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Govt. to implement Finance Commission recommendations for 2023

THE Government has decided to implement the recommendations presented by the Finance Commission for the financial year 2023.

The recommendations for the financial year 2023 have been submitted to President Ranil Wickremesinghe by the Finance Commission in terms of Article 154 R(7) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka.

More Page 2

Strictures on overseas travel by Ministers, Govt. MPs during Parliament days

THE Government has decided to restrict the overseas travel of Ministers, State Ministers and other Government-linked MPs during Parliament session days and the upcoming Budget 2023 debate.

The proposal to this effect submitted by Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena in his capacity as the Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government Minister was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers at its meeting on Monday.

More Page 2

Lankan shipping sector growing, but urged to watch out for surprises from the region

BY DARSHANA ABAYASINGHA

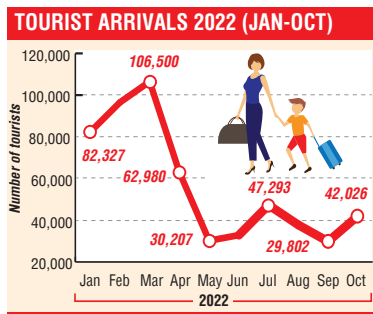
SRI Lanka presents a lot of strength and opportunity for transshipment of container cargo, but there is a lot

Russia revs up Sri Lanka's tourism revival in October

- Over 6,000 Russians arrive to become second largest source market
- Overall October arrivals up 41% month-on-month to 42,026
- YTD arrivals at 568,258, but down 73% compared to the same period pre-COVID 2018
- Daily average arrivals pick up slightly to 1,356 from just 993 in September
- India tops arrivals in October with 8,862, UK at No. 3 with 3,199, and Australia with 2,448
- Tourism Minister Harin Fernando says international rankings, resumption of international airlines, promotions augur well to boost arrivals this winter season
- Hopeful of \$ 1.7 b earnings this year; \$ 893 m netted so far in first 10 months



A foreign family enjoying football during their holiday at Club Hotel Dolphin in Waikkal last week - Pic by Ruwan Walpola



Russia's biggest charter airline Air Azur returns to SL today

RUSSIA'S largest charter airline Air Azur will resume service to Colombo today, providing much-needed optimism to the tourism industry to draw Eastern European travellers this winter season.

More Page 2

BY CHARUMINI DE SILVA

RUSSIAN tourists have boosted October arrivals sharply, enabling Sri Lanka to bounce back by 41% to 42,026 from the lowest 29,802 in September and surpassing the 550,000 mark in the first 10 months.

The boost in arrivals was largely influenced by the resumption

of Russian flag carrier - Aeroflot as well as the successful series of roadshows conducted in select cities of India last month.

Russia also emerged as the second biggest source market in October after India and relegated the UK to number three.

Arrivals in the first 10 months amounted to 568,258 (as against 22,771 in COVID-hit 2021) - a welcome development for the triple-hit tourism industry, but performance is still down by 73% compared to the same period in pre-COVID 2018.

More Page 2

Cabinet checks-in to SriLankan Airlines restructuring

Finance Ministry's newly set-up State-Owned Enterprises Restructuring Unit tasked to study methodology and make recommendations

THE Cabinet of Ministers on Tuesday approved the move to

restructure SriLankan Airlines Group.

A statement from the Government said the Cabinet recognised the need to restructure SriLankan Airlines as well as its subsidiary companies.

This will be done by handing over a considerable amount of shares and the management of these entities to investors select-

ed through a transparent procurement process.

Based on a proposal submitted by Ports, Shipping and Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to task the State-Owned Enterprises Restructuring Unit of the Finance Ministry to study the methodology and make necessary recommendations.

More Page 2

Global maritime and logistics confab highlights opportunities and challenges for SL

of competition coming with many countries looking inward or for direct services.

This is not an immediate threat for the country, but it is a development that Sri Lanka must watch out for, remarked Gateway

Media Editor-in-Chief Ravi Ramprasad, presenting a Container Market Report for the South Asia region.

Ramprasad was speaking at the inauguration of the Colombo International Maritime and Logistics

Conference last night, where he pointed out that there remains significant potential to enhance intra-regional trade, as shipping within the South Asian region amounts to just 5%.

More Page 2



From left: Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Sabry, Ports, Shipping and Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Deshmanya Karu Jayasuriya and CIMC Event Founder Chairman Rohan Masakorala at the Colombo International Maritime and Logistics Conference 2022 in Colombo yesterday - Pic by Ruwan Walpola



Sajith warns authorities against attempts to crack down on today's anti-Govt. protest

- Premadasa signs joint statement relating to the protest and confirms SJB's attendance
- Says agitation is an attempt to re-establish people's freedoms and democracy in the country
- Claims protest will go ahead despite any obstacles that may come its way
- JVP gives protest a miss

Business Chambers request all parties to call off today's protests

SEVERAL Business Chambers in a joint statement yesterday requested all parties to call off their protests planned for today.

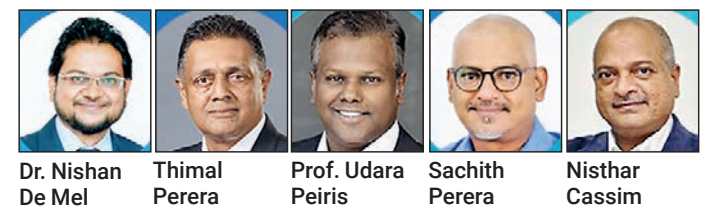
More Page 2

OPPOSITION Leader Sajith Premadasa said the anti-Government protests planned for today will go ahead in spite of any obstacles that may come its way.

"The protest march has been organised by various civil

society groups, mass organisations, trade unions, activists and members of the public in a bid to re-establish the people's freedoms and democracy in the country. We stand with the protest march no matter who refuses to support it. This is our right, the people's right," Premadasa said.

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Acuity Partners-Daily FT forum today on way forward for domestic debt market

THE way forward for the domestic debt market will come under spotlight today at a forum hosted by the Acuity Partners Group in partnership with the Daily FT.

Keynote will be delivered by Verité Research Director Dr. Nishan De Mel which will be followed by an eminent panel comprising DFCC Bank CEO and Acuity Partners Group Chairman

Thimal Perera, Acuity Partners Group Director Sachith Perera and Oberlin College USA Professor of Economics Prof. Udara Peiris. The panel will be moderated by Daily FT Editor Nisthar Cassim.

Participation at the forum is by invitation whilst it will be live streamed on FT TV accessible at www.ft.lk from 6 p.m. onwards.

Positive start for November at CSE though trading volume sinks to 4-month low

THE Colombo stock market began November on a positive note with both indices managing a gain though investor activity levels remained lacklustre.

The active S&P SL20 was

up 0.7% and the benchmark ASPI was almost flat with just 3.69 points gain. Turnover was Rs. 1.2 billion involving a mere 33 million shares, lowest in fourth months.

More Page 2

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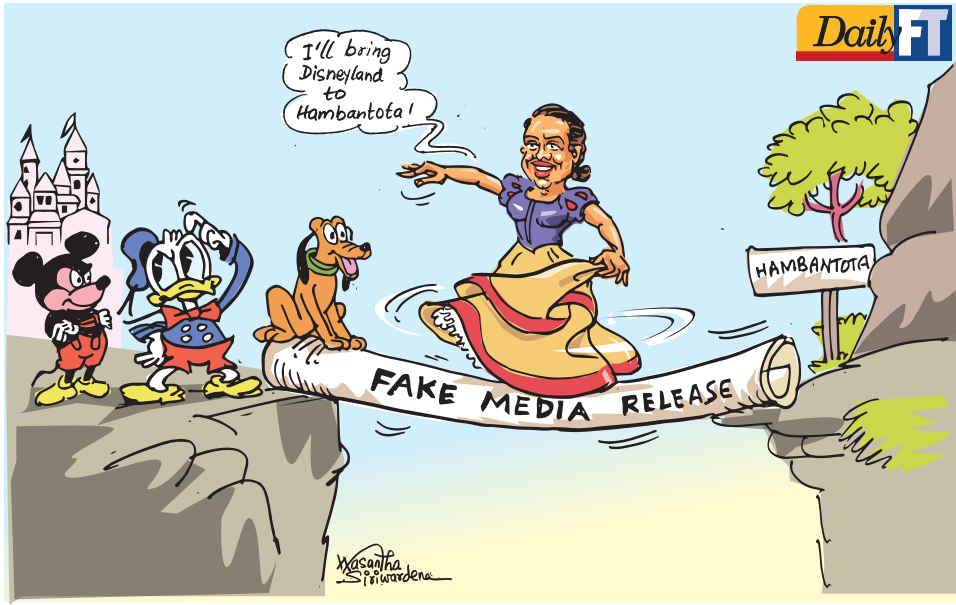
A (Ika) Fitch Rating - National Development Bank PLC (PD 27) is a licensed commercial bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. NDB Bank is a member of the NDB Group, the largest financial services conglomerate in Sri Lanka.

NDB bank

The future is banking on us

■ **The Yala debacle and the need for accountability** - See page 6

News



26th death anniversary commemoration of first Executive President

THE 26th death anniversary commemoration of Sri Lanka's first Executive President the late J.R. Jayawardena was held yesterday at the J.R. Jayawardena Centre in Colombo-7 under the patronage of President Ranil Wickremesinghe. Thimbrigasyaye Ashokaramaya, Western Province Nawathotamuna Upa Pradana Sanganayake, Shashthrapathi, Panditha Getahette Sobitha Thera delivered a special Anusasana. Kotte Vihara



Registrar and Chief Sanghanayake for Japan Ven. Pelpola Vipassi Thera, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, United

National Party (UNP) Chairman and MP Wajira Abeywardena, Jayawardena's grandson Pradeep and former MP Ravi Karunanayake were among those who participated

Speaker endorses the certificate on two Bills

SPEAKER of House Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena has endorsed the certificate on two Bills.

The Speaker endorsed the certificate on

the Notaries Ordinance (Amendment) Bill and the Registration of Documents (Amendment) Bill on Monday. Accordingly,

the two Bills will come into effect as of the 31 October 2022 as the Notaries Ordinance (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2022 and the Registration



of Documents (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2022.

Continuations from Page 01

Global...

Elaborating further on transhipment cargo, Ramprasad said some Indian companies have begun shipping cargo from its west coast to the east using trains, which give them significant savings in terms of time. Bangladesh too is considering direct connections through their European trade partners, so Sri Lanka must factor these developments into its plans, Ramprasad said.

Chief Guest Shipping Ports and Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, who averred that whilst many countries have moved to privatise their ports, Sri Lanka is taking a measured approach in order to safeguard all those engaged in the sector.

"When you are a small country, there are many people who try to control you and set boundaries and conditions, which is why the Government must come in at times and protect its industries. We believe we are on the correct path. Whilst we have worked to digitalise many aspects, there is still a long way to go and the Port Community System should come online soon.

"The Cabinet has approved plans to make the Trincomalee harbour an industrial port. Galle will be developed into a marina to attract tourists, and we are evaluating proposals in this regard. Indian assistance is being sought to improve the Kankesanthurai harbour. So we will leave no stone unturned," Minister De Silva stated.

He conceded that Sri Lanka at times has been too traditional in its approach, but there is renewed optimism to compete with ports like Dubai, Singapore and Mumbai, and sought the support and partnership of the private sector for this purpose. Governments need to get out of business, he said, adding that only one terminal in the Colombo Port is State-owned.

The West Terminal will be open later this month he revealed. Political stability is imperative to development, and Minister De Silva said President Wickremesinghe has the courage and vision to provide the necessary direction.

Guest of Honour Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said Sri Lanka for long has banded the card of strategic location in its mari-

time business, but the time has come for adding further value. He said it is important to relook at regulations and ensure everything we do is designed to invite people rather than send them away.

"The problem often is with marrying expertise of the private sector with the bureaucracy, and sometimes pseudo nationalist sentiments have often blocked pragmatic solutions and investments," Sabry said.

The Foreign Minister too opined that the Government should take their hands off business and just be a facilitator, but a mechanism is needed for better sharing of knowledge to get the job done.

During the discussion, it was revealed that container handling in the South Asian region is expected to grow by over 2 million TEUs up to 2026, and Sri Lanka is leading the pack with port expansion. Freight rates have come down since the historic highs recorded during the pandemic, but they remain at about 150% more than pre-pandemic rates, it was said.

Govt. to...

Considering the proposals furnished by the President in his capacity as the Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers at its meeting on Monday approved appropriate measures to implement the specified recommendations forwarded by the Finance Commission.

Strictures on...

It added that Government Ministers and MPs will be permitted to travel overseas during Parliament sittings and the budget debate, only in case of urgent medical needs or very urgent work of the Government.

Cabinet...

Minister de Silva first announced restructuring plans in late August. The move revolves around sale of 49% stakes in SriLankan Catering, SriLankan Ground-handling and SriLankan Airlines and paying off \$1 billion worth foreign and domestic debt as well as other dues.

The national carrier operates with Rs. 450 billion accumulated losses at the end of 2020/21 financial year.

Sri Lanka's energy struggle amidst crisis under spotlight

■ **Power and Energy Minister recaps tough 10 months for SL at Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference ahead of COP27**
 ■ **Confirms Russian oil still under consideration, but diesel shipment from China expected by month end**

SRI Lanka is still struggling to afford international fuel prices and to procure quantities required to cater to the demand, Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said.

He made these remarks speaking at a panel discussion on the second day of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference 2022, ahead of the COP27.

Global oil executives and chiefs of national oil companies also gather in Abu Dhabi to discuss their response to the energy crisis that has been exacerbated by years of underinvestment in the industry's infrastructure worldwide and exacerbated this year by geopolitics.

The meeting takes place ahead of COP27, where global leaders will gather in Egypt on 8 November to examine progress since COP26.

"It's been a tough ten months for Sri Lanka. We have run out of energy imports and it is due to financial constraints. We are still seeking financial assistance from oil-producing countries,



and have not yet secured any aid, apart from an existing deal with India. It is very difficult for us to access the letter of credit (LCs) or give any other guarantees on payments, given the economic crisis," he added.

Focusing on the opportunities presented by the energy transition, he noted that the economic crisis has enabled the Government to amend some of the key policies, to allow private suppliers to enter into the petroleum industry.

Minister Wijesekera also said that Sri Lanka is seeking to privatise the oil industry, but has yet to make a deal.

Noting that a national fuel manage-

ment program was initiated, he said it helped to reduce consumption by 40% and is also in discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial aid.

The Minister said imports of Russian oil and fuel are also still under consideration, whilst adding that a diesel shipment from China is expected by the end of this month.

"It does not matter where it is coming from, as long as it is affordable for Sri Lanka," he said.

Minister Wijesekera also outlined that Sri Lanka has fast-tracked its plans to use renewable energy at 70/30 by 2030.

Continuations from Page 01

Russia...

In October, India topped the tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 8,862 tourists reflecting 21% of the total arrivals, followed by Russia with 6,189 tourists (15%), the UK with 4,275 (10%), Germany with 2,881 (7%), and Australia with 2,106 (5%). In addition, tourists were also received from Maldives, Canada, France, US and Switzerland, the data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) showed.

It also showed that the daily average arrivals have slightly picked up to 1,356 in October, compared to 993 recorded in September, following the exaggerated negative publicity on the ongoing economic crisis.

India also stood strong as the top tourist source market for Sri Lanka YTD with a cumulative number of arrivals at 95,487, followed by the UK with 72,802, Russia with 57,489, Germany with 45,389, France with 30,976, Australia with 22,827, Canada with 22,233, US 16,503, Ukraine 14,113, and Poland 13,869.

Sri Lanka has been included among the Top 10 friendliest countries in the world as per the 2022 Readers' Choice Awards conducted by the popular magazine Condé Nast Traveller. Sri Lanka has ranked at number nine ahead of the Philippines in the ranking. French Polynesia tops the list.

Tourism Minister Harin Fernando is hopeful of achieving 800,000 visitors and income of over \$1.7 billion from the sector by the year-end, noting that the international rankings, resumption of more international airlines from this month as well as the promotions augur well to boost arrivals this winter season.

"We will formally start promoting the FIFA Zone travel packages targeting the World Cup fans for a month from tomorrow. In addition, Sri Lanka Tourism is planning to continue the journey of the roadshows in November across Bengaluru, Chennai and Cochin markets to woo more Indian travellers as well as filmmakers," he told the Daily FT.

Minister Fernando also believes that the Mastercard promotions will play a huge role in targeting corporate travellers.

With more European carriers planning to fly into Colombo from November, Sri Lanka Tourism is banking on a busy winter season from November to March 2023.

Swiss leisure airline - Edelweiss, French flag carrier - Air France, Netherlands flag carrier - Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM), and Russia's largest charter airline - Azur Air will resume service to Colombo from the first week of this month.

Earnings from tourism in the first five months were \$893 million as against \$64 million a year earlier. Earnings from tourism in August are estimated at \$68 million, compared to \$85 million in the previous month, and \$13 million in the corresponding month in 2021.

Russia's...

The airline will initially resume flights twice weekly to Moscow. It is also expected to operate a service once every 10 days covering cities St. Petersburg, Krasnoyarsk, and Novosibirsk.

According to Sri Lankan Ambassador to Russia Prof. Janitha Liyanage, the return of Air Azur will be a remarkable boost for the tourism sector stakeholders, who are anticipating a major comeback following three continuous fallouts of Easter Attacks, the COVID pandemic and the economic crisis.

Azur Airline flew twice a week to Colombo from early December 2021 and it helped Sri Lanka Tourism to draw a large number of Eastern European travellers.

Sajith...

He made these comments addressing a press briefing held at the Opposition leader's office in Colombo yesterday after the signing of a joint statement ahead of the protest march.

Premadasa, issuing a message to the law enforcement agencies, said the people will exercise their democratic right by engaging in a peaceful protest.

"Do not attempt to block it as we have no intention to stop the planned protest. We will march from Elphinstone Hall to the Fort Railway station despite the obstacles that may come our way. This is just the beginning," he added.

The planned protest march will commence at 3 p.m. from Elphinstone Hall and proceed to the Fort Railway Station. Around 150 organisations have confirmed their participation while 12 political parties including the Samagi Jana Balawegaya, Tamil National Alliance, Frontline Socialist Party, Sri Lanka Freedom Party and 27 organisations have signed the joint statement relating to the protest march. The National People's Power led by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna has announced it will not be part of today's protest.

The joint statement signed by the supporting parties and organisations says it is being held against the state-sponsored oppression that has been unleashed on the people for requesting solutions to their problems in the current economic crisis as well as the violation of the people's fundamental rights.

The organisers are calling on the Government to repeal the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act and to release all suspects currently being held under it. They are also demanding the Government stop its crackdown on peaceful protests and halt all arrests of those taking part in such agitations among several other requests.

Business...

In a statement, they expressed concern that some organisations have called for mass protests on 2 November.

"While recognising their freedom of speech and right to express views, the Chambers request all parties to call off protests of this nature that could undermine the efforts being taken to resolve the current economic crisis with the support of the international community," the statement said.

It said any act of destabilisation taking place at this time and any negative publicity arising from it would seriously derail actions that are being taken to revive the economy including the efforts being taken to promote tourism.

"A few airlines have agreed to commence flights to Sri Lanka and given the high cost of energy in Europe during the winter, Sri Lanka will have an ideal opportunity to attract tourists which will support the Hospitality industry that has been badly affected since the Easter attacks. In addition, any instability can affect the recovery process for exports and foreign investment too," the statement said.

The Business Chambers appealed to all parties to divert their energies and resources towards encouraging positive reforms and focus on how we recover as a nation instead of engaging in acts that can further damage the economy and place more burdens on the people of this country.

The statement was issued by Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), Chamber of Young Lanka Entrepreneurs (COYLE), Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL), International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL), National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) and the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce (WCIC).

Positive...

The positive start for November was due to an improvement in sentiment and comes after October suffered a loss ending three months of gains.

Asia Securities said following two sessions of losses, the indices managed to close in positive territory on Tuesday with the ASPI edging up 4 points (+0.04%) at 8,606 and the S&P SL 20 index gaining 20 points (+0.8%) at 2,611. EXPO (+11.1%) ended as the biggest index mover, contributing 30 points to the ASPI. On the flipside, LIOC (-4.6%), JKH (-1.1%), MELS (-2.2%), CICON (-5.1%), and RHL (-7.8%) weighed negatively on the indices.

Turnover was led by EXPO (Rs. 490 million), LIOC (Rs. 236 million), and JKH (Rs. 56 million) while the trading volume totalled 33 million shares. The breadth of the market remained negative with 82 price gainers and 97 decliners.

Asia also said foreigners recorded a net inflow of Rs. 60.3 million while their participation declined to 3% of turnover (previous day 4.3%). Net foreign buying topped in SPEN at Rs. 22 million and selling topped in EXPO at Rs. 4.3 million.

First Capital said the bourse closed flat amidst improvement in investor sentiment on the back of deflated CCPI and possible rate revisions which is expected during the first half of next year. Index moved with a sharp volatility during yesterday's session while investor interest predominantly revitalised on EXPO following rumours on a possible resumption of share buy-backs by the parent company SG Holdings which is assumed to take place in the coming weeks.

Subsequently, the market marginally recovered previous losses and closed the day at 8,606, gaining 4 points.

NDB Securities said high net worth and institutional investor participation was noted in John Keells Holdings and Hayleys. Mixed interest was observed in Expolanka Holdings, Lanka IOC and Melstacorp whilst retail interest was noted in Browns Investments, SMB Leasing nonvoting and LOLC Finance.

Transportation sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Expolanka Holdings) whilst the sector index gained 11.12%. The share price of Expolanka Holdings increased by Rs. 16.75 (11.15%) to close at Rs. 167.

Energy sector was the second highest contributor to the market turnover (due to Lanka IOC) whilst the sector index decreased by 4.08%. The share price of Lanka IOC lost Rs. 8.50 (4.63%) to close at Rs. 175.25.

John Keells Holdings, Melstacorp and Browns Investments were also included amongst the top turnover contributors. The share price of John Keells Holdings moved down by Rs. 1.50 (1.13%) to close at Rs. 131. The share price of Melstacorp recorded a loss of Rs. 1 (2.17%) to close at Rs. 45.00. The share price of Browns Investments closed flat at Rs. 6.

Namalie Herath new Managing Partner for GroupM Sri Lanka

Firm also announces departure of Chief Operating Officer Sabry Haniz



Namalie Herath who are diverse, talented and have an innovative spirit. Together we will deliver outstanding work for our clients and partners."

GROUPM yesterday announced that Wavemaker CEO Namalie Herath Sri Lanka is taking over the role of Managing Partner of GroupM Sri Lanka.

An alumna of the University of Colombo, Namalie started her career at J. Walter Thompson Sri Lanka. She was instrumental in launching MEC in Sri Lanka, and then went on to head Wavemaker when the two entities, MEC and Maxus, were merged.

She has been a board member of the IAA (International Advertising Association). She has been leading her team to win multiple awards both international and local along with her many other accomplishments.

Namalie will be reporting to Senior Vice President - Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Marketing South Asia Sriram Sharma.

On the appointment, GroupM South Asia CEO Prasanth Kumar said: "Namalie has been a great team player at Wavemaker and has contributed immensely to the agency. Sri Lanka is a key market for us, and I am certain that she will continue to build on the momentum with the same zest and I wish her the very best for her new role."

GroupM Sri Lanka Managing Partner Namalie Herath said: "I am deeply honoured and humbled, to lead GroupM Sri Lanka. The endeavor of GroupM is to offer specialist media solutions in an ever-evolving media ecosystem. I'm excited and proud to be working alongside some of this country's best media specialists



ILO Officials at the Port City Economic Commission

COLOMBO Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) Chairman and senior officials from the Commission briefed the ILO Country Director Simrin C. Singh and Senior Employment Specialist of ILO Headquarters, Sher Verick on the proposed regulations and progress in Port City Colombo. The discussion was held to foster a deeper understanding of the situation regarding Port City Colombo that would in turn facilitate understanding on the project. As the Asia Region continues to attract increased global capital inflows, expand its markets, simulate a growing high-income class, and sustain the higher growth momentum, Port City Colombo offers beyond a geographical advantage, with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for ease of doing business. Port City Colombo endeavours to offer a 'One-Stop-Shop' Service Centre, with far-reaching tax and regulatory incentives, free trade facility, forex and banking ring-fencing, an open labour market and a very attractive living environment focused on green and smart living

New Chairman, MD/CEO at Chevron Lubricants Lanka

CONSEQUENT to the resignation of Rochna Kaul as Director (Chairperson/ Non-Executive Director) of Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC, Muhammad Najam Shamsuddin has been appointed as Chairman (Non-Executive Director) with effect from 2 November 2022.

Shamsuddin, served as the Managing Director/CEO since October 2020. Chevron Lubricants Lanka also announced that Bertram Shanthikumar Paul has been appointed as a Director (Executive Director) of the Company with effect from 2 November 2022.

Paul has also been appointed as Managing Director/CEO of the Company with effect from 2 November.

Paul has over 30 years of experience in business practice, with wide ranging industry exposure covering Energy, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), Financial Services, Information Technology, Retailing, Real Estate, and Education.



Chairman Muhammad Najam Shamsuddin

He has worked in markets in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East in various positions of product and brand management, sales and marketing management as well as general management, with wide ranging business responsibilities.

Having joined Chevron Sri Lanka in 2008 as the General Manager - Sales and Marketing, he has been an integral part of its success, despite keen competition and adverse macro environmental factors. In 2012, he undertook an expatriate assignment with the Indonesian



Managing Director/CEO Bertram Paul

business unit of Chevron Lubricants, based in Jakarta, where he served as Country Sales Manager/ President Director for a period of two years.

As a member of the senior leadership team of Chevron Sri Lanka, he has received many accolades including winning the Intellect Award in 2010 and is a two-time winner of the award for Management Team Member of the year, consecutively in 2015 and 2016.

Prior to joining Chevron, he was the Director/ CEO of Richard Pieris Distributors,

the sole hypermarket operator in Sri Lanka and prior to that he was the Sales and Marketing Director of the Anglo Dutch Multinational, Reckitt Benckiser.

Bertram holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jaywardenepura, is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants-UK, and a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing-UK and is also a Chartered Marketer.

Bertram is currently reading for his Doctorate in Business Administration at the University of Kelaniya.

Having also been involved in Accounting and Marketing education in a part time capacity over the last 30 years, with the aim of giving back to society, Bertram is currently part of the faculty of the MBA Programme of Birmingham City University-UK; delivered in

Sri Lanka via Next Campus, covering their Marketing and Strategic Management modules.

He has served previously as a member of the Management Committee of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Sri Lanka Region heading the Corporate integration Taskforce, where he was responsible for taking "marketing" into the Boardrooms of Sri Lankan Corporates.

Bertram is the recipient of an "Achievers Award" from the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jaywardenepura, for services rendered to business, profession, and society. He is also the recipient of an award of special recognition from the Chartered Institute of Marketing - UK in their centenary year, in appreciation of his contribution towards the marketing profession and the development of outstanding students and professional marketers.

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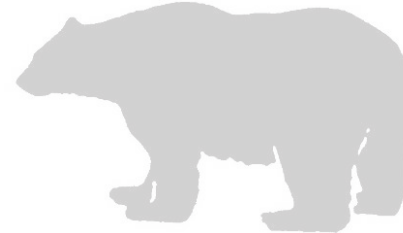
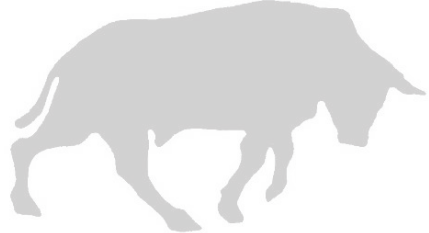
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EXCHANGE RATES

01/11/2022

(1) The average rates of the following currencies quoted by commercial banks in Colombo for Telegraphic Transfers (TT) at 9.30 a.m. are as follow.

CURRENCY	BUYING RATE	SELLING RATE
Australian Dollar	229.9490	240.9887
Canadian Dollar	263.1619	275.2289
Chinese Yuan (Renminbi)	48.4054	51.4094
Euro	354.5662	369.6089
Japanese Yen	2.4141	2.5170
Singapore Dollar	253.3898	264.0901
Starling Pound	412.3642	428.9492
Swiss Franc	357.4054	374.1748
US Dollar	360.6578	371.4597

(2) The approximate exchange rates of GULF Currencies based on previous day's market weighted average rate for the US\$ are as follow.

Country	Currency	Indicative Rate
Bahrain	Bahrain Dinar	963.5966
Kuwait	Kuwait Dinar	1,172.6164
Oman	Oman Rial	943.5873
Qatar	Qatar Riyal	99.3030
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian Riyal	96.6853
UAE	UAE Dirham	98.9083

(3) The Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (AWPR) and the Lowest Prime Rate (LPR) during the week ended 28-Oct-2022, by all commercial banks was 27.46 percent and 16.60 percent respectively.

(4) The Average Weighted Deposit Rate (AWDR) of commercial banks for the month of Sep-2022 was 11.63 percent.

MARKET INDICATORS

01/11/2022

PRICE INDICES	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY
CSE ALL SHARE INDEX	8,605.85	8,602.16
S&P SL 20 INDEX	2,610.60	2,590.61
TRI ON ALL SHARES	11,560.678	11,555.721
TRI ON S&P SL SHARES	4,673.95	4,638.16

EQUITIES	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY
VALUE OF TURNOVER(Rs.)	1,262,795,879	1,084,664,995
DOMESTIC PURCHASE	1,194,436,390	1,014,274,589
DOMESTIC SALES	1,254,728,452	1,061,678,325
FOREIGN PURCHASE	68,359,490	70,390,406
FOREIGN SALES	8,067,428	22,986,670
VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.)	33,012,029	42,820,757
DOMESTIC	32,090,864	41,914,135
FOREIGN	921,165	906,622
TRADES (NO.)	13,230	13,157
DOMESTIC	13,016	12,889
FOREIGN	214	268
LISTED COMPANIES (NO.)	292	292
TRADED COMPANIES (NO.)	237	250
MARKET PRICE EARNINGS RATIO(PER)	4.9869	4.9615
MARKET PRICE TO BOOK VALUE (PBV)	.9064	.9018
MARKET DIVIDEND YIELD (DY)	4.1	4.1
MARKET CAPITALIZATION (Rs.)	3,798,774,844.656	3,779,404,266.984

MBSL MIDCAP INDEX

INDEX OF MEDIUM-SIZE COMPANIES LISTED IN THE CSE

DAY	DATE	MBSL MIDCAP
Tuesday	01-Nov-22	14,604.23
Monday	31-Oct-22	14,816.61
Change (points)		(212.38)
Change (%)		-1.45%

TOP 5 GAINERS

01/11/2022

Company	VWA Prev. Close	VWA Days Close	Change (Rs.)	Change %
S M B LEASING [X]	0.20	0.30	0.10	50.00
NATION LANKA	0.50	0.60	0.10	20.00
EXPOLANKA	150.25	167.00	16.75	11.15
CFI	61.50	67.80	6.30	10.24
TESS AGRO [X]	1.00	1.10	0.10	10.00

TOP 5 LOSERS

01/11/2022

Company	VWA Prev. Close	VWA Days Close	Change (Rs.)	Change %
SERENDIB HOTELS	13.00	10.40	(2.60)	(20.00)
SERENDIB HOTELS [X]	7.90	7.00	(0.90)	(11.39)
AMANA LIFE	34.80	31.30	(3.50)	(10.06)
LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL	35.10	32.30	(2.80)	(7.98)
RENUKA HOLDINGS	16.70	15.40	(1.30)	(7.78)

LIBOR LENDING RATES

01/11/2022

	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
US DOLLARS	3.80486	4.46029	4.91586	5.44829
STERLING	2.8652	3.3627	4.0396	

Overnight Money Market Transactions

01/11/2022

	Call Money Market	Repo Market
Weighted Average Rate (%)	15.50	15.50
Minimum Rate (%)	15.50	15.50
Maximum Rate (%)	15.50	15.50
Total Gross amount (Rs. million)	1,750	13,450
Total Net amount (Rs. million)	1,750	13,450

Facility	Value (Rs. million)
CBSL Use of Standing Facility	333,353
Standing Deposit Facility (Rs. million)	666,323
CBSL Treasury Bill Holdings*	2,440,618.37
Face Value (Rs. million)	2,298,680.75
Book Value (Rs. million)	

UNIT TRUST PRICES

28/10/2022

Fund Name	Unit Selling Price	Unit Buying Price
Arpico Ataraxia Cash Management Trust Fund	28.2187	28.2187
Arpico Ataraxia Equity Income Fund	5.4226	5.4226
Astrue Active Income Fund	116.9484	116.9484
Astrue Alpha Fund	17.0222	16.1715
Assetline Income Fund	19.7454	19.7454
Assetline Income Plus Growth Fund	14.9986	14.7769
Senfin Dividend Fund	8.7905	8.6052
Senfin Dynamic Income Fund	10.9536	10.9536
Senfin Growth Fund	9.77	9.46
Senfin Insurance Sector Fund	9.4	9.24
Senfin Money Market Fund	18.0673	18.0673
Senfin Shariah Balanced Fund	11.75	11.42
Senfin Shariah Income Fund	13.6587	13.6587
Ceybank Century Growth	83.19	79.49
Ceybank Gilt Edge Fund (A Series)	15.5034	15.5034
Ceybank High Yield Fund	16.0706	16.0706
Ceybank Surakum Fund	14.1711	14.1711
Ceybank Unit Trust	33.46	31.38
Ceylon Financial Sector Fund	5.35	5.12
Ceylon Income Fund	23.918	23.918
CEYLON Index Fund	62.02	59.44
Ceylon IPO Fund	5.44	5.44
Ceylon Money Market Fund	19.8605	19.8605
Ceylon Tourism Fund	4.96	4.77
Ceylon Treasury Income Fund	3.9029	3.9029
Comtrust Equity Fund	24.7315	23.7265
Comtrust Gilt Edged Fund	11.9868	11.9868
Comtrust Money Market Fund	12.7867	12.7867
First Capital Equity Fund (FCEF)	1,560.97	1,482.92
First Capital Fixed Income Fund	1,977.45	1,977.40
First Capital Gilt Edged Fund	1,757.61	1,757.61
First Capital Money Market Fund	2,221.18	2,221.18
First Capital Wealth Fund	1,064.26	1,064.23
Guardian Acuity Equity Fund	18.6235	18.345
Guardian Acuity Income Fund	11.1551	11.1551
Guardian Acuity Money Market Fund	23.4198	23.4198
JB Vantage Money Market Fund	32.8353	32.8353
JB Vantage Short Term Gilt Fund	17.8565	17.8565
JB Vantage Value Equity Fund	27.3489	25.747
NAMAL Growth Fund	146.0666	137.5224
NAMAL High Yield Fund	29.3782	29.3782
NAMAL Income Fund	13.5105	13.5105
National Equity Fund	33.8335	31.8196
NDB Wealth Gilt Edged Fund	17.4396	17.4396
NDB Wealth Growth & Income Fund	42.23	41.1
NDB Wealth Growth Fund	8.78	8.44
NDB Wealth Income Fund	17.7694	17.7694
NDB Wealth Income Plus Fund	20.4961	20.4961
NDB Wealth Islamic Money Plus Fund	18.8105	18.8105
NDB Wealth Money Fund	24.4065	24.4065
NDB Wealth Money Plus Fund	27.1554	27.1554
Premier Growth Fund	6.25	6.25
Premier Money Market Fund	22.1788	22.1788
Softlogic Equity Fund	148.9184	155.0414
Softlogic Money Market Fund	119.8022	119.8022
Unit holders can contact relevant Fund Managers to obtain Unit Prices for redemptions within short duration from the date of investment where exit fee is applicable.		

CSE PRICE LIST

Security	Volume	V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	V.W.A. Today's Close	Change (Rs.)	Security	Volume	V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	V.W.A. Today's Close	Change (Rs.)
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	4,201	56.40	55.10	56.00	55.10	55.20	(1.20)	SHAW WALLACE	88,779	7.90	7.70	8.00	7.50	7.50	(0.40)
ABANS	81	147.75	148.00	148.00	147.75	147.75	-	SIERRA CABL	25,048	12.00	11.50	12.00	11.00	11.70	(0.30)
ACCESS ENG SL	52,459	10.30	10.50	10.50	10.30	10.50	0.20	SIGIRIYA VILLAGE	1	60.00	61.90	61.90	61.90	60.00	-
ACL	145,767	85.10	86.00	87.50	83.80	84.10	(1.00)	SINGER FINANCE	606	10.00	9.90	10.50	9.80	9.90	(0.10)
ACL PLASTICS	419	477.25	483.00	487.50	466.00	478.25	1.00	SUNSHINE HOLDING	44,290	37.30	37.00	38.30	36.30	37.10	(0.20)
ACME	11,058	5.50	5.70	5.70	5.50	5.50	-	SWISSTEK	169,776	17.50	18.50	18.50	17.20	17.50	-
AGALAWATTE	20,296	34.00	33.90	35.00	33.20	33.70	(0.30)	TALAWAKELLE	1,236	95.80	99.80	99.80	94.10	94.30	(1.50)
AHOT PROPERTIES	100	39.90	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	0.10	TEA SMALLHOLDER	17,443	77.00	74.70	79.90	71.00	71.40	(5.60)
AITKEN SPENCE	166,597	132.00	130.00	133.00	130.00	132.00	-	TEEJAY LANKA	60,658	33.10	32.90	33.00	32.50	32.90	(0.20)
ALLIANCE	8,232	66.20	69.80	69.80	65.00	65.50	(0.70)	THREE ACRE FARMS	1,745	138.75	138.75	139.00	135.50	138.75	-
AMANA BANK	26,581	3.00	3.00	3.10	3.00	3.00	-	TOKYO CEMENT	6,798	32.20	32.10	32.60	32.00	32.10	(0.10)
ASIA ASSET	10,045	7.10	7.00	7.50	6.90	7.30	0.20	TOKYO CEMENT [TKYO.X0000]	5,927	26.90	27.00	27.00	26.50	26.60	(0.30)
ASIA CAPITAL	770	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.10	4.20	(0.20)	UNION BANK	25,280	7.70	7.60	7.60	7.50	7.50	(0.20)
ASIRI	270	29.60	29.00	29.10	29.00	29.10	(0.50)	UNISYST	34,970	6.00	6.20	6.50	5.80	5.80	(0.20)
ASIRI SURG	51	13.00	13.40	13.40	13.00	13.00	-	UNITED MOTORS	725	61.90	64.80	64.80	59.90	60.00	(1.90)
BAIRAH FARM	1,292	191.00	186.25	190.00	186.25	189.50	(1.50)	VALLIBEL	13,687	6.70	6.80	6.80	6.70	6.80	0.10
BALANGODA	25,606	102.75	105.00	106.75	101.00	102.00	(0.75)	VALLIBEL FINANCE	117,676	25.00	25.00	26.00	25.00	26.00	1.00
C M HOLDINGS	118	72.90	72.90	72.90	67.00	69.80	(3.10)	WATAWALA	9,937	75.20	76.90	79.00	75.00	76.00	0.80
CARGILLS	15	200.00	201.00	201.00	200.25	200.00	-	WINDFORCE	25,513	15.50	15.50	16.00	15.20	15.30	(0.20)
CARSONS	5	290.00	279.75	279.75	279.75	290.00	-	hSENID BIZ	123,411	19.50	19.60	19.70	19.10	19.10	(0.40)
CDB	230	190.00	176.75	190.00	176.00	183.25	(6.75)								
CDB [CDB.X0000]	14	61.50	61.00	61.00	58.50	61.50	-								
CENTRAL FINANCE	2,075	60.10	60.20	60.20	60.10	60.10	-								
CENTRAL IND.	1,824	69.00	69.10	72.00	69.10	70.00	1.00								
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	3	930.00	930.00	930.00	930.00	930.00	-								
CEYLON GUARDIAN	1	75.00	74.90	74.90	74.90	75.00	-								
CEYLON INV.	501	31.50	32.90	34.30	32.90	34.00	2.50								
CEYLON TOBACCO	486	651.00	644.25	655.00	640.00	653.25	2.25								
CHEMANEX	865	75.10	78.50	78.50	72.50	72.90	(2.20)								
CHEVRON	12,712	96.50	96.00	100.00	96.00	97.80	1.30								
CIC	206,161	88.00	88.00	88.00	81.00	83.50	(4.50)								
CIC [CIC.X0000]	70,654	61.30	63.00	63.50	61.00	61.60	0.30								
CITRUS LEISURE	9,012	6.40	6.30	6.40	6.30	6.40	-								
COLD STORES	3,521	33.50	33.50	33.50	33.20	33.40	(0.10)								
COLOMBO LAND	4,900	18.70	18.50	19.20	18.00	18.10	(0.60)								
COMMERCIAL BANK	33,432	50.20	50.10	51.00	49.90	50.00	(0.20)								
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	12,														

Financial Services

BY WEALTH TRUST SECURITIES

THE weekly Treasury bill auction due today will have on offer Rs. 90 billion, consisting of Rs. 35 billion on the 91 day maturity, Rs. 30 billion on the 182 day maturity and further Rs. 25 billion on the 364 day maturity.

At last week's auction, weighted average rates remained steady for a second consecutive week at 33.05%, 32.53% and 29.60% on the 91-day, 182-day and 364-day maturities respectively.

A total amount of Rs. 69.64 billion was accepted at the auction while a further amount of Rs. 4.18 billion was raised at its Phase II.

Meanwhile, activity in the secondary bond market was at a standstill yesterday. In the secondary bill market,

Weekly Treasury bill auction in focus

Given below are the secondary market yields for the most frequently traded maturities, www.wealthtrust.lk

Treasury Bills	Offer	Bid	Treasury Bonds	Offer	Bid
91 Day Bills	32.00	32.75	01.07.25	32.65	33.00
182 Day Bills	32.00	33.00	15.01.28	32.75	33.50
364 Day Bills	29.00	29.75			

Source: Bloomberg E-Bond trading platform, WTSL, Money broking companies

2 December maturity changed hands at a level of 30.00%.

The total secondary market Treasury bond/bill transacted volume for 31 October was Rs. 3.38 billion.

In money markets, the weighted average rates on Repo and Call money

stood at 15.50% each yesterday. An amount of Rs. 666.32 billion was withdrawn from Central Bank's Standard Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) of 15.50%. The net liquidity deficit stood at Rs. 332.97 billion as an amount of Rs. 333.35 billion was

deposited at Central Bank's Standard Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR) of 14.50%.

Forex market

In the forex market, the middle rate for USD/LKR spot contracts remained steady at Rs. 363.30 yesterday.

The total USD/LKR traded volume for 31 October was \$ 1.80 million.

(References: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Bloomberg E-Bond trading platform, Money broking companies)



People's Bank Chairman Sujeewa Rajapakse, CEO/GM Ranjith Kodituwakku, Export Development Board of Sri Lanka (EDB) Chairman/Chief Executive Suresh D. de Mel and DGM (Enterprise Banking) Krishani Narangoda

PEOPLE'S Bank recently joined hands with the Export Development Board of Sri Lanka (EDB), in an exclusive partnership to assist in promoting Sri Lankan exports, and help prospective entrepreneurs to enter the international export market.

An inauguration ceremony was held at the Staff Training College, which was graced by the presence of Chief Guests People's Bank Chairman Sujeewa Rajapakse, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Ranjith Kodituwakku and Export Development Board of Sri Lanka (EDB) Chairman & Chief Executive Suresh D de Mel.

The program aims to exploit new opportunities and assist existing and emerging exporters to start up a new export business or to expand their existing export business.

The pilot project will kick off in six months with a progressive plan for future projects under which existing and emerging, direct and indirect exporters will be provided guidance and assistance, with the overall objective of encouraging

People's Bank joins hands with EDB to promote exports



Participants

local entrepreneurs to enter the global market. It will also contribute towards increasing foreign outflows, supporting the economy with dollar inflows, and integrating the local supply chain to the global value chain.

Through this partnership, People's Bank will specifically select financially capable entrepreneurs for the program, while conducting training programs in collaboration with the EDB officials on a regional level. The Bank will also initiate the initial coordination between local exporters and identified global buyers, while providing export advisory services (EAS), financial assistance

in pre-shipment, post-shipment and project loan areas, and will also frequently review the program's progress with the EDB.

The EDB will provide advisory services by assisting entrepreneurs in selecting appropriate export businesses by understanding the global demand and making use of locally sourced resources. EDB will also conduct training programs and seminars to provide the required knowledge on the export market for entrepreneurs and investors.

Additionally, the EDB will also assist towards paving the path to integrating local export-

ers and global buyers, through coordination with respective embassies when seeking for buyers, and will also facilitate the local participation in global trade shows and exhibitions.

During the program, entrepreneurs Dr. Lasantha Malavige, Anuruddha Wijerathna and Dilantha Malagamuwa made presentations sharing their success stories with the participants.

People's Bank Corporate Banking Department and Colombo Outer Region Organized this Programme. Deputy General Manager (Personal Banking) Renuka Jayasinghe, Mahinda Premanath - Deputy General Manager (Channel Management), Deputy General Manager (Enterprise Banking) Krishani Narangoda, Deputy General Manager (Corporate Banking) K.N Senarathne, Executive Management, Colombo Outer Regional Manager Buddika Ranathungage, EDB officers and entrepreneurs also were present at this event.

DFCC Bank awarded Market Leader and Best Service for Cash Management

Accolade at Euro-money Market Leaders Awards 2022

DFCC Bank yet again reaffirms its commitment to customer centricity and digital innovation, having been voted as the Market Leader in Cash Management in Sri Lanka for the second year running by Euromoney for 2022 and clinching first place for Best Service this year.

CEO Thimal Perera said: "It is a great honour to be recognised as the Market Leader for Cash Management in Sri Lanka for the second consecutive year along with the Best Service award, which is a testament to our com-

mitment to customer-centricity and the overall success of our iConnect solution. As this survey obtains feedback directly from customers, our receipt of these awards and accolades genuinely reflects the customer satisfaction we are providing and the value we are creating.

"Thus, while graciously acknowledging being recognised for the 2nd consecutive year by the Euromoney Cash Management Survey, we also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our customers, who have placed their trust in us. As your preferred banking partner, we will continue to do our best to deliver everything you expect

and more." The iConnect electronic banking platform, which delivers cutting-edge Cash Management solutions, is a state-of-the-art Liquidity, Payments and Cash Management system that enables customers to perform their daily transactional banking needs with a click of a button.

This innovative solution allows the clients' Finance and Treasury units to access the company accounts maintained with DFCC Bank, both locally and globally. It also offers enhanced security features that enable real-time viewing of account balances, making local and cross-border payments and collection solutions available at anywhere 24/7, 365 days a year.

People's Leasing introduces Senehas Minors' Fixed Deposit for first time in Sri Lanka from NBFi Sector

FOR the first time in Sri Lanka, from the Non-Bank Financial Institution (NBFi) sector, People's Leasing and Finance has made arrangements to launch a fixed deposit for minors in line with World Thrift Day 2022.

In order to inculcate the habit of saving among the people in Sri Lanka, PLC as the pioneer in the NBFi sector introduces "Senehas Minors' Fixed Deposit" and it has been specifically designed for the children below 18 years of age with many features such as a minimum deposit of Rs. 10,000 for maturity interest paying deposits and Rs. 100,000 for monthly interest paying deposits, interest payable at maturity or monthly, maturity interest paying 12 months to 60 months.

The very special feature in Senehas Minors' Fixed Deposit is a Parent or a guardian will be able to open any number of deposits on behalf of the Minor and the interest can be transferred to Minor savings account maintained at PLC, Bank or other financial institution.

Apart from the said benefits, "Senehas Minors' Fixed Deposit has been initiated to obtain higher interest rates for the Minors'.

Saving is not an option for people but a priority. Saving money is an important part of accumulating wealth and ensuring a stable financial future. PLC is focused on ensuring that all its customers share in the rewards of its success. PLC recognises the importance of saving. As a result, PLC understands and focuses on the value of saving and made efforts to reward all of its customers for practicing this essential habit.

PLC has introduced "Senehas Minor Savings" and "Senehas Future Investment Plan" for children ensuring several measures which assist parents to inculcate the saving habit while encouraging children to save further and make responsible spending choices.

"The Senior Citizen Savings Account" and "Senior Citizen Fixed Deposit" is provided to senior citizens where they experience financially secure. PLC focuses on enlightening the lives of people. Without limiting to the Minor community and Senior citizen commu-

nity PLC has introduced "Super Savings Account", Fixed Deposits and "Premier Reward Investment Plan" to its customers to enjoy super savings with attractive interest rates with the best security.

Every year on 31 October, the globe commemorates World Thrift Day. The first international Thrift congress was held in Milan, Italy in order to raise awareness among people all over the world about the importance of saving money in a bank or a financial institution. Staying true to its name PLC has reached the milestone of completing 26 Years of excellent service

and PLC looks forward to lending a financial helping hand to the nation.

People's Leasing & Finance PLC is a leading Non-Bank Financial Institution in Sri Lanka and a subsidiary of People's Bank, one of the largest State-owned banks in the country. Commencing operations in 1996 as a specialised leasing company, People's Leasing was listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange in 2011. People's Leasing has grown to become a diversified non-banking financial powerhouse with six subsidiaries in allied areas of specialisation including a venture overseas in Bangladesh.

SALE UNDER SECTION 09 OF RECOVERY OF LOANS BY BANKS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT NO. 4 OF 1990.

SEYLAN BANK PLC - PANNALA BRANCH AUCTION SALE

Whereas Rathnayake Mudiyansele Sumith Suranga of Pannala as "Obligor / Mortgagee" has made default in payment due on Mortgage Bond No. 6579 dated 09/01/2018 attested by D.V.D.R. Angammana Notary Public registered in Title Certificate No. 00212506612 under the day book No. 21/81 in favour of Seylan Bank PLC.

THE SCHEDULE

All that divided and defined allotment of land Parcel No. 0228 in Ward No. 06 of Cadastral Plan No. 420544 authenticated by the Survey General situated at Galayaya within the Grama Niladhari Division of Ihala Galayaya and within the Divisional Secretariat Division and Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Pannala in the District of Kurunegala, North Western Province and containing in extent 0.0518 Hectares, together with the everything else standing thereon according to the said Title Certificate No. 00212506612.

I shall sell the above Property by Public Auction on 25th November 2022 at 11.00 a. m. at Seylan Bank PLC, No 90, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

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

MODE OF ACCESS - Proceed from Pannala town, along Negombo Road for a distance of about 200m up to Sampath Bank premises and turn right on to the gravel road there, continue for about 50m to reach the subject property located on right hand side of the road.

For Notice of Resolution please refer the Government Gazette dated 07/10/2022, Aruna, The Island and Thamilan on 12/10/2022.

MODE OF PAYMENT - The successful purchaser shall have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the hammer.

- (1) Ten percent (10%) of the purchased price
- (2) Local Authority Charges One percent (1%)
- (3) Two and Half percent (2.5%) as Auctioneer's Charges
- (4) Notary's attestation fees for Condition of sale Rs. 2,500/-
- (5) Clerk and Criers fees
- (6) Total Cost of Advertising incurred on the sale.

Balance 90% of the purchase price together with any other statutory levies duties taxes or charges when ever imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka to be deposited with Seylan Bank PLC within 30 days from the date of sale. In Case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the time as stipulated, the amount paid by bidder will be forfeited and conduct a fresh auction.

Title Deeds and connected documents could be inspected and obtained from Assistant General Manager - Legal, Seylan Bank PLC, Seylan Towers, No. 90, Galle Road, Colombo 03. T.P 011-2456465, 011-2456473

"The Bank has the right to stay / cancel the above auction without prior notice"

Chandima Priyadarshani Gamage, Licensed Auctioneer and Court Commissioner, Valuer, No. 9-1, High Level Road, Sarvodaya Mawatha, Panagoda, Homagama Telephone- 0714318252

HURDLING TOWARDS OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND CHALLENGES

POST-BUDGET 2023 FORUM

◀ SAVE THE DATE - 18TH NOVEMBER 2022 ▶



Editorial

The Yala debacle and the need for accountability

By SARASI WIJERATNE

THE magistrate in Tissamaharama has ordered an investigation following the incursion into Yala National Park last week by a group in a convoy of luxury vehicles. The investigation which will be conducted by the Department of Wildlife Conservation will include an assessment of the damage to the ecosystem in the area, expert analysis of digital evidence such as videos and photographs of the incident which have appeared on public platforms and tracing the registered owners of the vehicles.

The DWC is not waiting until the next hearing date, which is in the second week of November, but is filing motions and presenting any substantial evidence as and when it becomes available. "This is not an easy investigation," says DWC Director Operations Ranjan Marasinghe. "We are following the necessary steps and the Attorney General will advise what should be done."

The immediate hope is for a just outcome because cracks have started to show already. It will be driven largely by how the DWC will conduct the investigation. The DWC is fighting a public trust deficit and the end result of the investigation will make or break its reputation even more. The incident has re-opened an old can of worms about its role as custodian of the country's wealth of flora and fauna under the shadow of political pressure at its top.

Sajeewa Chamikara, an environmental activist, is not optimistic about the investigation being conducted transparently and with an equitable conclusion. He justifies his point by taking the example where the vehicle which the Minister for Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation Mahinda Amaraweera was travelling in hit a deer and it died. The facts of the case are disputed. Environmentalists and sources in the Udawalawe national park claim the accident happened inside the park at about 8 p.m., which is past the cut off time of 6 p.m. for visitors to leave the park, and that Amaraweera's vehicle had been speeding. The DWC is accused of hushing up the incident because of the involvement of the minister. According to Marasinghe and Amaraweera the accident happened outside a protected area and a police inquiry is going on.

The fact however is that it has been more than two months since the incident and details are still in the dark. The delay confirms public perception that the slogan one country, one law, made popular by deposed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is being perverted by authorities into one country with two laws. The allegation that Amaraweera drove his vehicle inside Sinharaja Forest Reserve is another black mark against him which persists.

Marasinghe feels the finger pointing at the DWC is unfair. "We are doing what we have to do with the resources we have. Take for instance the criticism that we took long to respond to this Yala incident. The date on which it happened was a holiday and we couldn't do much but as soon as we were able, we went to court."

It was a feeling of deja vu as video clips of a convoy of luxury vehicles entering the park and thrashing the serenity of Yala's landscape went viral on social media, to be followed soon by mainstream media. Pictures of defenders, jeeps and other SUVs spinning their wheels off the beaten tracks whipped up public outrage. The locations in the eye of the storm are Welmalkema, Digamwala and Suduwelimulla in Block 1.

Many were quick to draw a parallel with scenes on the Colombo-Puttalam Road in March this year when the Spin Riders Club drove in a convoy



“Visitor guidelines are not followed, carrying capacity is exceeded, speed and noise restrictions are not respected and when there is a sighting of a leopard the animal gets harassed when jeeps crowd around it. Visitors to parks have this notion they are places for off-roading and merry making and not as places where biodiversity has to be protected. In other countries it is essential to maintain distances between vehicles, adhere to speed limits, a guide has to be in every vehicle entering the park, off-roading is not allowed, and visitors get a briefing before they enter the park. The DWC has to take responsibility for creating this situation.”

who had been overseas at the time of the incident is alleged to have telephoned the Director General of the DWC to authorise the group's entry into the park, a charge which Marasinghe denies.

According to reliable sources on the ground Amaraweera's son, one or two of his nephews and the son-in-law of MP Rohitha Abeygunewardene had been among the group. Amaraweera's son had allegedly kept a low profile. Appearing in journalist Chamuditha Samarawickreme's TV show, environmental activist Nayanaka Ranwella explained how the Director General of the DWC non-committal had been when he asked him the same question.

"He didn't say yes, nor did he say no," said Ranwella. The presence of Amaraweera's son in the group is refuted by Marasinghe and he says he does not know about the presence of Amaraweera's nephew. "I have to check whether the nephew was in the group and I am not willing to comment on this because it is a political matter. Legal action will be taken against whoever misbehaved in the park." Meanwhile Amaraweera, clearing his throat intermittently, told the media that his son was not among the group. "I can tell you very responsibly that he did not go to Yala, not even to Galle."

Amaraweera's reference to Galle is presumably a pointer at the group's escapades on the Southern highway in violation of its rules including travelling at high speed and standing and travelling with sunroofs down. Their exploits on the highway had delayed their arrival in Yala to the afternoon and according to unconfirmed reports, in the rush to clear 32 jeeps which is a number given by Marasinghe, the jeeps were bunched together in groups of five and registered on one entry sheet. The normal practice is for one entry sheet to be issued to every vehicle entering the park.

Earlier in the week, nine people who were arrested for violating park rules after coming forward voluntarily were given conditional bail by the court and seven vehicles with their keys were taken into the custody of the court. At the time of writing, five of the suspects had been released on bail and so was Amaraweera's nephew who handed himself in yesterday. "We objected to bail, but the offence was a bailable one," says Marasinghe.

According to the ground sources these men who were arrested and released were allegedly not involved in the incident but had merely put themselves forward.

They had allegedly been told they will be paid their salaries until their court cases are resolved and they will get their jobs back. They had also been told that nothing could be done about the break in the continuity of their employment.

"We had no option but to

produce these people in court because they surrendered," explains Marasinghe. "If it transpires that they had nothing to do with the incident, what they did will be in contempt of court and there will be legal repercussions." During Ranwella's talk with Samarawickreme, he flags how a Facebook post brags there will be a repeat of the Yala incident, signs of a system already reeking of impunity.

In addition to the nine people, seven guides were suspended on the instructions of the Secretary to the Ministry R.M.C.M. Herath. Sources allege these guides, who are in the temporary cadre of the DWC and who have become scapegoats, had also been told their salaries will be paid until the case is resolved.

According to Chamikara this incident did not take place in isolation. He places the blame squarely on the DWC for laying the foundation for it with poor management and enforcement. "Visitor guidelines are not followed, carrying capacity is exceeded, speed and noise restrictions are not respected and when there is a sighting of a leopard the animal gets harassed when jeeps crowd around it. Visitors to parks have this notion they are places for off-roading and merry making and not as places where biodiversity has to be protected. In other countries it is essential to maintain distances between vehicles, adhere to speed limits, a guide has to be in every vehicle entering the park, off-roading is not allowed, and visitors get a briefing before they enter the park. The DWC has to take responsibility for creating this situation."

The President and Ministry didn't waste time appointing committees to look into the transgressions that took place in Yala. If the predecessors of such committees are testimonies, these ritualistic appointments will continue to add to accusations of lip service and whitewash but do little to reinstate public confidence. Their findings are made public selectively and implementation is usually gone with the wind.

The President also issued a directive to introduce new laws to stop private vehicles from entering the parks and the ministry took a similar decision to ban the entry of the vehicles and people that took part in the raid on Yala from going into any national park for three years.

These are more likely to be viewed as knee jerk responses that will add to an already burgeoning set of laws for which there is no will for enforcement, and an escape clause for servants of the public - in this case Amaraweera and those at the top of the DWC's organisational chart to shirk accountability and keep passing the buck.

(Source: <https://counterpoint.lk/yala-debacle-need-accountability/>)

View

Remember the poorest of the poor nation

EVERY three years, the Department of Census Statistics (DCS) uses the Household Income and Expenditure Survey to assess income poverty.

Using a widely accepted methodology known as the "Cost of Basic Need Approach," DCS calculates the Official Poverty Line (OPL) for each month in the nation. According to the OPL, the DCS publishes official poverty statistics that show the number of people living in poverty, the percentage of people who are below the OPL (Poverty Headcount Index), the depth and severity of poverty, the poverty shortfall, and how poverty is distributed across sectors, provinces, and districts. Despite the fact that DCS administers this survey every three years, it is not being done this year.

As a result, there is no official information available to comprehend the country's poor position. The World Bank contends that poverty has not decreased from its pre-crisis levels despite the economic recovery that occurred in 2021.

According to their calculations, the continued financial crisis may cause poverty to rise to 25.6% in 2022, which would mean that over 2.5 million people would become poor between 2021 and 2022, putting poverty back to 2009 levels.

Recent attention has been paid to direct cash transfers to low-income households in the interim budget proposed by the Minister of finance. These include giving almost 3.2 million people who are impacted by the current economic circumstances urgent aid.

For the nearly 1.7 million Samurdhi-receiving families, the monthly Samurdhi stipend has been enhanced to a sum ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500. Aside from that, 726,000 families who were on the waiting list for Samurdhi benefits also received temporary support of Rs. 5,000 per month.

The amount of the allowance given to the elderly, the disabled, and kidney patients was revised upwards to a range of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500.

People on the waiting lists will be given temporary assistance in the amount of Rs. 5,000 in order to receive this help. This shows that social safety programs are working, but they must remain focused on the needs of low-income families. This type of little cash distribution is about 9% of their minimal expenditure requirement when current inflation is taken into account, therefore, drastically falling short of meeting the most vulnerable minimum needs.

The situation for the nation truly is dire. However, it is amplified in less urban areas, which relied on local group support. The effects on poorer households of rising food prices, job losses, a shortage of fertiliser, and a decline in remittances have been disproportionately larger as they historically do have larger families with more dependents than households in industrial zones.

The issue has gotten worse as a result of the recent tax structure modifications - with higher direct and indirect taxes eating into the disposable incomes of these groups. It is clear that all marginalised groups endure severe hardships. For instance, the issue directly affects over three million fisheries households, over one million plantation sector families, and about 300,000 people who work to earn a daily wage.

Slums are home to about 20% of the population as a percentage of the urban population that face other obstacles while paying a premium price for urban spaces. This group may eventually resort to violence and turn to unethical or illegal means of subsisting. This can be seen in the growing numbers of sex workers, as an unfortunate result.

The ongoing policies have continued to be hampered by the instability in the nation. Improvements in governance and the eradication of corruption are two crucial initiatives that currently receive little attention. As a result, it can be expected that things will continue to become worse without soon reaching a turning point.

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Economic crisis should spur a National Maritime Policy: Dr. Anil Vitarana

■ Says lack of a national policy has hindered Sri Lanka's progress not just in the maritime industry but in oil and gas exploration, the exclusive economic zone and the law of the sea

As an island nation, Sri Lanka is heavily dependent on its ocean with the seaports, particularly Colombo serving as an entrepôt for the country's import and export trade. The ports themselves form a crucial backbone for Foreign Direct Investment. However, while the sea is a blessing, it could also be a threat as Sri Lanka has experienced for centuries. As an island nation, Sri Lanka was easily colonised because of its location; the absence of naval resources to battle invaders on the coastline being a glaring fault. The coast needed protection during the thirty-year war with the LTTE too. Then there was the fire on the MV X-Press Pearl and resultant environmental damage to the marine and fishery industries and the catastrophic tsunami clearly demonstrating that friendly seas could at times be a dangerous foe.

Nevertheless, oceans are critical to Sri Lanka's survival and therefore, a well-structured National Maritime Policy (NMP) would be a given. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka has no existing NMP.

Dr. Anil Vitarana's experience in the shipping industry spans four decades in Sri Lanka, Kuwait and the United States including at the Ceylon Shipping Corporation and the United Arab Shipping Company (the national shipping line for six Arab Gulf countries - which later merged with Hapag Lloyd - of which he was President of their USA organisation for 20 years. He has been conferred with the prestigious Connie Award by the Containerisation and Intermodal Institute in 2006 for his contribution to the shipping industry. He provides some insights on the importance of an NMP for an island nation.

By SAVITHRI RODRIGO

Q: Do you believe that the lack of an NMP is inhibiting the development of the maritime sector in the country?

A: Absolutely! The scope of a National Maritime Policy goes much beyond just the maritime industry. It incorporates a holistic view of the total marine environment including the country's territorial sea, its continental shelf, the 200-mile exclusive economic zone, the related Law of the Sea and MARPOL Conventions, oil and gas exploration and hydrographic services etc. In some of these areas, there are sectorial policies but these must be combined to create a cohesive and comprehensive National Maritime Policy.

The X-Press Pearl catastrophe amply highlighted the weaknesses in the lack of a cohesive policy and the country lost valuable time in effectively managing the threat. Even now, the damage claims caused by that pollution remain murky.

Similarly, there was lack of clarity in the country's position when it had to deal with the port call of the Chinese research vessel Yuan Wang 5 in August this year.

Given the geo-political intensity

in the Indian Ocean, the country needs a definitive policy in handling such matters rather than on an ad-hoc case-by-case basis.

Q: What would a National Maritime Policy involve?

A: Due to the expanse of its scope and the involvement of a multitude of stakeholders, a National Maritime Policy cannot be created within a short span of time. It is not just about formulating a document but incorporating the necessary structure, systems and processes for its effective implementation.

This is why I believe that despite having visionaries such as Lalith Athulathmudali, P.B. Karandawela and Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe (who was the President of the UN Conference of the Law of the Sea) the country still lacks a much needed NMP.

The way forward, in my opinion, would be to initially create sectorial policies and thereafter link them together where connectivity is needed to create a single National Maritime Policy, with appropriate consultation among all stakeholders.

Q: What do you think it should focus on?

A: The sectorial areas I would suggest are:



Former President of United Arab Shipping Company's USA organisation and Principal Owner of Cranford Consulting LLC Dr. Anil Vitarana

- Preservation, exploration and security of the country's territorial sea, continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone and all waters governed by national jurisdiction
- Use of the seas as a maritime transportation mode and the development of the related infrastructure
- Development of the maritime industry
- Promotion of marine research and education and the creation of a maritime consciousness among the public including the impact of climate change
- Exploration of marine resources without harming the marine environment
- The adoption and implementation of international maritime conventions and agreements, and aligning the NMP with international and domestic legal regimes

Q: Should shipping be liberalised as a precursor to creating a National Maritime Policy?

A: Sri Lanka's shipping was liberalised in the early 1990s when the Central Freight Bureau's role as the exclusive booking agency for export cargo was dismantled and the cargo protection given to Ceylon Shipping Corporation as the national carrier was lifted. Since then, all foreign shipping lines are free to call at Sri Lanka's ports and compete for a share of the country's import & export cargo.

Currently over 70% of the containers handled at the Port of Colombo are at terminals that are fully or partially owned and operated by foreign companies. The Hambantota International Port is operated by China Merchant Ports.

There is a provision in the Licensing of Shipping Agents Act of 1992 that limits the foreign shareholding of local agencies to 40%. Some commentators have misconstrued this provision to



“ Given the geo-political intensity in the Indian Ocean, the country needs a definitive policy in handling such matters rather than on an ad-hoc case by case basis **”**

argue that shipping in Sri Lanka is not liberalised and acts as a barrier to FDI in the maritime sector.

An examination of the facts would clearly show that this argument is a red herring!

Q: So, does the limiting of to 40% create a barrier for FDI in this industry?

A: The South Asia Gateway Terminal (SAGT) incorporated in 1999 is the first public-private partnership of container terminal operators at the Port of Colombo. Among the shareholders of SAGT is APM Terminals, a unit of Danish shipping company Maersk's transport and logistics division and the Evergreen Group. These are the second and sixth largest container shipping lines in the world.

Besides SAGT, the Colombo International Container Terminal and the Hambantota International Port are operated by China Merchant Ports, while India's Adani Ports is billed to operate the Colombo West International Terminal.

The parent company of Colombo

Dockyard PLC is Japan's Onomichi Dockyard Co. Ltd. The company is growing in stature and in 2020 received an order for 4X5000 DWT EcoBulk carriers; the first of which was delivered on 21 September 2022.

Sinopac, a Chinese company invested in bunkering operations at the Hambantota Port through Lanka Marine Services.

These FDI's total over \$ 4 billion and clearly demonstrate that the Licensing of Shipping Agents Act is not a barrier to FDI in any way.

Moreover, even the most developed countries such as the USA, EU and China have protectionist areas for their maritime interests, far beyond the scope of the Licensing of Shipping Agents Act. This reiterates that having limitations on foreign shareholding does not limit or inhibit operations in any way, nor does it intimidate or lessen the prospects of FDI's.

Q: Do you believe that Sri Lanka's current economic crisis inhibits the development of a National Maritime Policy?

A: Charles Dickens in A Tale of Two Cities wrote: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Following this adage, I would say that the economic crisis should not be a barrier but should in fact spur the development of a National Maritime Policy. It should be a two-pronged approach.

On the one hand, it should focus on the income generating potential via avenues such as more FDI's in the maritime sector; oil, gas and mineral exploration within the EEZ and the continental shelf and the development of the fisheries industry.

“ Even the most developed countries such as the USA, EU & China have protectionist areas for their maritime interests, far beyond the very limited protection afforded by Sri Lanka's Licensing of Shipping Agents Act **”**

On the other is the need to enhance the country's naval and policing capability against the backdrop of increasing geo-political conflict and the country's vulnerability to the impact of climate change. While some of the resources are becoming available through foreign aid including the US Coast Guard vessels donated by the US Government and the 'Maritime Domain Awareness' program between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka; the growing external and internal threats (drug and human trafficking and a possible resurgence of terrorism) necessitates a renewed and urgent reassessment of the country's capability to protect our shores.

So yes, a National Maritime Policy is now an imperative and should be a priority if we are to move forward and take advantage of the resources we have in this enviable location in the Indian Ocean.

The writer is an award-winning journalist with over three-decade experience in the media.

Startups and local digital services: The elephant in the room

WITH Sri Lanka Internet Day 2022 just round the corner, it is time for us to take a closer look at the elephant in the room. Addressing the situations around this large digital pachyderm is better done sooner than later, as it is becoming a huge stumbling block, not just for the digital ecosystem of Sri Lanka but the country at large.

Most of our economic woes could be handled effectively if everyone grasps the concept of startups and local digital service companies and what they can do for our economy. It is unfortunate therefore, that the will to understand this concept is lacking. The reasons for this could be many; key amongst them is the possibility of reluctance amongst people living in an analogue world to think digital.

While this may be understandable, what would be a matter for concern is whether there is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the digital economy, specifically because of the transparency, accountability and good governance it brings to the equation. If it is so, this is a huge problem and one that would need to be addressed by someone in authority.

The recent history of badly managing our terrestrial economy is a prime example of this. Because we lacked good governance, foreign organisations today are putting their foot down and asking us to get our house in order before they can lend us any money

for our survival. This is even more a reason to ensure that our digital economy gets on track to bring benefits to the country. It also has the promise to save millions of dollars in foreign exchange to our economy with the mass adoption of local digital services.

It is vital for Sri Lanka's digital arena to create the right environment for start-ups and local digital service companies to thrive. If we don't do it soon, foreign digital companies are bound to gradually move in through our porous digital borders and take control.

The digital economy is such that it can be done very subtly and smoothly, so that not only will it give the upper hand to a foreign entity to take control of

our country's economic activity, but also will edge out our local entrepreneurs and investors in our start-ups. This will only result in a huge knowledge vacuum in Sri Lanka in the form of digital entrepreneurship.

Over 20 years ago, the Sri Lanka

Government had a plan via the BOI, to build capacity for ICT professionals who would pass out as graduates to support the software industry. This eventually helped to make our software industry one of the top five foreign exchange earners in the country.

Sadly, we seem to have got stuck in this groove and not thought beyond. What lies ahead is what we need to put in place to create a start-up ecosystem that will attract angel investors. It is only then that we can target our digital economy to move towards establishing soonicorns and then on to unicorns.

This year India held the ET Soonicorns Summit 2022, their first-ever start-up initiative to celebrate their future unicorns. India has

emerged as the 3rd largest ecosystem for start-ups as well as become the 3rd largest unicorn community across the globe. Up to 7 September 2022, India has established 107 unicorns with a total value of \$ 340.79 billion. The Government of India is seriously



promoting digital start-ups with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the vanguard.

What Sri Lanka currently lacks to create a similar environment, primarily has to do with our inconsistent policies - policies which are the foundation to making laws and regulations. Thus, a serious discussion is necessary to create policy, but in the case of Sri Lanka the intriguing question that begs an answer is, even if this discussion happens amongst relevant industries, are policy makers paying any heed? There are the types of important matters ticketed to be discussed at the Sri Lanka Internet Day 2022, such as the power of Digital to rally people together and how to use the Internet positively to boost the economy; Power of Digital; Bandwidth and Connectivity - Infrastructure Limitations; Digital

Entrepreneurship - Why haven't we see Unicorns in Sri Lanka?; No traction for Start-ups; Lack of Neo/ Digital Banking - Is banking democratized in Sri Lanka; Health - Petcare; E Learning - Delivery of Education; How our children can learn via e-learning/Digital education; ICT Professionals - Lack of knowledge; How we can safeguard them in Sri Lanka (stop migrating/ increasing knowledge); Tourism and Digital Nomads - Promotions; Tax; Fuel Crisis - QR code, Limitations, Adoption; Public services; State owned enterprises; and Post pandemic impact etc. These are some of the current and growing concerns of the industry. But the question is, what happens after the conclusion of Sri Lanka Internet Day 2022 and post all the dis-course? Will it all be relegated to the dustbin of history, or can we hope for follow up by relevant

authorities, so that we see real outcomes. This year, the feedback from the President's office is encouraging as he has promised the support of state authorities to improve the local digital ecosystem. The industry will deliberate and discuss these critical aspects at the event, but it should not merely end up as interesting discussion points. We need to follow up and work with the state agencies to make certain it actually delivers positive outcomes for the sake of our country.

(The author is the current President of the Digital Services Chapter (DSC) of Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) and he is also the Chief Executive Officer of LankaPay National Payment Network. He is a pioneer technology professional who was instrumental in setting up the first Internet Service Provider of Sri Lanka in 1995. Sri Lanka Internet Day 2022 is organised by the DSC to propel local digital service companies to reach greater heights and to encourage the masses to adopt their services.)

“ Over 20 years ago, the Sri Lanka Government had a plan via the BOI, to build capacity for ICT professionals who would pass out as graduates to support the software industry. This eventually helped to make our software industry one of the top five foreign exchange earners in the country. Sadly, we seem to have got stuck in this groove and not thought beyond. What lies ahead is what we need to put in place to create a start-up ecosystem that will attract angel investors. It is only then that we can target our digital economy to move towards establishing soonicorns and then on to unicorns. **”**

When a "Giant Bomb" killed LTTE's "Smiling Face" 15 years ago

FIFTEEN years ago on 2 November 2007, the former political wing chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Thamilselvan (spelled also as Tamilselvan and Thamilchelvan) was killed along with some other tiger operatives in an airstrike conducted by the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF). The incident grabbed worldwide attention when it happened because Thamilselvan was to a very great extent the public and political face of the LTTE in those days.

Four-year-old Thamilselvan was killed along with five other tiger cadres in the early hours of the morning on Friday 2 November 2007. Subsequently another injured tiger also died. Two jet bombers, an Israeli Kfir and a Russian built MIG-27 had engaged in aerial bombardment at first light between 5.55-6 a.m. The target area was suburban Thiruvaiyaaru about three km from Kilinochchi town in the Wannu region controlled extensively by the tigers at that time.

Thamilselvan's death in the SLAF air strike caused shock waves at that time. It was regarded as a great blow to the LTTE in general and tiger leader Prabhakaran in particular. It is against this backdrop that this column revisits the killing of Suppiah Paramu Thamilselvan or SP Thamilselvan on the 15th death anniversary of the former tiger political commissar.

Proud Moment for the SLAF

The successful airstrike was a proud moment for the Sri Lankan Air Force then commanded by Air Marshal Roshan Goonetilleke. A few weeks earlier on 22 October 2007 the SLAF Air Base at Saliyapura in Anuradhapura had been attacked by an LTTE "Black Tiger" squad. Several Air Force personnel and LTTE cadres were killed.

Around 20 Aircraft of different types were reportedly destroyed. It was a dark day for the SLAF and morale was low. But the Air Force struck back in 11 days. The SLAF seemingly made amends for the Saliyapura debacle and redeemed its image in the eyes of the people by successfully targeting the top-notch tiger.

Thamilselvan was posthumously promoted in rank as "Brigadier" by LTTE supremo Prabhakaran. He was the first tiger to be made Brigadier.

LTTE political commissar Thamilselvan frequently represented the LTTE at negotiations with national and international delegations, issued press statements, granted media interviews and engaged in talks with dignitaries on behalf of the tigers. Since the LTTE's reclusive numero uno Velupillai Prabhakaran and other senior military leaders usually kept out of the limelight, it had been the lot of Thamilselvan to exercise a monopoly over media publicity.

The LTTE and its overseas supporters were greatly upset. Many events mourning his death were organised. The majority of Sri Lankans however were happy and jubilant. Many in the southern provinces of the Island ecstatically lit crackers when they heard the news. Spontaneous celebrations were held.

Buried at Kanakapuram

The other tigers killed along with Thamilselvan in the Thiruvaiyaaru bombing on 2 November were Muthukkumar Soundarakrishnan alias Lt. Col. Anpamani, Dharmarajah Vijayakumar alias Major Mikunthan, Karunanidhi Vasanthakumar alias Capt.

Kalaiyarasan, Panchatcharam Sajeeban alias Lt. Aatchivel and Muthukkumarakkurukkal Srigayathrinatha Sarma alias Lt. Maavaikumaran Sivalingam Aathavan alias Major Selvam who was critically injured in the bombing passed away on November 9th and was buried with full military honours at Kanakapuram great heroes cemetery along with the others.

Thamilselvan who had been functioning from 1994 as the LTTE's political commissar had been assigned additional quasi-military duties in 2007. He was placed in charge of defences at Pooneryn as he was familiar with the area. Thamilselvan had been at Pooneryn for three days at a stretch from 29 October to 1 November in 2007.

He returned to Kilinochchi town on 1 November afternoon. Kilinochchi was the place where the LTTE's political headquarters, peace secretary and strategic communications unit were located in those days. It was in a sense the unofficial capital of LTTE controlled territory then.

Thamilselvan's last official duties were at the communications unit from where he contacted several persons in Sri Lanka and abroad. Some well-wishers brought specially cooked food including mutton curry. The tiger political commissar and others stayed late into the night at the place, partaking of food and engaging in conversation.

Bunker Located in Thiruvaiyaaru

Thereafter at about 2.30 a.m. the tigers moved to a safe bunker located in Thiruvaiyaaru. Given the prevailing security situation important tiger leaders used to sleep at night in well-fortified bunkers away from their homes. They also avoided sleeping at the same place on successive nights.

The "L" shaped bunker was well camouflaged. It had lower and upper compartments. Thamilselvan went to bed in the lower one while the others slept in the upper one. The two jet bombers came at first light and discharged their lethal cargo effectively. Subsequently three other planes (2 MiG's and 1 Kfir) also dropped nine bombs from 6.20 a.m. to 6.30 a.m. in the South of Kilinochchi in the area around the 155th milepost and St. Anthony's church. Two civilians were killed and six injured.

The first aerial mission had been bullseye on target when a bomb fell on the entrance of the bunker. There was a massive explosion and the entire structure collapsed and caved in. As stated earlier six tigers including Thamilselvan were killed in their sleep. The seventh died days later of injuries.

Among top tiger leaders to reach the spot early were the then Tiger Intelligence Chief Pottu Amman and Pappa head of the LTTE sports division. The destruction was so immense that a bulldozer was brought first to facilitate excavation. Thereafter the bodies were dug up manually. Most LTTE bunkers are strong and designed to withstand aerial bombardment. What troubled the LTTE then was the thought that a giant bomb had knocked out Thamilselvan's bunker.

"Raatchathakkundu" or Giant Bomb

The LTTE accused the Government headed by President Mahinda Rajapaksa of having spurned peace moves by dropping a giant bomb and killing the "peace dove" Thamilselvan. "The Sinhala nation did not open its heart and send a peace message. On the contrary, it is sending war-vultures that are drop-



Velupillai Prabhakaran

ping giant bombs. It has cruelly killed our peace dove."

The above sentences excerpted from Velupillai Prabhakaran's statement released after Thamilselvan's death denote the concern of the LTTE about a "giant bomb". The LTTE leader's statement was unusually emotional and had an agitated tone to it. What was the bomb which Prabhakaran referred to in Tamil as "Raatchathakkundu" or giant bomb?

According to some reports in the LTTE media it was an American general-purpose bomb called Mark 84 or MK 84. The largest of the Mark - 80 series of weapons, it is nicknamed "Hammer" for its considerable power. The Mark 84 has a nominal weight of 2,000 lb (908 kg), but its actual weight varies depending on its fin, fuse, and retardation configuration, from 1,972 lb (896 kg) to 2,083 (947 kg).

It has a streamlined steel casing filled with 945 lb (429 kg) of Triton high explosive. The Mark 84 is capable of forming a crater 50 ft (15.2m) wide and 36 ft (11 m) deep. It can penetrate up to 15 in. (380 mm) of metal or 11 ft (3.3 m) of concrete, depending on the height from which it is dropped, and causes lethal fragmentation to a radius of 400 yards (366 m). This free-fall general purpose bomb's length is 10 ft. 9 in. (3.3 m); Diameter is 18 in. (457 mm).

The extensive destruction caused to Thamilselvan's fortified bunker suggested that an extremely powerful bomb was used. Only one bomb fell on the bunker. It was a direct hit. The bomb could very well have been a Mark-84.

Born in Madduvil

Thamilselvan was born on 29 August 1967 in Madduvil, a sprawling agrarian village in the Thenmaratchy sector of Jaffna district. He was the fifth among six children. There were five boys and a girl in the family. Thamilselvan was the youngest among the boys. Thamilselvan had his primary education at the Madduvil Maha Vidyalayam and secondary schooling at Chavakachcheri Hindu College.

Thamilselvan joined the LTTE after the July 1983 violence at the age of sixteen. The eldest brother Balasubramaniam alias Moorthy too had joined the LTTE earlier. By international standards Thamilselvan was a child soldier at that time. According to family members he had gone across to India for arms training by boat on 13 June 1984.

Thamilselvan was a member of the fourth batch of recruits and received military training in the Thirumalai camp near Dindigul in Tamil Nadu. His nom de guerre was Dinesh. It was Dinesh that Thamilselvan was known for a long time. Later the LTTE started a de-Sanskritisation process of Tamil names. Dinesh was a Sanskritised name but his real name Thamilselvan was a pure, Tamil name. So, Dinesh transformed back into Thamilselvan, the name bestowed by his parents.

After training Thamilselvan was posted to Prabhakaran's



Thamilselvan

security detail in India. One of his main duties was to function as bodyguard to the leader's wife Mathivathany Prabhakaran. She was an ardent Hindu devotee and Thamilselvan accompanied her to several temples. The young lad's subservience and sense of duty impressed her very much. This in turn led to Prabhakaran also becoming fond of him. Soon Thamilselvan became a trusted lieutenant.

Prabhakaran's trusted bodyguard

Prabhakaran crossed over from India to Jaffna clandestinely on 5 January 1987. Three trusted bodyguards accompanied him. The trusted trio were Imran, Pandiyan and Dinesh (Thamilselvan). After returning to Jaffna, Thamilselvan was assigned to the Thenmaratchy sector. He rose rapidly and soon became Thenmaratchy sectoral commander. Thamilselvan was made Thenmaratchy tiger commander in October 1987.

In 1991 he was made military commander and later special military commander for Jaffna district. Thamilselvan's rise was resented by many cadres who felt he was Prabhakaran's blue-eyed boy. Thamilselvan endeared himself to the leader but aroused resentment among colleagues. Many of his contemporaries have alleged that he used to "sneak" to Prabhakaran and nicknamed him as "Thagadu" a colloquial term for sneaker.

Thamilselvan was seriously injured in the Elephant pass battle of 1991 when he was Thenmaratchy commander and in the Pooneryn battle of 1993 when he was Jaffna district commander. Among other major battles he participated were "operation Yardevi", and the LTTE attacks in Silavathurai, Karainagar and Thachankaadu.

After the Pooneryn battle Thamilselvan was on the verge of death and survived miraculously. Most of the flesh on a leg was stripped away. He sustained a permanent limp and had to walk with the aid of a walking stick after that. With active military duty ruled out due to injury, Thamilselvan was now utilised on the political wing.

Political Commissar

Narendran alias Yogi the former political commissar was expelled from the movement after ex-LTTE deputy leader Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah alias Mahathaya's downfall. Mahathaya was executed as a traitor who allegedly collaborated with Indian spy agency RAW (Research and Analysis Wing). At one-point Prabhakaran wanted to appoint Sornalingam alias "Col" Shankar in place of Yogi. But Balasingham who did not like Shankar intervened and persuaded Prabhakaran to appoint Thamilselvan instead as Political Commissar.

As Political commissar Thamilselvan engaged in much political activity receiving delegations and participating in discussions. Thamilselvan undertook many trips abroad visiting western countries dur-

ing the peace talk period. He also interacted widely with the media giving many interviews and conducting press conferences. He met with many important personalities in political discussions held abroad and at Kilinochchi.

Thamilselvan's inability to express himself well in English resulted in excessive dependence on a translator cum interpreter. Pancharatnam alias George - an ex-postmaster - accompanied Thamilselvan everywhere and became virtually indispensable to the political commissar. There was a joke among Tamil circles that George and not Thamilselvan spells out the LTTE viewpoint publicly. Though inarticulate in English Thamilselvan understood the language well. Diplomats used to note that Thamilselvan used George only to interpret what he said in Tamil but responded without translation to what was said in English by the other party.

Man with a Perpetual Smile

Media circles were aware that Thamilselvan craved publicity. He also had a penchant to get photographed. The walking stick man with a perpetual smile had become a permanent fixture in tiger photos. Thamilselvan spoke very fluently in Tamil and was never at a loss for words. Words flowed ceaselessly but the content was poor and shallow.

His Tamil interviews were relished by certain segments of LTTE supporters. Many however felt that he mechanically repeated things glibly and called him "kilipillai" or parrot. Many Tamils referred to him as "Soonaa Paanaa" derived from his initials in Tamil. The bespectacled Thamilselvan had an ever-smiling face and amiable disposition. He went on to become the "smiling" face of the LTTE. His interpersonal skills were good. This benign countenance did not mean that the political commissar was "soft". People who tried to override him or overwhelm him have found themselves unsuccessful.

Thamilselvan reflected Prabhakaran's thinking perfectly. At times diplomats found him to be uncompromisingly intransigent despite the smiling exterior. Like a swaying cobra, he used to shake his head from side to side, smiling all the time. This led to a description in the media about him as a "smiling cobra".

When changes were made about LTTE human rights violations Thamilselvan would deny them with a broad smile. He was noted for his ability to retain a perpetual smile on his face at all times. The plastered permanent grin was resented by many Western journalists and diplomats who perceived it as patently insincere.

Colossal misfit

In the opinion of this writer Thamilselvan was a colossal misfit as political commissar during the 2002-2005 ceasefire period. Despite his efforts to convince the Europeans of the LTTE's bonafides the EU went ahead and banned the LTTE. He also mishandled relations with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission and facilitator Norway. The Geneva talks fiasco was due to Thamilselvan's exaggerated sense of vanity, when he insisted that he would sit down at the negotiating table with only a senior minister.

When the six rounds of talks with the Ranil Wickremesinghe Government took place in 2002-2004, Thamilselvan would describe them as productive and meaningful. But when the LTTE pulled out of talks, Thamilselvan did a volte-face and said all the rounds of talks were meaningless and useless. Only Thamilselvan could say such things and labour under

the illusion that he continued to retain credibility.

Thamilselvan was an unquestioning acolyte of Prabhakaran. His loyalty was immense and was a trusted deputy cum confidante. His relationship with Prabhakaran had been Thamilselvan's passport to success within the movement.

Sasirekha alias "Isaichelvi"

Thamilselvan was married with two children, a daughter and son. Wife Sasirekha hailing from Chulipuram in Jaffna was also a member of the LTTE until her marriage to Thamilselvan. Her nom de guerre in the LTTE was Isaichelvi. The daughter's name is Alaimagal (meaning daughter of waves or Goddess Lakshmi) while the son is named Olivaenthan meaning king of light.

The Thamilselvan-Sasirekha wedding was one of the first in a new scheme introduced by the LTTE supremo, Prabhakaran, whereby women cadres of the LTTE were to be paired off with male cadres through suitable matchmaking. Since arranged marriages are a part of Tamil social practice this scheme was seen as mass scale arranged marriage.

Prabhakaran himself selected the bride for Thamilselvan. Sasirekha's family hailing from Chulipuram in Jaffna had owned a lot of businesses in Bambalapitiya and later sold them after July 1983. Her father was a retired Government servant. Prabhakaran and his wife Mathivathany acted as Thamilselvan's "parents" while LTTE political adviser Anton Balasingham and wife Adele acted as the bride's parents. Brahminic rituals were dispensed with at the wedding.

Alaimagal and Olivaenthan

Thamilselvan's children Alaimagal and Olivaenthan were only eight and four years of age at the time of their father's death. Sasirekha continued to live in LTTE controlled territory. After the military debacle at Mullaiteevu in May 2009, Sasirekha and the children surrendered to the army as civilians and were housed at a special camp for families of LTTE leaders in the Vavuniya district. The family was later moved to Panagoda and housed at a chalet within the army cantonment due to the efforts of former LTTE eastern regional head Vinayagamorthy Muraleetharan alias "Col" Karuna.

In May 2011 the family was freed from protective custody under a restricted release order enabling the family to live in a particular locality subject to certain conditions. Sasirekha opted to stay with her parents at Dehiwala. Finding it difficult to educate her children in Colombo, Sasirekha Thamilselvan sought the consent of Sri Lankan authorities to let her relocate to India with her two children.

Sri Lankan authorities treated her case with compassion and set her free from the restricted release order. Thereafter she moved to India legally with proper travel documents.

Living Peacefully in France

Finding the situation in India unsuitable to bring up her children under normal conditions, Sasirekha again decided to relocate to Europe. Obtaining help from close relatives, Sasirekha made arrangements to travel to France. She succeeded in her quest and arrived in France on 24 April 2014. The family has been living peacefully in France since then keeping aloof from all LTTE related activities in that country.

(This is a Modified Version of an Earlier Article)
The writer can be reached at
dbsjeyaraj@yahoo.com



BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

Prashan and Reyaz win at Par 3 Golf Classics

THE Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan in partnership with Royal Colombo Golf Club and Dialog Enterprises held its Par 3 Golf Classic for the sixth year in tandem at RCGC last weekend with more than 170 golfers teeing off in two sessions of play over the weekend.

Prashan Peiris walked away with the Overall Gross Winner with some top-class long ranging shots and top-class accuracy throughout the 18 holes, while another seasoned golfer Reyaz Mihular won the Overall Net winner.

Youngster Iman Sangani showed lot of promise to clinch the junior title.

South Beach Weligama (Platinum), Asia Securities (Gold), Akbar Brothers (Silver), Ceylon Biscuits, M Power Capital, Worth and Chatham Luxury watches propped in as sponsors.

- Overall Gross: Prashan Peiris
- Overall Nett: Reyaz Mihular
- Division A: Rajeeve Rajapaksa
- Division B: Janata Rupasinghe
- Division C: Iftikar Ahamed
- Senior: A.P. Jayarajah
- Masters: T. Akberally
- Ladies: Dinuka Boralessa
- Juniors: Iman Sangani

Pix by Ruwan Walpola



Overall Gross Winner Prashan Peiris

Overall Net Winner Reyaz Mihular

Masters Winner T. Akberally



Seniors Winner A.P. Jayarajah

Ladies Winner Dinuka Boralessa

Juniors Winner Iman Sangani



CDB Womans Rugby Team after winning the title

CDB empowering winning spirit at Mercantile Women's Tag Rugby Sevens

■ Crowned as unbeaten champions in 2022

THE Women's Rugby Team of Citizens Development Business Finance PLC (CDB) emerged as the unbeaten champions of the recently concluded Mercantile Women's Tag Rugby Sevens tournament.

To secure this victory, the Team CDB put up an unrelenting show of force against MAS and Sampath Bank, with match scores of 5-0 and 20-0 respectively. Adding to the celebrations, CDB's Imalka Fonseka took home the sought-after Best Player of the Tournament title.

The Mercantile Rugby Sevens, conducted by the Mercantile Rugby Football Association (MRFA) and



Imalka Fernando of CDB awarded as the best player

revived after a lapse of two years, was held at the CR & FC Grounds. This year's Sevens was especially significant since it was the 50th tournament with the Women's Tag Rugby Sevens being held alongside the Men's Championship. Team CBD won this tournament in 2018 and ended as runners-up in the year 2019.



Antonians crowned Schools Rugby 7s Champions

ST. Anthony's College beat D.S. Senanayake 19 to 12 in the final at the National Schools Games Rugby Sevens Championship 2022 which took place in Bandarawela last week.

D. S. Senanayake beat Maliyadeva 45/7 in the first semi-finals while in the second,

the Antonians outclassed Rajans 26/12.

Dharmaraja were placed third when they handed off Maliyadeva 33/5.

In total, 21 teams took part in the sevens event. The Antonians were led by Maliksha Perera and coached by Sumedha Malawena.

Allianz Lanka emerges No. 2 Globally at Allianz World Run 2022



Allianz world run team, Sri Lanka

ALLIANZ World Run, a global annual event held across the Allianz Group SE worldwide, recently concluded with Allianz Lanka ranking No.2 in the global leader-boards for the event.

The objective of the Allianz World Run is to promote health and fitness by ramifying physical activity, with the intention of raising awareness and funds for pivotal issues facing people across the world. Participants, which included Allianz's people all over the world, use their mobile phones and devices to track their physical activity for 90 days.

Their progress and efforts are then tallied, for each contributing country, and then each country is ranked on a global leader board. The primary objective of the event is to run a combined total distance of as many times as possible around the globe in 90 days.

In 2022, Allianz Lanka, representing Sri Lanka, ranked No.2 worldwide in the Allianz World Run, both in terms of Total Distance and Total Participation. Allianz Lanka's team was able to clock an amazing 246,282km in total or a distance equivalent to having run 6 times + around the globe. The local team also witnessed a total of 1,106 participants, the 2nd highest in the world, with each participant on average having moved 223km.

Commenting on the success of the initiative, Allianz Lanka CEO Gany Subramaniam said: "I'm very pleased to say that over the 90 days of the Allianz World Run 2022, our one Allianz spirit was showcased for all to see as communities came

together globally to get active and boost our health and wellbeing, while also helping our teams to raise awareness and funds for crucial issues around the world. "At Allianz, we believe in protecting the most

precious things in life, and few things are more precious than our health and wellbeing. For this reason, we constantly encourage physical activity, and I urge all our team members to keep up with their workouts and exercise throughout the year."

Hayleys Advantis opens Sri Lanka's first cycle repair station; kicks off its inaugural cycle parade

HAYLEYS Advantis, the transportation and logistics arm of the Hayleys Group, launched its inaugural cycle parade on 29 October to promote safe cycling and a healthy lifestyle amongst its employees.

The logistics provider is set to establish a network of cycle repair stations across Colombo, the first of which was ceremonially opened at Colombo 3, by the Chairman and Chief Executive of Hayleys PLC, Mohan Pandithage and Managing Director of Hayleys Advantis, Ruwan Waidiyaratne.

The action-packed event witnessed more than 150 employees from Hayleys Advantis make the 17 Km long circuit. Commencing from the Hayleys Head Office building, the parade went on to the Lipton Circle junction, Nelum Pokuna roundabout, Independence Avenue, Cinnamon Garden Police Station, Bauddaloka Mawatha, Duplication Road, St. Peters College, Galle Road, Galle Face and concluded back at the Head Office building on Deans Road.

"Cycling is a sport considered to be amongst the safest forms of exercise to improve your overall health and well-being. Over the past few months, we saw a marked increase

in the number of employees taking up the sport as a lifestyle choice, especially when we as a country were facing the fuel crisis.

"We found that while many were enthusiastic about taking on the challenge, they were concerned about the lack of tools and locations for any emergency repairs. Having noted this, we decided to support our employees and the cyclists in Colombo by establishing a network of cycle repair stations in the city," said Hayleys Advantis Managing Director Ruwan Waidiyaratne.

The initiative is the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, and the cycle repair stations are equipped with air pumps and other tools required for general repairs of cycles.

Notably, Hayleys Advantis also brought in competitive cyclist and passionate advocate for cycling, Yasas Hewage, to conduct the 'Change the Game' workshop for participants.

The workshop armed participants with a gamut of information on the subject, including the do's and don'ts of cycling. He also joined the Hayleys Advantis team on the cycle parade leading the group along the route.

"While many initiatives have happened over the last decade, the game



(from left) Hayleys Chairman and Chief Executive Mohan Pandithage, Spinner Cycling Founder Yasas Hewage and Hayleys Advantis Managing Director Ruwan Waidiyaratne at the first cycle repair station on Galle Road

changer is cycling infrastructure. With this novel initiative of a cycle repair station, Hayleys Advantis has assisted the cycling fraternity whilst enriching the lifestyle of the com-

munity. It is commendable to see corporates getting involved in projects that contribute towards safe cycling," said Spinner Cycling Founder Yasas Hewage.



Hayleys Advantis employees participating in the parade



Number one ranking no longer the fight, says Nadal

PARIS, AFP: Rafael Nadal, who makes his return to the court at the Paris Masters after a two-month break, insisted Tuesday he was no longer fighting to be world number one.

"I just fight to keep being competitive in every event that I play," said Nadal, currently second in the ATP rankings behind fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz.

Nadal, winner of 92 ATP singles titles, has been ranked world No. 1 for 209 weeks of his glittering career and has finished as the year-end No. 1 on five occasions.

"I will not fight anymore to be No. 1," he said.

"I did in the past. I achieved that goal a couple of times in my career and I have been very, very happy and proud about achieving that."

"But I am in a moment of my tennis career that I don't fight to be No. 1."

Nadal will take on either compatriot Roberto Bautista or American Tommy Paul first up in the French capital, where he has won a record 14 French Open titles.

"I'm happy to be on the tour again after a while," Nadal said.

"I was not able to play much the last five months."

"So, yeah, always happy to be back in a city that everybody knows how important is for me, even if it's true that at the same time that in this (Masters) event I never had a lot of positive things in my career."

Nadal, who said it had been "tough" to leave home and his three-week-old son, also played down concerns over his fitness.

"Let's see on the competitive level how I manage," he said.

"In older bodies like my one, it's easier to know how the things are going when



Rafael Nadal

Davis Cup to be part of ATP calendar from 2023

PARIS, AFP: The ATP, which runs the men's professional tennis circuit, announced Monday it had included for the first time the Davis Cup as part of its calendar from 2023.

The Davis Cup Finals and Qualifier ties now become an official part of the 2023 ATP Tour calendar, taking place in weeks 5, 37 and 47, the ATP said in a statement.

"This integration will support players in planning their annual schedule when selected to play in their national Davis Cup team. The Finals will continue under its existing format, offering \$15 million in player prize money in 2023," it added.

The new partnership, it said, would "enable strategic collaboration on the competition's governance and evolution, with ATP granted two of six seats on a newly formed Davis Cup Event Committee alongside the ITF (International Tennis Federation) and Kosmos, long-term investors and promoters of the competition."

you are playing tournaments in a row.

"When you are coming back from a period of time outside of competition, it's difficult to know how you're going to be playing, how your body is going to respond because it's obvious that the tour level is different."

Springboks hope to end losing streaks in Ireland and England

JOHANNESBURG, AFP: Siya Kolisi-captained world champions South Africa hope to extend a winning run over France and end losing streaks against Ireland and England when they tour Europe in November.

The Springboks have won their last three Tests in France, most recently four years ago when they snatched a 29-26 victory through a late Bongi Mbonambi pushover try.

A year earlier South Africa suffered a second straight loss in Ireland when humiliated 38-3 partly due to an inability to cope with an aerial barrage.

Results in London have been even more depressing – when South Africa tackle England at Twickenham on 26 November they will be trying to avoid a fourth consecutive loss there.

The Springboks play Ireland, France, Italy and England on consecutive Saturdays from 5 November as they seek consistency after six victories and three losses this season.

South Africa were brilliant when defeating arch rivals New Zealand 26-10 in the opening round of the Rugby Championship and woeful soon after in a 25-17 defeat by Australia in Adelaide.

Before winning four matches and losing two to finish second behind the All Blacks in the southern hemisphere tournament, the Springboks edged plucky Wales 2-1 in a mid-year series.

"We had some great moments in the Rugby Championship and also some



Siya Kolisi

weak moments," said 2019 Rugby World Cup-winning skipper and loose forward Kolisi.

"The Springboks can win against any side in the world on our day," he added, recalling the Malcolm Marx-inspired demolition of New Zealand in Mbombela.

"After our awful showing in Adelaide, we took a big step forward by winning in Sydney and then twice against Argentina, who had stunned the All Blacksearlier in the championship."

Kolisi added: "There are a lot of good Test teams at the moment so three victories in a row was a great achievement. "Now we head for Europe to face the teams ranked first (Ireland), second (France) and fifth (England) in the world."

"Obviously, we want to win all four Tests because that will give us momentum going into the 2023 World Cup in France."

South Africa flew to Dublin at the weekend without several first choices, including centre Lukhanyo Am and fly-half Handre Pollard, who are both injured.

Saadi Thawfeeq
Reporting from
Australia

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2022

Sri Lanka Cricket

BRISBANE: A master-class batting performance from Dhananjaya de Silva and a skilful bowling performance from Wanindu Hasaranga saw Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan by six wickets in a crucial Group 1 game and keep their hopes of qualifying for a place in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup alive at the Gabba yesterday.

After the battering he took from Australia, Hasaranga showed why he is considered to be one of the best T20I bowlers in the world when he came back strongly to take the Player of the Match award with figures of 3 for 13 off four overs. The energy and intensity he displayed on the field rubbed on the rest of the team as Sri Lanka conceded only three boundaries in the last five overs to keep Afghanistan down to a total of 144-8. At the half-way stage, Afghanistan were 68-1, but couldn't really finish off at a high as Hasaranga and Lahiru Kumara applied the brakes on their batting, despite not getting the support they needed on the field, with a couple of chances going abegging. Sri Lanka's bowling in the last five overs was excellent and



Man of the match Wanindu Hasaranga who took 3 for 13 and didn't concede a single 4 with Lahiru Kumara who took 2 for 30 celebrate a dismissal of Afghanistan during their contest yesterday at The Gabba on 1, 1 November 2022 in Brisbane

De Silva and Hasaranga keep Lankan hopes alive

Beat Afghanistan in must-win game



Sri Lanka's Dhananjaya de Silva celebrates reaching his half century (50 runs) during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 cricket match between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka at The Gabba 1, on 1 November 2022 in Brisbane – AFP

they paced out the run chase perfectly with De Silva playing a master class innings of 66* off 42 balls that included six fours and two sixes.

At one time, De Silva was not

Teams	M	W	L	Tie	N/R	Pts	NRR
1 NEW ZEALAND	4	2	1	0	1	5	2.233
2 ENGLAND	4	2	1	0	1	5	0.547
3 AUSTRALIA	4	2	1	0	1	5	-0.304
4 SRI LANKA	4	2	2	0	0	4	-0.457
5 IRELAND	4	1	2	0	1	3	-1.544
6 AFGHANISTAN	4	0	2	0	2	2	-0.718

even a contender for a place in the T20 team, but poor form and injuries to other batters saw him being drafted into the side to fill that crucial number three slot. He held the Sri Lankan batting together in partnerships of 34, 54 and 42 with Kusal Mendis (25), Charith Asalanka (19) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (18) to see his team home safely in an elegant display of batting that had fluency written all over it. It was an excellent knock under pressure in a must win situation.

The Lanka batters handled the bowling of Afghanistan's key spinner Rashid Khan very well although he managed to pick up two wickets. "Whenever we've had a good opening stand or someone taking responsibility from the top to move on, we've done well," said assistant coach Naveed Nawaz. "The plan was to lose less wickets in the first 10 overs and to look at opportunities and have partnerships going. We knew we were chasing 145 which is not a big total and should always get there."

"It's a relief that Dhananjaya is coming into the runs. He's always shown potential with scores of 30s and 40s but it's good to see him finishing a game, which is a good sign for us." It was De Silva's first fifty in a T20I since January 2020 and his highest in 32 matches.

The loss put Afghanistan out of the competition with only two points and one match to play. Afghanistan came to this game without being in action for ten days following total washouts against New Zealand and Ireland, and they were never quite able to get their momentum going.

Sri Lanka picked up two crucial points to take their tally to four from four matches to be placed fourth. England's win over New Zealand yesterday in the second

SCOREBOARD	
AFGHANISTAN	
Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Kumara	28
Usman Ghani c Shanaka b Hasaranga	27
Ibrahim Zadran c Rajapaksa b Kumara	22
Najibullah Zadran c Hasaranga b De Silva	18
Gulbadin Naib run out	12
Mohammad Nabi c Shanaka b Rajitha	13
Rashid Khan b Hasaranga	9
Azmat Omarzai not out	3
Mujeeb-ur-Rahman st Mendis b Hasaranga	1
Extras (b-3, lb-1, nb-1, w-6)	11
Total (8 wickets, 20 overs)	144
Fall of wickets: 1-42 (Gurbaz), 2-68 (Ghani), 3-90 (Ibrahim), 4-113 (Najibullah), 5-127 (Gulbadin), 6-140 (Nabi), 7-142 (Rashid), 8-144 (Mujeeb)	
Did not bat: Fareed Ahmed, Fazalhaq Farooqi	
Bowling: Rajitha 4-0-31-1 (w1, nb1), Madushan 3-0-24-0, Kumara 4-0-30-2 (w4), Theekshana 4-0-33-0 (w1), Hasaranga 4-0-13-3, De Silva 1-0-9-1	
SRI LANKA	
P. Nissanka b Mujeeb	10
K. Mendis c Gurbaz b Rashid	25
D. de Silva not out	66
C. Asalanka c Azmat b Rashid	19
B. Rajapaksa c Gurbaz b Mujeeb	18
D. Shanaka not out	0
Extras (lb-1, w-9)	10
Total (4 wickets, 18.3 overs)	148
Fall of wickets: 1-12 (Nissanka), 2-46 (Mendis), 3-100 (Asalanka), 4-142 (Rajapaksa)	
Did not bat: W. Hasaranga, M. Theekshana, K. Rajitha, P. Madushan, L. Kumara	
Bowling: Farooqi 3.3-1-22-0 (w2), Mujeeb 4-0-24-2, Fareed 2-0-25-0 (w1), Rashid 4-0-31-2 (w5), Omarzai 2-0-17-0 (w1), Nabi 2-0-16-0, Naib 1-0-12-0	

double-header at the Gabba, saw them move to second place behind New Zealand in the Group 1 table with Australia in third place. New Zealand, England and Australia all of five points each after four matches, but in Australia's case their net run rate is still minus.

Sri Lanka will need to win against England in their final game on Saturday to have any hope of qualifying for a semi-final place. Their fate also lies on how New Zealand, Australia and England fare in their final group matches.

"We've got to go with all guns blazing against England to have any outside chance of qualifying for the semi-finals. We need to secure a big win taking whatever chances or risks that we need to take to get there," said Nawaz.

England roar back to beat New Zealand and revive World Cup hopes

BRISBANE, AFP: Clinical England rescued their Twenty20 World Cup campaign as they held their nerve to beat New Zealand by 20 runs at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday.

England, who had been facing almost certain elimination had they lost, moved into the top two in Group 1 along with their opponents with one round of matches to go.

Only the top two reach the semi-finals.

It puts enormous pressure on hosts and defending champions Australia, who must now win their last match against Afghanistan and hope England or New Zealand stumble.

England skipper Jos Buttler propelled England to 179-6 after he smashed 73 off 47 balls. Alex Hales also struck a half-century.

The captain played a crucial role with the bat

as England finally started to show why they were one of the pre-tournament favourites. Their fate is now in their own hands.

England got away to a perfect start in the field when New Zealand opener Devon Conway leg-glanced a ball from Chris Woakes and Buttler took a spectacular diving catch.

It got worse for the Kiwis when Finn Allen pulled a slower ball from Sam Curran to Ben Stokes at deep mid-wicket, leaving New Zealand 28-2 after five overs.

The Black Caps were struggling against a tight bowling attack, but the momentum swung firmly towards them when Moeen Ali dropped the in-form Glenn Phillips when he was on 15 and New Zealand 64-2.

Phillips skied an attempted pull shot straight to Ali, who some-



how didn't get a hand on it.

Phillips, who blasted a century against Sri Lanka in New Zealand's last match, made the English pay as he raced to his half century off only 25 balls.

Buttler was ringing the changes with his attack as he tried seven bowlers in the search for a breakthrough.

His seventh choice finally paid off when

Black Caps skipper Kane Williamson (40) squeezed a Stokes delivery to Adil Rashid at short third.

James Neesham came and went for six but Phillips kept on smashing the England attack all over the Gabba.

He lost Daryl Mitchell, caught on the boundary by substitute fielder Chris Jordan off Mark Wood, before falling the same way off Sam Curran

almost immediately. Once Phillips fell, New Zealand's challenge was as good as over as the lower order struggled to find the boundary.

Earlier, Buttler was dropped twice during his entertaining knock, before passing former captain Eoin Morgan as the highest run-scorer for England in T20 internationals.

Williamson was left to rue letting Buttler off the hook.

But New Zealand, last year's beaten finalists, top Group 1 on net run rate, with England second.

New Zealand, who could have sealed a spot in the semi-finals with victory, play Ireland on Friday – the same day the hosts are in action against already eliminated Afghanistan.

England face Asian champions Sri Lanka on Saturday to wrap the group up.

Honours shared at inaugural Saints Quadrangular Tournament

Anthony's College participated in these events. St. Joseph's College secured the T10 league in the Saints Quadrangular competition beating St. Peter's College by seven wickets.

Meanwhile Antonians showed top class form and confidence in

sevens rugby after their win at the National School Games which took place in Bandarawela where the Katugastota lads ended as champs.

They handed off the hosts 31/7 last weekend in the sevens final at Bambalapitiya. At the short breather winners led 14/5.

Roshen Tharusha Kumara was Player of the tournament and Sahana Keethsiri won the player of the finals award.

St. Peter's College secured the basketball trophy, beating St. Benedict's College by 74 points to 24.