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# Daily News



# 100 PLUS YEARS

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## ASPI REACHES 9,000+ LEVELS WITH RS.6 BN+ TURNOVER

The Colombo Bourse continued its upward momentum reaching back to 9,000+ levels amidst recording Rs.6 bn+ turnover due to local and foreign investor interest on heavyweight

stocks with the positive sentiments surrounding. Thus, All - Share Price Index increased by 321.3 points (+3.7%) to close at 9,027.5 for the day whilst S&P SL20 Index gained **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## MADRAS HC RULES THAT A TEMPLE WAS A BUDDHIST SITE

**INDIA:** In July, a single judge of the Madras High Court ordered that Thalaivetti Muniyappan temple in Salem district in Tamil Nadu be removed from the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department and given to the state's archaeological department. An archaeological survey of the shrine

ordered by the court in 2017 had concluded that an idol in the temple considered to be that of the Hindu god Thalaivetti Muniyappan was actually a figure of the Buddha. Maintaining that "the mistaken identity cannot be allowed to continue", the court ordered that the "original status" of the idol be restored. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Necessary steps to extradite Harak Kata to country

GAYAN KUMARA WEERASINGHE

Police sources yesterday said that the necessary steps have been taken to bring underworld leader Nadun Chinthaka alias Harak Kata to the country soon. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## Remaining Galle Face protesters removed

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE AND SHAVINI MADHARA

Police intervened yesterday to remove the people staying in the Galle Face protest area and the tents that have not been removed so far. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## CALL FOR IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED TICKET PRICE SCAM

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Kandy Municipal Council (KMC) authorities are reluctant to conduct an impartial investigation over the alleged scam on the price of tickets for seats reserved at the Queens Corridor during the Esala Perahera season, Municipal Council employees said. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## 80% SCHOOL ATTENDANCE NOT COMPULSORY FOR A/L STUDENTS THIS YEAR

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

Examination Commissioner L.M.D. Dharmasena said that the 80 percent school attendance requirement to sit the Advanced Level Examination 2022, will not be considered. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## OIC TOLD TO HAND OVER MONEY TO PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER

- SIU Director

SENIOR DIG INFORMED MAGISTRATE MONEY FOUND AT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

SHAVINI MADHARA

Director of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) Superintendent D. S. Wickremesinghe informed the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court yesterday that mobile phone analysis reports have revealed that Senior DIG Deshabandu Tennakoon had informed the Colombo Fort Police OIC to hand over the money found at the President's House to the Minister of Public Security. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## VEHICLE PARK DRIVERS COMPLAIN OF EXTORTION RACKET

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Vehicle Park drivers complained to the Kandy Municipal Commissioner yesterday (12) regarding an incident where a mob entered the vehicle park of the Central Market belonging to the Council and extorted money from the drivers. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

# DISCUSSIONS ARE IN PROGRESS TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONS ON ELECTRICITY BILLS TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES



CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAARACHCHI

Leader of the House Minister Susil Premajayantha told Parliament yesterday (12) that the Government is focusing on providing relief to groups that deserve

relief in paying their electricity bills.

He said this in response to a question raised by Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa.

The Opposition Leader said people are finding it hard to bear the electricity bill hike

and added that low-income families, industrialists and the tourism sector were badly affected by the tariff hike. Hence, he urged the Government to reconsider this tariff hike and provide some relief to the low-income groups.

The Leader of the House said that it has been decided to hold a debate on the electricity bill increase on the 29th and in addition, measures are also being taken to include the revised budget in the agenda. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## HANDING OVER OF PERAHERA SANDESHAYA TO PRESIDENT



The traditional ceremony to inform the Head of State on the successful completion of the historic Kandy Esala Perahera Festival took place at the President's House in Kandy in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday evening. Picture shows Diyawadana Nilame Pradeep Nilanga Dela handing over the Perahera Sandeshaya (Sannasa) to the President informing him of the successful completion of the perahera festival.

WITH THE BLESSINGS OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC AND THE GODS  
"I WILL GET COUNTRY OUT OF PRESENT CRISIS"

President Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday said that despite facing a huge economic crisis, he will definitely get the country out of the crisis with the blessings of the Sacred Tooth Relic and the Gods. The President also said that everyone should move forward with new hopes for a new economy that will ensure a better life for all. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Imposition of Emergency Regulations: SC grants Leave to Proceed with three FR petitions

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday granted Leave to Proceed with three Fundamental Rights petitions filed seeking a declaration that the

imposition of Emergency Regulations by the President under the Public Security Act violates the Fundamental Rights of the people of Sri Lanka. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Foreigner seeks order to invalidate decision to deport her

DILSHAN THARAKA

A Writ Application was yesterday filed in the Court of Appeal by Scottish national Kayleigh Fraser who is on a tourist visa to Sri

Lanka is seeking an order to invalidate the decision taken by the Department of Immigration and Emigration to deport her from the country. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## Dhanish Ali remanded till Aug. 26

SHAVINI MADHARA

Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage yesterday (12) ordered to remand Aragalaya activist Dhanish Ali and three others until August 26. The suspects were recently arrested

for forcibly entering the President's House and causing damage to its property. The Colombo Fort Police requested to place the suspects in remand custody until investigations are concluded. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## Closing date for NCE applications extended

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

The closing date for accepting applications for the recruitment of new students for National Colleges of Education (NCE) has been extended to August 19 by the Education Department. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## Fr. Jeewantha Peiris granted bail

SHAVINI MADHARA

Rev. Fr. Jeewantha Peiris who surrendered to the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court yesterday was released on bail by Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage. When the matter was taken up before Court, the Colombo Central Crimes Investigation Division **▶ TO PAGE 03**



## Nine COVID-19 deaths on Thursday

Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardena yesterday confirmed that nine COVID-19 related deaths were reported on Thursday while the number of COVID-19 positive cases for yesterday was 162. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Over 38,034 dengue cases since January 2022

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

As per the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit a total of 38,034 suspected dengue cases were reported to the Epidemiology Unit from all over the island from January 2022 to up to now. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## CPC says no fuel shortage in coming weeks, another fuel ship arrives

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) said that there will not be fuel shortage in coming weeks as allegations levelled by certain politically motivated unions were said through the media. The fuel ship called Newtol Ray, which contains 35,000 MT of petrol **▶ TO PAGE 03**



## FINAL RANDOLI MAHA PERAHERA WATCHED IN 120 COUNTRIES

ASELA KURULUWANSA

The Media Division of the Temple of Tooth Relic said that the final Randoli Maha Perahera of the Kandy Esala Perahera has been watched by millions in 120 countries around the world online. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Dr. Harsha calls for short-term APG to overcome economic crisis

CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAARACHCHI

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Dr. Harsha de Silva requested the House to agree to a short-term All-Party Government (APG) in order to find solutions to the serious economic crisis suffered by the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## PM Modi donates land, owns no vehicle

**INDIA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi owns assets worth Rs 2.23 crore, mostly as bank deposits and savings, but holds no immovable assets now as he donated his share of a piece of land in Gandhinagar, according to a declaration from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "Immovable property Survey No. 401/A was jointly held with three other joint owners and each having an equal share of 25 per cent **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## New rice variety released to farmers

SANATH GAMAGE,

Deputy Director of Ambalantota Rice Research Institute Harshini Siriwardena said that the Institute has taken steps to release the A T 378 Sudu Kekulu new rice variety to the farmers. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Magistrate rejects Udayanga's request

SHAVINI MADHARA

Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage yesterday (12) rejected a request made by the former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia Udayanga Weeratunga. **▶ TO PAGE 03**

## Forming all-party administration only a dream - Anura Kumara

CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAARACHCHI

Considering the Government's approach towards an all-party administration, forming such would only be but a dream, National People's Power Leader Anura Kumara Disanayake said in Parliament yesterday (12). **▶ TO PAGE 03**





# National organisations hail PM for following nation-first policy

A meeting between national organisations and Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena was held at the Prime Minister's Office on August 10, 2022.



Dr. Gunadasa Amarasekara who represents national organisations being greeted by Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

Ven. Medagoda Abhayatissa Thera, Dr. Gunadasa Amarasekara, Wasantha Bandara, lawyer Kalyananda Thiranagama, Prof. R.B. Herath, Engineer Keerthi Wickramaratne, Specialist Dr. Harris Pathirage, lawyer Madumali Alwis, Primal Fernando, Yasas Dharmadasa, Senarathne de Silva and several other scholars representing national organisations participated at this event.

Dr. Gunadasa Amarasekara pointed out that, "Together with Dinesh Gunawardena then MP, we brought the real struggles to life in the past. Today, there are struggles that meet the needs of foreign interests and they are done for money. They cannot be called struggles. Reactionaries who try to destabilize the country in economic, social, religious and cultural perspectives are working rapidly in different ways. In such a situation, on behalf of all the national organisations, we thank you

for your commitment to the country by accepting this important position.

We believe that you will be able to turn the country in the right direction based on the mission you have carried forward on behalf of the nation for four decades. Meanwhile,

the combination of the President and you becomes a great strength for the country."

Taking part in the event, Ven. Medagoda Abhayatissa Thera said, "It is very important for the country that you have been appointed as the Prime Minister since you have com-

mitted yourself to protect the national identity of the country even in and outside of Parliament. Our organisations have presented a programme for the All-Party Government that will be implemented in the future. We hope that you will study it and take it forward. Reactionaries are engaged in a grand operation of discrediting progressive characters who voice the needs of the country."

Expressing his thoughts Kalyananda Thiranagama commented; "We reversed some unimaginable laws that were harmful to the country. You were also with us that day providing a giant strength. No one thought that we would win the case against the Foreign Exchange Act. But we did it that day. We have regained that confidence today. Let's work with the right decision together."

Meanwhile, Dr. Wasantha Bandara pointed out that "You to be in the office as the Prime Minister is a great strength and a beacon light for national organisations. You are the only person who can save us if we go into bad situations on this

journey. If public trust is directed in the right direction, the struggles will disappear. If they head towards the right path within that programme, we will contribute."

"You are the only leader who consistently followed a nation-first policy," Prof. R. B. Herath said and assured, "we would support you to implement that policy forward in the correct path".

Attorney-at-Law Madumali Alwis called for immediate change in the elections system, which she described as corrupt.

"We are aware of your commitment to the principle of electoral reforms. I urge you to use your current exalted position as a weapon for that purpose."

The belief in the country as well as your belief is that a system of elections that is accountable to the people should be introduced. Furthermore, we call on you to introduce a new income tax formula suitable to our country. Our appeal to you is to lessen the Cost of Liv-

ing burden faced by the people," she said.

Engineer Keerthi Wickramaratne, Yasas Dharmadasa and Primal Fernando also spoke on this occasion.

The Patriotic National Movement, National Scholars Monks Association, 56' Children Organisation, Union of National Organisations, Global Sri Lankan Forum, Professional Engineers Association, Vijayagrihi National Organisation, Buddhist-Christian Brotherhood, Patriotism Scholars Association and the Patriotic National Front were among the organisations that participated in the event.

## Cabinet nod to grant 180 day tourist visas under ETA

In view of rebuilding and promoting the tourism industry, the Cabinet has approved to grant tourist visas up to 180 days to tourists who obtain Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for the purpose of visiting Sri Lanka, a statement issued by the office of the Minister of Tourism and Lands said.

Furthermore, tourists who obtain single entry visas are now being permitted to stay up to 270 days in Sri Lanka, which period will be valid for only a single entry. Tourists who visit the country after obtaining visas under multiple entry categories for 90 days will now be issued

visas valid for one year at once, as the Cabinet of Ministers have approved such a proposal as well.

Upon discussing the Cabinet proposal presented by the Minister of Tourism on the suitability of issuing visas at once for a longer period, the President and Minister of Defence presented a Cabinet Paper to the same effect, which was approved by the Cabinet.

While making efforts to revive the tourism industry by providing facilities to tourists, world famous cricketer and former Sri Lanka cricket captain Sanath Jayasuriya has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Sri Lanka Tourism for the South

Asian region, in view of presenting the programme to attract tourists from around the world. Jayasuriya has been a flag bearer of the country's reputation for many years and because of his worldwide fan following and recognition.

The Minister of Tourism has appointed an Advisory Committee in view of the progress of the tourism industry, and the speciality is that the said Advisory Committee is composed of veterans of various fields. It must be mentioned with deep respect that their service is immeasurable, especially at this point of time. It is indeed a pleasure to have

obtained support to the present Advisory Committee from veterans representing various fields. Although this committee has 22 representatives, official authority vests with 11 members, while the rest of them take part in an advisory capacity. The committee intends to work on many subjects that impact the field of tourism, including drafting new legislation governing the tourism industry. Some veterans from the industry have opined on the appointment of this Advisory Committee, and we regret their unawareness on the basis of appointing such an Advisory Committee.

## PNS Taimur docks at Colombo Port

Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Taimur arrived at the Port of Colombo on a formal visit last morning (August 12). The visiting ship was welcomed by the Sri Lanka Navy in compliance with Naval traditions.

The 134m-long ship is commanded by Captain M Yasir Tahir and it is manned by 169 as the ship's complement.

The Commanding Officer of PNS Taimur is scheduled to call on Commander Western Naval Area at the Western Naval Command Headquarters today. The ship is expected to remain in the island until August 15 and the crew will take part in several programmes organised by the Sri Lanka Navy to promote cooperation and goodwill between the two Navies. Further, PNS Taimur is expected to conduct a naval exercise with the Sri Lanka Navy in western seas on its departure on August 15.

Meanwhile, PNS Tughril, an identical warship belonging to the Pakistan Navy, arrived in Sri Lanka on an official visit on December 13, 2021 and conducted a successful naval exercise with SLNS Sindurala off the western coast on December 16. Naval exercises of this nature with regional navies will enable each partner to overcome common maritime challenges in the future, through enhanced cooperation.



The Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Taimur which arrived at the Port of Colombo on a formal visit yesterday was welcomed by the Sri Lanka Navy in compliance with Naval traditions.

## Anuradhapura maize farmers encouraged to grow more

**NIMAL WIJESINGHE,**  
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has guaranteed maize farmers in Anuradhapura that the Government would buy the maize harvest of Rajarata farmers at Rs.160 or more.

He said all agro-chemical necessities including Urea fertilizer would be provided in adequate stocks for boosting the maize cultivation without delay.

This was revealed at a meeting held via zoom technology at which Anuradhapura Government Agent Janaka Jayasundara, Agriculture Secretary Rohana Pushpakumara, Provincial Agriculture Deputy Director Gayani Rathnayake, Inter Provincial Deputy Agriculture Director Mala Ramyalatha, Assistant Fertilizer Director Bandula Kumara and Agricultural and Agrarian Development Executive Officials participated.

Anuradhapura Government Agent Janaka Jayasundara said that if the prevailing fertilizer weedicides and fuel problems are

solved, Anuradhapura maize farmers would be able to produce at least 40,000 metric tons maize during the 2022/23 Maha Season.

Maize cultivation in the Anuradhapura District during the 2000/21 Yala season was 43,000 metric tons. During the 2021 Yala season the maize harvest saw a drastic drop due to the ban on chemical fertilizer and farmers abandoning maize cultivation.

The most important factor in gaining an unprecedented yield is the availability of agricultural prerequisites, mainly seeds, Urea, weedicides in time and in adequate supplies and above all, guaranteeing a reasonable high price for maize in view of the prevailing economic crisis.

A farmer organisation representative said that due to acute scarcity of fertilizer and poor marketing facilities etc. thousands of maize farmers have totally given up maize cultivation and urged the Government to stimulate such groups under a maize cultivation promotion drive.

## Lions of India Service Trust donate essential medicines

In order to strengthen the patient treatment services in Sri Lanka, as requested by the Ministry of Health, the Lions of India Service Trust donated a stock of essential medicines at the Medical Supply Division of the Ministry of Health on Wednesday.

The value of this drug stock is around Rs.25 million and many types of drugs including Omeprazole & Domperidone Capsules Ip, Amoxicillin & Potassium Clavulanate Tablets Ip, Bisacodyl Gastro-Resistant Tablets Ip, Ceftriaxone Injection Ip are included in this donation.

On a request made by Deputy Director General (Planning) S. Sreedharan with the coordination of A.P. Singh, who is the third

vice-president of the International Lions Club, said it was possible to get this stock of medicines to Sri Lanka in a very short period of time.

The representatives of the International Lions Club who attended the event stated that they will continue to make such donations to strengthen the



patient treatment services in Sri Lanka. Health Secretary Janaka Sri Chandragupta expressed his gratitude to the International Lions Club for the donation and instructed the Medical Supply Department to distribute these medicines to islandwide hospitals without delay.

Secretary of the Ministry of Health Janaka Sri Chandragupta, Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Deputy Director General (Planning) S. Sreedharan, Deputy Director General of Medical Supply Division D.R.K. Herath, International Lions Club 2007-2008 President of Sri Lanka Mahendra Amarasinghe, former Multi Board President Jayarajan were present.

**Thursday**  
Date : 11.08.2022  
Draw No. : 1845  
Colour : Dark Blue

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 56,710,536/-

**Winning Numbers**  
15 45 70 74

**English Letter**  
J

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 3,080,740/-

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Date : 11.08.2022  
Draw No. : 995  
Colour : Orange

**Winning Numbers**  
M 10 02 03 31 45

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 252,951,475/-

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 1,651,760/-

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**Thursday**  
Date : 11.08.2022  
Draw No. : 3980  
Colour : Red

**Winning Numbers**  
57 69 72 73

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 72,280,917.60

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 2,516,900/-

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Date : 11-08-2022  
Draw Number : 3531  
Colour : Brown

**Winning Numbers**  
03 24 50 51

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 2,363,749.60

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 4,246,420/-

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Draw Number ▶ 1819  
Date ▶ 11.08.2022  
Colour ▶ Green

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 69,821,952/-

**Winning English Letter and Numbers**  
Q 39 47 55 61

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 1,366,720/-

Winning tickets are valid for six months

Date : 11-08-2022  
Draw Number : 517  
Colour : Blue

**Winning Numbers**  
20 68 69

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 11,760,140/-

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 999,480/-

Winning tickets are valid for six months

**ADA KOTIPATHI**  
Saturday  
Draw No. : 1647  
Date : 13.08.2022  
Colour : Yellow

**Today's Jackpot**  
Rs. 56,792,950/-

**Next Super Jackpot**  
Rs. 56,710,536/-

**Total Value of Prizes**  
Rs. 3,080,740/-

Winning tickets are valid for six months

# Daily News



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Saturday, August 13, 2022

## A double blow

While COVID-19 has reared its head again after a lengthy hiatus, with daily cases topping over 200 and 50 deaths reported during the past 11 days, the dengue epidemic too is now speedily spreading throughout the country, which will aggravate the health risk for the public.

According to our front page story quoting National Dengue Control Unit Chief Consultant Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, more than 2,700 cases of dengue had been detected throughout the country during this month bringing to nearly 50,000 the overall figure of dengue patients so far this year.

The Western Province (WP) with the largest population in the country is the worst affected with health officials declaring that as much as 50 per cent of the cases are from the WP.

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has forwarded a five-point plan to contain the epidemic amongst which is strengthening the mechanism to identify dengue red spots at regional and Grama Niladhari levels and for conducting dengue prevention programmes involving the public. It has also proposed to strengthen dengue-related laws and regulations.

Certainly the obsession with COVID-19 had made the public and the medical fraternity to overlook or ignore the dengue threat. Now we have both the pandemic and the dengue epidemic wreaking havoc in tandem. Yes, one can even get the two ailments at the same time.

The danger here is that dengue could be deadlier than COVID in terms of the lives claimed during a short span in comparison to the pandemic. It must be said that the new health infrastructure and the staff mobility put in place to combat COVID-19 is very much intact and is capable of successfully facing the latest health threat too.

But it is the public who have a larger role to play in ensuring the prevention and spread of dengue and towards this end, all precautions should be taken. Primary to this will be ensuring cleanliness in the environment and pollution prevention. However, it is doubtful whether these factors are uppermost in the minds of a much harried public engrossed in the battle for survival, weighed down by a multitude of economic woes.

Hence, the relevant authorities should take the lead in this connection and galvanize all forces into action in identifying dengue breeding spots. With the halt in construction activity due to the economic crisis there are a large number of incomplete buildings and concrete structures that serve as havens for the dengue mosquito, harbouring billions of mosquito larvae.

All such structures should be located and fumigated. Buildings belonging to Pradeshiya Sabhas and Local Government (LG) authorities are the worst culprits in this respect judging by the run-down state of most of their structures. Perhaps the paralysis of the LG institutions due to postponement of elections may have contributed to this. Hence, it is the duty of the District Secretary or Municipal Commissioners overseeing the functions of these LG bodies to act swiftly.

A thorough inspection should also be done of all 'hotels' and eateries in Colombo, some of which are in horrendously unkempt states standing in the midst of broken drains and overflowing gullies. A health check should also be conducted on workers of these eateries. Most of the workers are seen bare bodied and sweating profusely, which is a health risk to customers. Some time ago, the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) undertook a project to carry out such checks. What became of this project is not known.

Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake who came in for much praise for her handling of COVID within Colombo should similarly enact precautions to face the dengue threat, to which the City is extremely vulnerable. This is because of its population density (there is a floating population in Colombo of one million people during the day) and the profusion of buildings and structures, most of which are in varying states of neglect – not to mention the large number of abandoned and unoccupied homes.

Special attention should be paid to schools which too are for the most part underused these days due to intermittent school sessions as a result of the fuel crisis. All polluted canals and waterways in the City should also be cleaned together with slum dwellings and "Wattas" (tenements).

The dengue threat should be treated with the seriousness it deserves, for its consequences could be more dire than those of COVID. It has already taken a heavy toll of lives, with children being the most vulnerable. Special attention should be given to ensure the prevention of the epidemic and/or the control of its spread. This is more so due to the acute shortage of medicines – even life saving ones – and hence allowing dengue to get out of hand now could prove to be fatal.

Perhaps the Public Health Inspectors' (PHI) Association headed by the energetic Upul Rohana who was a familiar face on television during the bad days of COVID should take the lead in this respect in ensuring a pollution free environment while promoting hygienic and healthy habits among the public as he and his team of PHIs strove to do during the height of the pandemic.

## Lakshman Kadirgamar's Death Anniversary

# A PATRIOT WHO SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR PEACE

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

Seventeen years ago, on a day like yesterday (August 12), a suspected LTTE terrorist snuffed out the life of Sri Lanka's best known and globally admired Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, at his residence in Colombo.

A lawyer, scholar, Statesman, gentleman and patriot, Kadirgamar spearheaded the mission of cleaning the tarnished image of Sri Lanka by exposing the image of the LTTE which had been championing its cause in the West as 'freedom fighters'.

Between the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom and the brutal crushing of a Southern insurgency, Sri Lanka ranked among the worst human rights violators of the world. Kadirgamar's strategy was not merely attempting to change the perceptions about the island through propaganda but to change realities on the ground. He led the campaign to ban the LTTE from several countries across the world by convincing them that by isolating terrorist activities in one country can lead it to become a global menace. He put a stop to many of the LTTE fund-raising activities. Amid war he focused on human rights and humanitarian law training for the military. He spoke about post-war peace with remarkable foresight and was aware that winning the peace of the minority communities would be a challenge.

Kadirgamar had a clear and steady mission for his country when he accepted the invitation to become Foreign Minister under former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in 1994 at the age of 62. His dream was to build a multi-religious and multi-ethnic Sri Lanka where all communities could live in harmony.

A strong advocate of a proactive human rights policy, he refused to be defensive on human rights issues. While being strongly anti-LTTE, he supported with equal vigour the vision behind the Fundamental Rights Chapter of our Constitution that the Government's job is not merely to defend its human rights record, but to defend human rights. The policy premise of the Foreign Office under him was that fighting terrorism and fighting for human rights are a binary task.

Soft-spoken yet fearless, this skilled orator managed to put the interfering international community in its place on several occasions. He was responsible for packing off two heads of UNDP who tried to interfere in the affairs of Sri Lanka at the time. This earned him recognition from Heads of States overseas. He did not mince his words but called a spade a spade. When Kadirgamar spoke, the international community listened.

Having had many achievements to his credit, his was in every sense of the word a multifaceted career. An illustrious past pupil of Trinity College and the alumnus of the University of Perad-

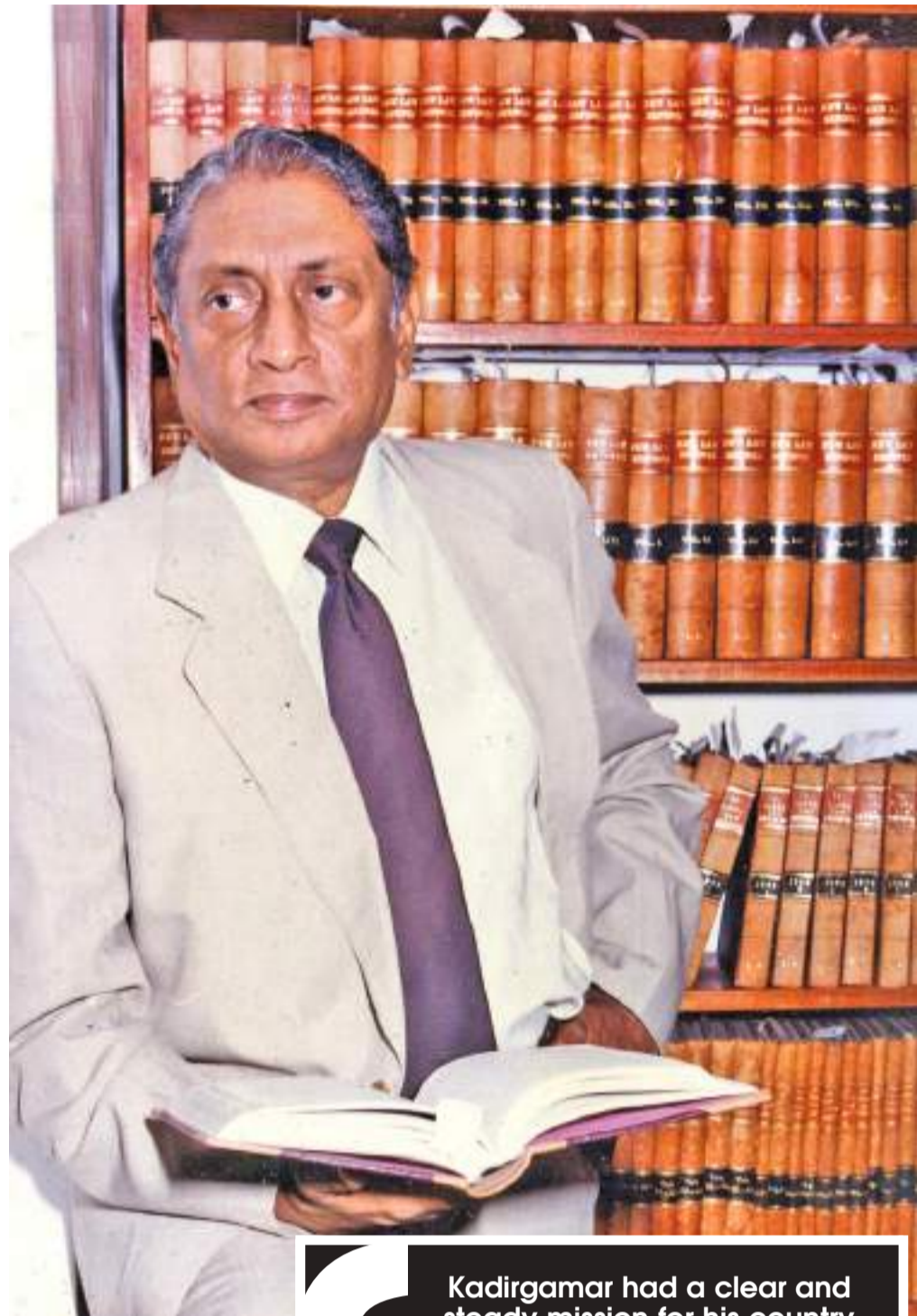
eniya and Sri Lanka Law College, Kadirgamar attributed much of his success to his Motherland. Before taking up a political career, Kadirgamar had practised as a distinguished lawyer both in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) and the UK, served as a Consultant at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, and as Director of Asia and the Pacific at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). In 1988 upon his return to Sri Lanka, he resumed his legal career and was appointed President's Counsel in 1991. The tremendous experience he gathered while serving these international organisations would have undoubtedly helped him perform his ministerial post well. He was also the Chairman of the Council of Ministers,

**Kadirgamar had a clear and steady mission for his country when he accepted the invitation to become Foreign Minister under former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in 1994 at the age of 62. His dream was to build a multi-religious and multi-ethnic Sri Lanka where all communities could live in harmony. He will be remembered and honoured as a man who sacrificed his life for peace. The determined and democratic struggle he waged against the LTTE may have cost him his life, but his unparalleled contribution to safeguarding the unity, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the country has certainly gone down in the annals of Sri Lankan history.**

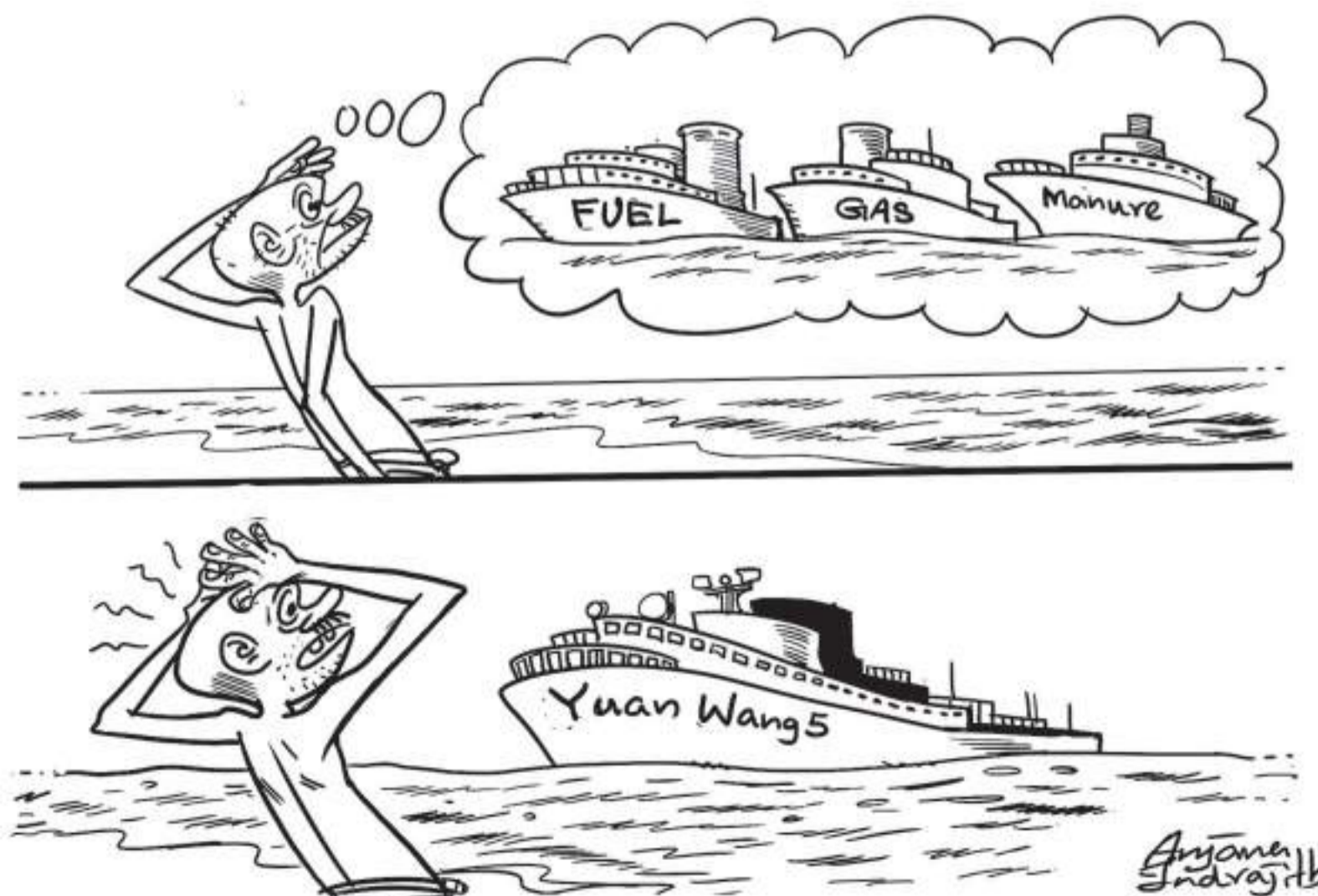
The late Minister did much to establish the Foreign Office as a strong and professional institution. He recruited promising young talent and encouraged research and in-house training. He had a distinctive ability to seek, select and engage experienced seniors as well as talented juniors in developing and crafting concepts, projects, and policy postures on a wide range of difficult issues. His attempts to establish a Professional Diplomatic Corps paid off as youth were encouraged to hone their talents and serve the sector with their skills rather than through political patronage. His tenure of office saw one of the largest contingents of career diplomats serving as Sri Lanka's envoys.

A SLFS officer must today be fluent in the two national languages - Sinhala and Tamil - while being competent in English and at least one other international language. Each SLFS officer must obtain at least a master's degree in international relations or a related subject before he or she completes 10 years in the service. A modern day career diplomat must be able to negotiate, communicate and be equipped with inter-personal skills in addition to the basic requirements.

Lakshman Kadirgamar may be no longer among us but his presence, personality and policies permeate through periods, and remain relevant in Foreign Policy discourse in Sri Lanka, in South Asia and beyond. He will be remembered for his honesty, courage and his larger than life personality. He will be remembered and honoured as a man who sacrificed his life for peace. The determined and democratic struggle he waged against the LTTE may have cost him his life, but his unparalleled contribution to safeguarding the unity, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the country has certainly gone down in the annals of Sri Lankan history.



The late Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Keep your own house and its surroundings pure and clean. This hygiene will keep you healthy and benefit your worldly life. - Sri Sathya Sai Baba

# BENEFITS OF COST FREE QR CODE

The little black dots and white spaces, jumbled in a square grid, have become a treasure for every vehicle owner since last week, as they are the only hope for fuel when the tank runs dry. The “QR Code” has become a new household word in Sri Lanka, as pumping fuel at any shed is no longer possible without it.

Under the fuel rationing system in place, amidst a very limited fuel supply across the country in the face of the current Foreign Exchange scarcity, a weekly quota has been assured for all users with the help of the QR Code.

Thanks to this technology, the lengthy fuel queues have eased, the black market for fuel has dwindled, and thuggery, other irregularities and altercations at pumping stations have subsided. For a country, which has already seen the deaths of about a score of people in fuel queues, this is a relief. Many people were heard saying it should have been introduced much earlier.

The success of the QR Code-based National Fuel Pass speaks that the Sri Lankan people, in general, are tech literate enough to use this system for many other purposes as well. As the QR Code has become a practical and effective way of managing the fuel crisis, the same technology can be applied in an innovative way to deal with many other problems or to make everyday tasks more convenient for the people. What has been lacking is not the capacity, but the initiative coupled with the will.

## Evolution

QR is an acronym for “Quick Response”, and as the words themselves reflect, the QR Code allows the user to access encoded information instantly when scanned. Though it is a square-shaped grid that looks simple, it can store a lot of data, but only a digital device can read them. Most of the smartphones, which are in use today, are able to read them as they have built-in QR scanners. If not, applications (Apps) to read them are readily available on the ‘Apple App Store’ and ‘Google Play’.

Opening the camera or the QR scanning application on the smartphone and pointing it at the QR Code will direct one to the information stored in it within a few seconds. The three black squares in the bottom left, top left, and top right corners of the QR Code, which are called ‘Finder pattern’, help the digital device to identify the code.

QR Codes are considered the next generation of barcodes. Unlike standard barcodes, which can only be read from top to bottom (one-dimensional), QR Codes are read from top to bottom as well as from right to left (two-dimensional), enabling them to store more data. A QR Code can hold 7,000 characters compared to 20 with the one-dimensional barcode.

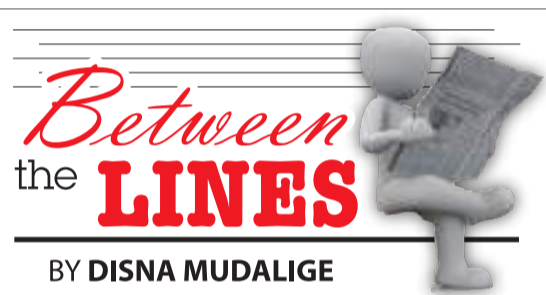
Another wonder of the QR Code is that it can be read even if it is skewed or at an angle or even damaged. This has been possible with the help of two distinctive features called ‘Alignment pattern’, another smaller square or squares within the Code, and ‘Timing pattern’, an L-shaped line that



Obtaining the weekly fuel quota for the QR Code-based National Fuel Pass



LANKAQR payment method at the expressways



QR check-ins during the pandemic to trace Coronavirus exposure and thereby slow its spread.

When it comes to the National Fuel Pass, everybody has to comply with the QR Code requirement as no other option has been made available, but that was the very reason which made it a success. The Fuel Pass took the national awareness of QR Codes to a whole new level.

“The whole system should be under the QR Code, if it is to be a success, because that is the only way we can identify the vehicle number or the equipment, to which the fuel is given, and the owner, and thereby prevent people exploiting or excusing the system, which is the biggest challenge we had,” ICTA Chairman Jayantha De Silva told the *Daily News*.

De Silva, who first floated the idea of a QR-based system for rationing fuel when he also served as the Technology Ministry Secretary, said it was adopted following a discussion with all stakeholders.

“It is an easy system which can be used by shed owners and the public alike without any cost, whereas other technical solutions are expensive. The Government did not spend any money to develop the system. Though some were reluctant and sceptical at the beginning, I was confident that this would work well. When you are going for a national programme, challenges are many. We go ahead step by step,” he commented.

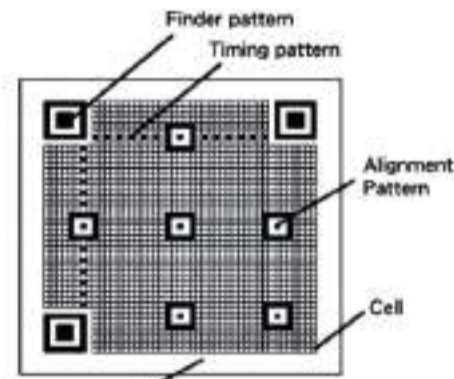
Responding to a question on the personal data it collects, the Chairman assured that all conditions in the Personal Data Protection Act, which was passed into law in March this year, have been adhered to during the entire process. “We are collecting only very simple information such as name, Identity Card number, vehicle number, chassis number and mobile phone number etc. In today’s context, such information is available everywhere,” he replied.

## Cashless payments

Now that the public understanding on QR Codes has improved, it may be an opportune time to promote other uses of QR Codes, which will come in handy for the people in their day-to-day work and businesses.

In October 2020 and again in November last year, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) began a nationwide rollout of the ‘LANKAQR’ digital payments solution that enables consumers to make payments to merchants and service providers directly from their bank account by scanning a QR Code with their mobile phone.

It allows consumers to pay from a payments app provided by any LANKAQR-



The structure of a QR Code



A standard barcode

certified bank or financial institution. A total of 24 payments apps provided by 21 financial institutions in Sri Lanka have been certified for the above purpose as at the end of last year.

Customers are not charged for using LANKAQR-based payments, but merchants have to pay a nominal fee to the relevant bank. The aim of the project is to push for a cashless economy in Sri Lanka. However, in a context where even the use of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Cards for payments is not up to a satisfactory level in Sri Lanka and some people still use ATM Cards only to draw cash from the nearest machine, promotion of the QR Code-based payment system has been challenging. Also, many taxi drivers prefer cash payments as against payments by cards or QR Codes.

Even though the initial uptake of the idea has been slow in the country, QR Codes are increasingly being adopted for business purposes. QR Codes are frequently used to track information about products in a supply chain, and marketing and advertising as they are faster than entering information manually.

“Barcodes have been in use for a long time now in many places in Sri Lanka, but QR Codes are a better system. It can be used for a variety of purposes because the QR Code can be configured according to one’s requirements. Most of the companies go for very sophisticated methods, such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), which are expensive. The QR Code is a very simple and almost costless system. The people have now understood its

Thanks to this technology, the lengthy fuel queues have eased, the black market for fuel has dwindled, and thuggery, other irregularities and altercations at pumping stations have subsided. For a country, which has already seen the deaths of about a score of people in fuel queues, this is a relief. Many people were heard saying it should have been introduced much earlier.

value. It will definitely pick up steam in Sri Lanka in the future,” the ICTA Chairman noted.

## Other uses

However, QR Codes are not without certain security risks. Sometimes, the users can be directed on malicious URLs to extract data from a mobile phone or a phishing website to steal personal or financial information. To avoid these, mobile users have to be wary only to scan QR Codes coming from a trusted source.

The newspaper industry is using QR Codes lately to provide the readers with additional information such as video clips and new features such as that of listening to the articles via a voice assistant. When it comes to advertising in newspapers and magazines, the QR Code can attract more readers if used in an innovative way. For example, if it is a car that is being advertised, the QR Code can provide a short video of the car or its three-dimensional images, including the interior, so that the people can get the feel of it.

Though not much used in Sri Lanka, QR Codes can be used in education to direct children through useful web-links for them to learn more about what is being taught, or allow them to easily copy or download relevant tutorials.

In addition, QR Codes are frequently used to authenticate online accounts and verify login details and to access Wi-Fi by storing encryption details. Nowadays, QR Codes in restaurants take the customers directly to the menu, allowing them to instantly order without having to wait for a waiter to come to the table. QR Codes are often found in entertainment and gaming experiences. There are new uses for the QR Code such as determining objects’ positions within ‘Augmented Reality’.

These are only a few ways QR Codes are being used in various domains. In some countries, QR Codes have gained high popularity to the extent of representing the dead on gravestones. The people visiting the graveyard can read online tributes of the dead, or more information about that deceased person’s life and career by scanning the QR Code in a headstone.

(Information in official or trusted websites in the Internet has been used in the article to support its content)



Japanese Engineer Masahiro Hara, inventor of the QR Code



‘Stay Safe’ QR check-ins at a private bank during the COVID-19 pandemic

# LOBBY

## House emphasizes on need for forming All-Party Government

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

The last day of the three-day debate on the Government's Policy Statement was held yesterday (12) where the House emphasized the need for an All-Party Government (APG). The blame game continued as the ruling party MPs accused the Opposition of not supporting an All-Party Government while the Opposition criticised the Government's failure to pronounce a time frame for the proposed Interim Government. SJB MP Dr. Harsha de Silva's speech stood out from the rest as he commended the President's Policy Statement while criticizing all political parties for not making genuine effort to form a short-term Interim Government.

Chief Government Whip Prasanna Ranatunga joining the debate pointed out that Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) is ready to form an All-Party Government even if it still holds the 2/3 majority in Parliament. Ranatunga observed that the SLPP's commitment symbolizes its readiness to bow down to the public opinion.

"The JVP in 2014 called those who supported Rajapaksa Government 'Bayiyo'. They called 'Toyiyo' to the ones who support the UNP/SJB Government. Now they are saying the 'Toyiyo and Bayiyo' are going to form a 'Toyi-Bayi Government'. So if we are 'Toyiyo' and 'Bayiyo', who are the ones that support the JVP? I would like to call them 'Gopayiyoy'. 'Gopayiyoy' is not a bad word. It means a creature that sucks the blood of humans," Minister Ranatunga quipped.

JVP Leader Anura Dissanayake joining the debate emphasized that an election is in order. If we are to form an Interim Government, all parties should be given fair representation in it, Dissanayake observed. Commenting on Minister Ranatunga's speech Dissanayake said it sounded as if the "Devils are chanting Pirth." Dissanayake questioned how the President promises a corrupt-free country while his Chief Government Whip has been found guilty by the High Court and imposed a Rs. 25 MN fine.

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna MP Rohitha Abeygunawardena joining the debate questioned the Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa as to why he did not accept the PM position when the then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa offered. "Why did you fail to put the toffee into your mouth? Had you put the toffee into your mouth, you would have been the President by now. Isn't it a toffee? It is a case of 'Asayi-Bayayi'. (You like something, but you are afraid to have it). The reality is that he wants to take up the post but is afraid to take on the responsibility. So what happened at the end? Ranil Wickremesinghe took up the challenge. As the SLPP we said we are fine with it. Politically, the decision had a serious negative impact on us. However, we agreed to it considering the importance," Abeygunawardena pointed out.

Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Hesha Vithanage in reply to MP Abeygunawardena pointed out that the Prime Minister post indeed was handled as if a 'toffee'. "Did people voted Sajith Premadasa to eat toffees? Did people voted Sajith Premadasa to eat Rajapaksa's toffees? No. People voted Premadasa to be responsible on their behalf. If the Opposition Leader did some gimmick and got hold of the Prime Minister post, what would have happened to the people's mandate? Where is parliamentary democracy? This is why people reject all the 225 MPs." MP Vithanage pointed out.

Meanwhile a group of members of the Tamil National Alliance protested yesterday (12) in the morning of Parliament by displaying placards demanding justice for the families of those who disappeared in the north during the war.

Meanwhile, the House approved the extension of the resolution under the Essential Public Service Act without debate yesterday (12).

The proposal was presented by Chief Government Whip Susil Premajayantha, which was approved by the House unanimously.

The House is to sit on August 29, Monday to debate on the government's decision to increase the electricity charges. The proceedings will commence at 9.30 am.

### Magistrate rejects... From page 01

Filing a motion, the Attorney-at-Law appearing on behalf of the suspect asked for a temporary relaxation of the relevant travel ban imposed on him as his client wants to go abroad to participate in a trade conference.

When Udayanga Weeratunga was granted bail in connection with the MIG aircraft deal case, the court had imposed a travel ban on him.

This is in connection over the financial fraud that is alleged to have taken place in procuring seven MiG-27 ground attack craft for the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF).

The Financial Crimes Investigation Department has pointed out that if he is allowed to go abroad this time, it is uncertain that he will return to Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the FCID has strongly objected to the suspect's request to travel abroad.

### Dhanish Ali remanded till... From page 01

Meanwhile, Danish Ali, who was remanded in connection with another case, was released on bail by Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage yesterday.

He was released on two sureties of Rs.500,000 each.

### Closing date for NCE ... From page 01

New students are recruited for the Colleges of Education based on the results of the Advanced Level Examination 2021.

The last date for accepting applications has been extended as a large number of students, who appeared in the Advanced Level Examination have

expressed that they did not get an opportunity to apply for diploma courses of Colleges of Education.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry has decided to further implement the interest-free student loan scheme introduced for AAdvanced Level students.

### Fr. Jeevantha Peiris... From page 01

requested the Magistrate to place Fr. Jeevantha Peiris under remand custody.

The Magistrate rejected the request made by the Colombo Central Crimes Investigation Division to remand Rev. Fr. Jeevantha Peiris, and he was

released on two sureties of Rs.500,000 each. The Magistrate also imposed a travel ban on him. Rev. Fr. Jeevantha Peiris has also been instructed to appear before the Slave Island Police today (13) to record a statement. The Magistrate fixed further inquiries for August 26.

### Wedaarachchi released... From page 01

He was ordered to be released on two sureties of Rs.500,000 each by Acting Tangalle Magistrate Vidura Weerakoon.

He was arrested on Thursday on the charges of organising a group to attack

Carlton - the private residence of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in Tangalle. He was arrested by Police at his house at Medaketiya. Police said that the suspect was absconding for weeks.

### Forming all-party administration... From page 01

Joining day three of the debate on President Ranil Wickremesinghe's Policy Statement, Dissanayake noted that if the government is ready to come up with positive suggestions, the NPP is still ready to consider joining an all-party government.

Dissanayake pointed out that the Government only wants other parties to join an All-Party Government but not to form one and be active participants.

"People seem to believe that the lack of a proper economic plan is the major reason behind the crisis we are suffering. Yes, to some extent it seems the case. Lack of a long term economic plan does have an impact. However, the basis of this crisis is the political culture. If we want to get out of this crisis, we need to change the political culture. Without that change, there is no way out from the crisis we are in. This political culture is filled with cor-

ruption, fraud, waste and power hunger. No one from the outside can solve our problems for us. No foreign state or international organization resolves problems for us. If we want to get out from this, we need to do it ourselves. We need to manage our resources successfully to solve this problem. Words are not enough. Most importantly we need to remember that the ones who are responsible for pushing the country to crisis will never ever rescue the country from that situation." Dissanayake pointed out.

Dissanayake observed that the President is using the Emergency Regulations to suppress people while saying that he is ensuring democracy. Dissanayake noted that Wickremesinghe is trying to please the ones who appointed him as the President.

Dissanayake pointed out a new mandate is vital as the present mandate does not represent the people's will.

### Necessary steps to extradite... From page 01

He was arrested in a covert operation conducted by the Police Narcotics Bureau jointly with the Dubai Police at the Dubai airport

However, the Government has not been apprised of his arrest in Dubai officially yet.

The senior police officer said that even when Makadure Madushwa was arrested, the arrest was officially notified to Sri Lanka after several inquiries about it.

When Harak Kata was arrested at the airport, he posed as Herath Dissanayake's Roshan Isanka who had died several years ago.

He is a resident of Meedigama and the passport has been prepared using the deceased's birth certificate. According to the information received from Dubai, a law firm has filed facts to Court on behalf of Harak Kata and has taken preliminary steps to release him.

### Foreigner seeks order to... From page 01

The petitioner states that she was involved in the protests at the Galle Face Green in Colombo and thereafter the Department of Immigration and Emigration had taken an arbitrary decision to terminate her Visa.

She is seeking for the Court of Appeal to rule that the decision by the Department of Immigration and Emigration is unjust.

The petition says that the Department of Immigration and Emigration had decided to terminate the Visa issued to British National Kayleigh Fraser, who posted Galle Face protest content on Social Media.

The Petition has cited the Controller General of the Department of Immigration and Emigration and the Attorney General as the respondents.

### CPC says no fuel shortage in... From page 01

reached the Colombo Port around 10.30 pm on Thursday night.

The unloading of the shipment has been carried out since last morning (Friday), Power and Energy Minister Kanchan Wijesekera said.

"All payments for the ship have already been made by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka," he added.

With the arrival of this petrol ship there won't be a shortage of petrol for

a few weeks since the CPC is maintaining a certain volume of fuel storage by now, CPC media reports revealed.

"Apart from this petrol vessel more diesel and petrol vessels are scheduled to arrive at Colombo port frequently in the coming weeks," he added.

"Part payments have already been made for certain vessels of these scheduled shipments," the Minister said.

### Remaining Galle Face... From page 01

The Police alerted the protesters staying there to remove the tents and leave the Galle Face area within 15 minutes. Accordingly, steps have been taken to remove those tents.

The Police and Urban Development Authority officials were also present at the time of the evacuation.

The police and Special Task Force

had been called to the Galle Face area and security had been tightened.

Although they have left the Galle Face area, the protesters had recently declared that the struggle will continue until the departure of President Ranil Wickremesinghe and that the struggle will not stop until their goals are achieved.

### 80% school attendance not... From page 01

Thus, the Commissioner informed the relevant Principals through a Circular not to consider the 80 percent school attendance rate.

The Commissioner further said that this decision was taken in view of the inability of students to attend school properly over the last two years due to a number of problems such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the teacher princi-

pal strike and fuel crisis etc. The Examinations Department has been calling for applications for Advanced Level 2022 Examination from school and private applicants since August 1 and applications will be accepted until August 19. School candidates sitting for the examination should submit their applications online through the Principals of the respective schools.

### Vehicle Park drivers complain... From page 01

Despite the fact that no money is collected from vehicles parked in Kandy city every year on Dawal Perahara day, this group of collected money from vehicles throughout the day yesterday (12).

The Offices of the Kandy Municipal Council are also located in the Central Market area and people who came to these offices have also complained about this to the council.

## Parliament sittings from August 29

Secretary General of Parliament Dharmika Dasanayake said that the Committee on Parliamentary Business has decided to commence the Sittings of Parliament at 9.30 a.m. from August 29 and limit the lunch break to half an hour from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm.

This decision was taken in the Committee on Parliamentary Business which met on the 10th under the chairmanship of the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

Accordingly, it has been decided to con-

vene Parliament on August 29 and hold the Adjournment Debate moved by the Opposition on the increase of the electricity bills from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 a.m. the Secretary General said.

Also, if the Appropriation (Amendment) Bill No.30 of 2021 for the fiscal year 2022 presented to Parliament on the 9th is not challenged in the Supreme Court, it has been decided in the Committee to hold the debate on the bill on August 30, 31, September 1 and 2.

### "I will get country out of present crisis"... From page 01

The President added that the country has faced an unprecedented economic downturn and the people from all walks of life have felt it. He stressed the importance of ending this situation in the country soon.

The President was speaking at a ceremony held at President's House in Kandy yesterday afternoon to mark the successful completion of the historic Kandy Esala Perahera Festival.

The President was received by Diyawadana Nilame Nilanga Deila, Nilames

of the Satharamaha Devalayasa and Pitisara Devalayas at the entrance of the President's House. Thereafter, the Diyawadana Nilame handed over the scroll containing the Sandeshaya informing the President of the successful completion of the Perahera.

The President commended the Diyawadana Nilame for fulfilling the noble responsibility of conducting the festival successfully. "The Kandy Esala Perahera festival was organised with pomp after a lapse of two years," the President said.

### Call for impartial investigation into... From page 01

A group of Councillors have decided to make a request to the Mayor and the Municipal Commissioner to conduct an immediate investigation in this regard.

It is alleged that the tickets printed for the said purpose do not have a price mentioned on it and this allows various individuals to sell them for Perahera viewers at different prices enabling them to earn a huge profit.

However, Municipal Commissioner Ishan Wijayatilake said that this year the tickets

were directly sold by the KMC itself due to the absence of lessees to lease out the Queens Corridor.

"As the MC is unable to go to doorsteps to sell the tickets, they were sold through tourist guides and hotels allowing them to keep a Commission," he said. That is the reason for not mentioning the price on the ticket, he further said. However, the Municipal Councillors urged the KMC to conduct an investigation and reveal the truth behind this incident, calling it a scam.

## Public assistance sought to identify these people

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Colombo Central Divisional Crimes Investigation Unit is seeking the public assistance to identify 40 individuals who had forcibly entered the President's House and damaged public properties during the mass anti-government protest on July 9.

Police released the following images of those wanted to the media yesterday.

The Public are requested to contact the mobile numbers 071-859 15 59, 071-80 85 585, 011-2 39 13 58 or the Police Hotline 1997 to provide information.



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**Wesley College Welfare Society**  
 Notice is hereby given that the **54th Annual General Meeting** of the Wesley College Welfare Society will be held on **Saturday, 27th August 2022 at 8.30 am** in the College Main Hall, Borella  
 Hony. Secretary  
 WhatsApp: +94 778 22 6477

**Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams**  
**Marriage Proposals**  
 in the **Sunday Observer**

**DATE 11.08.2022 THURSDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS** www.nlb.lk  
**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 4844  
 Prizes won in this draw  
**Rs. 3,545,220.00**  
 The super prize of next draw  
**Rs. 33,758,440.60**

**HANDAHANA**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 193  
 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 3,041,740.00**  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
**Rs. 3,701,841.80**

**Govisetha**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 3086  
 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 3,232,080.00**  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
**Rs. 68,540,327.60**

**Dhana Nidhanaya**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 874  
 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 1,469,520.00**  
 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW  
**Rs. 120,894,884.00**

**Mega POWER**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 1192  
 TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW  
**Rs. 1,638,040.00**  
 NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE  
**Rs. 265,206,230.00**  
 NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE  
**Rs. 10,800,000.00**  
 NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE  
**Rs. 10,800,000.00**

**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA (BOI)**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**HIRING OF A DIESEL VAN (DUAL A/C) FOR BOI STAFF AT HORANA**  
 Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites bids to hire Diesel Van for BOI (for the transport of Office staff from Panadura to Boralugoda and back to Boralugoda to Panadura in the morning & evening.)  
 The offered vehicle should fulfill following conditions:  
 ● Vehicle should be not more than 10 years old.  
 ● Individual owners also could submit bids provided the vehicle is registered in their names.  
 ● Vehicle should be provided with driver  
 Bidding documents may be purchased from the office of the Senior Deputy Director (HEPZ), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Horana Export Processing Zone, Boralugoda, Poruwadanda from 15.08.2022 to 29.08.2022 between 9.00 hrs - 14.00 hrs on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.1000/- plus 12% VAT. The method of payment will be by cash.  
 Sealed Bids may be dispatched under sealed envelope marked "Quotation for Hiring of (Dual A/C) Diesel Van for BOI office at Horana Export Processing Zone, Boralugoda, Poruwadanda" in the top left hand corner either by Registered Post to the Senior Deputy Director (HEPZ), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Horana Export Processing Zone, Boralugoda, Poruwadanda or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the BOI Zone Office at HEPZ to be received at or before 14.30 hrs on 29.08.2022  
 Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time at the Senior Deputy Director (HEPZ) office. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.  
 A Bid Bond of Rs.7,500.00 (Refundable) per each Bid should be submitted with a validity for 03 months from 29.08.2022. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Zone Management Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Horana Export Processing Zone, Boralugoda, Poruwadanda on Telephone No. 034-2269296.  
**Director General**  
**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

**Www.wadz.lk**  
 it's what you want

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**PROPOSED NEW BRAIN CENTER IN NORTH BUILDING FOR SRI LANKA CRICKET AT R. PREMADASA INTERNATIONAL CRICKET STADIUM MALIGAWATTA ROAD, COLOMBO-10**

The Chairman of the Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), No: 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07 now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following contract.

Item No.	Procurement No.	Contract Name	Construction Period (Days)	Minimum CIDA Registration	Non refundable fee (Rs)	Closing Date & Time	Bid Security (Rs.) and Validity
A	Proposed New Brain Center in North Building for Sri Lanka Cricket at R. Premadasa International Stadium, Maligawatta Road, Colombo-10./						
1	SLC/ADM/O 13/2022	Proposed New Brain Center in North Building at R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium.	181	The successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet CIDA Registration for Grade SPI or above in the field of Specialized Contractors in Civil and Interior works. (FW&C),(ME),(FF&E) and (A&F)	12,500.00	7th September 2022 at 15:00 hrs.	800,000.00 valid up to 1st February 2023

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Chairman of the Procurement committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), during 10:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs from 15th August 2022 to 5th September 2022 (Working Days) upon payment of non-refundable fee in the above schedule. The method of payment will be only cash.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from **Manager Procurement, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), No: 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07. (Tel:+94 11 2681601, Ext - 212, Email: sampath.pushpakumara@sri.lankacricket.lk)**
- Pre bid meeting will be held on 26th August 2022 at 14:30 hrs at the 1st Floor of the North Building, R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, Maligawatta Road, Colombo-10.
- Procurement No & the Subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope should be sent by registered post or deposited to the identified Tender Box kept at the **Department of Administration, Sri Lanka Cricket, No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07.**
- Bid shall be delivered in duplicate (clearly marked Original and Duplicate separately and sealed separately) to The Head of Administration, Sri Lanka Cricket, No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07 on or before 15:00 hrs on 7th September 2022. Alternatively, Bids may be sent by registered post to reach before the closing
- Late submission of bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Please follow the health instructions recommended by Ministry of Health before participating at the meeting, due to the prevailing conditions of Covid-19 epidemic in the country.

The Chairman,  
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## Gayanjali tipped to lead Sri Lanka netball team for Singapore



Gayanjali Amarawansa (tipped to be captain)

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Sri Lanka Netball Federation is expected to get approval for the final 12 member team for the forthcoming Asian Netball Championship which is scheduled to be held from September 3-11 at OCBC Arena Singapore.

According to a senior official of the Netball Federation, the names of the 12-member squad have been forwarded to the Sports Minister for approval and it is reliably learnt Tharjani Sivalingam, the 6'11 tall experienced goal shooter has been included in the team. The National selection committee headed by Dhamayanthi Jayathilleka the former National player selected 15 players to focus on Asian Championship and got approval for this 15 member pool.

However most of the players of the squad and especially the National coach Hyacinth Wijesinghe requested to get Tharjani for the team. In fact Tharjani the former National skipper was not available for selection trials to pick the final team as she was away in Australia to play league Netball. The Selection Committee pointed out that without playing selection trials they cant include any player in the team.

Differences arose between selectors and some officials of the Federation about Tharjani's issue and finally National selection committee headed by Arjun Fernando solved this issue. In addition experienced Thilini Wattegedera also was omitted from the squad due to her performance and selectors were highly criticised by a section close to this women's sport.

14 members of the squad are training at

Bandaragama Sports Complex and also the Torrington grounds and the Gymnasium.

Meanwhile National squad are busy with their training and National Netball Federation is looking to get training facilities from the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium and a sponsor for the Asian Netball Championship.

Two senior players Wing attacker Gayanjali Amarawansa and Centre player Dulangi Wannilleka are likely to captain and vice captain of the Sri Lanka's 12-member squad. Amarawansa the experienced player from HNB having previous experience of Asian and World Netball Championship will captain the National team for the first time at the Asian Championship while Dulangi Wannilleka also from HNB one of the best players of the centre and occasionally she has ability to play as goal shooter.

This will be the first time in three years the Sri Lankan ladies will play a competitive tournament after Global pandemic. They last played in the international arena in 2019 during the World Cup in England under the coaching of Thilak Jinadasa and this time under the guidance of Hyacinth Wijesinghe.

Sri Lankan Netball team will take the field as favourites to win the tournament based on their past record of having won this tournament most number of times (5) in 1989, 1997, 2001, 2009 and 2018. Last time in 2018 Sri Lanka led by Chaturangi Jayasuriya clinched the Asian Championship defeating Singapore in the final at the same venue in Singapore.

The 11 teams will compete to take the Asian crown. The defending champs Sri Lanka, 2018 runner-up Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Japan, India, Philip-

ines and Maldives are set to play this time while top two teams will gain automatic qualification for the 2023 Netball World Cup. Meanwhile Netball Federation is expected to appoint National junior coach to focus on next junior international events like Asian Junior in Korea next year. The Federation already made arrangements to call applications for the Junior National coach and they will conduct interview very soon to appoint junior coach. In the meantime Netball Federation President Victoria Lakshmi is expected to meet National Sports Council chairman Arjuna Ranatunga and his team to discuss the progress of the Netball Federation activities.



Dulangi Wannilleka to be appointed Deputy Skipper

## Royal-Isipathana clash in Under-20 Rugby League decider



Daham Mithila (Isipathana Captain)



Harsith Peiris (Royal Captain)

**CHRIS DHAMBARAGE**

Royal College and Isipathana College will revive their rivalry once again when the two teams clash in the 2022 Inter-Schools Under-20 'A' Division League Rugby Tournament deciding Super Round encounter at Havelock Park on Sunday.

After seven weeks of exciting rugby, Royal and Isipathana have fought their way and set the stage for a massive showdown with the winners to be crowned as the league champions and will also receive the Major Milroy Fernando Memorial Trophy.

In fact, the defending champions Royal are chasing a unique fourth successive 'A' Division League title while the unbeaten Isipathana are hoping to lift the title after their success in the 2016 season.

Last week, both teams cleared their initial hurdle in the Super Round stage with Royal going past Wesley College 21-16 at Longden Place and Isipathana edged out St. Joseph's College 16-13 at Havelock Park.

As a result, Isipathana are still on top of the points table with a tally of 32 from six matches while Royal will start the game trailing with a total of 28 points from the same number of outings.

With a good four-point lead, there is a chance for Isipathana to win the title even if they are beaten but if they could collect the two-losing bonus-points, while also ensuring Royal doesn't win with a bonus-point.

Even then, for Royal, if they score four tries and register a victory, then they will be crowned league champions irrespective of Isipathana claiming both their losing bonus-points.

However, Isipathana will have the home advantage and will look to keep the momentum with their mobile set of forwards and speedy back division. Hooker Venura Sangee, number eight Daham Wickremarachi and flanker

Tharindu Wewalpanthi have been outstanding throughout the season while



winger Rinesh Silva's accurate kicks at goal will be another advantage for Isipathana. Meanwhile, Royal will look to exploit the opposition through their famous rolling maul and in the back division they will bank on dashing centre Kaveen Sasanga, who has five tries to his credit, scrum half Hasnaka Higoda, fly half Thivain Perera and full back Nabeel Yahiya to deliver the goods.

**Past winners of the Under-20 Rugby League:**

1973 (Royal), 1974 (Trinity), 1975 (Trinity), 1976 (Royal/S. Thomas'), 1977 (Trinity), 1978 (Royal), 1979 (Royal), 1980 (S. Thomas'), 1981 (Royal), 1982 (S. Thomas'), 1983 (Trinity), 1984 (Royal/Isipathana), 1985 (Isipathana), 1986 (Isipathana), 1987 (Trinity), 1988 (Royal), 1989 (S. Thomas'), 1990 (S. Thomas'), 1991 (S. Thomas'), 1992 (Isipathana), 1993 (Isipathana), 1994 (Royal), 1995 (Isipathana), 1996 (Isipathana), 1997 (Isipathana), 1998 (Royal), 1999 (Isipathana), 2000 (S. Thomas'), 2001 (St. Anthony's), 2002 (St. Peter's), 2003 (Royal), 2004 (Kingswood), 2005 (Kingswood), 2006 (St. Peter's), 2007 (St. Peter's), 2008 (Kingswood), 2009 (Royal), 2010 (St. Peter's), 2011 (Royal), 2012 (Isipathana), 2013 (Dharmaraja), 2014 (Isipathana), 2015 (Royal), 2016 (Isipathana), 2017 (Royal), 2018 (Royal), 2019 (Royal), 2020 (Not held), 2021 (Not held).

## Harshana Godamanna to retire from Davis Cup

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Sri Lanka's Tennis star Harshana Godamanna will retire from Davis Cup tennis competition today (13) at the SLTA courts. Godamanna the present coach of Massachusetts University in USA said my last and final match will be on Saturday, when Sri Lanka will take on Iraq at the Group IV Davis Cup Ruketon Tennis tournament finals.

Since 2002, I have given all I can to keep the Sri Lankan flag flying high. I was lucky enough to play for this long with over 20 different team mates along the way.

Actually playing my last game for Sri Lanka is very emotional one I think the time has come to end my playing career and give that chance to another youngster and we have lot of potential young players who need proper guidance. At the moment I live with my baby and wife and want to spend more time with them well as now this is my 18th year from 2002 at Davis Cup and

wanted to end on a winning note added Godamanna.

I think fitness and understanding among the players during the game is more important. We have to focus on these areas and get more exposure at International level is very important.

I am very keen to give my service as a coach and hope to come back from USA at least once a year and give my services to the local Tennis players.

Actually when I was in my school Royal College my brother used to play tennis and I followed him, and my school coach Sylvester Francis gave guidance to me to come up. I had happy memories of my school, where I won public schools tennis titles which paved the way to enter the National squad said Godamanna.

Actually we have to dedicate to this sport while playing without injuries is very important. Especially the atmosphere of Tennis and facilities of this sport is vital and the support from the



Harshana Godamanna in action

officials and coaches directly paved the way to go forward.

I used to coach at Massachusetts University where I studied earlier and my duty is to produce talented players from this University. As a coach we have to update always but I think paper qualification not enough to do coaching and get more experience for this post.

Godamanna also said "I want to

thank all my team mates for endless memories we've created together. Also, to all the Captains I've had. It's always a team effort in Davis Cup, hence why I will miss these moments in the future. However, I am confident that we have a strong line up of young players to take over. I will take the back seat and guide them as much as I can. I want to thank my Parents and Family for all the sacrifices they have made and letting me live the dream I had as a kid. You trusted me, invested in me and gave me the opportunity to learn and grow to be the player and the person I am today. Tennis taught me more than just the sport. It taught me life lessons and lots of values of life.

I always appreciate my two coaches, Sylvester Francis and Dominik Utzinger. Both of them changed my life. I was fortunate to have you by my side. I am certain that I will not be a coach today if not for what I've learnt from you.

## Haroon Aslam and Kaya Daluwatte win Rukmini Kodagoda Trophies



**HERBERT PERERA**

The Perera and Sons Bakers Sponsored Junior Golf Championship concluded yesterday and in the semi final top seeded Haroon Aslam eased into the Final of the Gold Division Junior Golf Champion Title clash defeating Pranav Muralitharan 7 & 5. However, in the second semi-final K. Danushan fired 4 Birdies to Vinuda Weerasinghe 3 Birdies to clinch the tensed battle 2 & 1 on the 17th hole. To determine the Junior Champion for 2022 The final Teed-Off at 9.00

a.m. on Friday, and Haroon Aslam overcame Danushan 2-1 to clinch the Gold Division Title. However, Danushan playing on his home course RCGC pushed Haroon to the wire.

The Girls Gold division for the Rukmini Kodagoda Trophy saw Kaya Daluwatte beat experienced and confident Sherin Balasuriya 2-1 in the final. Kaya annihilated Yelani Peiris 9 & 8, whilst Sherin stretched all the way by a determined Dhevinka Kanag-Isvaran in the semi final.

In the Silver Division, again the juniors in the 12 to 14+ age group category produced really good Golf and in a close encounter Reshan Algama overcame Jacob Norton 5-3. On the other hand, Reshan Algama going 1 down after the 9th birdied 11th & 12th to regain the lead and hold on for a decisive win.

The Bronze Division final between



**Rukmini Kodagoda Trophy Junior Golf Championship Awards Ceremony was held under the patronage of Mrs. Shan Perera, sister of Rukmini Kodagoda just after the finals at Royal Colombo Golf Club yesterday. Here the winners from (left to right) Yuwan Rathis Kanth Copper Winner, Thejas Rathis Kanth - Bronze winner, Kaya Daluwatte Gold and Silver winner ladies, Haroon Aslam Overall and Gold Boys winner and Reshan Algama - silver winner. along with Avishka Perera, Mrs. Srirama Seneviratne sister of Mrs Rukmini Kodagoda and Lal Wickrematunge Secretary Sri Lanka Golf look on.** PICTURE BY - HERBERT PERERA

Thejas Rathis Kanth and Saqeeb Zuhar went in favour of Thejas Rathis Kanth who romped to victory. The Copper Division for Age group 9+ & below over 14 holes Match-play Danik Dalu-

watte played Yuva Rathis Kanth in a close battle for supremacy. Danik beat Taalia Silva 7 & 6, whilst Yuwan defeated Jaeden Sathasivam 4 & 2, in the semi-final matches.

## Schools Novices Swimming and Diving Meet commences this weekend

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

The long-awaited Sri Lanka Schools Novices Swimming and Diving Meet will commence this weekend at the Sugathadasa Indoor Swimming Pool, offering aspiring swimmers an opportunity to showcase their talents on a national platform after almost two years.

The event organized by the Sri Lanka Schools Aquatic Sports Association while it will be sponsored by Nestle MILO in line with its ambition of supporting grass-

root sports in the country. The drawing applications from over 5,000 swimmers from schools across the island, the meet will comprise of events under the age groups of 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 and the events dates are given below.

\*Swimming: Girls: August 13-14 \*Swimming Boys: August 19-21 \*Diving: August 20 (both girls and boys)

The top eight of under 10 and 12 events selected based on qualifying



time, and the three winners of under 14, 16, 18 and 20 events will get the opportunity to compete in the 46th Sri Lanka Schools Swimming Championship.

Meanwhile the planned to be

held later this year, the Sri Lanka Schools Aquatic Swimming Championship would also be sponsored by Nestle MILO, helping children excel in the sport they love, whilst nourishing them to go further.