly countries have supported Sri Lanka to recover from the crisis. Japan has always supported Sri Lanka during times of crisis and said that the support given especially during the COVID-19 crisis as well as in the current crisis situation is extremely important.

He said the ongoing negotiations with the International Monetary Fund are successful.

The Minister also pointed out that tourist arrivals in the country have seen an upsurge which augurs well for the tourism industry.

Deputy Representative of UNICEF Emma Brigham and a Japanese delegation headed by the Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mizukoshi Hideaki were also present.

**TNA supports forming...** From page 01

The TNA leader said that the only thing that can be done in the face of the current crisis is the formation of an all-party Government. He added that he wished other Tamil political parties apart from the Tamil National Alliance too will agree to the President's proposal.

**Litro to reduce...** From page 01

Speaking to the media, Peiris observed that LITRO has supplied more than 2.2 million domestic gas cylinders to the market as promised by the company 22 days before.

Peiris also observed that fuel queues no longer exist as the supply chain is getting back to normal.

Peiris also said, "We had to quickly bring the ships carrying gas cylinders as the gas shortage was a major problem. The World Bank is presently facilitating us to fulfill this humongous task. We will continue supplying gas this way. Since the gas price in the world market is set to go down, we believe that we can reduce the prices of gas cylinders by August 5."

Peiris also said that they would be able to reduce the price of a gas cylinder more than the amount it was increased earlier.

**Navy nabs another...** From page 01

The coordinated operation was mounted by the Western Naval Command and Wennappuwa Police, based on information received by the Sri Lanka Navy.

The group of individuals were nabbed after three vans were searched in Wennappuwa on the night of July 31. Among the apprehended persons were 37 males and six females over 18 years with four individuals below 18 years. The three vans used for this purpose were also taken into custody.

"The apprehended persons were identified as residents of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Kalmunai, Batticaloa, Puttalam, Chilaw, Marawila, Mahawewa, Mundalama and Wellawatta. They were handed over to Wennappuwa Police for further investigation," the Navy Media Unit said.

**Wimal calls for APC...** From page 01

In the letter addressed to the President, the MP has requested that an All-Party Conference should be called and a common plan to solve the crisis be presented to the country with a road map for its implementation.

It has been pointed out in the letter that it is important to neutralize the un-democratic influence exerted by those engaged in the 'Aragalaya' on the political establishment of the country.

Weerawansa's letter addressed to the President states that it is important to win the public's trust by presenting a common consensus to the country through the All-Party Conference and viable strategies to overcome the economic crisis.

**People urged to...** From page 01

As per the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health, around 1,361 cases of COVID-19 and 35 deaths by the highly transmissible BA.5 subvariant.

The total number of COVID-19 cases had increased to 665,739 by yesterday morning. Around 648,152 patients have fully recovered while 1032 infected patients are currently under medical care at hospitals and homes.

Director of the Allergy, Immunology and Cell Biology Unit of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sri Jayawardenepura Dr. Chandima Jeewandara said the Omicron subvariant of COVID-19, BA.5, has become one of the dominant strains of the virus and it is the most easily spread strain to date.

**National Fuel Pass...** From page 01

The National Fuel Pass, which was introduced to provide the public a convenient and easily accessible solution to obtain fuel and facilitate an allocation-based fuel distribution method, has also surpassed 4.8 million vehicle registrations to-date.

The Ministry requested the public to register with National Fuel Pass and support the initiative to enable an accessible and equitable allocation-based fuel distribution method. In addition, options have been provided to users to register multiple vehicles with their business registration and for Government institutes to register as well, the Ministry noted.

"To register for a Fuel Pass, visit <http://fuel-pass.gov.lk> and follow the registration process, after which a unique Fuel Pass in the form of a QR code will be displayed - which can be saved on a mobile device or printed to be produced at fuel outlets. As per the newly introduced system, each vehicle, once registered for the Fuel Pass, will be allocated a weekly quota of fuel, which will be refreshed every Sunday night (any unutilized quota will not be carried forward)." the Ministry also noted.

**Obituaries**

**ASOKA DE LANEROLLE** - Dearly beloved husband of Nalini, loving father of Kanishka, Manisha and Dhanusha, father-in-law of Bogumila and Deenesha, dearest grandfather of Chayanka and Praveen, brother of late Upali and Indra, brother-in-law of Rupa, Tissa, Mahasen and Sunethra, passed away peacefully at home. Remains lie at **Respect Funeral Parlour, Borella** from 8.30 a.m. onwards on Tuesday, 2nd August. Cortege leaves at 4.30 p.m. for cremation at 5.00 p.m. at the General Cemetery, Borella. No flowers by request.

044276

# Thank you



## LAL PERERA

(1957 -2022)

Former SriLankan Airlines Head of Worldwide Sales, Beloved husband of Kamalangani (ex- Singer Sri Lanka), loving father of Dilshan (Managing Partner at Kadih Associates) and Madushi (Attorney-at-Law), father in law of Dr. Thamasha (Base Hospital, Muthur) and precious grandfather of Terran and Aiden passed away peacefully on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at his residence, No. 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lane, Nelumpura, Thelawala Road, Ratmalana.

**Family wishes to thank everyone who attended, participated in all religious ceremonies and conveyed condolences in numerous ways amidst the difficult situation.**

### APPLICATION FOR LICENCE FROM THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

In pursuance of Section 34 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies for license directing an association about to be formed under the name and style of **AL SALAM WELFARE FOUNDATION** to be registered with limited liability without the addition of the word Limited to its name.

The objects for which the Association is proposed to establish are:

- I. To assist orphans, widows, abandoned children, refugees and vulnerable & underprivileged families.
- II. To establish vocational training centres to provide job opportunities for the needy of the society.
- III. To establish educational institutions to provide value-based education for the needy children of the society without engaging primary and secondary education.

The other objects of the Association are set out in the Article of Association. A copy of which may be inspected at the office of the Secretary hereto below.

Notice is hereby given that any person, company or corporation objecting to the application may bring such objection within 21 days from the date of this notice by a letter addressed to the Registrar General of Companies, No. 400, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Dated on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022

**M.F.F. Fazrina**  
Attorney-at-Law & Company Secretary



# Navy rescues stranded Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters

The Navy rescued six distressed Indian fishermen drifted to the Sri Lankan waters north of Talaimannar with their defunct trawler. The rescued Indian fishermen were provided humanitarian assistance and handed over to another Indian fishing trawler at the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

The Indian trawler (Reg No. IND/TN/10/MM/ 1032) drifting in island waters north of Talaimannar, was spotted by SLNS Ranajaya patrolling in the

sea area yesterday morning (31). The Indian trawler had swept towards Sri Lankan waters as a result of a mechanical failure of its engine. The Navy promptly rescued the six Indian fishermen aboard the defunct vessel and they were provided with food, drink and other necessary humanitarian assistance.

SLNS Ranajaya escorted the distressed Indian fishing trawler and the six Indian fishermen to the IMBL and handed over them to another Indian trawler.



A Navy Officer providing humanitarian assistance to the distressed Indian fishermen.

## Flood warning for Kalu Ganga valley

The Irrigation Department yesterday issued a flood warning for low-lying areas of Kalu Ganga valley due to heavy rain fall in the last few days.

"A considerable rainfall has occurred in catchment areas of the Kalu Ganga Basin as of yesterday. By analysing the rainfall situation and river water levels of Hydrological Stations in the Kalu Ganga, there is a possibility of a considerable flood situation in

low-lying areas of the Kalu Ganga valley in the Pelmadulla, Nivithigala, Ratnapura, Kuruvita, Ayagama and Elapatha DS Divisions. It is requested to pay high attention in this regard by the residents of those area and drivers running through these areas. Disaster Management Authorities are requested to take adequate precautions in this regard," the department said in a media release.

## New President should be given reasonable time – Prasanna

Urban Development and Housing Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said that President Ranil Wickremesinghe should be given some reasonable time to resolve the economic issues and recover the country.

He also said that by appointing a new ruler once a month or once in two months, all the problems will get worse and the country will become more anarchic.

The Minister was speaking to a group of Pradeshiya Sabha and Municipal Council members on Sunday at Udugampola.

"President Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed to that position according to the Constitution. There is no unconstitutionality in that appointment. At this moment, the

country is facing many huge problems. What is needed today is to resolve these problems and stabilise the country. We should give some time to the new President in this regard."

Minister Ranatunga also said that the new government under the leadership of President Ranil Wickremesinghe is resolving the problems that the country was facing one by one.

"Now the country receives fuel, fertilizer and foreign aid. Good feedback has been received from the International Monetary Fund. If that support is confirmed, there should be political stability in the country. If there is political stability, the country will be back to normal in a few months," he added.

## Ruhunu National Sanctuary to be facilitated to attract more foreign tourists – Minister

The Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation Ministry will increase the facilities to local and foreign tourists who visit the Ruhunu National Sanctuary.

Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation Minister Mahinda Amaraweera went on an observation tour to find out about the development of infrastructure in the Yala Sanctuary yesterday. With the economic collapse in the country, the number of local and foreign tourists visiting Yala and other sanctuaries has reduced considerably.

The Minister said that as the arrival of tourists to the country may increase again in the future, measures should be taken to increase the facilities to attract more tourists to the country.

The Minister, therefore,

observed the construction work of the resting place, which was being built by the Wildlife Department in the Yala Sanctuary. The Minister instructed the officials to resume the construction.

There is no designated

place in the forest for the tourists who come inside the Yala sanctuary to get food and drink and provide other information and get water between 12 and 2 noon. Therefore, the Minister instructed the officials to maintain this resting

place as a green land. The Minister also opened the new resort of Parana Totupola. The Wildlife Department has spent 100 million rupees in this regard. When local and foreign tourists stay here, they get observatory facilities to see

wild animals roaming around at night.

The Minister who participated in the event also inquired about the difficulty of getting fuel that the wildlife officials and the safari vehicle owners who transport tourists are facing. He informed that necessary steps will be taken to provide fuel from Kataragama bus depot to the Sri Lanka Transport Board.

The Minister said that when foreign tourists visit the Sri Lankan sanctuaries, an arrangement should be made to collect the relevant charges from them in dollars. The reason for the crises in the country is the shortage of dollars. Therefore, the Minister said that steps will be taken to generate dollars for the country by developing sanctuaries in the country.



During the inspection tour.

## Seventy eight from 245th intake pass out

A Passing out Parade (POP), which marked the successful culmination of the basic training of 478 recruits (including 116 women recruits) of the 245th intake of the Sri Lanka Navy's Regular and Volunteer Forces, was held at the main parade ground of SLNS Shiksha, Poonewa on July 30.

The ceremony was graced by Commander North Central Naval Area Rear Admiral Pradeep Rathnayake as the Chief Guest. Those recruits who remained outstanding in the basic training received trophies from the Commander North Central Naval Area in recognition of their achievements.

Recruit T.G.V. Sandeepa was adjudged the Best Recruit of 245th intake and won the award for his achievement. Recruit W.M.K.K.G.P.I.U. Weerasinghe won the award for securing the highest aggregate



in overall subjects. Recruit R.M.G.N. Rathnayake was selected as the Best Marksman. The awards for Best Sportsman and Best Sportswoman were won by Recruit K.G.S. Saptharanga and Woman Recruit E.M.N. Himayangani. Taking into account its overall performances, 'Dakshaya' Division was selected as the Best Division of the 245th intake. The distinguished event was made more enthralling by a drill display

featured by the passed out recruits and performances of the Navy Band and Cultural Troupe.

Members of the Maha Sangha, senior Naval Officers, Commandant SLNS Shiksha, Captain Aruna Weerasinghe, officers and sailors of SLNS Shiksha, officers from sister services, Police and STF, officials from government institutions and parents of the passed out recruits were present.

## Troops facilitate devotees on foot to Kataragama from North and East

Nearly 5,000 devotees from the North and East trekking through the Kumana and Yala National Parks, bound for Kataragama to participate in the Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devala festival have been enjoying the hospitality, being extended by 122 Brigade and 23 Gajaba Regiment troops of the 12 Division of the Security Force HQ-Central from Friday (22) in Kataragama after they entered the Yala National Park.

These devotees are provided with drinking water, cooked foods, medicine and temporary shelters by the troops in close collaboration with State agencies. Guidelines given by the Commander, Security Forces,

Central, Major General Samantha Silva and the close supervision of Major General Lanka Amarapala, General Officer Commanding, 12 Division have enabled the troops to provide the facilities.

The Commander, 122 Brigade instructed the troops to take care of them during their stay in Kataragama for the annual Esala Perhera festival after they arrived there a few days ago.

These devotees are from Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Pottuvil and Ampara and have undertaken the pilgrimage after absence of three years due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

## Four of P5 nations support India for permanent UNSC seat: Govt

Four out of five permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) have supported India's candidature for a permanent seat in the top world body, the government told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

In response to a question, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said that India has been consistently taking up with China the issue of reform of the UNSC. China is the only country, which has not yet supported India's bid to

become a member of the UNSC. "Four out of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have bilaterally expressed official affirmations of support for India's candidature to a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council," the Minister said.

Muraleedharan said that the government has accorded the "highest priority" to getting permanent membership for India in an expanded UNSC.

"Towards this end, the government has undertaken various initiatives aimed at building international support for India. The matter is consistently taken up during bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels, including at the highest levels," he said.

At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent member countries, which are elected for a two-year term by the General Assembly of the UN. - P71



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# We have sufficient home grown rice till December, no need to import

Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has decided to submit a request to the Cabinet to temporarily suspend the importation of rice as there is currently enough rice in the country, a news release from the Ministry said yesterday.

Minister Amaraweera said that he will request the Cabinet to suspend the importing of rice to Sri Lanka until December. The Minister stated this in a discussion held with the Agricultural Seed and Planting

Materials Association yesterday morning (01).

Paddy harvesting of the Yala season has started. According to the permission given by the government to import rice, the country has imported as much rice as it needs. Information has also been received that the importers of rice have stored sufficient stocks based on that permission.

At the time of paddy harvesting in the Yala season, by further importation of rice, some

rice mill owners will buy the rice grown by the farmers so as to prevent the farmers from getting frustrated due to not getting a suitable price for the paddy they have grown in the midst of great difficulties.

The Minister mentioned that he will take steps to present a proposal to the Cabinet meeting yesterday to suspend the import of rice until next December.

The Minister also mentioned that it is suggested to the government to use the amount of

foreign exchange remaining in our country by stopping the import of rice for the purchase of inputs for the development of agriculture such as weeder, seeders, sprayers and tractors, solar powered water motors, etc.

Minister Amaraweera requested seed importers to take steps to cultivate 60,000 hectares of maize in the coming Maha season. The Minister also said that the Agriculture Ministry will provide all the necessary facilities such as registra-

tion of all tractors in the island as agricultural inputs, provision of fuel quota, and land for maize cultivation.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the Agricultural Seed Association said that arrangements have already been made for the import of seeds needed

for potato, chilli and vegetable cultivation, and that their association will mediate for the agricultural products needed by the country.

Secretary of the Ministry Rohana Pushpakumara and others participated in this discussion.

## – Minister



## Floods in Central Province



Many houses in the lowlands in the commercial area in Kotagala too went under water. Pictures by Ranjith Rajapaksa



The Keselgamu Oya too was flooded.

**RANJITH RAJAPAKSA**  
Hatton Corr.

Due to the heavy rains in the western slopes of the Central hills a woman died while her granddaughter went missing in the floodwaters in the Polpitiya area yesterday (01).

The woman (60) and her granddaughter (05) were on their way home from the Montessori when the two were washed away in the current of a stream flowing to the Kelani river in Bokaravavila, Hiti-gagama in Polpitiya yesterday.

The body of the woman was found by the villagers and the Polpitiya Police, while operations are

in progress to find the granddaughter. The woman's remains are at the Gimgathhena Divisional Hospital. In the meantime, the Keselgamuwa Oya (stream) running from Bogawanthalawa to the Castlereagh reservoir reached flood level yesterday inundating a large extension of lowlands in the Bogawanthalawa town.

Bogawanthalawa Police said that many roads leading to several estates have gone under water as well.

Nuwara Eliya Disaster Management Centre Director Ranjith Alahakoon said that many houses in the lowlands in the commercial

area in Kotagala too went under water. Some of the houses went under water by flooding of the small streams flowing down to Devon. The people there were evacuated to secure places.

In the meantime, the parapet walls have collapsed damaging the business offices partially in Hatton town and the Hatton Police took measures to evacuate the employees to secure places too.

Engineers said that due to the heavy rain, three sluice gates of the Laxapana Reservoir and two sluice gates of Canyon Reservoir were opened in the afternoon yesterday.

The Nuwara Eliya Disaster Management Centre Additional Director Ranjith Alahakoon said that due to the opening of the sluice gates of the reservoirs, the water level of the Kelani River is increasing rapidly.

In the meantime, the Nawalapitiya Railway Control Room said that the upcountry railway transport is interrupted by the fall of rock on the rail track between Watawala and Ihala Watawala railway stations due to the heavy rain. A rock with a height of 12 feet fell on the railway track around 12.30 pm yesterday.

## Russian Ambassador calls on Foreign Minister

Russian Ambassador Yury Materiy called on the newly appointed Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, PC, on Thursday (28) at the Foreign Ministry.

Congratulating Minister Sabry on his appointment, Ambassador Materiy handed over a message of felicitations from the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov addressed to the new Foreign Minister.

The Russian Ambassador apprised the Foreign Minister of significant aspects of the traditionally strong partnership

between Sri Lanka and Russia. The Foreign Minister expressed his deep appreciation for Russia's support towards Sri Lanka in bilateral and multilateral fora.

He also expressed confidence in the further consolidation of cooperation, with particular attention to enhancing business ties, tourism and connectivity.

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Russian Embassy in Colombo and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry were present.



Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, PC, with Russian Ambassador Yury Materiy at the Foreign Ministry.

## Islamic New Year celebrated at Red Mosque

**RUZAIK FAROOK**

The Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs had organized a religious programme for the Islamic New Year (Muharram) celebration held at the Jami ul Alfur Mosque (Red Mosque) at Second Cross Street, Colombo, yesterday.

It was held under the patronage of Director of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs Ibrahim Ansar.

Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister Vidura Wickramanayake and Environ-

ment Minister Naseer Ahamed graced the ceremony. Colombo District Abadiyyah Federation General Secretary Ash Sheikh Mohamed Fakeehudeen, Ihsaniyyah Arabic College Vice Principal Ash Sheikh M.S.M. Farooq addressed the gathering in Sinhala and Tamil.

Students of Aden Academy International School Master Ayumal Ali Arshad, T.B. Jayah Zahira Maha Vidyalaya Rifkan Ahamed and Zahira College Colombo Zahir Nasar also delivered speeches.

The introduction of Amana

Takaful insurance scheme for chief priests and muezzins was presented by its Sharia Manager Nawas Badurdeen.

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Red Mosque Rafeek Buhari proposed the vote of thanks.

Assistant Director of Department Anver Ali, Programme Coordinator Ash Sheikh Mufthi Mursi, Red Mosque President Ameer Sulthanb, Secretary Harris Anver, Colombo District Masjid Federation President Aslam Othman and ulamas and trustees of the mosques were present.



Ministers Vidura Wickramanayake and Naseer Ahamed along with Director of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs Ibrahim Ansar, Assistant Director Anver Ali and Red Mosque President Ameer Sulthan and Secretary Harris Anver at the Islamic New Year celebration. Picture by Ruzaik Farook

## Theft at acting Magistrate's house

A person who broke into the house of the Panadura acting Magistrate and robbed Rs 1.3 million was arrested by the Mount Lavinia Police.

Panadura Police are investigating into the crime. The suspect was a 35-year-old resident of Lunawa, Moratuwa.

The Police said that the sus-

pect had entered the house of the female attorney-at-law located at Sri Maha Vihara Mawatha during the day and robbed the money.

## Seven balck marketeers... From page 01

Accordingly, out of these suspected shop owners, five were separately fined Rs.100,000 each, one shop owner was fined Rs. 130,000 and another shop owner was ordered to pay a fine of Rs.150,000.

## Auto Diesel price... From page 01

litre of Auto Diesel will be Rs. 430. However, the prices of all other fuel varieties will remain unchanged, the CPC said.

## Adivasi women... From page 01

Lisinona told media yesterday that around 8000 people belonging to around 3000 Adivasi families in the Polonnaruwa district were facing severe economic hardships due to the current crisis in the country.

She said although a large number of women from her community were willing to migrate overseas in search of greener pastures, they have been restrained by both lack of knowledge about such opportunities as well as finances.

Lisinona went on to say that she had heard and witnessed a large number of women migrating to Gulf countries to work as domestic aides in order to support their families, severely constrained by the financial crisis.

She said a large number of women from her community too were willing to go abroad to support their families as well earn dollars for the country which are in short supply.

Lisinona also said women

from her community were facing difficulties also because a large number of males were either addicted to alcohol or intoxicants such as cannabis.

She lamented that authorities were not paying any attention to the difficulties faced by her community, especially women and children.

Thus, Lisinona appealed to the Government to intervene in securing the women from her community jobs overseas to tide over the economic crisis.

## SC extends travel ban... From page 01

"This is a huge crime under the financial laws and the constitution," he added.

He said this when the Fundamental Rights petitions filed seeking an order to conduct an investigation against the people responsible for bankrupting the country and the public were taken up before the Supreme Court yesterday.

Meanwhile, an Interim Order which was issued preventing former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa from leaving the country without the permission of the Court was yesterday extended until August 4 by the Supreme Court.

The pledge was made by former Secretary to the Ministry of Finance S. R. Artigala and former Central Bank Governor W. D. Lakshman stating that they will not go abroad to the Supreme Court through their lawyers was also extended to be effective till that date.

The petitions were taken up before the Supreme Court Five-Judge-Bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justices Buwaneka Aluwihare, Priyantha Jayawardena, Vijith Malalgoda and L.T.B. Dehideniya.

When the petitions were taken up yesterday, President's Counsel Naveen Marapana appearing for the respondents, former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa and former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa informed the court that he intend to file preliminary objections over the petitions.

The Bench allowed him to make objections after presenting the submissions regarding the petitions.

Following that, President's Counsel Chandaka Jayasundara appearing for the petitioners made submissions over the petitions stating that according to the position of these petitioners, the authorities after 2019 are responsible for this economic crisis, adding that even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had warned that the country's domestic and foreign debt repayment capacity was at a unsustainable level by 2019.

But according to the decisions made later, despite the warnings of even IMF that the country is going bankrupt, the then Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa and Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabral acted arbitrarily.

The President's Counsel highlighted that they even ignored the warnings given by the Central Bank's Finance Board in that regard.

He pointed out that although some respondents tried to point out the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason, it was not the proper reason, the only reason for this economic crisis was that the authorities who were responsible at that time did not take the necessary steps and did things that should not have been done. Therefore, these respondents are responsible for the present situation in the country.

He also pointed out that due to the reckless actions and decisions of the respond-

ents, the living conditions of the people of this country have collapsed and the economy has collapsed.

He pointed out that the main reason for this crisis was the giving of some huge tax reductions and abolishment in 2019 and 2020, depriving the government of revenue.

He also mentioned that when the country's ability to pay debts was becoming unsustainable, the respondents did not work to improve it until the economic collapse.

Also, the President's Counsel said that this economic collapse was the main reason for not going to the IMF at that time when the country was facing these matters.

Former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, who was the Finance Minister at that time, refused to go to the IMF, even when scholars, intellectuals and even the Central Bank Finance Board said that we should go to the IMF in February 2022, he said.

He also pointed out that they knew that the economy would go bankrupt at least five months ago, but they did not inform the people of the country about it, and they did not take any steps to protect it.

He also mentioned that although the people of the country did not know that the country was collapsing, the respondents, who were well aware of it, did not take the necessary steps to recover.

The President's Counsel said that the Government of this country was deprived of the income due to both tax reductions and abolishment.

He mentioned that there was no effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. He pointed out that the IMF provided relief to the countries affected by the Covid-19 epidemic, but Sri Lanka lost it.

He pointed out that due to the provision of these tax concessions, whether there was Covid-19 or not, the state income decreased by 5%.

He said that giving these tax concessions was done because of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's election policy and not because of awareness or investigation or study of the possible results.

Former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa admitted in his Budget speech that the Foreign Reserves were gradually decreasing. He presents a different method to earn foreign exchange. He presents the foreign exchange earnings in two clauses in the entire budget speech. That means leasing our water, energy etc.

"He has no choice but to sell our resources. We sold half of our gold last December. He is not acting responsibly as a responsible authority and is selling our country's resources," he said.

He said that due to filing these petitions, their irresponsible actions are being revealed.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was waiting silently for all this to happen, finally Addressed the Nation and

announced that now we are going to the IMF. We are happy to at least apologise to the nation being honest, he added.

He made lengthy submission over the petitions and the petitions will be taken up again on August 3.

The petition was filed by former Chamber of Commerce Chairman Chandra Jayaratne, swimming champion Julian Bowling, Jehan Kanegaratne and Transparency International Sri Lanka.

The Petition has cited the Attorney General on behalf of the President, former Minister of Finance and former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, current Minister of Finance and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Governors of the Central Bank Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Dr. W.D. Lakshman, former Ministers of Finance Basil Rajapaksa, Ali Sabry, former Secretary to the Ministry of Finance S.R. Artigala, President of the Bar Association of Ceylon Saliya Peiris PC and 13 others as the respondents.

The petitioners allege that the country is currently in a state of bankruptcy and the people are in dire straits due to the unwise economic policies and inefficient administration pursued by the respondents.

The petition alleges that this has made it difficult for the people to access essential services such as fuel, electricity, food and medicine.

The petition states that due to this situation, Sri Lanka has been listed as a country that cannot repay foreign loans and this has brought more disrepute to the country internationally.

The petition points out that the tax concessions granted unnecessarily by the respondents in 2019 were one of the reasons for this economic crisis.

The petitioners also allege that the failure to seek the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the right time during the economic crisis has led to such a crisis in the country.

The petition has sought a declaration that the respondents have violated the fundamental human rights of the public. Also, the petitioners request the Supreme Court to issue an order to conduct an immediate investigation into the matters pointed out in this petition.

The petition also sought an order directing the several respondents to appoint a Committee under the supervision of the Court to compile a report on the financial irregularities and mismanagement of the economy in relation to the specific cases outlined in the petition.

Also, the petition has requested that the cabinet decisions taken regarding the financial matters, the documents exchanged between the respondents be submitted to the Court.

President's Counsel Chandaka Jayasundara, S.A. Beiling, Chinthaka Fernando, Sayuri Liyansuriya and Manisha Dissanayake appeared on the advice of Upendra Gunasekara for the petitioners.



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|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 02/04/2022   | 03/05/2022            | 29/08/2022 & 01/09/2022 |

Branches - Aluthgama, Ambalangoda, Anpara, Anuradhapura, Avissawella, Badulla, Bandarawela, Battaramulla, Batticaloa, Borallegamues, Chāw, Dambulla, Dehiwala, Ehaligoda, Elkanda, Embilipitiya, Galle, Gampaha, Girisika, Head Office, Horana, Ja-ela, Jirfa, Kaduruwela, Kuduwela, Kalutara, Kandana, Kandy, Karugastota, Kegalle, Kelaniya, Kochchikade, Kottahera, Kottawa, Kuliyapitiya, Kurunegala, Kuruvita, Mahara, Maharagama, Mahiyangana, Malabe, Marawella, Matale, Matara, Matugama, Nawarogama, Minuwangoda, Moratuwa, Nanamalle, Negombo, Nikawarata, Nilamburua, Nugegoda, Nawara Eliya, Panadura, Palamadula, Piliyandala, Ragama, Rajagiriya, Rammalana, Ratnapura, Thakshwatigoda, Tessararama, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Wankapola, Wariyapola, Wattala, Welisara, Werragipura

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Draw No. : 1636 Colour : Light Blue  
Date : 02.08.2022  
**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 55,979,852/-**  
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358, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
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**ADA KOTIPATHI**  
Date : 31.07.2022  
Draw No. : 1634 Colour : Green  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 55,904,672/-**  
Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 2,420,900/-**  
Winning Numbers: 34, 61, 75, 76  
English Letter: B  
Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**25**  
English Letter, Super Number & Winning Numbers  
Draw No. : 984 Colour : Yellow  
Date : 31.07.2022 Sunday  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 250,825,363/-**  
Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 3,040,240/-**  
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01. The Director, Procurement Committee invites sealed Bids through National Competitive Bidding procedure for the sale of additional consumer bulks of food grain lying at the following units of Seeds and Planting Material Development Centre, Department of Agriculture up to 2.00 p.m. on 24.08.2022.

| D.D.A. Office Farm                          | Extra Food Crop | Additional Food Crop Bulk (Kg) | Bid Guarantee |                      |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
|   |                 |                                | Cash (Rs.)    | Bank Guarantee (Rs.) |
| Government Seed Production Farm - Rahangala | Pea Nuts        | 6296                           | 22,100.00     | 44,200.00            |
|   | Cowpea          | 150                            | 525.00        | 1,050.00             |
|   | Maize           | 519.7                          | 1,000.00      | 2,000.00             |

02. Extra / additional food crop bulks could be inspected at the Farm Office mentioned in Col. 1 during office hours and the composition of the bulks mentioned in Col. 2 could be had by contacting following Telephone Numbers or from the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Nuwara-Eliya. Also Bidders will be allowed to inspect the Bid Documents free of charge.

03. Interested Bidders should submit their Bids in Bid Forms obtained from the Seeds and Planting Material Development Centre of the Department of Agriculture or Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Seeds), Nuwara-Eliya on submission of the receipt issued by the Shroff of the Department of Agriculture or the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Seeds) of Nuwara-Eliya. Bid Forms will be issued from 03.08.2022 to 23.08.2022 during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

04. Sealed Bids prepared in accordance with Bid instructions should be sent under registered post to reach the "Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Seeds and Planting Material Development Centre, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya". If hand delivered, it should be noted in the register and deposited in the Bid Box kept at the above address.

05. Bids sent by registered post or hand delivered will be received up to 2.00 p.m. on 24.08.2022 and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their representatives with written authority could be present at the time of opening of Bids.

**Chairman**  
**Seeds and Planting Material Development Centre,**  
**Department of Agriculture,**  
**Peradeniya.**  
T.P. 081-2388106/122

**ශ්‍රී ජය**  
Date : 31.07.2022 Draw No. : 3969 Colour : Pink  
**Winning Numbers**  
**03 08 48 66**  
English Letter: J  
Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 2,393,940/-**  
Next Super Jackpot  
**Rs. 71,173,553.40**  
Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**SUPER BALL**  
Draw Number : 1808 Colour : Red  
Draw Date : 31.07.2022 Date : Sunday  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 68,616,447.60**  
Winning English Letter and Numbers  
**S 06 42 51 54**  
Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 1,676,960/-**

**ලග්නා**  
Date : 31-07-2022 Draw Number : 3520 Colour : Purple  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 5,402,780/-**  
**Winning Numbers**  
**17 30 33 34**  
Pisces  
**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 5,285,282/-**

**සසිරි**  
Date : 31.07.2022 Draw Number : 203 Colour : Sunday  
**Winning Numbers**  
**16 25 46**  
**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 1,339,700/-**  
**Total no of Rs. 100,000 winners** | 07



# COLOMBO PORT CITY: A PANACEA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Prof. H.M.W. ARIYARATHNA HERATH



Several international rating agencies such as Standard and Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch Ratings downgraded Sri Lanka's sovereign credit ratings in 2021 and 2022. All these moves designate concerns about Sri Lanka's competence to fulfil external debt repayments. The external debt issue in Sri Lanka, which often leads to serious Balance Of Payment (BOP) and budgetary problems, is not exclusively a result of its massive borrowing from various external sources. The root causes of the continuing crisis are found in structural weaknesses such as the contraction of export income, low tax revenue, lack of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the failure to diversify export destinations, products and sectors (CBSL 2019, 2020; U. Moramudali 2021). Failures to provide comprehensive and consistent as well as long-term solutions to address such weaknesses have resulted in the country running into serious BOP and fiscal crises. Youth unemployment, prolonged social pressure, long queues for fuel and gas, political instability, continuous reduction of tourist arrivals and remittances, and a frustrated society are some of the serious symptoms of these structural weaknesses of the economy.

Both tangible and intangible factors have affected this socio-economic and political related structural relegation over the decades. With these unfavourable circumstances, could a mega project such as the Port City which functions as a walking skeleton change these historical socioeconomic and structural weaknesses and spur growth in Sri Lanka.

## Colombo Port City

The Colombo Port City Project (CPCP) is widely regarded as the largest and most ambitious Sri Lankan Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) undertaking to date and is a collaborative project between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the China Harbour Engineering Corporation (CHEC) Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd. Colombo Port City is a new city development built as an extension of the Central Business District of Sri Lanka's commercial capital, Colombo. This project which spans throughout 269 hectares of reclaimed land from the sea, is bound to be the South Asia's premiere residential, retail and business destination.

The Port City includes five grounds - the financial district, central park living, island living, the marina and the international island - offering office, health care, education, retail and entertainment facilities, as well as hotels and restaurants. When this plan comes into effect, there will be better employment opportunities for Sri Lankans across the country.

This city will serve as a hub for access to finance and service with the most successful modern facilities. The city will also be a hub for absorbing future generations of Sri Lankans into the modern technology and innovations. It can also be seen as the largest project to connect Sri Lanka with the Mid-

dle East, East Africa and the Asia Pacific region.

## Port City Special Economic Zone

The establishment of such a Port City special economic zone is necessary to improve the exports and related services, FDI and tourism sector of the country. Port City special economic zone, enacted in May 2021, and the act established a single window investment facilitator to promote, administer and regulate business activities within the port city. Many of the world's most economically developed countries have succeeded in adopting such approaches. The establishment of such a city must be seen as essential for Sri Lanka to lead today's internationally competitive economy.

Building and operating a world-class business and financial centre are monstrous tasks. Attracting foreign investors to carry out the project within the strict legal framework currently in place in the country is not easy. The Government has embarked on an effort to create a separate legal framework for governing the city. Successive financial cities in the world like Singapore and Dubai have been flourishing economically in implementing such mechanisms. When a special economic zone is established, the maximum benefit cannot be achieved sans separate legal administrative arrangements.

In today's world of complexity, special laws become inevitable to govern areas that are crucial for development. Otherwise, there will be failures in managing such a unique financial city. Those who make significant investments do not want to operate within a tight framework. In this context, where Sri Lanka's traditional legal system calls for substantial reforms, it is impossible to stand within the legal framework and manage a progressive financial city aimed at pure economic benefits.

There have been a lot of arguments over the Colombo Port City Economic Commission, which is the body that the Government wants to set up to govern the city and thereby the Government has recently proposed a Parliamentary Bill. The Bill attempts to create a special economic zone. Thus, the city will be governed by an Act of Parliament of Sri Lanka. Unlike other cities in Sri Lanka, this city needs to have a different legal framework to stand abreast with international standards so that increased foreign investments could be attracted.

As it is a unique city, it can be governed separately. Sri Lankans can also learn lessons concerning development experience through it.



Colombo Port City

The city can also be used as a model to identify shortcomings in Sri Lanka's administrative practices. The port city has been given special financial powers. By granting special financial powers to the particular city, Sri Lanka can manage it properly and reap appropriate economic benefits.

When looking at matters related to tax concessions, it is essential to note that the country's economy can be boosted by providing adequate tax concessions for investors and importers. It is in this context that the bill has been proposed to provide tax concessions to investors in the city. Without tax concession investments will not be attainable as expected. Modern financial cities are governed by special arrangements in many countries that have implemented such schemes.

## Economic Impact of the Port City Project

At present, the country's economy has been hit hard by the impact of the political instability and Covid-19, resulting in a slump in GDP, high level of inflation, youth unemployment, lack of foreign exchange and BOP issues. The current economic crisis has affected more than twenty million people in this country. The Government has a responsibility to find ways which expedite the recovery. In this context, establishing a financial city under the Colombo Port City project will be a factual instrument to revitalize the

Sri Lankan economy. The Colombo Port City can create employment for millions of Sri Lankans, and it will undoubtedly serve as a hub and leading project for creating an international market for domestic products.

The economic impact of the Port City can be divided mainly into three categories namely direct, indirect and induced impacts. Employment creation, value addition to Gross Domestic Product and fiscal contribution in numerous ways at the reclamation stage, construction stage and operational stage can be recognized as benefits of the project.

Reclamation, infrastructure development and land lease/sale - This stage entails the reclamation, development of infrastructure and sale or lease of the marketable land plots held by CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd (Project Company) and Government of Sri Lanka. Construction stage - Subsequent development of real estate within Port City was assessed under this stage. This stage includes the construction of all real estate within the Port City. Operational stage includes the operations of the businesses within Port City and assumed to reflect a mature year of operation. However, it should be noted that the businesses within Port City will perform based on their industry dynamics and reach mature stages at different time periods.

It was indicated that Sri Lanka stands to benefit by the Port City, provided reclamation, construction and operational stages proceed as planned and are well integrated with the local economy. A clear indication of this is that 45-50% of the total value addition to the Sri Lankan economy is expected to accumulate indirectly i.e. through procurement of construction material domestically, expatriate and tourist spending across Sri Lanka and services rendered by local firms to occupiers of the Port City (PwC Research, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 2021).

As per PwC estimates, these modern services could create up to US\$ 9 billion of economic value addition to Sri Lanka GDP and have a significant positive effect of US\$ 5.3 billion to the BOPs from service exports foreign earnings receipts annually, once the project reaches its full potential. The commercial sector is expected to create over 100,000 direct employment opportunities upon completion of the project. As a lifestyle destination, Port City could revitalize Colombo's appeal as a destination for city tourism similar to regional capitals such as

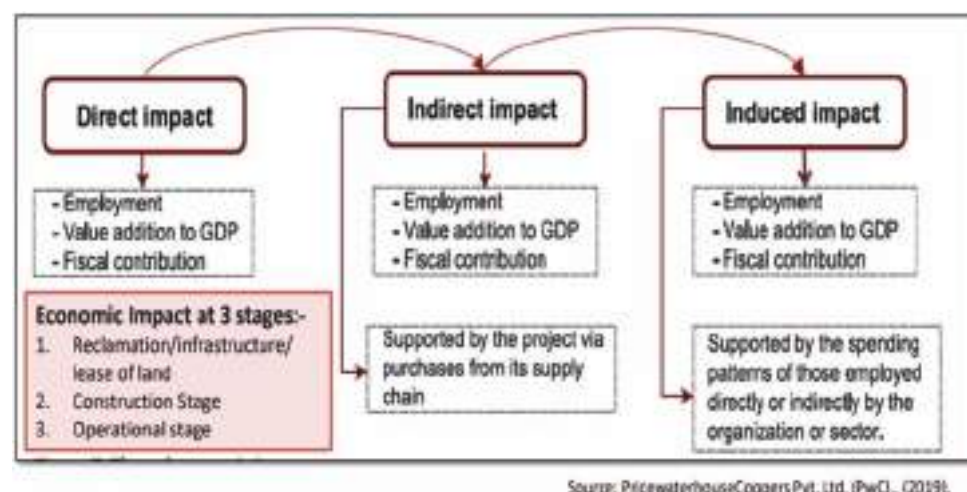
Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore by leveraging on attractions such as a luxury yacht marina, a world-class integrated resort, high-end retail malls and an international convention and exhibition centre to attract high value tourists.

Tourism, retail, and leisure activities are estimated to generate up to US\$ 1.8 billion of direct economic value annually and provide 39,000 direct employment opportunities. Also noteworthy is the indirect contribution made by this sector that could amount to US\$ 850 million per annum via local supply chain. The Special Economic Zone legislation also seeks to provide concessions to both local and foreign investors, with an expected US\$ 12.7 billion to be attracted from the realization of value from land plots and construction activities that would be required to develop the 2.7 sqkm extension of the Central Business District of Colombo. A clear beneficiary of this FDI would be the construction sector, where US\$ 8.7 billion of FDI is expected, leading to the creation of over 340,000 direct employment opportunities during the envisaged completion period.

There is no doubt that the Colombo Port City project will be beneficial for the country's economic development and prosperity as a leading investment project. The CPCP has a significant impact on the national economy in terms of employment generation, attracting FDI, GDP contribution, BOP and generating Government revenue. Increasing FDI in real estate and other businesses which will bring in both business and employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour. Suppliers of materials are benefited at first two stages. The Government can expect revenue from the lease of marketable land at the first stage and an income in the form of import duty, income tax, value-added tax and license and application fees (fiscal contribution) at the construction stage. There will be direct contributions to the GDP by way of investment and consumption within the Port City and also by way of payments flow through indirectly. BOP will be positively affected by foreign exchange of FDI, tourism related activities and export of other goods and services. A boost in the tourism industry could also be expected on completion of this project.

(Professor H.M.W. Ariyaratna Herath is the Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Peradeniya)

Figure 1: Economic Impact of Port City Project



Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. (PwC), (2019).

# EIGHTH EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

CHANDRA EDIRISURIYA

United National Party Leader and Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe was recently sworn-in as the eighth Executive President of Sri Lanka before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at the Parliament Complex for the remainder of the term of the ousted President heralding a new era for the country.

This was two months after he was appointed Prime Minister and subsequently Minister of Finance to bring the country back to normalcy following an unprecedented economic crisis that ever besieged the land which the previous President and his Cabinet of Ministers could not handle successfully.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe's election by Parliament was a cakewalk for him 134 out of the 225 Members of Parliament voting for him and only 82 voting for his opponent chosen as a candidate for the sole purpose of the Opposition Leader to hide behind him, the third candidate contesting being just laughable.

The first Executive President was J. R. Jayewardene who was elected Prime Minister in 1977 the United National Party (UNP) he led scoring a five-sixth majority win at the General Election after barely two years of campaigning, capitalizing on the suffering people underwent experimenting with socialism.

President J. R. Jayewardene telescoped the 30-year Mahaweli Programme into only a few years bringing vast acres under cultivation of not only paddy but also export crops such as cantaloupe and watermelon and was instrumental in constructing a number of hydro-electricity schemes



President Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as the Eighth Executive President before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at the Parliamentary Complex.

adding a considerable amount of power to the national grid.

President J. R. Jayewardene is wrongly accused of penalizing the July 1980 strikers whereas it was the Ministers who did not reinstate the workers who stopped work, some Ministers such as Ronnie de Mel taking in all those who struck work only

one calling them beach crabs coming out of holes when the wave recedes getting in before it comes and threatening to close the holes only closing it for him.

It can be said that Tamil terrorism started with the claymore bombing that mercilessly killed 13 soldiers in 1983 as the country was progressing

as never before under President J. R. Jayewardene and if not for the havoc wreaked by terrorist leader Prabhakaran the country would have gone forward magically.

The backlash in July 1983 was asked for by the terrorists to make use for perpetrating further unlawful acts putting the country through a 30 year

President Ranil Wickremesinghe's election by Parliament was a cakewalk for him 134 out of the 225 Members of Parliament voting for him and only 82 voting for his opponent chosen as a candidate for the sole purpose of the Opposition Leader to hide behind him, the third candidate contesting being just laughable.

long period of destruction and even today irresponsible Tamil leaders masquerading as top professionals and intellectuals keep on adding fuel to the fire harping on so-called self-determination.

JR had so much power which he used for the benefit of the country and used to say that he could not only make a man a woman or a woman a man, most people wondering why he did constitutionally limit the tenure to two terms when Executive Prime Ministers' number of terms was unlimited. Now it has been unmistakably proved that had not only him but also some of his successors been allowed to go on for more than two terms the country's condition would have been different like in India where Executive Prime Minister Sri Jawaharlal Nehru ruled for one and a half decades developing the country immensely.

Nehru's close friend Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike would have done much for the country if he was allowed to implement his Ten Year Plan 1956-1965 the main item of

which making the country self-sufficient in rice was put into practice by Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake through his Green Revolution 1965-1970.

Nehru who worked sixteen hours a day died exhausted in office in 1964 of a stroke at the age of 74 years when asked by a reporter as to why as the leader of millions of Hindus he did not practise Hinduism quipped that he had no time and was only concerned about the scientific advancement of India!

Architects and builders of post-World War II West Germany Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967) Chancellor from 1949 to 1963 and Ludwig Erhard (1897-1977) from 1963 to 1966 were in their ripe old age when they served their country.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe too is fully equipped to serve his Motherland for many more years to come if the people choose to allow him to do so considering the fact that he took over the country at a most difficult time as a daunting challenge.



Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the **Daily News** should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

**CORRECTION NOTICE**  
**SRI LANKA THRIPOSHA LIMITED**  
 1. Procurement of 750MT's of Maize for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited.  
 Bid No. SLTL/TB/09/2022  
 2. Procurement of 250MT's of Soya Beans for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited.  
 Bid No. SLTL/TB/10/2022  
 The address referred to above is:  
**Chairman, Minor Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited, P O Box 17, Kapuwatta, Ja-ela. 0112236588, 0112237418**

**SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**JANITORIAL SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023**  
**TENDER NO. Q 285/22**

- The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the "Janitorial Service for 2022/2023".
- Invited to provide comprehensive cleaning service to the hospital including all areas (Buildings/ Wards/Quarters/Sanitary/Clinical and Non-clinical).
- The Intended Service Period is 01 year.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Supply Officer, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital (e-mail [suppliofficesjgh@gmail.com](mailto:suppliofficesjgh@gmail.com)) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Supply Office Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on any working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the "Director, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Thalapatpitiya, Nugegoda and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,500.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Five Hundred only)**. Method of payment will be in cash to the Cashier.
- Bids must be delivered to the address, "Chairman, Procurement Committee, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Thalapatpitiya, Nugegoda" on or before **25.08.2022 at 10.00 a.m.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the Lecture Hall of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital at **10.00 a.m. on 25.08.2022.**

Contact numbers are: Phone: 011 -2778624, 011-2778610 Ext: 3142, Facsimile: 011-2778624

**Chairman-Procurement Committee**  
**Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital**  
**Thalapatpitiya**  
**Nugegoda.**



**MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION**  
**CENTRAL ENGINEERING SERVICES (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**SALE OF STEEL REINFORCEMENT BAR OFF CUTS IN PROPOSED HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
**Contract No. CL/WP2-J3/PRO-BD279/2022-01**

- The Chairman, Base Procurement Committee, Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd., now invites sealed bids from qualified bidders for Sale of Steel Reinforcement Bar off Cuts (Contract No. CL/WP2-J3/PRO-BD279/2022-01) as described below.  
 Location of Project : No. 106, Dudley Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo 08.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- In order to be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and foreign bidders are not allowed for the above contract.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Eng. Amila Wijesinghe 0710 815 174 and inspect the bidding documents at No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05 from **09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs** during normal working days from **02.08.2022 until 23.08.2022.**
- Bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the account, Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd., No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05 from **09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 2,000.00**. The method of payment shall be by cash. Only one set of documents will be issued for one bidder.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on 10.08.2022 at 10.00 hrs at No. 106, Dudley Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo 08.
- Bids shall be **valid up to 91 days** from the date of closing of bids.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Rs. 50,000.00**, which shall be valid for a period of **119 days** from the date closing of bids.
- Bids shall be addressed to the Chairman, Base Procurement Committee, Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd., No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05 and deposited in the Tender Box Provided at the above address at or before **11.00 hrs on 23.08.2022**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**The Chairman, Base Procurement Committee, Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd., No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05.**

**Keells Supermarket chain is looking for Christmas Decoration Suppliers**

Keells, a supermarket chain operating across the country with the core purpose of "Improving the quality of life of the nation" whilst serving customers with a world class retail experience in over 125 stores.

We are looking for suppliers for In-store Christmas decorations to supply to all our stores across the country.

**Applicant's Considerations**

- The registration period is from 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 only.
- The right to call for quotations is held by the Marketing division of Jaykay Marketing Services (Pvt) Ltd.
- Requirements from the supplier is to provide Christmas decorations to decorate the Keells store & create a Christmas look and feel inside the store while utilizing only plastic free material in the production of decorations.

**For inquiries please reach out to**  
[keellscustomer@keells.com](mailto:keellscustomer@keells.com)

**Keells Jay kay Marketing Services (Pvt) Limited**  
 No. 148 Vauxhall St, Colombo 02

**Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964**  
**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 (1)**  
 Divisional Secretary's Reference No : DSM/YT/LAND/5/17  
 Land Ministry Reference No : 4-3/17/2019/LO/162

The land described in the schedule below is intended to be acquired to the State for establishment of the Police Station, Yatawatte of the Grama Niladhari Division of Maligathenna. For further details, please see the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2283/03 dated 06<sup>th</sup> June 2022 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**Schedule**  
 Province : Central  
 District : Matale  
 Divisional Secretariat : Yatawatte  
 Name of Village : Yatawatte  
 Name of the Land : Yatawatte Estate  
 Plan No. : P.P. MA 1859

**Sgd. illegibly D.R.K. Hennayake**  
 Divisional Secretary  
 Yatawatte.

At the Divisional Secretariat Yatawatte.  
 on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964**  
**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 (1)**  
 Divisional Secretary's Reference No : DSM/YT/LAND/5/46  
 Land Ministry Reference No : 4-3/5/2018/HA/106

The land described in the schedule below is intended to be acquired to the State for construction of the Grama Niladhari Office of the Grama Niladhari Division of Mottuwela. For further details, please see the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2283/03 dated 06<sup>th</sup> June 2022 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**Schedule**  
 Province : Central  
 District : Matale  
 Divisional Secretariat : Yatawatte  
 Name of Village : Ambanpola  
 Name of the Land : Wewathenne Watte alias Wewathenne Gedara Watte  
 Plan No. : P.P. MA 1860

**Sgd. illegibly D.R.K. Hennayake**  
 Divisional Secretary  
 Yatawatte.

At the Divisional Secretariat Yatawatte.  
 on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**NOTICE UNDER SUB SECTION (1) OF SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 28 OF 1964**

The Government intends to acquire the following land which is required for a public purpose. For further details, see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka - Extraordinary No. 2283/15 dated 06.06.2022.

**W.M.T.D.K. Weerakoon**  
 Divisional Secretary  
 Pathadumbara

At Divisional Secretariat - Pathadumbara  
 21.07.2022

**Schedule**  
 Divisional Secretariat : Pathadumbara  
 Village : Girakaduwa  
 Location : Girakaduwa Village, Girakaduwa Grama Niladhari Division No. 631, Pallegampaha minor Division of Divisional Secretariat - Pathadumbara in Kandy District.  
 Name of the Land : Helehen  
 Preliminary Plan No. : P.P. MAHA 7170  
 Lot Nos. : 1 and 2

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

| Vehicle No.          | Make        | Model                     | Year |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------|
| <b>CAR</b>           |             |                           |      |
| CAM -7XXX            | SUZUKI      | ALTO LXI800               | 2015 |
| CAV -3XXX            | SUZUKI      | WAGON-R MH55S             | 2017 |
| <b>JEEP</b>          |             |                           |      |
| KI -5XXX             | TOYOTA      | HARRIER ACU30W            | 2005 |
| <b>TIPPER</b>        |             |                           |      |
| LK -8XXX             | LANKA ASHOK | LEVLAND COMET TIPPER 1613 | 2010 |
| <b>LORRY</b>         |             |                           |      |
| PS -5XXX             | TATA        | SUPER ACE                 | 2012 |
| <b>THREE WHEELER</b> |             |                           |      |
| QJ -2XXX             | BAJAJ       | AUTO RE 2 STROKE          | 2006 |
| QP -5XXX             | BAJAJ       | AUTO AR4S                 | 2008 |
| YF -0XXX             | BAJAJ       | RE 205                    | 2010 |
| AAC -6XXX            | BAJAJ       | RE 205                    | 2012 |
| AAD -6XXX            | BAJAJ       | RE 205                    | 2012 |
| AAV -8XXX            | BAJAJ       | RE                        | 2014 |
| AAU -3XXX            | BAJAJ       | RE                        | 2014 |
| ABD -5XXX            | BAJAJ       | RE                        | 2015 |
| ABG -5XXX            | BAJAJ       | RE                        | 2015 |

Vehicle Inspection:  
**Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC**  
 Vehicle Yard - No: 176, Lake Road, Maharagama  
 Tel - 0112 088 505

**Dates for Inspection of Vehicles**  
 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm at the above address (Acceptance of tenders will be closed at 5.00 pm 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022)

Tender forms could be obtained from the Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC Vehicle Yards at the above addresses upon making a non-refundable payment of Rs.200/-.

Successful bidders will be notified over the telephone, and they should remove the relevant vehicles within 7 days from the date of notification. The company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the tender without stating any reason. While the successful bidders shall accept the relevant vehicles in the existing condition, any outstanding payment in relation to revenue license and government taxes etc shall have to borne by such bidders.

**Decision of the Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC pertaining to this tender shall be final.**

**Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC**  
  
**Head Office**  
 236, Galle Road, Colombo 03.  
 Tel No. 2343720 - 7 EXT: 210

Contact:  
**Janaka - 071 1624559 / Moditha - 071 9530350**

**BOGAWANTALAWA**  
 THE GOLDEN VALLEY OF CEYLON TEA  
 SINCE 1888

**CALLING BIDS FOR SUPPLYING & INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

**Wanarajah Tea Processing Centre (Dickoya - Hatton)**  
**Nominal System Voltage**  
 Between Phases: 400 V / Between Phases & Neutral: 230 V /  
 Wiring System: Three Phase, Four Wire /  
 Earthing System: Solid Earthing, TT System /  
 System Frequency: 50 Hz /

The drawings, specifications and BOQ for bidding will be available at the head office during weekdays (Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday) in between 09.00 am - 04.00 pm by paying a non-refundable deposit of LKR 5000/-.

Please forward your proposal in sealed envelope marked as: **"Supply & Installation of Electrical Distribution System"** on the top left-hand corner of the sealed envelope to the following address on or before **04.00 pm Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022.**

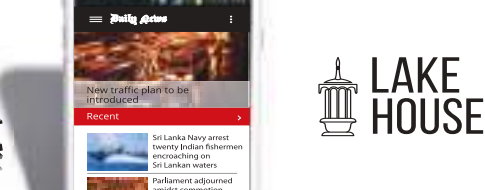
**Note:** 1. Bids must be submitted on **PROPOSAL FORMS** providing with two (2) copies.  
 2. Bid documents could be delivered or send by registered post **ON TIME**.  
 3. The organization reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, waive technicalities and select a bid that meets the specifications required.

**For any information, Please Call 0112 510 133/ 0112 510 000**  
**Head Office, Bogawantalawa Tea Estate PLC., No.153, Nawala Road, Narahenpita.**

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# Daily News



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news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
Tuesday, August 2, 2022

## Halt this alarming trend

Not a single day passes without a murder or multiple killings being reported from some part of this country which is now increasingly becoming commonplace with the Police reduced to mere by standers. There had been 17 killings reported during the months of June and July alone and so far not a single arrest has been made. The latest killings took place in Kotahena and Ambalangoda. What is alarming is the casual nature in which the assailants pounce on their victims. They come on motorcycles, approach the target, open fire and nonchalantly ride away as shown on TV as captured on CCTV footage.

In the Kotahena incident the assassin merely walked up to the victim and shot him point blank with a pistol in front of a fairly large crowd who could only watch helplessly. In the Ambalangoda killing the assassin who rode on the pillion of the motorcycle simply alighted from the machine and casually walked into the house of the target and shot the man dead with a T56 automatic weapon. Not stopping at that, the killer, wearing a full face helmet, also shot some inmates of the house who came out of the premises. During the JVP terror days in the late eighties, similar to the present, a majority of the killings were carried out by motorcycle riders wearing full face helmets. This forced the Government to ban the helmet. Such a ban should be tried out in the present instance too if the impunity with which the killings take place is to be checked somewhat. If the Police so far have failed to identify let alone apprehend the killers all available methods should be tried out.

We say this because if the trend continues there is the possibility of killings taking place with monotonous regularity, and, what is more, with absolute impunity, with all would be assassins increasingly getting emboldened by the lack of Police action. In the melee there is also the possibility of innocent bystanders getting killed or injured.

Police Spokesman SSP Nihal Talduwa said that the deployment of Police personnel to maintain law and order at filling stations throughout the country has affected crime prevention. This indeed is a very flimsy excuse considering that there are over 80,000 Policemen in the Force. In any event, crime prevention should be the number one priority of the Police. It is time that the Police refocus itself on its primary duty- that of protecting the community from harm at the hands of rampaging killers. It is indeed baffling to contemplate that the whereabouts of even a single suspect had escaped the country's premier law enforcement agency while those who entered premises of the President's house and Temple Trees are being taken in with super efficiency. How come the Police who are busy taking fingerprints of those who invaded the President's House missed any fingerprints of the assassins at the scene of the crime? Surely there would have been some evidence left behind by the killers that the Police could follow through.

The stock explanation of the Police is that the killings are the result of gang rivalry or confrontations related to the narcotics trade. However, according to what the public were told by top sleuths, sometime ago, the drugs business was almost eliminated with the arrest of a major kingpin who operated from abroad. But from what we gather from the Police statements is that the drug business is still very much alive and kicking and what is more even some Police officers are allegedly in the thick with members of drug trade (top Narcotic Bureau sleuths were arrested sometime ago for working hand in glove with drug kingpins).

Law and Order Minister Tiran Alles should direct the IGP to get his men to concentrate in halting the present killing spree in the country to the exclusion of everything else. For what we are witnessing is an extremely dangerous trend. We pride ourselves in being a Buddhist country and the radio and television commence the day with Bana preaching and injunctions against harming even an ant. But the picture is different out there in the open with no value attached to human lives. The Police should be made to hunt down all those responsible for the recent spate of killings. Just palming off all killings to drug rivalry simply won't do. The danger here is that Police inaction to apprehend the killers may even embolden others with a criminal bent to take advantage of this apathy on the part of the law enforcement and commence terrorizing the innocent public. Such a trend is increasingly being witnessed now given the economic hardships afflicting the people, opening avenues for theft and plunder by criminals. A climate is gradually being created for lawlessness to thrive. The Police should get active in ensuring that the situation does not get out of hand.

The Police Service as a whole also needs modernizing, upgrading and special training for its personnel to handle today's multiple challenges. We say this because today crime has assumed new and extraordinary dimensions with the involvement of the drug element and an underworld equipped with sophisticated weapons. The men in khaki too should be provided with all the incentives to make them keen on the job and go that extra mile to deal with high risk situations. It is only a happy and contented Police officer who will give his heart and soul to the job of policing.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Being a good police officer is one of the most difficult, dangerous, idealistic jobs in the world.  
- Thomas Hauser

# WHAT CONTINUES WRONG? APPALLING INTELLECTUAL IMPRISONMENT OF STUDENTS

Prof. RAJIVA WIJESINHA

After schools reopened on July 25th, after a eons, I saw a statement by a Union leader under the headline 'Govt. must act expeditiously to provide relief for children's education'. I was heartened by this for it seems no one in Government cares for the plight of children, but the statement itself offered no sensible solutions, claiming first and foremost that 'Transport facilities should be enhanced to increase the number of children attending schools. For that, adequate fuel should be provided.'

I was sorry that the gentleman has not yet recognized that the shortage of fuel will continue, and also that the country needs to think - I do not say the Government, for it is manifest that no one in the Government seems able to think - of new methods of delivering learning. I noted the need for this well over two years ago when Coronavirus first struck, and given that we were since subject to recurring waves of the disease - and another seems imminent - it is profoundly regrettable that we stuck to the tennis ball mentality of closing schools and then reopening them and then closing them and then reopening them.

Now that to this recipe for disaster the fuel problem has been added, I would have thought we should be developing mechanisms to deliver learning without being at the mercy of problems relating to travel. But we have not since Gotabaya became President had a single minister - and there have been several of them - with any understanding of the direction in which education should be moving.

I say this because it is not only because of the Corona / fuel crises that there should have been efforts to develop self directed learning. For decades now we have been content with spoon feeding, with textbooks that record relevant and irrelevant facts for regurgitation, with Teacher Guides that entrench the idea that students learn only from what the teacher tells them. The only exceptions to this were those I initiated.

First was on a small scale, with regard to English Literature at the Ordinary Level. In the early nineties I managed, with support from my colleagues at the British Council, to get the Ministry to reintroduce this, and Nihal Cooray, who was in charge, got me to preside over the syllabus and to develop a Teacher Guide. After this was published, I was surprised to find that the NIE had decided to develop another. The reason given was that our teacher guide - my collaborators included the dynamic Dinali Fernando who headed the Kelaniya English Department until recently - only asked questions, whereas teachers wanted answers. Amongst the rubbish that students were expected to absorb was the idea of hidden meanings such as that the feathers of the geese in 'Bells for John Whiteside's Daughter' - a poem I had not been keen on but the NIE loved it - indicated the onset of winter.

This is the formula those in charge of education love, abstruse knowl-



COVID and fuel restrictions have hit education sector hard.

**"I SAW A STATEMENT BY A UNION LEADER UNDER THE HEADLINE 'GOVT. MUST ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION'. I WAS HEARTENED BY THIS FOR IT SEEMS NO ONE IN GOVERNMENT CARES FOR THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN, BUT THE STATEMENT ITSELF OFFERED NO SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS, CLAIMING FIRST AND FOREMOST THAT 'TRANSPORT FACILITIES SHOULD BE ENHANCED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOLS. FOR THAT, ADEQUATE FUEL SHOULD BE PROVIDED.'"**

edge which students cannot obtain through reading the text and thinking and discussing it with their friends. And this formula continues in that, long after educationists began to appreciate the development of soft skills - which Arjuna Aluvihare had tried to introduce into the higher education system, only to be knocked out by another replacement President - there is no effort to develop independent thought and intellectually productive teamwork amongst students.

My second effort was when I was in charge of translations for English medium textbooks when Tara de Mel and I commenced this in Government schools in 2001. We introduced a lot of additional material, with provision for children to look up additional information relating to the areas to be studied, to increase their understanding of the world. I was delighted when later a teacher in a rural school remarked, when the war in Iraq commenced, that it was a river valley civilization. And we also drew attention to the fact, which the panjandrums had not bothered to highlight in their insistence on endless study of Anuradhapura, that irrigation based on reservoirs was a unique phenomenon.

But the panjandrums objected to this additional information. I was persecuted by the audit which claimed I had not literally translated the existing texts, but fortunately

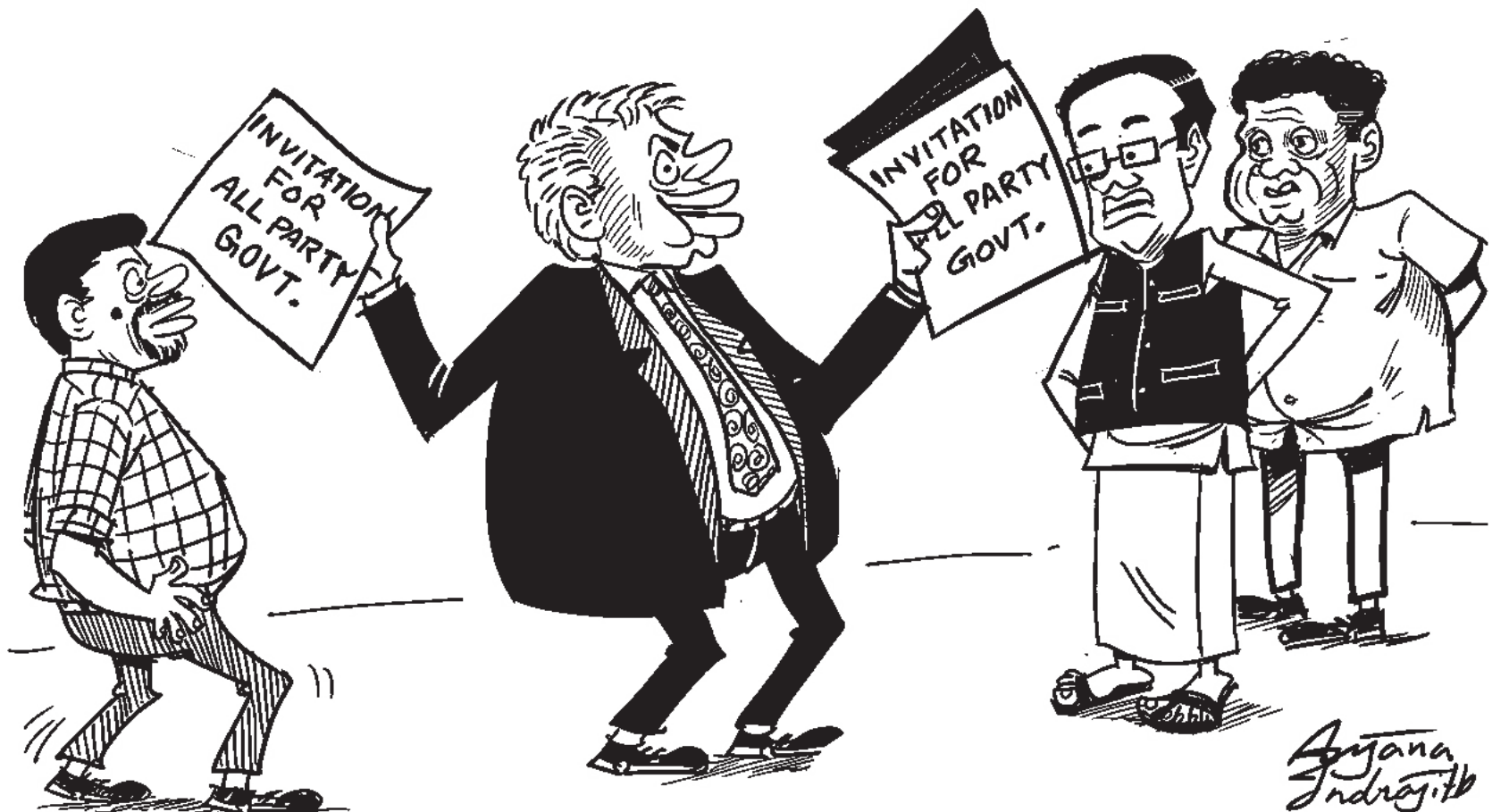
the World Bank project document included provision for additional information. Unfortunately though, when the Prime Minister stopped the Minister of Education from extending my contract to oversee English medium, the programme began to falter, and after the NIE resumed charge of book production the straitjacketing of students was revived.

What should have happened in 2020 was the development of a materials production programme that gave students information on which they could work on their own, or in small groups that could get together despite Covid and now fuel restrictions. The concept other countries developed of bubbles, which could easily have been set up for children in rural schools, who do not have ready access to the internet, did not even occur to those in charge of education, the flaccid Ministers, the formulaic head of the NIE, even the secretaries some of whom initially seemed capable but without capacity or inclination it seems to have introduced new thinking.

Training of teachers to work on new methods of, not delivery, but guidance, should have commenced straight away, electronically with face to face contact when possible. Techniques such as those developed by Oranee Jansz, one of the most able English Instructors at university level with whom I collaborated

happily on the pre-University GELT course, should have been entrenched in the system. I was continuously impressed by her passionate commitment to education as empowerment, in contrast with what the panjandrums pursue, which is education as enslavement - enslavement to received wisdom, enslavement to mindless note taking in schools and in tuition classes, enslavement to what is poured into them and the pourers rather than the joy of discovery through personal and group explorations and discussions.

When nearly a year ago Gotabaya wanted me to help him, though I was disinclined, I might have felt obliged to accept the position he offered, after the discussion with him I insisted on it before I took any decision. But fortunately I fell ill and we could not meet and after a couple of months he appointed someone else. But when I was wondering what I would do, after I got back from hospital, I thought that I would also suggest a transformative role in education, which struck me then as even more important than the Human Rights he wanted me to take charge of. Now of course it is clear that we need to be even more vigilant about Rights, but I continue to believe that the right to education needs to be enhanced, through stress on education in the original sense of drawing students out, not shutting them in.



Arjuna Indrajith



President tells *Wall Street Journal*

# Long Road to Securing Economic Stability



President Ranil Wickremesinghe

*"I think we've already hit the bottom," Ranil Wickremesinghe says, but it will take months before most Sri Lankans, who have faced runaway inflation and long queues for fuel and cooking gas, will begin to see their economic circumstances improve markedly.*

PHILIP WEN and TRIPTI LAHIRI

Sri Lanka's new President said the country has experienced the worst of its economic crisis and that restoring political stability will allow it to begin turning a corner, starting with finalizing negotiations for an International Monetary Fund bailout that had stalled due to recent turmoil.

"I think we've already hit the bottom," Ranil Wickremesinghe said in an interview Sunday with *The Wall Street Journal*. "I can see the light at the end of the tunnel; it's how fast we can get to it."

He also acknowledged that it will take months before most Sri Lankans, who have faced runaway inflation and long queues for fuel and cooking gas, will begin to see their economic circumstances improve markedly.

Speaking from his office in the

Presidential Secretariat, which Mr. Wickremesinghe only moved into on Wednesday after it had been occupied earlier in July by protesters, the President said he expected the IMF staff-level agreement to be reached by the end of August, after which the country would be able to further talks with sovereign bondholders and bilateral creditors. Any preliminary agreement would still require IMF board approval for the disbursement of funds, a process that could take months.

"We are down to the nitty-gritty," he said. "We would have had it this month [July] if it were not for the unstable political condition."

Mr. Wickremesinghe also said it wasn't the right time for former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to return to Sri Lanka, saying it could inflame political tensions among tens of thousands of protesters who

rallied to oust him over his management of the economy. Mr. Rajapaksa left the country on a military aircraft bound for the Maldives on July 13, before travelling onward to Singapore where he resigned over email.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet Spokesman Dr. Bandula Gunawardena said on Tuesday that Mr. Rajapaksa wasn't in hiding and was expected to return. But Mr. Wickremesinghe, who said he remained in contact with Mr. Rajapaksa to deal with administrative handover issues and other Government business, said Mr. Rajapaksa hadn't told him he planned to return to Sri Lanka soon.

"I don't believe it's the time for him to return," he said. "I have no indication of him returning soon."

Mr. Wickremesinghe, 73, was elected President on July 20 after winning a Parliamentary Vote to

replace Mr. Rajapaksa, but remains widely unpopular among Sri Lanka's broader public and its protest movement, who see him as closely aligned with the former President and his family. On July 9, the same day protesters stormed and occupied the Presidential Secretariat and official residence, hounding Mr. Rajapaksa out of office, protesters also breached Mr. Wickremesinghe's official and private residences, setting fire to the latter. Protesters have since handed back control of all State buildings to authorities.

Mr. Wickremesinghe's elevation has been all the more remarkable given that he had earlier committed publicly to resigning as Prime Minister alongside Mr. Rajapaksa to make way for a new unity government and that his party clinched just one Parliamentary Seat in the last elections.

The President defended the legitimacy of his election on Sunday.

"I came in by chance. Basically the President had resigned. The country was on fire. They were taking over the buildings," he said. "I have been elected constitutionally... it's up to us to perform now."

Mr. Wickremesinghe was appointed as Prime Minister by Mr. Rajapaksa after the resignation of his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa in May, the month Sri Lanka defaulted on its sovereign debt.

Sri Lanka was on precarious financial footing even before the Coronavirus pandemic hit, as it borrowed heavily to spend on infrastructure and slashed taxes in 2019. Then the pandemic decimated its tourism, a vital earner of foreign currency. This year price increases from the war in Ukraine, coupled with higher U.S. interest rates, put pressure on Sri Lanka's rupee and drained its reserves, leaving it unable to import the fuel and fertilizer it needs.

Once an IMF agreement is in place, the country will have to work out debt restructuring with creditors with differing approaches, the President said.

"It's an issue between the different approaches to debt relief between India and Japan on one side, supported by the U.S., and China on the other side," he said. "It's a question of getting them to agree on one plan. It's a question of how do you deal with the hair-

cut? How do you deal with having new money given to pay off the old loans?"

A sharp reduction in imports and an uptick in exports—helped by the fall in the value of the local currency—had helped Sri Lanka achieve a modest trade surplus in June. In the immediate term, Mr. Wickremesinghe said the Central Bank was confident of finding the cash to cover enough fuel imports to begin alleviating the most acute of shortages. But even with an IMF agreement in train, Mr. Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka needs to secure upwards of US\$ 3 billion from other sources next year to help pay for key imports like fuel, food and fertilizers.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said he was keeping an eye on the process that unfolded in Zambia. Over the past two years, the African copper producer has been undergoing debt restructuring of US\$17 billion in foreign-currency debt under a plan developed by Group of 20 countries during the pandemic and that China signed on to. The framework expects bilateral lenders and private lenders such as multinational banks to accept similar write-downs but is meant to aid the world's poorest nations, which doesn't include Sri Lanka.

*(Write to Philip Wen at philip.wen@wsj.com and Tripti Lahiri at tripti.lahiri@wsj.com) - Wall Street Journal*



Once an IMF agreement is in place, the country will have to work out debt restructuring with creditors with differing approaches, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said. "It's an issue between the different approaches to debt relief between India and Japan on one side, supported by the U.S., and China on the other side," he said. "It's a question of getting them to agree on one plan. It's a question of how do you deal with the haircut? How do you deal with having new money given to pay off the old loans?"

## Pedestrians Need Better Protection

Dr.(Eng) JAYALATH EDIRISINGHE

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are nearly 1.35 million deaths and another 50 million injuries are annually reported around the globe due to road traffic accidents. Vulnerable road users which include pedestrians, motorbike riders and bicycle riders contribute significantly to these accidents.

While reckless and irresponsible behaviour of pedestrians contributes to these accidents, responsible authorities' negligence on safety related requirements of pedestrians are the main reasons for such accidents.

Even though walking is a fundamental requirement for most of the travellers to complete the first mile and the last mile of any journey, very often road designers and constructions do not pay adequate attention to the basic facilities of pedestrians. Further, walking is required for health and leisure in addition to contributing to reducing traffic congestion. Most of the roads are designed prioritizing the requirements of motorized vehicles neglecting pedestrians' requirements and facilities. It creates a significant problem for the safety of road users as well as the economy of the country. Unfortunately, the decision makers have forgotten that among Sustainable Transport Development concepts, both pedestrians and public transport systems have important places.

### Unsafe conditions

When pedestrian facilities are neglected at the planning stage or after starting operation, pedestrians will attempt to encroach into spaces allocated for the movement of vehicles risking their lives as well as contributing to efficient movement of vehicles. It is evident that pedestrian facilities are neglected as many construction projects delay finishing roadside pavements dedicated for pedestrian's safe movement compared to the rest of the activities. Often the level difference between the traffic lane and the pedestrian walkway is a few inches or few feet leading to the safety of pedestrians in a dangerous situation. A large number of accident reports due to this unsafe condition for both pedestrians and motorcycle riders. According to a study carried out about safety of pedestrians,

it was found that 37% of accidents happen to pedestrians due to slipping on roads and pedestrian walkways and due to various obstacles such as utility poles on walkways.

Cover slabs used to protect pedestrian walkways above drains are often deathtraps due to various irregularities. Either those slabs are missing or fallen to the drain disturbing the continuity. Inadequate attention paid to provide a continuous path for pedestrians to move without entering traffic lanes is also a common mistake in many places. Illegal parking of vehicles, encroachment by pavement hawkers and material dumping disturbing the smooth flow for pedestrians are also some reasons to keep pedestrians away from pedestrian walkways.

Rights of disable or differently-abled pedestrians are totally neglected on the Sri Lankan road network. Irregular roadside walks are not uniformly maintained leading to the movement of a wheelchair or a baby pram is difficult or impossible. Thousands of war heroes of this country are stranded inside their residences restricting their interaction with the rest of the society due to such irregular improper facilities on roads.

It is very important to understand that the movement of pedestrians is not as easy as the movement of vehicles. To avoid conflicts of movements of vehicles and pedestrians on one plane, grade separated facilities are provided to place pedestrians and vehicles on two different levels. Though the intention of such facilities is to keep two different groups separate from each other to avoid conflicts to improve safety and increase efficiency, often pedestrians must climb up or go down. As pedestrians are not motorized like vehicles and older pedestrians with various temporary or permanent disabilities for movements tend to refuse such grade separated facilities. Therefore, road designers should pay adequate attention to this fact and make such facilities more pedestrian friendly. Either providing motorized movements for pedestrians at such grade separated crossings or make vehicles move up or down maintaining pedestrian facilities at the same level as much as possible. In a study carried out to investigate the success rate of grade separated crossings for pedestrians in Kandy City limits, it was clear that the majority of pedestrians refuse to use grade separated crossings even if they



know that it is riskier to cross on the road level due to vehicles moving at high speed. According to the police they had to employ four police officers to control pedestrians at a recently built underpass in Kandy at a busy junction compared to one police officer occupied when it was at surface level Zebra Pedestrian Crossing. Therefore, it is very important to consider this fact when such grade separated crossings are constructed closer to hospitals, elderly homes, religious places etc.

Adequate attention should be paid when various facilities on roads are provided to assure safety of pedestrians. Pedestrian crossings are always recommended to be placed closer to junctions to make sure pedestrians' walking distance is minimized especially when a pedestrian walks from one segment of a road continuing to another segment. When pedestrian crossings are placed closer to bus stops adequate attention is required to ensure the safety of pedestrians. If the pedestrian crossing is a zebra crossing, the pedestrian crossing should be placed behind the bus halt enabling passengers to cross the road behind the bus after getting down. This is very important especially closer to schools as heights of children are not

“Even if all the pedestrians do not become drivers, all drivers become pedestrians. Children to old people including disable or differently able citizens should be able to walk safely on roads. Walking is important for health as well as socializing. As such, responsible governing authorities should pay more attention to the safety of pedestrians on roads.”

adequate to have a clear line of sight for drivers when such pedestrians cross in front of the bus.

When sidewalks are connected to road level pedestrian crossings, merging smoothly with a ramp is very important for wheel-chair

users as well as baby prams or any item to push or pull easily. To provide such facilities, using tapered curb stones can be used appropriately. Tact tiles are used to facilitate visually handicapped pedestrians. Wherever there are pedestrian crossings with traffic lights, voice or bell can be introduced to facilitate requirements of visually handicapped pedestrians.

### Speed kills

Since speed is a major factor for fatal accidents, the world has a movement to promote enforcing a 30 km/hr speed limit for highly pedestrianized areas such as schools, hospitals, and religious places. The chance of pedestrian killing in an accident at the speed of 30 km/hr is 10% and it can be drastically increased beyond that speed as found in many researches. If the road signs to control speed for drivers are not effective, different colour for road pavement or different texture such as rumble strips can be used for better information for drivers. If that is also not effective traffic calming measures such as road humps can be introduced at such places to control the speed.

Countries well ahead compared to others on road safety are using traffic calming measures to discipline drivers at sensitive and accident-prone locations. Sweden is one such country targeting for reducing road traffic accidents called "vision zero". Among few attempts to reach -"vision zero" concept, strict rules and regulations, discipline drivers, technical approaches such as traffic calming measures are used. Different types of speed humps are commonly used in Sweden roads to cut down excessive speeds of vehicles.

Even if all the pedestrians do not become drivers, all drivers become pedestrians. Children to old people including disable or differently able citizens should be able to walk safely on roads. Walking is important for health as well as socializing. As such, responsible governing authorities should pay more attention to the safety of pedestrians on roads. It will have an impact on the economy of the country also.

*(The writer is attached to Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya)*



**IN BRIEF**

**India reports first Monkeypox death**  
**INDIA:** India reported its first Monkeypox death in the southern state of Kerala on Sunday, the Indian Express quoted the state's Health Minister Veena George as saying. The 22-year-old man who died on Saturday afternoon had returned from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last week. India has so far confirmed four cases of Monkeypox, three in Kerala and one in Delhi. - XINHUA

**Magnitude 5.6 earthquake strikes southwestern Pakistan**  
**PAKISTAN:** An earthquake of magnitude 5.6 struck southwestern Pakistan on Sunday, the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said. The quake struck at a depth of 30 km, EMSC said. - YAHOO NEWS

**Seven wounded in Orlando mass shooting**  
**US:** A mass shooting in downtown Orlando, Florida left 7 people hospitalized on Sunday (local time), while the assailant is still at large. An unidentified assailant pulled out a handgun and fired into the crowd, injuring seven people, reported CNN. - NDTV

**Fidel Ramos who overthrew Ferdinand Marcos dies**  
**THE PHILIPPINES:** Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos, a US-trained ex-General who saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars and played a key role in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising that ousted former President Ferdinand Marcos, died on Sunday. He was 94. - THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

**Wildfires in France injure 4 firefighters**  
**FRANCE:** Wildfires in the city of Aubais, located in the French southwest department of Gard, have injured four firefighters, burnt 200 hectares of land and forced evacuation, French daily news *Le Figaro* reported. One hundred seventy firefighters and fire brigade aerial units were mobilized. - XINHUA

# Omicron BA.5 dominant subvariant hospitalisations rising - WHO expert



**SWITZERLAND:** Omicron, the latest variant of concern is dominant worldwide, the World Health Organization's Infectious Disease Epidemiologist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove said, underlining that about half of the cases are linked to BA.5 sublineage. "And there are further sublineages of BA.5 as this virus continues to evolve," she added in a remark that may raise fresh concerns about

further mutation of the virus, which has killed over 63 lakhs of people in two years. "We are seeing a continued increase in case detections of COVID-19. It's the fifth or sixth week in a row where we're seeing increases in the reported number of cases," the world health body expert said in a briefing on Friday, stressing that hospitalisations are on a rise globally. Counting various factors

that may have contributed to the evolution of the virus, the expert underscored the "intense mixing of individuals in absence of mitigation factors, wearing masks and distancing." "Deaths are also increasing. In the last five weeks, we have seen deaths among groups that are not well-protected with the vaccine, meaning they have not been

vaccinated. About half of the deaths were from Americans and about 33 per cent of the deaths were from Europe." Of the top 50 countries that have reported an increase in deaths, 35 countries have seen a 100 per cent increase in deaths, as per the WHO data. "Three countries had more than a 1,000 per cent increase." - THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

## Beirut silo collapses, reviving trauma as blast anniversary nears

**LEBANON:** Part of the grain silos at Beirut Port collapsed on Sunday just days before the second anniversary of the massive explosion that damaged them, sending a cloud of dust over the capital and reviving traumatic memories of the blast that killed more than 215 people. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Lebanese officials warned last week that part of the silos - a towering reminder of the catastrophic August 4, 2020 explosion - could collapse after the northern portion began tilting at an accelerated rate.

"It was the same feeling as when the blast happened, we remembered the explosion," said Tarek Hussein, a resident of nearby Karantina area, who was out buying groceries with his son when the collapse happened. "A few big pieces fell and my son got scared when he saw it," he said. A fire had been smoldering in the silos for several weeks which officials said was the result of summer heat igniting fermenting grains that have been left rotting inside since the explosion. The 2020 blast was caused by ammonium nitrate stored at the port since 2013.

It is widely seen by Lebanese as a symbol of corruption and bad governance by a ruling elite that has also steered the country into a devastating financial collapse. One of the most powerful non-nuclear blasts on record, the explosion wounded some 6,000 people and shattered swathes of Beirut, leaving tens of thousands of people homeless. - YAHOO NEWS



This frame grab from video shows part of the silos collapsing, in the port of Beirut, Lebanon on Sunday.

## Russian strikes kill Ukrainian grain tycoon; drone hits Russian Naval base

**UKRAINE, RUSSIA:** Russian missiles pounded the southern Ukrainian port city of Mykolaiv on Sunday, killing the owner of a major grain exporter, while a drone strike on Russia's Black Sea naval base in Sevastopol was launched from within the city in a "terrorist attack," a Russian lawmaker said. Oleksiy Vadatursky, founder and owner of agriculture company Nibulon, and his wife were killed in their home, Mykolaiv Governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram. Headquartered in Mykolaiv, a strategically important city that borders the mostly Russian-occupied Kherson region, Nibulon specialises in the production and export of wheat, barley and corn, and has its own fleet and shipyard. In Russian-occupied Sevastopol, five Russian navy staff members were injured by an explosion after a presumed drone flew into the



A firefighter works to douse a fire in a building in Mykolaiv as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues.

courtyard of Russia's Black Sea fleet, the Crimean port city's governor, Mikhail Razvozhayev told Russian media. But Olga Kovitidi, a member of Russia's Upper House of Parliament, told the Russian RIA news agency that the attack was "undoubtedly carried out not from outside, but from the territory of Sevastopol."

The Sevastopol attack coincided with Russia's Navy Day, which President Vladimir Putin marked by announcing that the navy would receive what he called "formidable" hypersonic Zircon cruise missiles in coming months. The missiles can travel at nine times the speed of sound, outrunning air defences. - THE MALAY MAIL

## Diner accidentally discovers DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS

**CHINA:** A diner sitting in the outdoor courtyard of a small restaurant in China's Sichuan province happened to look down at the ground and spot something unusual. It appeared to be a dinosaur footprint. Two weeks ago, Chinese paleontologists confirmed that the diner was right. The depressions had in fact been left by two dinosaurs as they plodded across the region about 100 million years ago. Using a 3D scanner, scientists determined that the tracks were made by sauropods — large herbivorous dinosaurs with long necks and four legs. According to Lida Xing, a paleontologist at China University of Geosciences who led the team investigat-



The footprints at the restaurant were made by sauropods — large herbivorous dinosaurs with long necks and four legs.

ing the site, these footprints were probably made by the species Titanosauriformes. Discoveries shed new light on the day the dinosaurs died. The footprints are about 22 inches long on average, and the dinosaurs probably measured about 26 feet long and weighed more than 2,000 pounds, Xing told The Washington Post. While not an everyday occurrence, the discovery of dinosaur footprints happens on occasion in China — just not in urban environments. "Sauropod tracks are not rare in Sichuan Basin ... but they are very rare[ly] found in restaurants in downtown," Xing said in an email. "Most of the time, the ground of the city is either vegetation or cement." - THE WASHINGTON POST



A researcher examines evidence of dinosaur footprints on the patio of a restaurant in China's Sichuan Province.

## Russia says US, NATO 'main threats' to national security

**RUSSIA:** The United States' quest to dominate the oceans and NATO's expansion are the biggest threats facing Russia, according to a new Russian Naval doctrine signed by President Vladimir Putin on Sunday. The 55-page document said the "main challenges and threats" to national security and development were Washington's "strategic objective to dominate the world's oceans" and NATO military infrastruc-

ture moving towards Russia's borders. "Russia's independent internal and external policy faces counter-measures from the United States and its allies, who aim to preserve their dominance in the world, including its oceans," said the doctrine, signed on Russian Navy Day. Moscow views the Western military alliance — the Soviet Union's enemy during the Cold War — as an existential threat, using

Ukraine's membership hopes to justify its offensive on February 24. The doctrine said Moscow will seek to strengthen its leading position in exploring the Arctic and its mineral resources and maintain "strategic stability" there by bolstering the potential of the northern and Pacific fleets. It also mentioned Russia's desire to develop a "safe and competitive" sea route from Europe to Asia, known as the Northeast



Russia's President Vladimir Putin, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Head of the Russian Navy Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov take part in a parade marking Navy Day in Saint Petersburg, Russia on Saturday.

Passage, via the country's Arctic coastline and ensure it worked throughout the year. "Today's Russia cannot exist without a strong

fleet... and will defend its interests in the world's oceans firmly and with resolution," the doctrine added. - MANILA BULLETIN

## Margaret Thatcher looms large over UK Tory race

**UK:** Two people are running to be Britain's next Prime Minister, but a third presence looms over the contest: Margaret Thatcher. The late former Prime Minister dominated Britain in the 1980s, and has left a large and contested legacy. Critics see her as an intransigent ideologue whose free-market policies frayed social bonds and gutted the country's industrial communities. But for the governing Conserva-

tive Party, Thatcher is an icon, an inspiration and the presiding spirit who made Britain fit for the modern era. In the race to replace Boris

Johnson as Conservative leader and prime minister, both Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and former Treasury Chief Rishi Sunak claim to embody the values of Thatcher, who died in 2013 at 87. Asked who was Britain's greatest prime minister? Both candidates unhesitatingly say Thatcher. Sunak made a key speech in the late leader's hometown of Grantham, declaring himself a proponent of "common-sense Thatcherism," while his wife and children took selfies in front of the Iron Lady's bronze statue.

Truss talks about her own modest origins, inviting comparisons to grocer's daughter Thatcher, and adopts poses and outfits bold blue dresses, pussy-bow blouses that echo the distinctive style of Britain's first female Prime Minister. In one sense, the Thatcher fixation is easily explained. She led the Conservatives to three successive election victories and was never defeated at the ballot box. She was eventually brought down — like Johnson — by her own party, ousted in 1990 after 11 years in power. - THE INDIAN EXPRESS



Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak during the BBC Conservative Party leadership debate in Stoke-on-Trent, England on July 25, 2022.

## Prince Charles' charity accepted 1 mn Pound donation from Bin Laden's family - Report

**UK:** A Charitable Fund founded by Britain's Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, accepted a donation from slain al-Qaeda Leader Osama bin Laden's family in 2013, a UK media report claimed on Sunday. According to *The Sunday Times*, Prince Charles met with the al-Qaeda founder's half-brother Bakr in London and allegedly agreed to accept GBP 1 million.

The report claims that several of the senior royal's closest advisers urged Charles heir to Britain's throne to return the money. However, his Clarence House office has denied that the royal was personally involved in the decision. "The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund (PWCF) has assured us that thorough due diligence was undertaken in accepting this donation," a Clarence House spokesperson told 'Sky News'.

"The decision to accept was taken by the charity's trustees alone and any attempt to characterise it otherwise is false," the spokesperson said. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund said the donation from Sheik Bakr bin Laden in 2013 was carefully considered by PWCF trustees at the time. "Due diligence was conducted, with information sought from a wide range of

sources, including government. The decision to accept the donation was taken wholly by the trustees. Any attempt to suggest otherwise is misleading and inaccurate," PWCF said. Osama bin Laden was the mastermind behind the September 11 terror attacks of 2001, which killed nearly 3,000 people in the US. 'The Sunday Times' claims in its report that Charles' meeting with Bakr, the patriarch of the

wealthy Saudi family, happened two years after Osama bin Laden was killed by US special forces in Pakistan. The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund was founded in 1979 and awards grants to UK-registered non-profit organisations for projects in the UK, Commonwealth and other countries. - PTI



Prince Charles



# Daily News Business

Business Editor : (011) 242 9221 Fax : (011)2343694 e mail : business.dailynews@lakehouse.lk



**SRILANKAN RECEIVES '50 YEARS OF TOURISM AWARD' FROM MATI**

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## TO BRING BACK 'ECONOMIC NORMALCY'

# 'Lanka needs to breach USD 10 bn export import mismatch'



Bank of Ceylon, Chairman Kanchana Ratwatte and General Manager, K. E. D. Sumanasiri presents a token of appreciation for their entrepreneur, Ruwan Edirisinghe. Picture by Wasitha Patabandige

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Sri Lanka urgently needs to breach the annual USD 10 billion export import mismatch to bring back 'economic normalcy' once again.

This was opined by the Chairman Bank of Ceylon, Kanchana Ratwatte at the banks 83rd year celebrations last morning celebrating the occasion

beginning with a multi-religious ceremony at the Bank's Head Office with the participation of guests composed of customers and well-wishers.

He said that average Sri Lankan exports are around USD 10 to 12 billion but the imports are over USD 20 to 23 billion. "Before the C-19 pandemic this mismatch was breached

## BOC SETS UP UNIT TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF EXPATRIATES

with remittances accounting to around USD 6 billion, tourism another USD 3.5 billion, FDI 1 billion and other donor funding."

With the C-19 pandemic Sri Lanka not only saw a huge dip in remittances, tourism earnings along with FDI's but also had to invest on an unprecedented amount to nurse COVID patients, import C-19 injections. "In addition Sri Lanka also had to find USD 4.6 billion for debt servicing."

As a result of this Sri Lanka is facing this current crisis. He also recalled that it was the Bank of Ceylon that first introduced the Home medical care system which was a great help towards C-19 treatment.

He said that it was pleasing to note that for the first time after 2002

exports have surpassed imports and this is a very positive sign. The Bank of Ceylon too is egging on exporters and the SME sector and introduced new initiatives such as "SME Circle" and "Export Circle" by taking a step to further develop entrepreneurship with them.

"Similarly today we are launching a special unit to address issues of Sri Lanka expatriates and assist them. This will be a 24-hour operation."

He said that they posted a healthy RS. 9 billion PBT for the first quarter and the second quarter results too would be positive. "However due to several economic issues in the country and high interest rates, difficulties in recovery may impact our profits in the last two quarters."

"Our Journey as the No. 1 Bank in the country has always been a challenging, yet inspiring one but we managed to achieve enormous profits," stated the General Manager of Bank of Ceylon, K. E. D. Sumanasiri.

"As a prominent financial institution, we are also committed to build a financially and digitally inclusive community aiming for a positive impression on the economy."

From the inception of the Bank, with the opening of its first branch, the "City Office Branch", Bank of Ceylon has increased its footprint to include a network of up to 649 branches, and 1,415 ATMs, CDMs and CRMs across the country.

**MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS**

Rate of Interest

FROM **02/08/2022**

TO **08/08/2022**

**13% p.a.**

For further details visit the nearest branch

COMMERCIAL BANK

Our Interest is in you

## Services exports up

The estimated value of services exports for the first half of 2022 was 1,337 million dollars, increasing 45.72% over the corresponding period of 2021.

The services exports estimated by EDB consist of ICT/BPM, construction, financial services and transport and logistics.

## Port City Colombo attends World Cities Summit

CHEC Port City Colombo Pvt Ltd, is representing Sri Lanka at the ongoing 'World Cities Summit 2022' at the Marina Bay Sands, Singapore which concludes on August 3. This biennial global event unites city leaders and associates from across 90 countries under this year's theme, "Livable and Sustainable Cities: Emerging Stronger."

Port City Colombo envisions itself as the most livable city in South Asia imbuing technology and sustainability with its Smart City concept to enhance living convenience. As the Platinum Sponsor of the event, the project company showcases the potential of Port City Colombo as a special economic zone and a future investment hub to representatives from Governments, thought leaders, experts and corporates from diverse industry sectors, who have converged at the World Cities Summit to

inspire conversations about the future and forge new partnerships.

The 3-day Summit is attended by Thulci Aluwihare the Deputy Managing Director at the CHEC Port City Colombo, where he will speak at the WCS track session on the topic, "How Can Partnerships Transform the Development of Cities?"

As Sri Lanka battles several economic and political challenges, the project company focuses

on crucial recovery efforts, pushing Sri Lanka towards the future by involving it in important discussions among global leaders and industry specialists.

Port City Colombo will continue to work towards becoming an exemplary city providing the highest quality commercial, entertainment, medical, education and lifestyle opportunities, putting Sri Lanka on the map not only in South Asia, but as a global leader in sustainability.



## Merchandise export earnings up by 20%

Earnings from the merchandise exports increased by 20% y-o-y to US\$ 1,208.2 million in June 2022 mainly due to the increase in earnings from export of apparel and textiles, rubber based products, coconut based products, food & beverages and seafood according to Expro Development Board.

Major product sectors except tea and spices and concentrates; apparel and textiles, rubber-based products, coconut based products, electrical and electronic components and food and beverages, seafood and ornamental fish recorded increased exports in June 2022. Exports of Apparel and Textiles increased by 36.85% y-o-y to US\$ 566.78 million in June 2022. The increase was driven by both Apparel and Textiles.

Export earnings from rubber and rubber finished products

have increased by 7.18% y-o-y to \$102.36 million in June 2022, with good performance in exports of Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres and Tubes (15.2%).

Export earnings from Seafood increased by 130.75% to US\$ 36.39 Mn in June 2022 compared to June 2021. Further, export earnings from Ornamental fish increased by 297.4% to US\$ 3.06 million in June 2022. Export earnings from the electrical & electronics components increased by 5.71% y-o-y to US\$ 39.82 million in June 2022 with strong performance in exports of Insulated Wires & Cables (14.5%) and switches, boards & panels (23.55%).

However, export earnings from tea in June 2022 which made up 12% of merchandise exports, decreased by 5.99% y-o-y to US\$ 116.49 million. In



addition, export earnings from spices and essential oils decreased by 10.9% to US\$ 31.74 million.

For the first half of 2022, merchandise exports increased by 12.4% to US\$ 6,408.3 million. Apparel & textile exports increased by 19.73% to US\$ 2,967.39 million during the period.

For the period of January to

June 2022, export earnings from Coconut and Coconut based products expanded by 12% to US\$ 434.34 million. Meanwhile, earnings from export of Electrical and Electronic Components (EEC) increased by 12.96% to US\$ 228.12 million.

Export earnings from Seafood increased by 33.64% to US\$ 142.17 million. **TO PAGE 12**

## Union Bank Group records Rs. 395 mn PBT upto June 30

The Union Bank Group, consisting of UB Finance Company Ltd, and National Asset Management Ltd, recorded a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs 395 mn for the period up to June 30, 2022.

Total Assets of the Group was Rs 139,428 mn an increase of 12% with the Bank's share amounting to over 94%. The Bank recorded an improved core banking performance despite the challenges of a tough operating environment and posted an overall income of Rs 7,426 mn for the first half, an increase of 31% over the comparative period.

Net Interest Income (NII) increased by 19% as a result of improved yields from the re-pricing of the asset portfolio and prudent management of interest expenses which lead to an increase in the Net Interest Margin (NIM) by 57 bps.

Net Fee and Commission Income increased by 24% aided by domestic and international fund transfers, ATM transactions, credit and debit cards, remittances, and the increased activity from the trade business. Other Operating Income also increased by 141% aided by foreign exchange income and gains.

Operating income before impairments was Rs. 3,575 mn, an increase of 18% as at June 30, 2022. Due to the delays in loan settlements brought forth by the impacts of the adverse macro-economic conditions, the Bank continued to provide for increased impairments and management overlays as a prudent measure. The impairment

charge for the period was Rs. 961 mn, an increase of 120% compared to the corresponding period.

Despite prudent cost management initiatives, the total operating expenses of the Bank increased to Rs 2,059 mn, an increase of 14% over the corresponding period, mainly impacted by the depreciation of the Sri Lankan Rupee and consequent increase in fuel expenses etc.

Total Assets of the Bank increased by 11% to Rs 131,744 mn by June 30 2022. Loans and Advances grew by 10% to Rs 74,796 mn, whilst customer deposits increased by 16% to Rs 96,779 mn due to the focus on sourcing CASA and term deposits across all segments.

The Bank continued to maintain a healthy capital adequacy position, well above the regulatory requirements and the Bank's Total Capital Ratio was 16.34% as of June 30, 2022.

Amidst the challenges, the Corporate Banking division prudently managed its loan portfolio whilst maintaining the credit quality and recorded a 29% growth in Loans & Advances and 39% growth in deposits. Retail banking sector focused on new customer relationships by expanding its deposit base through time deposits and recorded a 14% growth in deposits and a CASA ratio of 27.5% during the second quarter.

The SME Banking sector was successful in securing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding line in 1Q 2022.

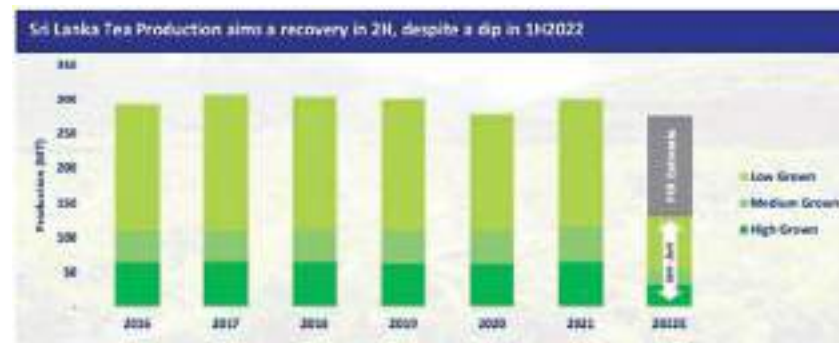
## Earnings from tea up in 1H-2022 despite dip in production

Sri Lanka tea earnings for January to June 2022 posted a growth of 28.0% YoY to Rs 164.2 million against Rs 127.8 million recorded for the same corresponding period in 2021.

Export earnings were largely boosted by the price leap upon the steep depreciation in Rs against the USD since Mar 2022, despite the subdued production output, according to First Capital Research -Plantation Sector Update report.

Accordingly, total tea production in all elevations plunged by c. 18% in 1H2022 yielding only 132.1MT compared to 161.7MT produced in 1H2021. Reduction in volume is largely attributable to the absence of required fertilizer, lack of weedicides and other production inputs coupled with fuel and electricity shortages which led to a lack of labour input.

Therefore, the optimal harvesting cycle of 7-days were extended up to 14-days



bringing down the leaf standards. However, tea producers see a beacon of hope in the weekly tea auctions in terms of the average price levels for all elevations which are moving above the levels which prevailed in 2021.

Accordingly, monthly average price for June 2022 stood at Rs 1,254.54/Kg (+114.0%YoY) or USD 3.51/Kg

(+20.0%YoY) and the YTD price improvement in both Rs and USD terms was c. 97.0% and 10.0%, respectively. Iraq was the number one destination for Sri Lankan tea during 1H2022 with a significant increase of c 46.0% (23.5MT), followed by UAE, Russia and Turkey.

The newly proposed state policy to cultivate the uncultivated lands was welcomed by the Regional Plantation Compa-

nies (RPC) showing green signals for the future tea production.

However, despite the issue of finding labour left unaddressed, the fertilizer issue was solved to some extent as Sri Lanka Tea Board intervened in obtaining required fertilizer, and the low-cost funds were arranged for both tea smallholders and plantation companies to purchase fertilizer for immediate application. This is expected to uphold the production and anticipate a boost in harvest during 2H2022 and beyond. Moreover, upon achieving economic stability, the plantation sector is expected to witness an ease of operational tightness enabling them to gear the maximum contribution towards the external sector developments. Thus, the largest tea producers possessing a higher capacity may be top in the line to reap the benefits that are yet to come.



## Ceylon Tea, official Tea supplier for Commonwealth Games

Ceylon Tea, widely considered by many the finest in the world and with a rich history dating back more than a century and a half, was named as the 'Official Tea Supplier' for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The Sri Lanka Tea Board has officially engaged in an agreement with the Games' Organizing Committee to provide Ceylon Tea for the athletes, officials, ancillary providers and guests at the Birmingham 2022 Athlete Villages.

To facilitate the arrangement, the leading suppliers of the Ceylon Tea brand to the global market - namely Dilmah Tea and English Tea Shop have

come forward to offer their finest blends to those involved in Birmingham 2022 throughout the Games.

Sri Lankan tea (known for generations as Ceylon Tea) carries with it a renowned heritage.

The legendary lion of the Sri Lankan flag is a central part of the Ceylon Tea logo. This is intended to act as a symbol of quality, demonstrating that Ceylon Tea is able to satiate both royalty and tea connoisseurs alike.

In over one hundred and fifty years, the name Ceylon had become synonymous with the world's finest tea.



SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 01.08.2022

Table with columns: Security, Volume, \*\*V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, \*\*V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

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COCONUTS

Coconut Products - Prices on 01.08.2022

Table listing coconut products and prices. Columns include product name, quantity, and price. Includes categories like Fresh Coconut, Desiccated Coconut, and Coconut Oil.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies as of 01.08.2022. Columns include Currency, Buying Rate, and Selling Rate.

Table showing average weighted prime lending rate (AWPR) and lowest prime rate (LPR) for various banks as of 29-Jul-2022.

Table showing average weighted deposit rate (AWDR) for various banks for the month of Jul-2022.

Merchandise export... From page 11

However, export earnings from Tea decreased by 11.25% to US\$ 577.38 Mn during the period and Export earnings from Rubber & Rubber finished products slightly decreased by 0.64 % to US\$ 516.62 Mn. Strong Export Growth recorded for top 5 export markets in the month of June 2022 and the period of January to June 2022. During the month of June 2022, exports to the United States, Sri Lanka's single largest export destination, increased by 46.16% to US\$ 323.65 Mn compared to the month of June 2021. The better performance led by increase in exports of Apparel & Textile (29.68%) and Coconut based products (26.8%). The single largest export destination of the United States of America recorded US\$ 1,687.73 Mn worth of exports in the period of January to June 2022 a significant year on year increase of 24.54 % in comparison to US\$ 1,355.14 Mn recorded in 2021.



Sanjeewa Welagedara joins JIT group

Just In Time Group announced appointment of Sanjeewa Welagedara as the new Chief Sales Officer. Sanjeewa's experience spans across different large-scale industries including pharmaceuticals, banking, telco and IT, working for some of the best companies in respective sectors prior joining Just In Time Group for his career progression. With his charismatic leadership skills and over 2 decades of experience, Sanjeewa will be playing an active role directly overlooking the sales verticals under the JIT Group. As a self-motivated and ambitious professional with many success stories, Sanjeewa believes that adaptability is the key to success. "JIT Group is a proven driving force to transform businesses into a strong

hold not only in the ICT industry but other sectors as well for more than 25 years with its business model adapting to evolving international trends. When considering the Sri Lanka's current socio-economic conditions and situation, as part of company who has the best local talent pool, it is crucial to venture out, looking at global presence, thus making JIT Group the #1 systems integration provider beyond local." Sanjeewa Welagedara said. "We welcome him with open arms to make our journey successful," the leadership team of JIT Group said.

CCI AGM today

The Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka (CCI) will hold its 18th Annual General Meeting today (2) at the Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo at 6 p.m. At this AGM, Eng. (Rtd) Ranjith Gunatilleke who was the President from 2017 will

formally hand over the Presidency to Ar. Jayantha Perera. During the tenure of the past President, the Chamber achieved some significant milestones including the formal recognition by an Act of Parliament. The outgoing President

and the Board of Management with guidance from the Council has done much to mitigate the situation in these turbulent times of COVID 19 followed by an economic meltdown. The new President and Board of Management hopes that they will be able to steer the Chamber through the present turbulent period for

brighter prospects ahead. The Chamber was first established in 2001 as a company by guarantee and in 2019 was incorporated. Now this Chamber has positioned itself as the main voice on issues affecting the construction industry and is committed to protecting and promoting the construction industry.





# SriLankan receives '50 Years of Tourism Award' from MATI

SriLankan Airlines was recently lauded with the prestigious '50 years of Tourism Award by MATI' in recognition of its remarkable service for over half a century, at an event celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Tourism in the Maldives.

SriLankan was the first international commercial airline to launch operations to the Maldives under its predecessor, Air Ceylon, in 1960 and has continued to break new ground since then and become the only international airline to fly passengers to multiple airports in the Maldives.

The Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) has spearheaded the advancement of tourism in Maldives and aimed to honour organizations and individuals that have contributed exceptionally to this purpose along the way at their Golden Jubilee celebration. Recipients of awards were selected by a committee of industry experts and veterans.



**Fawzan Fareid, Country Manager Maldives of SriLankan Airlines accepts the award on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of the airline.**

Fawzan Fareid, Country Manager Maldives of SriLankan Airlines accepted the award on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of the airline.

SriLankan Airlines Chief Executive Officer Richard Nuttall stated, "The Maldives has always held a special place in the SriLankan Airlines' network. As the only international airline to have been with Maldives since its inception of com-

mercial flying, SriLankan has witnessed and contributed to every milestone in the journey of Maldives tourism.

Over the years, the airline has connected many hundreds of thousands of tourists to the stunning and incomparable beaches of Maldives. Today, SriLankan Airlines remains a key player and global favourite for travel to the Maldives." Fawzan Fareid added, "The Maldives is our

extended home base. My colleagues stationed in different countries within the SriLankan Airlines' network have all played a role in driving tourists to the Maldives, and therefore I would like to dedicate this award to them. I must also emphasize that SriLankan was the only airline to maintain an uninterrupted service to the Maldives even at the zenith of the pandemic and helped evacuate over 2,000 stranded holiday-makers out of the islands."

SriLankan Airlines has notched other firsts in the country. The airline made history in Maldives tourism in 2016, by becoming the first and only international airline to launch commercial passenger flights to Gan island in Addu Atoll. Further, the airline recently partnered with domestic carrier Manta Air to provide easy access to several high-end resorts beyond Gan, giving travellers the opportunity to explore remote terrain in Southern Mal-

dives. SriLankan Airlines is currently the only airline to fly to both Central and Southern Maldives. At present, SriLankan operates 21 flights a week to Malé Velana International Airport in Central Maldives, the main airport of the country and twice weekly to Gan International Airport. SriLankan also changes the frequency of flights according to seasonal demand and often introduces additional and direct flights to Maldives during winter to provide European customers greater convenience and choice. Furthermore, SriLankan is the only international airline to offer flights via Colombo, which is the world's most convenient hub to connect to the Maldives.

SriLankan's future plans for the Maldives include strengthening its hub in Gan and operations to Maafaru International Airport, which will provide tourists the fastest access to resorts and islands in Northern Noonu Atoll.

## 'Manudam Mehewara' distributes emergency relief worth Rs. 200 mn to 80,000 families



Launched to support over 200,000 vulnerable families and communities across the country amidst the ongoing economic crisis, the 'Manudam Mehewara' emergency relief initiative has reached its next milestone of providing emergency relief worth Rs. 200 million to over 80,000 families in-need across the island, as of July 11. This multi-corporation humanitarian alliance initiated by Dialog

Axiata PLC, MAS Holdings, Hemas Holdings PLC, CBL Group, Citi, Sunshine Holdings PLC and Huawei Technologies Lanka Co Pvt Ltd along with execution partner Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement and independent auditor PwC Sri Lanka, aims to support those who do not have access to essential supplies and basic necessities. ITN, Siyatha, Swarnawahini, TV Derana and Vasantham are also supporting the initiative as media partners.

Manudam Mehewara invites all Sri Lankans and corporates to join its shared mission and contribute to this cause. Individuals now have the option of placing a donation directly through their credit/debit card, bank transfer, eZ Cash account.

Emergency relief is currently being distributed across all 25 districts and the Manudam Mehewara programme will conduct its relief efforts until a sustainable benefit transfer system is established through an effective recovery plan.



## EDB serving the nation for 43 years

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) which turned 43 years on August 1, is the premier state organization for the development and promotion of exports in Sri Lanka.

The Board plays myriad roles in the export sector of the economy, as a policy advisor, monitor, promoter, facilitator and knowledge provider in carrying out its responsibilities of implementing strategies for achieving national export targets.

The vision of the EDB, "To position Sri Lanka as a prominent export hub for innovative products and Services" is aligned with the development vision of the Government as well as the vision of the National Export Strategy, while the mission of the EDB.

In the 1970s, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Development of Trade and Tariff, pressed the establishment of Trade Promotion Organizations (TPO) in member nations with the objective of promotion and development of the export trade. The establishment of the Export Promotion Secretariat in 1972 in Sri Lanka to support export development did not achieve the desired results.

The EDB was established

under the direction of late Lalith Athulathmudali, then Minister of Trade and Shipping, on August 1 1979, under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act No. 40 of 1979.

The first significant step of this Act was to empower the EDB with wide powers on export promotion and development for performance of its functions at the highest standard in the best interest of the nation.

The structure set up for the EDB was unique. An Export Development Council of Ministers was formed under the Chairmanship of President. The Hon. Ministers in charge of Trade and Shipping, Industries, Fisheries, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Planning and Rural Industries were the other members of the Council.

The objective of the Council was to advise the EDB with directives for prompt execution of the decisions taken by the Export Development Council of Ministers. This feature could not be perceived in any of the other government institutions.

As a leading government institution in respect of export development, the EDB was entrusted with duties of greater responsibility such as to advise



the Council of Ministers on National Export Development Policy; formulate National Export Development Plans.

For the first time in the history, an income of US\$ 12.5 billion was earned from merchandise exports during 2021, reflecting a tremendous achievement in exports despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 and other supply chain constraints.

The income earned from the export of goods during the first six months of 2022 is US\$ 6.4 billion, representing an impressive year-on-year increase of 12.4% from US\$ 5.7 billion

during the same period in 2021. Except in April, the revenue from merchandise exports has exceeded US\$ 1 billion during the first half of this year.

Apparel exports accounted for 46% of the total merchandise export income in the first half of 2022 while tea, coconut, and rubber represented 9%, 8%, and 7% of the merchandise export income respectively.

The National Export Strategy formulated by the EDB under the assistance of International Trade Centre (ITC) is a top-down and bottom-up process that consolidates national and sector priorities into a comprehensive implementation framework. The main NES aggregates and consolidates national priorities as well as major high-level priorities from each sector and their trade support functions into a coherent framework.

The NES has empowered the emergence of new export industries and services such as ICT/BPM, Wellness Tourism, Electrical and Electronics and Boating Industry beyond the traditional export industries of apparel, tea, gems, spices and rubber.

Implementation of NES in collaboration with all public

and private stakeholders while addressing major systemic issues hindering the export expansion, has helped to create sustainable and fast export growth for the benefit of all Sri Lankans.

Promotion of Export Services Identifying the emerging global trends, EDB initiated promotion of export services such as ICT/BPM, Construction, Educational, Financial services, marine and offshore engineering, printing and packaging and Transport and Logistics.

With our highly talented and committed workforce, Sri Lanka's ICT sector is both competitive and competent and can cater to a global clientele with sophisticated ICT business solutions. Sri Lanka is one of the best destinations for providing off-shore services for ICT and other services.

The award-winning SME Export Coaching programme was implemented by the EDB Regional Development division during year 2021, for selected twenty-five (25) export-ready SMEs registered under the EDB - New Exporter Development programme in order to aid them to develop their capacities to enter the export market.

## BOI introduces "Partnership Finder" helping investors find new business partners

The Board of Investment (BOI), introduced the "Partnership Finder" (PF), a new strategic initiative to attract investment from existing investors in the country and to facilitate business partnerships with foreign and Sri Lankan companies/investors. This interactive platform provides the BOI registered investors and other prospective investors with a window of opportunity to get connected with new entrepreneurs and innovators with novel ideas.

BOI Director General Renuka M Weerakone, commenting on the database system, opined "Given the global context in terms of attracting investment, the BOI's take is that it needs to embrace an aggressive and competitive approach to show the world that the BOI is functioning on par with the global standards."

"As such, the BOI hopes to explore



**Officials at the BOI Partnership Finder**

the possibilities of linking companies/individuals with similar business interests through this platform, in order to promote joint ventures and collaborations for further business development," she outlined.

"The startups partnership finder will be hosting via the newly found BOI Accelerator, which aims to bring innovation strategy to the BOI. All in all, the new plat-

form would create more scope to attract investors to the country. In this context, we will act as a catalyst to connect young entrepreneurs with the existing investors, which the BOI is after at present. It has to be mentioned that the countries that have adopted approach of this nature have been successful in attracting a much larger share of FDI's," Weerakone added.

The interactive platform will operate as a network for both foreign and local companies and is designed to help businesses, research institutes, and startups to succeed by finding the right partners for their next innovation or business venture.

The database will consist of the companies' details according to the business categories such as Agriculture, Apparel, Infrastructure, Knowledge Services, Manufacturing, Services, Tourism and Leisure and Utilities. Also, state agency offer is also included in the new platform.

Besides, the launch of the business matchmaking platform will be accompanied by a communication campaign and once implemented, the companies registered on this platform get the opportunity to directly connect with the other Company/Investor using the contact information on their profiles.

## AmCham SL, Habitat for Humanity SL, US Ambassador Chung inaugurates food distribution programme

US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie J. Chung inaugurated the emergency food distribution programme launched by Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka and the American Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (AmCham SL), at the Nayanalokagama Village in Katana, Negombo, on July 22.

The Nayanalokagama village is considered the only dedicated village for visually impaired persons in the South Asian region and has been a part of Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka's housing assistance projects in recent years.

The 'Humanitarian Emergency Relief Programme', which is Habitat for Humanity's humanitarian relief response to assist vulnerable and marginalized communities severely impacted by Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis,



**U.S. Ambassador Julie J. Chung, AmCham SL and several individual donors present a cheque of LKR 5 million towards the Humanitarian Emergency Relief Programme (H-ERP) to Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka**

aims to provide essential dry food rations to identified families for a period of two months initially. The inaugural programme in the village of Nayanalokagama, saw over 100 families receive the food rations

from Ambassador Julie Chung, and several donors who were present at the event.

Ambassador Chung, said, "Sri Lanka is in the middle of one of the greatest economic crises it has



**U.S. Ambassador Julie J. Chung distributes a pack of dry food rations to a deserving family of the Nayanalokagama village.**

ever experienced. Long power outages, as well as significant shortages of food, medication, fuel, and other essential necessities are gen-

erally affecting its 22 million people. Understanding the need of the hour, projects such as the Humanitarian Emergency Relief Program

are crucial in supporting the many vulnerable families across the country, and we are committed to supporting such initiatives." The District Secretary Gampaha, W.S. Sathyananda, stated that the timely intervention of the Habitat Sri Lanka and the AmCham SL, is laudable and a great benefit to the poor and the low-income segments of society in the district and fulfills a great need which the government is unable to meet in its entirety in the present situation of the country. General Manager and Head of the AmCham SL Secretariat Vrai Raymond said, "While AmCham SL is primarily a business organization that works closely with the Sri Lankan private sector to enhance bilateral trade and commerce with the US, social responsibility is at the heart of the organization, and

we are therefore honored to partner with Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka to stand with those vulnerable fellow Sri Lankans in navigating the current crisis." The National Director of Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka Yu Hwa Li, commented, "We firmly believe that this is a timely and a much-needed intervention, with many vulnerable families unable to meet their basic needs amidst this crisis."

Associated at the event was Philip Loosli, Head of the Economic Unit of the US Mission in Colombo, Priyanka Kodithuwakku, Divisional Secretary Katana, Lakshan Madurasinghe, President AmCham SL and several individual donors to the Humanitarian Emergency Relief Programme initiative, including Dilum Chandrasoma and Michael Perera.



## Hayleys Fabric 'WARNA by Mahogany' listed at ISPO Textrends 2024

Hayleys Fabric's 'WARNA by Mahogany', the natural dye innovation behind a new line of organic, eco-friendly fabric, was listed among the Top 10 global innovations at the ISPO Textrends Spring/Summer 2024.

As one of the first Sri Lanka eco-friendly fabric innovations to be featured on ISPO Textrends, a leading German platform and melting pot for the world's most innovative, high-performance fabrics - the breakthrough recognition for WARNA by Mahogany is expected to further elevate Sri Lanka's reputation as a global pioneer in specialised, sustainable, circular fabric sourcing for the sports apparel sector.

WARNA by Mahogany, a pioneering waste-to-fashion initiative, was developed by Hayleys Fabric's Head of Sustainable Innovation Leonie Vaas, by extracting the dye in-house using waste material generated by the local furniture industry.

"However, with the rise of environmentally-conscious consumers, the demand for natural dyes and recycled materials in fabric has increased significantly. We have taken every measure possible to make our textile manufacturing process sustainable, and WARNA is a testament to this commitment," Hayleys Fabric Managing Director and CEO Rohan Goonetilleke said.

The Mahogany dye has been tested to ensure that it is on par with internationally accepted standards and is free of hazardous chemicals, making it safer for the wearer, the environment and those involved in the manufacturing process. A single impact lifecycle assessment was conducted to identify and analyse the impact on climate change, with the results showing a 36% positive impact on the environment in comparison to

the usage of synthetic dyes. The leftover is collected and directly used in fertiliser manufacturing to sustain circularity.

The initiative supports multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), such as responsible consumption and production, sustainable innovation and infrastructure, clean water and sanitation, life below water, life on land and climate change.

Hayleys Fabric is also working with other natural dye suppliers to develop a new range of environmentally-friendly products for the market through its INNO brand, which aims to commercialise environmentally friendly, functional, fashionable, value-added fabrics for use in apparel products in markets around the globe.



# Bank of Ceylon launches dedicated unit for Sri Lankan expatriates

On the sidelines of the 83rd anniversary of Bank of Ceylon, the bank launched its International Customer Service Support Unit – BOC Foreign Circle yesterday.

Launched by the International Division of the Bank, the unit aims to provide maximum convenience to BOC customers who work and live overseas. In addition, the unit will also help to bolster inward foreign remittances, especially at this time of national need.

Deputy General Manager, International Treasury and Investment R. M. N. Jeevantha, said: "In the current climate, Sri Lanka is in dire need of foreign remittances and ensuring a steady flow in remittances has become a priority task."

"Taking into account the great service that Sri Lankans who are working and living overseas have performed in remitting funds through the proper channels have delivered to the nation, we took steps to launch the International Customer Service Support Unit as part of the commemoration of the Bank's 83rd year of operation. The main goal of the unit is to ensure

the highest in convenience to our customers, irrespective of their country of domicile."

While agent's representing the new unit will engage with customers in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and other countries to ensure they are able to quickly and conveniently access services in Sri Lanka, customers are able to avail of services such as instant account opening, obtaining ATM and other cards, as well as loans and online banking services and a host of other convenience-led products and services.

"As 'bankers to the nation' Bank of Ceylon continues to focus its efforts on improving and enhancing its services to the migrant population. The International Customer Service Support Unit is the next step in this endeavour, and we aim to deliver the highest level of service through the unit. I take this opportunity to invite all expatriate Sri Lankans to experience the superior level of service offered by the new unit," stated, Assistant General Manager, International of BOC Ranjith Ruwanpathirana. Bank of Ceylon remains com-



Bank of Ceylon, Chairman Kanchana Ratwatte and General Manager, K. E. D. Sumanasiri at the opening

mitted to providing the highest level of service and convenience to its customers.

The Bank invites the Sri Lankan expatriate community to

contact the unit through WhatsApp, Viber or IMO on 0707203203 or 0707204204 and 0707205205 for more information and assistance.



Ranjith Ruwanpathirana

## Nations Trust Bank American Express, FriMi recognised by Daraz

Nations Trust Bank American Express and FriMi were recently recognised by online shopping marketplace, Daraz for the Card's exceptional contribution to Daraz's customer network through its extensive Cardmember base.

The awards for 'Most Valued Credit Card Base' and 'Campaign Promoter' were presented to Nations Trust Bank at the Daraz Payment Partner Performance Awards 2022, held on July 28, at Uga Residence, Colombo.

The Daraz Payment Partner Performance Awards is an annual celebration of payment partners and seeks to reward and recognise the contribution of bank partners towards the success of the platform's business model.

Nations Trust Bank Head of Cards Niluka Gunatilake stated: "We are delighted to have been awarded at the Daraz Payment Partner Performance Awards 2022. Nations Trust Bank American Express has contributed to Daraz's extensive customer network by leveraging our large and diverse base of valued Cardmembers. In a fast-paced market, adapting to e-commerce and digital payments, consumers have come to expect the best of savings when shopping online, combined with convenience and security. Working on many upcoming projects with Daraz and look forward to supporting Sri Lanka's biggest online platform to #GrowWithAmex." Daraz is the South Asia's premier online shopping marketplace, backed by global e-commerce giant, Alibaba Group, and has successfully brought together consumers and sellers to create Sri Lanka's largest e-commerce venue.

Nations Trust Bank PLC is among the top 15 business establishments in Sri Lanka as ranked by Business Today. The Bank serves a diverse range of customers across Consumer, Commercial and Corporate segments through an island wide network of 96 branches.



## Abans introduces personal care brand Remington to SL

Abans marks yet another significant milestone by launching the Remington personal care brand in Sri Lanka.

Remington is "How the World Gets Ready." A global leader and manufacturer of men's and women's grooming and styling products, Remington is an innovator of affordable hair care, electric shavers, wet shavers, wet shave products, and body groomers and trimmers, and a subsidiary of Spectrum Brands Holdings, Inc., a member of the Russell 2000 Index, is a global and diversified consumer products company. Helping to meet the needs of consumers worldwide, the Company offers a broad portfolio of market-leading, well-known and widely trusted brands.

The origin of Remington personal care products dates back to 1937 when Remington first branched out to electric shavers, starting with their first model; Remington Model E.

Today the brand is a worldwide personal care corporation manufacturing shavers, epilators and hair care products for both men and women. Remington produces a wide range of both foil and rotary shavers with the consumer's budget in mind. No matter the price, no shaver or spare replacements

and accessories lack in quality, performance or design.

Remington hair care tools give the consumer the power of no-hassle styling, from drying and straightening to curling and building volume. Remington has the tools to enhance each individual's unique style. Fast, comfortable and convenient. Whether one is making the switch from manual razors or looking for an electric upgrade, Remington has a range of foil and rotary shavers.

Other grooming products include hair clippers, beard trimmers, personal groomers and body hair trimmers; haircare products include straighteners, stylers, dryers and brushes; and hair removal products Intense Pulsed Light (IPL), epilators, shavers and trimmers, among many other products. Remington also prides itself as the number one women's electric shaver brand in North America and the number one men's beard trimmer and nose and ear hair trimmer brand. From its first electric dry shaver in the 30s to the revolutionary straightener Air



Plates, Remington's innovative technology is leagues ahead of its time. For instance, their cutting-edge Pearl Technology uses a ceramic coating that makes straightener plates and wand barrels smoother, harder and longer lasting. Remington's SmartPro Technology uses proprietary smart sensors embedded in its straightener plates to gauge hair moisture levels and automatically adjust to the perfect styling temperature. It results in faster sleeker styles with less damage. Remington's Thermaluxe Technology uses advanced sensors in a range of hair care products to optimise heat transfer to hair for healthier hairdos that last all day.

Abans has in store a range of Remington products available at any Abans showroom or Buyabans.com

## Ceylinco Life conducts free medical camps in Wellawaya, Tissamaharama



Scenes from the medical camps held in Wellawaya and Tissamaharama.

More than 250 people received free access to doctors and underwent potentially life-saving health screenings at two more medical camps in Wellawaya and Tissamaharama under the 'Waidya Hamuwa' community health initiative of Ceylinco Life.

Earlier this year, Ceylinco Life also conducted a free medical camp at the Raja Maha Vihara in Dehiwatta Seruwawila in the Trincomalee District,

which benefitted 152 people from the local farming community.

Each Waidya Hamuwa medical camp offers doctor consultations and check-ups, and where necessary, health screenings and tests for hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease (CKD) and cholesterol, as well as heart disease by way of electrocardiograms (ECGs).

Ceylinco Life's 'Waidya Hamuwa' programme has benefitted more than

146,000 people via 390 'Waidya Hamuwa' camps across the country.

These medical camps are conducted by qualified and experienced doctors and nursing staff attached to the state health sector and private laboratories, and professional opticians.

The Company said it would continue to conduct similar programmes in other parts of the country in the second half of 2022 too.

## SLT-MOBITEL education arm of SLTTC offers BEng (Hons) Degree

The SLT Training Centre (SLTTC), the education arm of SLT-MOBITEL, now offers students the opportunity to create technology and design solutions to address global engineering challenges through knowledge gained by the world-class BEng (Hons) Degree, University of Hertfordshire UK.

The SLTTC invites students to enrol for the prestigious BEng (Hons) Degree, University of Hertfordshire, August intake offered in Sri Lanka, which is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, and supported by tech-giant SLT-MOBITEL, the Nation ICT solution provider.

Additionally, SLTTC holds the sole franchise for the University of Hertfordshire's BEng (Hons) Engineering Degree programs in South Asia and operates under ISO 9001:2015 stringent standards certification.

The University of Hertfordshire is ranked 21 for Electrical Electronic Engineering accredited by Washington Accord, in the UK and reputed for top-class teaching, facilities and business partnerships, providing students with skills, knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit that employers seek, ensuring students can with ease



forge successful careers in their chosen field.

Through the University of Hertfordshire, students also have the option to obtain and specialise in engineering-aligned degrees such as the BEng (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, BEng (Hons) in Electronics and Communication Engineering and BEng (Hons) in Electronics and Computer Engineering.

The curriculum provides students the ability to develop knowledge of electronic principles to gain transferable

skills to pursue dream careers.

Students who complete the degree will also undertake an intensive six-month industrial training programme organised by SLT-MOBITEL to strengthen their skills. Supporting students to achieve their goals and understanding the financial burden, 20% discount offer for the Master's Degree at the University of Hertfordshire UK. Upon completing the BEng (Hons) Degree, and the Master's degree, students can obtain a two-year

working visa for UK and Australia establishing pathways for their future. Moreover, SLTTC is offering a g n a i m o u s scholarships of up to 30% based on GCE A/L results.

Prospective students can enrol in the first year of the programme with their A/L results. Further, those who have completed engineering diplomas such as NDT, NDES, HNDE are eligible to obtain exceptions for the first and second year of the degree programme subject to the university admission requirements.

Currently, the SLT Training Centre is recognised among the flagship institutes in the country, contributing significantly towards the development of young ICT professionals, necessary to transform the nation into a tech hub.

The University of Hertfordshire's BEng (Hons) Degree will support them achieve global qualifications in an outstanding local environment.



Ministry of Industries  
PARANTHAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LIMITED



### BIDS FOR OBTAINING A SURGICAL AND HOSPITALIZATION EXPENSES INSURANCE COVER

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Paranthan Chemicals Company Limited invites sealed bids from registered insurance companies under the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (IRCSL) for obtaining a Surgical and Hospitalization Expenses Insurance Cover for the period of 30.09.2022 to 29.09.2023.

Bid documents could be obtained from the Paranthan Chemicals Company Limited, L3, No. 446, Pan Asia Building, Galle Road, Ratmalana by submitting a letter of request to the General Manager - PCCL, along with non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 + Government taxes per document between 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday till 22.08.2022 respectively.

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 16.08.2022 at 10.00 a.m at the below mentioned address.

Sealed bids shall be submitted by hand in the Tender Box or sent by registered post to the below mentioned address on or before 23.08.2022 at 10.00 a.m and sealed bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Sealed bids should be marked, "BIDS FOR SURGICAL AND HOSPITALIZATION EXPENSES INSURANCE COVER" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid received and the decision of the Procurement Committee is final. Late bids will be rejected.

Chairman  
Department Procurement Committee  
Paranthan Chemicals Company Limited  
L3, No. 446, Pan Asia Building, Galle Road, Ratmalana.  
Tel : 0112 437556/ 0112 324466/ 0112 324465  
Web: pccl.gov.lk/



Major Club limited over cricket tournament

# Close tussle expected in Army - Tamil Union final



Army cricket team



Tamil Union cricket team

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Army SC will meet Tamil Union in their Major Clubs limited over cricket tournament final which will be played today at the SSC grounds. The two teams are evenly balanced and a keen tussle is expected in this final as both sides have included several experienced National players to showcase their talent. Tamil Union will be led by National all rounder Dhananjaya de Silva while they have the services of experienced players like Isuru Udana the bowling all rounder and leg spinner Jeffery Vandersay , off spin all rounder Dilruwan Perera wicket keeper Sadeera Samarawickrama and

new ODI debutant Pramod Madushan are having National experience. Meanwhile Army SC will be led by former National white ball skipper Thisara Perera have the services of former National skipper Dinesh Chandimal the inform batter who scored heavily during the last Australian and Pakistan test cricket series .In addition spin all rounder Seekkuge Prasanna, Asela Gunaratne the dashing stroke maker and useful medium paceman , white ball specialist spinner Maheesh Theekshana , spin all rounder Suminda Lakshan are experienced players of the Army team . In the semi finals Army SC

recorded an easy 123 run win over Ace Capital CC while Tamil Union defeated CCC by 16 runs to enter the final . Tamil Union so far have played 12 matches and won 10 while Army SC did much better playing 12 matches and lost only one to go top of the points table . Army SC coached by former National off spinner Ajantha Mendis while former National under 19 spin coach Sachith Pathirana is serving Tamil Union as head coach At . the SSC wicket first hour is going to be very crucial while the wicket is also very good for the batsmen and high scoring final is expected today .

**Teams**

**Army SC** Thisara Perera (Capt ), Dinesh Chandimal , Seekkuge Prasanna, Asela Gunaratne , Ashan Randika, Lakshan Edirisinghe , Suminda Lakshan , Maheesh Theekshana, Mahesh Kumar , Ratnarajah Thenuradhan , Rashmika Sriwardena, Ajantha Mendis (coach)  
**Tamil Union** - Dhananjaya de Silva (Capt ), Sadeera Samarawickrama, Santhush Gunatilleka, Ron Chandraguptha, Dilruwan Perera ,Navod Paranavithana, Ravindu Fernando ,Isuru Udana , Dilum Sudeera, Pramod Madushan, Jeffery Vandersay , Sachith Pathirana(Coach)

# CR and FC going beyond rugby

The Ceylonese Rugby & Football Club (CR&FC) celebrates its centenary year commencing 25th September 2022.

The centenary committee chaired by past president and honorary life member Jehan CanagaRetna has organised a broad range of activities to celebrate the occasion. The club has continued to show good citizenry by supporting economically vulnerable communities in the area.

Recently, the club distributed supermarket vouchers to sixty families in the "Hate watte" (sixty-compound) community on Torrington Avenue.

During the height of the Covid-19 outbreak on several occasions , the club distributed over one-hundred ration packs each time containing rice, dhal, eggs, milk powder, tea leaves, sugar, Salt, dry fish, canned fish and reusable masks.

Club president Ted Hiran Muttiah, Centenary Committee Chairman Jehan CanagaRentna, General Manager Group Captain (retired) Lalith Abeysekera and men's team captain Kavindhu de Costa along with CR&FC men's and CR&FC players are seen distributing vouchers to a very grateful community at "Hate watte".

A "Hate watte" community



Team captain Kavindhu de Costa distributing dry rations and coupons



CR&FC women's team captain distributing dry rations and coupons

elder speaking on the occasion said "the CR has been here longer than many in this area. The club is highly respected for its care for people like us in times of difficulties. CR is our club. We support the club, and the club supports us"

Club president Muttiah said "the CR&FC remains true to

its founding charter. It is primarily a rugby club.

Fundamentally, sport is a vehicle for promoting universally accepted values of human behaviour. In the longer term, compassion and empathy for fellow human beings is far more enriching than any trophy in the club cabinet"

# Akram Muthalib proud product of Trinity

**UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA**

Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Nineteen year old, Akram Muthalib is the present captain of the First IX Cricket team of Trinity College, Kandy and a Grade Twelve student of the school in the Commerce stream and Akram led the cricket team to victory in the 40th Limited over Cricket match against St. Anthony's College, Katugastota this year. His first coach was Dimuthu Weerasinghe and he was coached by Kavinda Jayawardena, Dilka Panagoda, Nalin Ekanayake, Lahiru Sandakelum and Roshan Jaleel.

Akram started playing cricket from Grade One onwards and at the start he was just a left hand batsman but gradually from Grade Five onwards he became a Wicket Keeper and Captained the School Under 13,15,17 and 19 Cricket teams with distinction. At the Under 13 and 15 levels he has scored over Four Hundred runs at the Division One Cricket Tournament organised by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association and he represented the School First XI Cricket team for the last four years and this year he scored

over seven hundred and Fifty Runs including One Hundred and Sixty five runs against Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa. He has scored Ninety runs against Wesley, Eighty runs against St. Josephs' and Seventy runs against DS Senanayake Vidyalaya and he has become the leading Wicket Keeper claiming Twelve victims behind the stumps. In the year 2021 and 2022 he represented Kandy District at the Under Twenty three Provincial Cricket tournament and he has played for Moors Sports club as well as Baduraliya SC in the same



Akram Muthalib with the winning Shield. Picture by Upananda Jayasundera

tournament and at present he is playing for S.S.C. under the Coaching of Saman Jayantha and his intention is to represent Sri Lanka in future.

# SLS teams-up with Yeti for Commonwealth Games



Director Yeti Dr. Dilshan Balasuriya (centre) handing over a pack of Yeti products to Ravindu Laksiri in the presence of Chanithma Sinaly, Yeheni Kuruppu and Rehman Gul

**CHRIS DHAMBARAGE**

Sri Lanka Squash (SLS) teamed-up with leading isotonic sports drinks manufacturer Yeti, in their attempt to reach excellence during the Commonwealth Games, in Birmingham, England. The sponsorship will be a huge boost to the team which will take part in the Singles, Doubles and Mixed doubles events and high hopes are on the Doubles events as the players are expected to perform well causing certain upsets. Senior player Ravindu Laksiri who went on to win the recently

concluded Golf and Country Club Open PSA Satellite Tournament held in England, is expected to better his performances while Shamil Wakeel, Chanithma Sinaly and Yeheni Kuruppu too are expected to perform at their best after going through a top quality structured National high-performance training programme conducted under the guidance of former Pakistani National Coach Rehman Gul supported by local coaches Gihan Suwaris, Naduni Gunawardena and Physical Trainer Ashan Gamlath.

**DATE 31.07.2022 SUNDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk**

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA** DRAW NUMBER: 4833 Prizes won in this draw Rs. 4,468,700.00 The super prize of next draw Rs. 28,859,413.60

**Dhana Nidhanaya** DRAW NUMBER: 063 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 1,533,000.00 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 119,703,900.80

**Govisetha** DRAW NUMBER: 3075 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 3,219,500.00 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 66,330,076.80

**HANDAHANA** DRAW NUMBER: 142 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 3,693,980.00 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 3,486,915.20

**Mega POWER** DRAW NUMBER: 1181 TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 2,222,600.00 NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE Rs. 263,370,626.00

**44th OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2022**

Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.

**44th OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL Most Popular School Cricketer 2022**

Vote for your favourite Schoolboy/Schoolgirl Cricketer and elevate him/her to win the prestigious OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL Most Popular Schoolboy/Girl Cricketer of the Year title.

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer 2022

Cricketers from schools competing in Division one, two and three of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2021/2022 are eligible to be voted.

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2022

Schoolgirl Cricketers from schools competing in all Island school's of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2021/2022 are eligible to be voted.

Nominee Boy : .....  
 Divisions for Boy : Division I  Division II  Division III   
 All Island Girl : .....  
 (Each coupon must contain only one vote)  
 Name of School : .....  
 Sender : .....  
 Address : .....  
 Mobile No. : .....

Vote online now: [vote.schoolcricketer.lk](http://vote.schoolcricketer.lk)

**Win prizes in the weekly coupon draw:**

1st Prize : Rs. 2,500      2nd Prize : Rs. 1,500  
 3rd Prize : Rs. 1,000

The 44th Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.

**CONDITIONS:**  
 Children of Lake House, SLT- Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition. Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest. In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

DATE **06-08-2022** NO. **19**

**BOOSTER 505**  
 Boost your TALK TEXT DATA  
 All in one package  
 Voice **1777 minutes**  
 Text **1777 sms**  
 Data **2GB** anytime data  
 Extra GB can be added





Yupun Abeykoon

# South Asia's fastest man Abeykoon off the blocks today



However, failed to live up to his billing at the IAAF World Athletic Championship in Oregon, USA clocking 10.19 in the heats which was not enough to qualify for the next round.

It remains to be seen whether Abeykoon will rise to the big occasion after disappointing at the Olympics and World Championships. He can take inspiration from former Sri Lanka star Shehan Ambeptiya who qualified to the semifinals of the 100 and 200 metre events at 2010 Delhi Games. Ambeptiya won three gold medals at the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games.

Three boxers will be in action today in round of 16 clashes. First up is Rukmal Prasanna against Kenya's Bakari Hassan in the bantamweight over 51kg-54kg, Sajewani

Cooray should overcome Pakistan's Mehreen in the featherweight over 54kg-57kg, and Niklas Vittalís will make his international debut against Marion Faustino of Samoa in the lightmiddle over 67kg-71kg.

**Results**

**JUDO**  
Men 60kg Round of 16: Dylan Munro (Scotland) beat Priyankara Wimukthi Premaratne by Ippon after 2:41 minutes

**WEIGHT LIFTING**  
Men's 81kg  
Chinthana Vidanage ranked 9 out of 11  
Total 282kg (127+155)

**SWIMMING**  
Women's 200m Backstroke  
Ganga Seneviratne 2:26.63 ranked 6th in heat 2  
(Qualified as a reserve for final)

**MEDAL TALLY AFTER DAY THREE**

| Pos | Team              | G  | S  | B  | Total |
|-----|-------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| 1   | Australia         | 22 | 13 | 17 | 53    |
| 2   | England           | 11 | 16 | 7  | 34    |
| 3   | New Zealand       | 10 | 5  | 4  | 19    |
| 4   | South Africa      | 4  | 1  | 1  | 6     |
| 5   | Canada            | 3  | 6  | 9  | 18    |
| 6   | India             | 3  | 2  | 1  | 6     |
| 7   | Scotland          | 2  | 7  | 8  | 17    |
| 8   | Malaysia          | 2  | 1  | 1  | 4     |
| 9   | Nigeria           | 2  | 0  | 1  | 3     |
| 10  | Wales             | 1  | 2  | 6  | 9     |
| 11  | Trinidad & Tobago | 1  | 1  | 0  | 2     |
| 12  | Bermuda           | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| 12  | Uganda            | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| 14  | Fiji              | 0  | 2  | 0  | 2     |
| 15  | Kenya             | 0  | 1  | 1  | 2     |
| 15  | Northern Ireland  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 2     |
| 17  | Mauritius         | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 17  | Papua New Guinea  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 17  | Samoa             | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 17  | Singapore         | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 17  | Tanzania          | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| 22  | Cyprus            | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| 23  | Namibia           | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| 23  | SRI LANKA         | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |

By  
**Allaam Ousman**

South Asia's fastest man Yupun Abeykoon will spearhead Sri Lanka's campaign for an athletic medal in the XXII Commonwealth Games when he starts in the 100 metres at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham today.

Abeykoon will be the first to get off the blocks in athletics for Sri Lanka with three 100m heats scheduled to commence at 10.40 a.m. (2.30 p.m. Sri Lanka time) followed by the women's 800m heats featuring Gayanthika Abeyratne.

The cynosure of all eyes will be 27-year-old Abeykoon who won the Resisprint International meeting in Switzerland clocking 9.96 and became the first athlete from South Asia to run below 10 seconds.

Italy-based Abeykoon is going through a purple patch in his career shattering barriers with ease since clocking 10.16 to break the South Asian record in 2020 becoming the first South Asian in 32 years to qualify for the men's 100m race at the Olympics where he clocked 10.32.

## Sri Lanka's Tuskers dazzle as South Africa stun Fiji in Rugby Sevens

ALLAAM OUSMAN reporting from Birmingham

Sri Lanka's Tuskers bowed out of the XII Commonwealth Games on a high after some sterling performances in the Rugby Sevens competition at the Coventry Stadium on Sunday. Fighting for 13-16 classification places, Sri Lanka's men's team spearheaded by Srinath Sooriyabandara dazzled against Zambia and Jamaica to the delight of the 30,000 capacity crowd at Coventry.

They began Super Sunday with an impressive 27-14 (10-7) win against Zambia in 13-16 semifinal 2 scoring five sizzling tries and one conversion while containing the opposition to two tries and two conversions. Kandy SC skipper and fly half Nigel Ratwatte crossed the line twice, while former Sri Lanka Sevens captain Dansha Dayan, Tharinda Ratwatte, and Buddhima Piyaratne scored one try piece with Mithun Hapugoda being successful with one of three conversions.

The Tuskers kept their best for the last in the men's playoff for 13th place against Jamaica who had beaten Malaysia 28-7 and emerged victorious against Sri Lanka with a wafer-thin 26-24 win. Nigel Ratwatte kicked away the conversion of Mithun Hapugoda's try in the dying seconds of the match which could have taken the game to extra time. Sri Lanka virtually fought punch for punch as both teams scored four tries apiece in a heart-stopping thriller that raised the roof. Although having to play catch up with the Jamaicans, Sri Lanka were up to the task with their steps and darting runs to rattle the power-packed opposition. Nigel Ratwatte darted across the line with Hapugoda converting for Sri Lanka to draw level after Caton-Brown scored the first of his two tries. Radhika Hettiarachchi burst through on the right corner in reply to a try from Smith with Hapugoda making a superb touchline conversion for Sri Lanka to go into half with the scores tied 12-12.

Jamaica went ahead again 19-12 soon after the turnaround. Sri Lanka responded with a jinxing run by Hapugoda for Piyaratne to score under the posts. Nigel Ratwatte added the extra points for Sri Lanka to draw level 19-19. Jamaica scored almost with the restart but Sri Lanka hit back even as the clock ticked through another brilliant effort from Hapugoda but Nigel Ratwatte agonizingly missed the



conversion but Sri Lanka had won the hearts and minds of the appreciative crowd. It was a perfect appetizer to the medal winning games which saw South Africa stun Olympic champions Fiji 31-7 to win men's rugby sevens Commonwealth gold.

First-half tries from Muller du Plessis, JC Pretorius and Shaun Williams saw South Africa surge into a 17-0 lead. Du Plessis added a second after the break, and Mfundo Ndlovu wrapped up a comfortable victory after Fiji skipper Waisea Nacuqu had managed a consolation effort.

Meanwhile, Faith Nathan scored two of Australia women's four tries in their 22-12 final victory over Fiji. It was Australia women's first rugby Commonwealth gold after winning silver on home soil on the Gold Coast four years ago. New Zealand claimed both men's and women's bronze, with Australia and Canada missing out on respective medals.

Scotland men had to settle for sixth after Samoa overturned a 19-14 deficit to win 24-19.

England beat Uganda 31-17 to finish ninth with Jamie Adamson claiming a hat-trick.

Sri Lanka's medal prospects Indika Dissanayake (weightlifting) and Milka

Gehani (artistic gymnastics) disappointed. Sri Lanka's overall team captain Dissanayake failed in all three attempts (160kg, 161kg, 167kg) in the clean and jerk after lifting 133kg in the snatch in the men's 73g weight class which was won by India's Achinta Sheuli in a new Game Record of 313kg followed by Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad (303) and Canada's Shad Darsigny (298). Gymnast Milka finished 18th in the women's All-Around final after failing to execute her moves. Australia's Georgia Godwin won gold in the event, with English teenager Ondine Achampong continuing her superb Games by taking silver. The bronze medal went to Canada's Emma Spence.

The only bright spark for Sri Lanka was Akalanka Peiris setting a new national record in the men's 50m backstroke of 26.16 seconds despite failing to qualify swimming in heat six.

**Results 3X3 BASKETBALL**  
**WOMEN Pool A:** Australia bt Sri Lanka 21-2  
**Pool B:** Canada bt Sri Lanka 21-8

**RUGBY SEVENS WOMEN**  
**Playoff for 7th** South Africa bt Sri Lanka 52-0 (33-0)

**BEACH VOLLEYBALL: WOMEN**  
**Pool B:** \*Clancy/ Maria (Australia) beat Deepika Bandara/Chathurika Weerasinghe 2-0 (21-10 21-12)  
**Pool A:** Schacter/Dearing (Canada) bt Malintha Yapa / Ashen Rashmika 2-0 (21-13 21-12)

**WEIGHT LIFTING- Men's 67kg** 1 Lalrinnunga Jeremy (India) **300kg GR** (140kg GR + 160) 2 Vaipava Nevo Ioane (Samoa) 293 (127 + 166 GR) 3 Edidiong Joseph Umoafia (Nigeria) 290 4 Jaswanth Singh Shergil 260 5 Chathuranga Jayasooriya 259 (119 +140)

**BADMINTON**  
Mixed Team Event - Quarter Final 1

Malaysia beat Sri Lanka 3-0

**Mixed Doubles:** Kian Meng Tan / Pei Jing Lai beat Sachin Dias / Thilina Hendahewa 2-0, Men's Singles: Tze Yong NG beat Niluka Karunaratne 2-0, Women's Singles: Jin Wei GOH beat Vidara Suhasni Vidanage 2-0



South Africa celebrate their victory over Fiji in the Commonwealth Games Rugby Sevens gold medal clash.

## St. Joseph's qualify for Rugby League Super Round

CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

St. Joseph's College qualified for the Super Round stage of the Inter-Schools Under-20 'A' Division League Rugby Tournament with an emphatic 35-20 victory against St. Anthony's College in their last Group-1 fixture played at Havelock Park yesterday.

The Josephians, playing without four of their regulars and without the services of Head Coach Nilfer Ibrahim, came from behind to turn the game in their favour while collecting their points from seven unconverted tries.

The Antonians, of course, made a great start to the game and looked well on course to create a major upset as they built up a crucial 17-10 lead at half time with the aid of one try and four penalties.

However, the second half turned out to be a completely different contest as the home side came into their own with some superb fast open rugby while touching down on five occasions to ensure a bonus-point win in the end.

St. Anthony's drew first blood with a good try from their flanker Zackey Jeffrey in the fifth minute, which was followed by four back-to-back penalties from their dynamic place kicker Sahar Keerthisiri.



In between, St. Joseph's managed to keep the game alive with two splendid tries from Deshan Tharuka and hooker Chamod Seneviratne.

In fact, Seneviratne started the proceedings in the second half while scoring his second try of the match in the 40th minute and thereafter, the Joes completely took control of the game through some outstanding rugby.

Mandara Amarasinghe, flanker Minidu Pathirana, prop forward Jehan Atukorala and substitute prop forward Sithija Sanjewa scored a try each as St. Joseph's enjoyed their best outing in the tournament.

However, the Joes missed out on all conversions as they tried out with three different kickers before Keerthisiri fired across his fifth penalty for the Antonians to end the proceedings.

## Stenson wins on LIV Golf debut in New Jersey

Henrik Stenson won on his LIV Golf debut as he claimed victory in the third event of the breakaway series held in Bedminster, New Jersey.

The Swede was stripped of the European team's Ryder Cup captaincy for joining the Saudi Arabian-backed circuit.

Stenson won the 54-hole tournament by two shots, taking the \$3.28m first prize, after three rounds of 64, 69 and 69 put him on 11 under par.

"I guess we can agree I played like a captain," Stenson said after his win.

"It's been a good first week. Nice to be here with the guys and getting a feel for it."

"It's been a busy 10 days and extremely proud that I managed to focus as well as I did."

"It was a little wobbly coming home, we haven't finished the deal in a couple of years with any wins so it is always a little added pressure when you are in contention but I did well."

Americans Dustin Johnson and Matthew Wolff were joint second on nine under par.

English duo Paul Casey and Lee Westwood had final respective rounds of 66 and 71 as they finished on four under. **BBC**

## NDB - MCA Premier League 2022

# Fairfirst Insurance beat Maliban Biscuits in final

HERBERT PERERA

A brilliant 74 not out in 89 balls inclusive of a six and 6 fours by Anuk Fernando guided Fairfirst Insurance to an exiting two wickets win over Maliban Biscuits in the final of the NDB - MCA Premier League 2022, concluded on 30th July, Saturday at the MCA Grounds.

**Chief Scores - Maliban Biscuits** 229 all out in 49.2 overs (Mohamed Shilmi 107, Anjula Perera 38, Koshan Jayawickrama 3 for 35, Anuk Fernando 3 for 53)

**Fairfirst Insurance** - 234 for 8 in 48.3 overs (Lakshan Perera 32, H. Duminda 21, Anuk Fernando 74 not out, Koshan Jayawickrama 50, Neshan Perera 2 for 47)



NDB - MCA Premier League 2022 Final concluded with an exiting two wickets win to the Fairfirst Insurance on July 30 at the MCA Grounds. Here the winning captain of Fairfirst Insurance Lakshan Perera (third from left) receiving the NDB Trophy from the chief guest, Vice President / Head of Treasury and MCA President in 2015 / 2017 Niran Mahawatte (second from left) others from left Tharindra Kaluperuma, (General Secretary MCA) (extreme left) Nalin Wickramasinghe - President MCA (second from right) and Mahesh De Alwis, Senior Vice President MCA (extreme right). (PICTURE BY - HERBERT PERERA)