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**Rise against State repression: A call to the people**

Brandix successfully hosts Sustainability Summit for second consecutive year




**There is an alternative: Economic perspectives of Ranil Wickremesinghe vs. Sajith Premadasa**

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## President vows to annihilate future Aragalayas



**Tells in Parliament if there are plans to initiate another Aragalaya to change Government, he will get the military and the forces and impose State of Emergency**

**But assures people can stage protests with permission from Police**

**Claims public no longer supports the Aragalaya**

**Says people can protest claiming he is a dictator or Hitler, but stresses he is a true democrat**

**Castigates dual citizen Frontline Socialist Party Leader Kumar Gunaratnam for creating mischief and instability**

PRESIDENT Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday said any unlawful protest movements will not be allowed, warning to deploy military and use emergency powers if necessary. "IF there are plans to initiate another Aragalaya to change the Government, I won't give space for that. I will get the military and the forces and I will impose the State of Emergency," he told the House yesterday.

PRESIDENT Wickremesinghe added that any attempts to create another Aragalaya without permits for protests will be prevented and the Police have been instructed to take action to prevent such protests. "ANYONE has the freedom to protest. But, go to the Police and take the permission and then walk on the roads, shout 'I am a dictator or I am like Hitler', but just take permission and don't obstruct traffic," he said. Wickremesinghe by highlighting how he moved for 17th, 19th and 21st amendments to the Constitutions and he is not a dictator but a democrat. "YET, if anyone thinks that they can engage in another struggle without obtaining a licence, stop it. I have instructed the police. If anyone tries to stage a protest to topple the Government, I will not allow it."

President Ranil Wickremesinghe

**More Page 2**

### THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL AT BALL



The 247th US Marine Corps Birthday Ball was held on 18 November in Colombo. Here US Ambassador Julie Chung is flanked by Sri Lanka's young politicians Ruwan Wijewardene, Harin Fernando and Kanchana Wijesekera

### Tourism Minister says FIFA Zone is on, not off

**Asserts inquiries and reservations are steadily picking up from Russia, Qatar, Maldives and India**

**Says FIFA Zone is not a fritter**

**Anticipates increased football as favourite teams start to play**

**FIFA Zone Committee Chair Thimum Jayasuriya says SLTPB steers campaign with SL Consulate in Qatar**

firmed that Sri Lanka has been chosen as a preferred destination by FIFA World Cup fans, with inquiries and reservations steadily picking up from Russia, Qatar, Maldives and India. "The FIFA Zone is not a fritter. The industry stakeholders are promoting it along with the multiple partners," he told the Daily FT. On 2 November, Sri Lanka Tourism officially unveiled its out-of-the-box travel packages to woo a fraction of the FIFA World Cup 2022 fan base to 'FIFA Zone' in Negombo.

BY CHARUMINI DE SILVA

DESPITE the slow start, Tourism Minister Harin Fernando yesterday con-

**More Page 4**

## Ranil says recovery first before politics

**Rules out dissolution of Parliament amidst economic crisis**

**Requests parties to finalise 5 youth representatives for committees before end of next month**

**Says it will not be possible to eradicate corruption till preferential voting system is scrapped**

**Calls on all-party support to resolve ethnic issues, to love like children of one mother**

**TNA, SJB alliance agree in principle to support President's proposal**

**Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa pledges to support 13th Amendment**

**Wickremesinghe to convene all-party meeting after Budget passed**

PRESIDENT Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday affirmed that he will not dissolve the Parliament amidst an economic crisis, whilst extending an open invitation to all political parties to support the efforts to resolve the ethnic crisis. "I will not dissolve the Parliament. There is a huge economic crisis. Do it (dissolve the Parliament) after resolving the economic mess. Today people are fed up with the political parties and the politics," he told the Parliament yesterday. The President requested both the Government and Opposition parties to finalise the five youth representatives to participate in the committees before the end of next month and to appoint them in January. President Wickremesinghe said without delivering a system change, politicians will not be able to win the confidence of the people.

**Maithri calls for snap polls**

**Says elections will help people to get spiritual release in current situation**

**Reveals SLFP in discussion with other parties to form alliance**

**Party's restructuring efforts will commence in December**

**Maithri to crack the whip against dissenting Duminda**

SRI Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Chairman Maithripala Sirisena has called for an election to be held immediately. He said the party along with its factions wrote both the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Government to inform them of their stance and request for an election to be held.

SLFP Chairman Maithripala Sirisena

**More Page 2**

### SriLankan Airlines upbeat by support of global travel trade for tourism revival

**Successfully concludes first-ever Global Sales Conference in Sri Lanka drawing 170 international travel industry representatives**

SRILANKAN Airlines said yesterday it expects an on-target performance this winter and beyond spurred by the positive feedback from its first-ever Global Sales Conference held in Sri Lanka last week drawing 170 travel industry representatives from over 40 countries.

SriLankan Airlines CEO Richard Nuttall at the media briefing yesterday with Head of Worldwide Sales and Distribution Dimuthu Tennakoon (right) and Manager Corporate Communications Deepal Perera - Pic by Sameera Wijesinghe

**More Page 4**

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### Alignment of fiscal and monetary policies critical for stability: CB Chief

BY HIYAL BIYAGAMAGE

CENTRAL Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe stressed the importance of creating harmony between Sri Lanka's fiscal and monetary policies, ensuring that both are aligned perfectly to regain macroeconomic stability.

Attending the Sri Lanka Internet Day 2022 by the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS), the Governor said that one of the major imbalances of Sri Lanka is not having proper complementary or coordination between the two policy entities, resulting in fiscal dominance.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe - Pic by Lasantha Kumara

**More Page 2**

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**Discussions encompassed role of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), and its importance for future business operation**

BRANDIX Apparel Ltd. successfully hosted its much-anticipated second Sustainability Summit for 2022 on Tuesday.

The summit, which was a hybrid event with virtual participants and a physical event at Brandix Essentials Ltd., Ratmalana, brought together an audience of business leaders, government representatives, NGOs, and others interested in this timely subject.

The discussions encompassed varied aspects of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), covering the pressing issues that faced the world today, with a specific focus on the urgent need to give equal importance to all aspects of the triple bottom line – People, Planet and Profit.

This year's panel of international speakers included UN Global Compact Senior Manager – Corporate Engagement Claire Kells, who spoke of her organisation's work in the areas of promoting best practices and offering methodologies to effectively track results, through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Global Compact's ESG principles.

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, Senior Environmental and Social Development Specialist Ruby Ojha shared insights on ESG for Sustainability, an overview of IFC Performance Standards and IFC's initiatives relevant to Ready Made Garment Sector.

The final of the international speakers; PVH Corp. Senior Director –

# Brandix successfully hosts Sustainability Summit for second consecutive year



Corporate Responsibility (SA) and Global Sustainability (Offshore) Tejas Sampat shared his views on how the fashion industry is changing and the opportunity to drive fashion forward for the good of all. Each speaker reinforced the summit's objective of the need to act now, and to couple global know-how with local solutions.

From hosts Brandix, two panellists, namely Group Engineering Deputy General Manager Akila Fernando and Group Sustainability Engineer Vinura Jayewardene, took the audience through the company's own sustainability journey spanning a decade and a half, and anchored to the pillars of Air, Water and Earth.

The sustainability journey of Brandix, commencing in 2007, has seen significant milestones been reached, and include the plant in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka being recog-

nised as the world's first Net Zero Carbon Apparel Manufacturing facility in 2019. This was not the first time the company broke new ground; in 2008, its factory in Seeduwa, Sri Lanka became the World's first LEED Platinum certified facility under the World Green Building Council, and today the Group has multiple other LEED certified facilities across Sri Lanka and India.

A significant depiction of this commitment is the company's pledge to be Net Zero Carbon across all manufacturing facilities in Sri Lanka by 2023, and all facilities in India by 2025.

"Brandix also works with the objective to make each location where it establishes its facilities, a better place than it was when the company arrived, through enhancing the living conditions and wellbeing of the community," said Vinura Jayewardene,

Group Sustainability Engineer, Brandix Apparel Limited. He elaborated that in Sri Lanka, its flagship initiative of Water Projects has provided access to clean water for drinking and household needs to over a quarter of a million people, whilst in India free eye camps screen patients and extend medical support and spectacles, with over 35,000 beneficiaries to date.

With attendance figures for this year's summit once again exceeding the 1,000s, Brandix is humbled to have had the opportunity to bring together a global community of like-minded participants who strive to make an impact on the environment and society. Brandix hopes that this summit is yet another step that will inspire more organisations and individuals to join hands and move from commitments to immediate actions, to unlock the true power of sustainable growth.

**According to the order of the Hon'ble Court under Section 131 of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act No. 5 of 2015.**

My name is Kasi Muhandhiramala Gedara Mohammed Mansoor Mohammed Rusham, I am the salesman of Sixty Six Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., located at No. 66, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

In the case 23291/22 taken up on 06/10/2022 in the Fort Magistrate's Court under charges of selling medicines without a valid license and selling illegal and counterfeit or fraudulently brought medicines, I inform the people of Sri Lanka that I pleaded guilty in the presence of Honorable Magistrate and a fine of Rs. 50,000 was imposed.

I also apologize to the Sri Lankan people for this mistake and will not repeat it.

**Kasi Muhandhiramala Gedara Mohammed Mansoor Mohammed Rusham.**

## Council for Business with Britain in joint initiative to help SMEs thrive in challenging economic times

THE Council for Business with Britain (CBB) is launching a collaborative initiative to support SMEs to thrive during challenging economic times.

CBB's key purpose is promoting and supporting business with the United Kingdom for entrepreneurs, SMEs and corporates. In addition to the primary goal of supporting SMEs on breaking into UK markets, this year's mandate also focuses on identifying the need to extensively support the SME sector during an extremely volatile economic climate, on a local and global scale. It is a timely initiative with focus to create an ecosystem that supports businesses, find fertile ground and reinvent the wheel while repurposing products and services.

The first of CBB's seminars targeting SMEs will be held on Monday, 28 November at 3 p.m. at the Chamber Auditorium at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

It will focus on uplifting SMEs in Sri Lanka with an awareness session while providing trade insights into the UK market. Additionally, there will be a detailed discussion on the Developing

**FT Key Take**

Initial session will be a discussion with key industry experts on insights into the UK market and on the Developing Countries Trading Scheme – the replacement scheme for GSP+ post Brexit

Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) and how Sri Lankan businesses can benefit from it. The session will be patronised by experts in the industry from the Board of Investment, the Export Development Board and the Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka, who will present in detail on diversification of products, market reach, overcoming current challenges and creating opportunities.

The CBB expects a diverse audience of UK businesses and Sri Lankan SMEs to benefit from the session with plans to engage in 'Uplifting Sri Lankan SMEs', across the entire spectrum, starting from creating awareness to value creation.

There is more potential for Sri Lankan businesses to explore opportunities provided under the UK's bilateral trade based on a recent study of the statistics. Currently Sri Lanka benefits from only one-third of the allowed goods, which are converted to exports indicating more potential for growth. CBB in collaboration with the Department of International Trade of the British High Commission and the Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka has identified prevailing gaps in exports. The intention is to collaborate and establish a cross functional working committee comprising the Export Development Board (EDB) and other trade associations to create awareness, develop export-related competencies and facilitate business introductions aimed at converting the untapped market potential which is beneficial for SMEs venturing out into the UK market.

The CBB is a non-political, not-for-profit organisation that works towards promoting trade between Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. For more information or on how to join its membership, please contact +94 11 5588861.

ASIA Pacific Institute of Money and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED), which was found a year ago, with the primary objective of contributing to entrepreneurship development and financial literacy education across Asia Pacific region, has announced the appointment of two veterans in the entrepreneurship sphere, Dr. Nirmal De Silva and Dr. Damith Gangodawilage, to its governing board.

The founder President Chaaminda Kumarasiri stated: "Our aim is to emerge as the premier body in Sri Lanka and then in the Asia Pacific region in entrepreneurship development and financial literacy education. We provide a range of services which include but not limited to, advisory services, capacity building programs, short-term courses, certificate programs, workshops as well as other services to inspire and empower existing and aspiring entrepreneurs."

"We have already partnered with the leading institutions including those in the state sector and we have an elite team of advisors covering a wider spectrum of disciplines supported by a rich resource pool to deliver our promise. I am happy to welcome both Damith and Nirmal who are not strangers to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Sri Lanka and I am sure they will be a great strength for IMED in executing its agenda and will work closely with the administrative team headed by the Chief Operating Officer, P G Tennakoon."

Dr. Nirmal De Silva is an award-winning business leader with close to two decades of 'C' level experience in MNCs and Fortune 500 companies in APAC & South Asian regions. Presently the Co-Founder /CEO of Paramount Realty and the Founder of TYNA Consulting, Dr. De Silva is highly regarded in the corpo-

## Dr. Nirmal and Dr. Damith join IMED Governing Board



**Dr. Nirmal De Silva**

rate sector both as a Strategy Consultant & Corporate Trainer. Dr. De Silva also serves in the boards of several state and private sector organisations in diverse industries. He is also a board member of Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) in Sri Lanka.

Dr. De Silva is a great advocate in improving the startup and social enterprise eco system in Sri Lanka. He is also a member of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) for Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. De Silva is an Associate Professor, Visiting Lecturer & Thesis Supervisor for Undergraduate and Post Graduate level programs in several local and international universities.

Dr. Damith Gangodawilage is an award-winning serial entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in taxation and financial management locally and internationally. He is the founder of Taxperts Lanka Ltd, a tech start-up that has revolutionised tax compliance by offering digital solutions to taxpayers and tax consultants. This endeavour has



**Dr. Damith Gangodawilage**

won him awards from ICTA, BCS and SLASSCOM.

He is a Governing Council Member of AAT Sri Lanka and Chairman of AAT Business School. Before that he used to be the Vice President of the Sri Lanka Institute of Taxation and the Director/ Treasurer of the Colombo Chamber of Commerce. He is also a Member of CMA Sri Lanka COVID19 SME Development Committee, established by the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka and an Exco Member of the SME Task Force established by the CA Sri Lanka.

He holds Doctorate in Entrepreneurship and Compliance Management from the University of Kelaniya and an MBA from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia and a PG. Dip in Business and Financial Management from the University of Cranfield, UK in collaboration with CA Sri Lanka. He also holds a HND in Accountancy from the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education. He is a Founding Member of Chartered Professional Managers in Sri Lanka.

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# EDB to prepare exporters for new German laws on supply chain compliance

■ EU laws in 2024 expected to be tougher

By Darshana Abayasingha

GERMANY will impose its Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains from January 2023, whereby all German companies are obliged to observe human rights and environmental obligations across their supply chains.

This will mandate suppliers from Sri Lanka and other countries exporting to Germany to adhere with requirements requested by importers. This could include contractual assurance, risk-based control mechanisms, audits and training measures.

Germany is a forerunner with the regulations and the European Union and other countries are expected to follow suit.

Speaking at an event in Colombo, Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka Chief Delegate Marie Antonia von



AHK Sri Lanka Chief Delegate Marie Antonia Von Schonberg

Schonberg said: "It is a global trend. The EU is working on a due diligence act of their own that will probably come into force in 2024, which is stronger than the German one."

"The German one focuses on labour laws on human rights whereas the EU one will also include environmental factors. It will be more complicated. The Act aside, even consumers themselves are asking for due diligence. We do have a head start, but we cannot be complacent."

Yesterday, 26 officers of Sri Lanka's Export Development Board (EDB) received certificates after training on aspects of the new Act. They will offer



EDB Chairman Suresh De Mel

relevant support and assessments of Sri Lankan exporters. The program was conducted by Friedrich Naumann Foundation together with the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka.

In practice, Sri Lankan companies must be prepared to disclose relevant information on their operations on human rights and environmental expectations. The European Union is Sri Lanka's second largest export market and Germany is the largest market for the island in the EU.

EDB Chairman Suresh De Mel, said the responsibility lies with the exporter, as there



EDB Export Services Director Indumini Kodikara

is only so much support the Government could give. "Exporters too must change their ways and comply. It's the country's reputation at stake and they can add more value to the exports and the country in this manner," the Chairman said.

De Mel said Sri Lanka has adequate laws in place to support the expectations of Germany and the EU and the country already has "a head start", but exporters need to comply. He encouraged producers in Sri Lanka to work closer with buyers so they have a better understanding of the expectations.

Speaking to the Daily FT,



FNF Sri Lanka Head Wolfgang Heinze

De Mel, an exporter himself, personally feels the new regulations are not going to be as imperative as GSP+, which is under negotiation, and expressed hope both parties will meet each other halfway in these discussions. He said there are many "class exporters" in Sri Lanka, and we should be exporting produce to large markets.

"But most of our produce is going to lower markets because of the trader mentality. There isn't enough innovation and value addition." The EDB is doing a lot of work, but there is no short cut, he added.

# Anton expands to Maldives

ANTON, a leading manufacturer in the Sri Lankan PVC industry, water tanks and roofing amongst industrial and consumer sectors, recently made history by introducing its vast product range to the Maldives.

Anton enters the Maldivian market amidst a challenging time for both individuals and businesses worldwide. Despite that, the positive feedback received from partners and consumers alike is commendable and encouraging.

Anton Chief Operating Officer Lahiru Jayasinghe shared his thoughts on the latest endeavour: "We are extremely delighted to be able to offer our range of products and services to the Maldives. While we have been firmly established in Sri Lanka for many generations, we believe that this is the ideal time to enter the global market to further expand our presence. We have been committed to bringing new products to our customers, expanding our offerings and ensuring that we make a positive impact in the lives of people across the globe. We constantly, aim at maintaining the highest quality of our products while also focusing on research and development to cater to the evolving needs of our clientele in the most efficient and safest manner."

The company now exports a wide range of its products to the Maldivian market, further strengthening its growth in irrigation, infrastructure and piping amongst the industrial and consumer users. Such has also resulted in the growth and expansion of the company in taking a truly Sri Lankan brand to the limelight of the world.

"We are extremely pleased to enter the Maldives market which is rapidly developing with construction opportunities, at this much-needed time to stabilise the Sri Lankan Rupee. This is not just another leap in our growth testimony, but a milestone that strengthens our impact on the nation and its people," Lahiru added.

Since its establishment in 1958, Anton has pioneered, invented and made large-scale investments in the local industry, thereby vastly contributing to the nation's economy. The company, today, is a leader in the PVC pipes and fittings industry. Pressure pipes and fittings, water tanks, thermo CPVC pipes and fittings, rain water gutters and fittings, valves, adhesives and sealants, conduits and trucking, nets, and hoses are a few of the high-quality products it offers to the market. Anton has also introduced several innovative products such as Armor uPVC Roofing Sheets, uPVC Doors and Windows, and Polar Insulation, reiterating its commitment towards offering advanced solutions to its valued consumers.

# Bayat Legal Services, Malik Cader promote dual citizenship for Lankans

BAYAT Legal Services in Dubai, United Arab Emirates has appointed Malik Cader of Corporate Legal Consultants as its authorised representative in Sri Lanka to offer a second passport with visa-free travel to over 130 countries.

Cader said those who love island life in the Pearl of the Indian Ocean but also desire the experience of other islands can acquire dual citizenship in The Pacific and Caribbean Islands and experience the convenience of travel to over

130 countries without the long-drawn out and tedious hassle of obtaining a visa.

He said benefits include: Visa-free travel to over 130 countries, including EU, UK, etc.; No residency requirement before or after the application;

no language tests and interviews; irrevocable citizenship of a family transferable to future generations; access to alternate banking and financial services; tax optimisation and business-friendly environment; equality with natural

born citizens including right to vote. "These island nations are stable and banking systems are secure with clarity on tax ranging from nil to minimal," Cader said.

Senior representatives from Bayat Legal Services, a

Canadian legal firm based in Dubai will be visiting Colombo from 3-4 December to meet individuals desirous of obtaining a second passport and citizenship. Appointments could be obtained by contacting Corporate Legal Consultants on 070 6420642.

# People's Bank Annual Inter Branch/Department Quiz 2022

THE People's Bank Annual Inter Branch/Department Quiz program was successfully held for the 18th year at the Monarch Imperial, Sri Jayawardanepura Kotte recently with the participation of 104 teams.

The objective of the quiz was to enhance the overall knowledge of the bank's staff. This program was held under the patronage of People's Bank Chairman Sujeewa Rajapakse and Chief Executive Officer/

General Manager Ranjith Kodituwakku, together with the Corporate and Executive management.

The Champions Risk Management and Credit Control Department were awarded the CEO/GM Trophy, the 1st Runners-up, Colombo North - Team A; 2nd Runners-up, Treasury Front Office - Team A; 3rd Runners-up; Centralised Back Office - Team B and 4th Runners-up, International Banking Division - Team A.



People's Bank Chairman Sujeewa Rajapakse



CEO/GM Ranjith Kodituwakku



Deputy General Manager (BSS) Nipunika Wijayarathne



Champions - Risk Management and Credit Control Department



1st Runners up - Colombo North - Team A



2nd Runners up - Treasury Front Office - Team A



3rd Runners-up - Centralised Back Office - Team B



4th Runners-up - International Banking Division - Team A



Panel of Judges



# Editorial

## Rise against State repression: A call to the people

### View

#### Need for independence in independent commissions

IN 2000 Parliament adopted the 17th Amendment (17A) to the Constitution which established a multi-partisan Constitutional Council (CC) and removed the President's unbridled power to make key appointments to independent institutions. The Constitutional Council was primarily aimed at depoliticising the state and public service.

This amendment was passed unanimously with overwhelming support from all parties reflecting the desire and need perceived at that time, to strengthen institutions of governance. This followed the negative experiences of abuse of power by successive government leaders and the need to set up a system of checks and balances to curb that power.

After the independent commissions established under the 17A were diluted by the power grab of the 18A in 2010 they were restored in 2015 through the 19A. The pendulum has swung in either direction since with the 20A diluting the independent commissions while recently passed 21A attempting to restore some credibility into these institutions. It is also apparent that these commissions, however empowered they may legally be, even with constitutional guarantees, will be independent, strong, and relevant only as far as those appointed to them adhere to the high standards expected of them. As witnessed during the constitutional coup orchestrated by president Maithripala Sirisena in October 2018, even offices such as the Inspector General of Police and the Attorney General, which had constitutional protections against arbitrary removal, capitulated on the side of the plotters of the coup.

The manifest unsuitability of some of the commissioners holding office in independent commissions have been glaringly visible in recent days. National Police Commission Chairman Chandra Fernando was seen at the VIP lounge of the airport last week welcoming Basil Rajapaksa, the national organiser of a political party. He was accompanied by another member of the Police Commission. Similarly, the Commission to Investigate All Forms of Bribery or Corruption is filled with individuals with dubious records.

The commission is made up of a former justice of the Supreme Court, a former judge of the court of appeal and a former senior police officer who were all blatantly biased during their professional lives. Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission has in recent years been downgraded for its lack of independence and transparency by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which is the international body that regulates national human rights institutions.

These are reflective of the progressive decline in the independence and effectiveness of most of its democratic institutions including the independent commissions. These include the police, the public service, the Parliamentary Oversight Committees, the Attorney General's Department, the judiciary, the Public Service Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Police Commission, and the Commission to Investigate All Forms of Bribery or Corruption. At the moment there is no national institution, including the courts, that commands the credibility and respect of all sections of Sri Lankan society and of all its communities.

The past two decades of constitution making proves the desire of society for independent institutions to minimise politicisation, corruption and abuse of power. The independent commissions and the constitutional council that appoints individuals to these institutions are vital for the survival of democracy in this country. The appointment of individuals to these institutions cannot be taken lightly and as recent examples have demonstrated the damage that can be done by having the wrong individuals in these institutions can be devastating. It is therefore imperative that the independent commissions and the constitutional council be filled with individuals with the highest levels of integrity if there is any hope of regaining their credibility.



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2022 has seen the most dramatic uprising of people against the Government's tyrannical rule since independence. Amidst a devastating economic crisis, the people raised their voices against corruption, misrule and economic mismanagement, demanding greater democracy. Instead of heeding the people's call for change in the political culture and economic accountability, the Government has responded with repression.

The State's crackdown on protesters is intended to prevent the expression of public dissatisfaction with the administration, as well as the austerity measures it has imposed which are causing tremendous hardship and suffering.

We, the undersigned, call on the Government to acknowledge the sovereignty of the people, to cease its persecution of protesters, and ensure the civil, political and economic rights of all citizens, especially of marginalised and vulnerable communities. The multiple, interconnected political and economic crises confronting us now cannot be resolved through a move towards greater authoritarianism but by the people's continued involvement in the democratic space that has been created and by an administration willing to engage with its citizens.

#### The Security State

From its inception, State security and its repressive arms were key to the functioning of the Sri Lankan postcolonial state. The insurgencies in the south and the rise of militancy in the north and east, the protracted war that lasted almost 30 years, were used to legitimise the repressive arms of the State. The all-powerful executive presidency (1978) compounded matters by densely concentrating executive powers in one office, enabling swift authorisation of questionable laws and actions.

In 1979, the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was introduced, giving the Government sweeping powers to arrest anyone without a warrant on the hazy grounds of their engaging in "unlawful activities" and detain them for up to 18 months without being produced before a court, and often incarcerating them for decades without a fair trial. Presented, debated and enacted in parliament within a single day, the PTA was a "temporary" measure to purportedly stem the tide of Tamil militancy. It was complemented by several other organised forms of repression.

In addition to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), units like the police Special Task Force (STF), and the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID), paved the way for increased securitisation and militarisation of the State. In the long years of the war and unrest, militarisation seeped into the fabric of society.

#### Post-war and post-Easter bombings

The template for what we see today was shaped during the post-war years as well, as the State continued to target minorities. Instead of pursuing genuine reconciliation and power-sharing, the State reinforced its military apparatus in the north and east. This has allowed the retention of High Security Zones, preventing people from returning to their homes and livelihoods, and enabled land grabbing that is rationalised in the name of security or development. In the aftermath of the Easter bombings of April 2019, in which some 270 people lost their lives, anti-terror campaigns targeted Muslim youth. Terror and fear seized the Muslim community as they came under attack by the repressive arms of State security. The PTA was to arbitrarily arrest and confine persons known and unknown, on very flimsy charges. The arrest and detention of Hejaaz Hizbullah and Ahnaf Jazeem are only two cases in point of how the PTA is used in a gross violation of all concerns of justice.

An earlier development in this regard has drawn insufficient public attention. In compliance with UN Security Council



Resolution No. 1373 calling on member states to take measures to curb terrorist activity, the Sri Lankan state drew up a list of names in 2020, identifying 300-odd persons as terror suspects. The overwhelming majority of those named in the list are Muslim and Tamil. Some were already behind bars during the period in which they are suspected of having engaged in suspicious activity. Persons included in the list undergo untold difficulties: they no longer enjoy access to their financial assets and have no indication of when they may expect to have such access again. They cannot seek legal redress because their financial assets are barred to them. They have trouble securing or holding on to employment due to the disrepute of being included in the list. They live under constant surveillance, with the threat of potential punitive measures despite the absence of any evidence of misconduct.

#### Bureau of Rehabilitation Bill

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Bill is the most recent in a series of laws that seek to sanction repression by the State and must not be viewed in isolation, but in the totality of a process we understand as securitisation of the state. The broad reach of the Bill allows for sending into compulsory detention "drug dependent persons, ex-combatants, members of violent extremist groups and any other group of persons" without necessarily citing sufficient cause for such action.

Even though the Supreme Court has ruled that "certain provisions" of the Bill are unconstitutional such as the reference to 'ex-combatants' and 'any other persons', the criminalisation of drug dependency that seems to be considered unproblematic suggests that the law itself should not be accepted without questioning. Its draconian features allow virtually any person to be sent into detention and it does not specify the procedure by which claims of drug abuse, past involvement in armed activity, and violent extremism may be reasonably established. It leaves space for the criminalisation of democratic activism that has characterised our recent past. The Bill in its entirety should be struck down.

#### The current moment of repression

Today, person after person is being arrested and detained. The lens of surveillance has dramatically turned to those who are deemed central to the people's movement of the Aragalaya. Those who have stood up to State violence, including students, are being picked off the streets and sent away, into the dark corners of detention.

We are staring into the gaping mouth of a police state. We have to reclaim our voice, and rise against all acts of repression and all legal manoeuvres that are designed to silence dissent, resistance and democratic action. This is the task at hand, where we citizens must reclaim the democratic space to put an end to authoritarian repression. It is through democratic participation, through dialogue, protests and the vote, that the tremendous economic and political crisis can be addressed in the interests of all the people of Sri Lanka.

#### Signed:

1. Ranil Abayasekara, formerly

- University of Peradeniya
- 2. Udari Abeyasinghe, University of Peradeniya
- 3. Asha L. Abeyasekera, formerly University of Colombo
- 4. M.M. Alikhan, University of Peradeniya
- 5. Liyanage Amarakeerthi, University of Peradeniya
- 6. Fazeeha Azmi, M.I., University of Peradeniya
- 7. Crystal Baines, formerly University of Colombo
- 8. Navaratne Banda, formerly University of Peradeniya
- 9. Visakesa Chandrasekaram, University of Colombo
- 10. Erandika de Silva, University of Jaffna
- 11. Nadeesh De Silva, the Open University of Sri Lanka
- 12. Nirmal Dewasiri, University of Colombo
- 13. Kanchuka Dharmasiri, University of Peradeniya
- 14. Priyan Dias, Emeritus Professor, University of Moratuwa
- 15. Avanka Fernando, University of Colombo
- 16. Priyantha Fonseka, University of Peradeniya
- 17. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor, University of Colombo
- 18. Camena Guneratne, Open University of Sri Lanka
- 19. Dileni Gunewardena, University of Peradeniya
- 20. Farzana Haniffa, University of Colombo
- 21. Shyamani Hettiarachchi, University of Kelaniya
- 22. Gayathri Hewagama, Visiting Lecturer, University of Peradeniya
- 23. Charudaththe B. Illangasinghe, University of the Visual and Performing Arts
- 24. Prabhath Jayasinghe, University of Colombo
- 25. Theshani Jayasooriya, University of Peradeniya
- 26. M.W.A.P. Jayatilaka, Retired, University of Peradeniya
- 27. Barana Jayawardana, University of Peradeniya
- 28. Pavithra Jayawardena, University of Colombo
- 29. Ahilan Kadirgamar, University of Jaffna
- 30. Anushka Kahandagamage, formerly University of Colombo
- 31. Pavithra Kailasapathy, University of Colombo
- 32. Maduranga Kalugampitiya, University of Peradeniya
- 33. A.K. Karunarathne, University of Peradeniya
- 34. Madara Karunarathne, University of Peradeniya
- 35. Chulani Kodikara, Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo
- 36. Pradeepa Korale Gedara, University of Peradeniya
- 37. Savitri Nimal Kumar, University of Peradeniya
- 38. Ramya Kumar, University of Jaffna
- 39. Shamala Kumar, University of Peradeniya
- 40. Vijaya Kumar, Emeritus Professor, University of Peradeniya
- 41. Amal Kumarage, University of Moratuwa
- 42. Aminda Lakmal, University of Sri Jaywardenepura
- 43. Rohan Laksiri, University of Ruhuna
- 44. Abdul Haq Lareena, Sabaragamuwa University
- 45. Hasini Lecamwasam, University of Peradeniya
- 46. Kamala Liyanage, Professor Emerita, University of Peradeniya

- 47. Nethmie Liyanage, University of Peradeniya
- 48. Sachini Marasinghe, University of Peradeniya
- 49. Tharinda Mallawaarachchi, University of Colombo
- 50. Sudesh Mantillake, University of Peradeniya
- 51. Prabha Manuratne, University of Kelaniya
- 52. Mahim Mendis, Open University of Sri Lanka
- 53. Rumala Morel, University of Peradeniya
- 54. Sitralegra Maunaguru, retired formerly Eastern University of Sri Lanka
- 55. Kethakie Nagahawatte, University of Colombo
- 56. Sabreena Niles, University of Kelaniya
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- 59. Ranjini Obeyesekere, formerly University of Peradeniya
- 60. Arjuna Parakrama, University of Peradeniya
- 61. Sasinindu Patabendige, University of Jaffna
- 62. Pradeep Peiris, University of Colombo
- 63. Kaushalya Perera, University of Colombo
- 64. Nicola Perera, University of Colombo
- 65. Ramindu Perera, The Open University of Sri Lanka
- 66. Ruhanie Perera, University of Colombo
- 67. Sampath Rajapaksa, University of Kelaniya
- 68. Ramesh Ramasamy, University of Peradeniya
- 69. Harshana Rambukwella, The Open University of Sri Lanka
- 70. Rajitha Ranasinghe, University of Peradeniya
- 71. Rupika Subashini Rajakaruna, University of Peradeniya
- 72. Aruni Samarakoon, University of Ruhuna
- 73. Athula Siri Samarakoon, The Open University of Sri Lanka
- 74. Dinesha Samararatne, University of Colombo
- 75. Unnathi Samaraweera, University of Colombo
- 76. T. Sanathanan, University of Jaffna
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- 78. Kalana Senaratne, University of Peradeniya
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- 81. Sivamohan Sumathy, University of Peradeniya
- 82. Hiniduma Sunil Senavi, University of Sabaragamuwa
- 83. Esther Surenthiraraj, University of Colombo
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- 86. Mahendran Thiruvaraman, University of Jaffna
- 87. Deepika Udagama, University of Peradeniya
- 88. Ramila Usoof, University of Peradeniya
- 89. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Professor Emeritus in Political Science, University of Colombo
- 90. Vivimarie Vanderpoorten, Open University of Sri Lanka
- 91. Ruvan Weerasinghe, University of Colombo
- 92. Nira Wickramasinghe, formerly, University of Colombo
- 93. Ranjit Wijekoon, formerly University of Peradeniya
- 94. Dinuka Wijetunga, University of Colombo

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# There is an alternative: Economic perspectives of Ranil Wickremesinghe vs. Sajith Premadasa

UK Labour leader Keir Starmer promises to abolish the House of Lords which consists of unelected, appointed members. He pledges to replace it with a popularly elected chamber if he wins the British general election. This, he says, would “restore trust in politics”. What if the UK were led by a PM who had not been elected to Parliament? That, after all, is the surreal situation we Sri Lankans are in.

## Good news, bad news

The good news is that despite the pronouncement by Minister Ali Sabry in the Budget debate that “there is no alternative” (the good old Thatcherite ‘TINA’), the mainline democratic Opposition articulated during that very debate, a more balanced and therefore considerably superior economic alternative to President Ranil Wickremesinghe’s systemically risky policy intervention in the crisis.

The bad news is that the democratic Opposition has no political plan to extract an election from President Wickremesinghe which is the only way its economic plan can be implemented, because only a legitimate administration armed with a pragmatic and fair economic plan can resolve the crisis.

The really bad news is that President Wickremesinghe who has a high-risk economic plan and zero legitimacy to impose it on the people, looks like he is not going to opt for parliamentary elections or even permit the local authorities election that is long overdue.

The Left, that is to say the two competing Left formations, may know how to secure an opening through relentless resistance but doesn’t know what macroeconomic policy to put in place if in power. Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s blistering speech in the Budget debate was a sharp, credible critique and contained some excellent ideas and recommendations but presented no conceptual, coherent, macroeconomic alternative. The JVP-JJB leader would make a great Opposition Leader if/when the current one, the SJB leader moves up to the PM-ship or Presidency.

## What’s he smoking?

Whatever else President Ranil Wickremesinghe becomes famous for before he vacates the presidency, he will certainly be known for two things: his remark that he will sell profit-making state enterprises and not limit himself to the divestiture of loss-making ones, because it will bring in a few billion US dollars. Secondly he will be known for his adoption of Diana Gamage’s policy on marijuana cultivation.

Let’s take the second point first. In the mid-1980s, the Lanka Guardian magazine under my father Mervyn de Silva’s editorship ran a cover story advocating the legalisation of the use of pot for medicinal and recreational use. It was written by Manik Sandrasagara. I agreed with it then and I do so now. But when it is presented by President Ranil Wickremesinghe in his Budget, the scale and scope of the matter is drastically different.

This pertains to the cultivation of marijuana as a cash crop, for export. There are two major problems with this. At a time of a food crisis and when the world has shifted to the understanding of the absolute need for national food security, every incentive has to be given for the cultivation of food crops. When, instead, the President signals that the cultivation of ganja will be a dollar-earner, he is creating an

“Ranil Wickremesinghe as debt-junkie PM in 2015-2019, the Rajapaksas who were serially responsible for the economic crisis, are now together, imposing economic pain upon the vast majority of the people who didn’t create the crisis. We, the people, are paying the price for the blunders that they, the ruling elite, made and the economic elite benefitted from (tax cuts). Until this moral asymmetry is addressed, no economic solution will have public consent and lacking that consent, will prove implementable without social and political consequence”

irresistible impulse on the part of farmers who have been impoverished by Gotabaya’s lunatic ‘great leap forward’ into organic fertiliser, to shift to the far more

profitable cultivation of ganja. That will inevitably be at the expense of the cultivation of food crops. If the counter-argument that the ganja farms will be strictly regulated by the state and patrolled by the military, the obvious hole in that bucket is that there will be clandestine farming which cannot be controlled.

Worse still as the example of Latin America shows, large scale marijuana cultivation can be shifted clandestinely adapted/shifted to the cultivation of more dangerous crops from which hard drugs are processed.

So, when President Wickremesinghe adopted the Diana developmental doctrine, what was he smoking?

## For a few dollars more

Now to the sale of profitable state enterprises for a few billion dollars more. That’s a legitimate, if wrong-headed idea, if presented as a point of view at a seminar. It is not legitimate when it comes as state policy from a president who was not elected to office by popular vote, and was not even elected to parliament.

President Wickremesinghe is revealing that his economic policy is not based on economic rationality—in which case, profitable state enterprises would not be sold off—but on ideological dogma. That dogma, which he has also articulated is that the state should not be engaged in enterprise; any enterprise, even profitable ones. He would be hard put to show us a real-world example, from the USA to China, of the practice of that particular extremist doctrine.

Yet another dictum of Ranil’s economics is no less illegitimate. He holds that what went wrong with all economic policy hitherto was a “relief and concession” i.e., welfare mentality. That is a skewed notion which, as I said before, is legitimate if he were speaking in his personal capacity at a seminar. It would also be legitimate as policy if he had presented that policy to the electorate and obtained a mandate for it, which is manifestly not the case.

What makes President



President Ranil Wickremesinghe (left) and SJB Leader Sajith Premadasa

Wickremesinghe think that the citizens of Sri Lanka who threw out a President they had elected, because his economic policies betrayed his mandate, would submit to a harsh economic doctrine of belt-tightening sought to be implemented by a leader who has absolutely no mandate and has merely stepped into the shoes of the one who was thrown out?

In his remarks to the exporters, Ranil Wickremesinghe rejected tax concessions until competitiveness was achieved in the global marketplace. He said that the state should not play a protectionist role for however short an interim period and that the local exporters should show international competitiveness and profitability from the get-go. His notion of utterly unassisted growth of export industries has no basis in economic history however far back you go. It certainly has no basis in the Asian Tigers’ economic miracle in which a smart state and smart economic policies played a key role. Deleting the state from the economy and leaving everything to the ‘free market’ bears no resemblance to the East Asian miracle.

## Battle of economic alternatives

The political battle is tripartite: Ranil-Rajapaksa regime on the Right, SJB, FPC and SLFP in the Center, and JVP on the Left. However, the Budget debate showed that there aren’t three macroeconomic perspectives on offer, only two. The JVP has a very valid critique and valuable individual policy proposals but no holistic macroeconomic alternative.

The two competing policy paradigms are that presented by President Wickremesinghe and the other whose outstanding but not sole protagonist is Opposition Leader and SJB leader Sajith Premadasa. Premadasa presented a blistering critique of Ranil’s Budget which was simultaneously a 6-point alternative economic program (see: <https://youtu.be/K2aYG7I3tgc>).

This follows Sajith’s 20-point critique of President Wickremesinghe’s economic policy rollout in October (<https://youtu.be/mFRS13gewIA>).

Sajith Premadasa’s measured, carefully calibrated yet spontaneous replies delivered with easy fluency when facing a multi-barrelled question posed by Murtaza Jafferjee, the head of Advocata, shows an intellectual grasp of political and economic reform that neither of the other front-runners for the presidency, Ranil Wickremesinghe and Anura Kumara Dissanayake or indeed anyone on either side of the aisle in Parliament has. (<https://fb.watch/gIr4-Y5lP7/>).

This is buttressed by his recent Q/A session at the Rotary Club Colombo West. (<https://youtu.be/z-fYz2PVMpQ>).

Clearly Sajith Premadasa is the leader-in-waiting and has the

coherent macro-policy framework to take on the leadership of the country and the management of the crisis. Just as the victories of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike in 1956, Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1988 and Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2005 shocked both the Establishment elite and the cosmopolitan Left so too will that of Sajith Premadasa at the next national election.

Sajith was the only one to present a macroeconomic alternative in parliament in the context of the Budget debate but he wasn’t the only one in or out of parliament to occupy the same space. The two policy frameworks presented at the BCIS by the Freedom People’s Congress and articulated during the Budget debate by Charitha Herath and Nalaka Godahewa are quite compatible with Sajith’s.

In conceptual terms the discourse of Ranil Wickremesinghe is a rightwing neoliberal ‘free-market fundamentalist’ economic philosophy, while that of Sajith and the FPC is ‘social democratic’ (both Sajith’s speech and the FPC framework documents use the term). To put it more simply, in the arena of economic policy-sets, the contestation is not between Right, Left and Center, but between Right and Centre, or neoliberal right and progressive centre. It is the UK Conservatives vs. the US Democrats and European-Australian-NZ social democrats. If I may be flippant, in intellectual terms it is Advocata vs. Verite.

Sajith Premadasa stands taller than Ranil Wickremesinghe and all others in parliament in the arena of the political economy of development not only because of education, diligent reading and experience in outstanding budgetary critiques for over a decade, also because of his background and formation: he sits on the shoulders of his father’s development principles and their enormous success.

The Premadasa paradigm of growth with equity has been tested and proved successful by all accounts in 1989-93. That is at the empirical level. Ranil Wickremesinghe and his younger ideological fellow-travellers such as those in Advocata, are focused on ‘the economy’, while President Premadasa belonged to the international tendency which privileged ‘development’.

Even if one were to charitably concede that Wickremesinghe and his co-thinkers also have some notion of ‘development’, that notion was and is totally antipodal to President Premadasa’s outlook on development which proved itself by registering spectacular economic success. President Premadasa was unambiguous in his radical redefinition of the goals which animate macroeconomic policy and the criteria by which macroeconomic policies and practice should be judged:

“Whatever development we may bring about should be to the benefit of the poor. Development in

any sense should help people live! Our party is aware that there is no meaning in any development that keeps the people in hunger and in malnutrition, leading to death...”

– President Premadasa, ‘Providing Assets to the Assetless’, Feb 13th 1989.

The date must be noted. This is not Premadasa in the midst of a hotly contested presidential election campaign, playing a populist card against his formidable national rival Madam Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

This is Premadasa a month after he had won that race. This is what animated his development philosophy which guided his economic policy—not the other way around. The very title of the speech ‘providing assets to the assetless’ signals an economic philosophy very different from Ranil’s vision of selling state assets to ‘the haves’, be they national or international.

This key definitional paragraph (which the SJB’s Economic Policy Unit should memorize) above serves as the most striking indictment of the entire Ranil Wickremesinghe economic model and strategy, and indicates why it will not merely fail, but could result in revolution.

## Moral-ethical deficit

Contrary to the conventional wisdom that at the heart of the crisis lies an economic problem, in reality at the heart of the current crisis is a moral and ethical problem, which is in a state of dynamic interaction with a political legitimacy problem and in turn, obscures and obstructs any economic solution to the crisis. Unless the moral-ethical and political legitimacy deficit is removed, any economic solution will only worsen the economic problem by generating polarisation and instability.

The moral-ethical problem is best illustrated by the reality that parents cannot buy children’s schoolbooks including exercise books because the prices have skyrocketed as a result of governmental policy. In other words, children, parents and the prospect of the country’s future which lies in the education of the young, are all being made to suffer due to an economic crisis which the citizens didn’t create as well as part of an alleged solution imposed by a ruler the citizens didn’t choose at an election.

Ranil Wickremesinghe as debt-junkie PM in 2015-2019, the Rajapaksas who were serially responsible for the economic crisis, are now together, imposing economic pain upon the vast majority of the people who didn’t create the crisis. We, the people, are paying the price for the blunders that they, the ruling elite, made and the economic elite benefitted from (tax cuts). Until this moral asymmetry is addressed, no economic solution will have public consent and lacking that consent, will prove implementable without social and political consequence.

“Sajith Premadasa stands taller than Ranil Wickremesinghe and all others in parliament in the arena of the political economy of development not only because of education, diligent reading and experience in outstanding budgetary critiques for over a decade, also because of his background and formation: he sits on the shoulders of his father’s development principles and their enormous success”

## Loss of legitimacy

The argument that Wickremesinghe’s policies are legitimate though he is himself unelected by the people but he is supported by a Cabinet and ruling party, the SLPP, which was popularly elected, is specious. Legitimacy derives from a popular mandate for a specific political and policy posture. For two decades, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and its successor party the SLPP, i.e., leaders from Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga to Mahinda Rajapaksa and Gotabaya Rajapaksa, won elections by running against Ranil Wickremesinghe and his policies; everything he represented and stood for—which were deemed anti-people and anti-national.

The only exception was Maithripala Sirisena who initially ran against the Rajapaksas but after the SLPP’s sweeping win at the local authorities election of 2018, read the electoral tealeaves and switch to an anti-Ranil policy and a rapprochement with Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Today, the SLFP and SLPP mandates obtained by targeting and rejecting Ranil Wickremesinghe and his policies, have been openly betrayed by resorting to the exact opposite policy, namely the election by parliamentary majority, of Ranil Wickremesinghe as President, with his neoliberal economic policies very much intact, turning away from the option of the SLPP’s own Dullas Alahapperuma who ran against Ranil.

Thus, having done the exact opposite of what it sought and obtained a mandate for, the SLPP has abandoned its mandate. It no longer has it. Therefore, it no longer has legitimacy.

What happens when a leader imposes an outdated, dogmatic economic policy which can show no success, only recession and blow-back?

What happens when the leader who does that is unelected and has no popular mandate?

What happens when that leader is selected, supported and in a bloc with a ruling party that has renounced its policy platform, enthroned its enemy and thereby lost its mandate and legitimacy?

What happens when the leader concerned, gives every sign of seeking to block the safety-valves of elections even at the sub-national level?

What happens when that politico-electoral shutdown takes place in a country in which a mass movement threw out a powerful, ex-military president?

What happens when all this takes place in a country which has a Left movement—consisting of two competing left parties—at its most powerful since the 1940s-1960s?

The regime is far too narrowly based to implement drastic economic reforms. The only way that could be done is to legitimise and broad-base the reform process by one or more rounds of snap elections. If not, the system will start to crack from below.





## GRI launches landmark innovative tread design with GREEN XLR EARTH 65+

■ Drives future of sustainability lead innovation in specialty agriculture tires

GRI has announced the launch of its GREEN XLR EARTH 65+ radial agriculture tire at the SIMA 2022 exhibition in Paris, France, in line with its agenda to drive sustainability lead innovation in specialty agricultural tires.

The GREEN XLR EARTH 65+ was introduced at SIMA in Paris held 6 to 10 November 2022 and will be commercially ready for launch in early 2023.

Incorporating an innovative tread design that creates a Virtual Rib, the GREEN XLR EARTH 65+ subscribes to the GREEN XLR EARTH Series, which is developed to protect and nurture the earth. It is produced with 37.5% sustainable materials, while delivering on superior functional properties to drive high performance and productivity for tractors across global markets.

The distinguishing feature of the Virtual Rib sets the GREEN XLR EARTH 65+ apart from other 65 series radial agriculture tires.

It provides enhanced driving comfort both on, as well as off road and improves steering precision and guidance for tractors at higher speeds. More importantly, the innovative curve of the lug angle at the centre has been designed for improved fuel efficiency and greater off-road traction to enhance tire life span.

GRI Managing Director Prabhash

Subasinghe said: "The ambition to innovate aggressively in the space of sustainability led specialty tires continues to grow within GRI, owing to its significant positive impact on the environment, the farming community and society at large."

"The feedback received so far by farmers who are currently testing the tires on the field have further encouraged us to continue this trend of innovation. More and more, the future of specialty tires will depend on the incorporation of earth friendly value propositions to help reduce the carbon footprint further. We are happy to have already begun this journey well ahead of the game," he added.

GRI Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mahesha Ranasoma said: "The innovative tread design of the GREEN XLR EARTH 65+ is borne out of extensive R&D and the virtual rib created as a result, is proving extremely beneficial in tests relating to performance and comfort for tractors used on farms.

"More importantly, it protects not just the soil, but also the future of generations to come. We are proud to be leading this mission in producing one of the world's first and most earth-friendly agricultural tires, and we look forward to continuing to sustain this momentum we have created."

Like the GREEN XLR EARTH Series



which was introduced earlier at the Farm Progress Show in Iowa, United States in August 2022, the GREEN XLR EARTH 65+ also includes bio-sourced, sustainable, and recycled materials. This tire, which is also of the earthy green colour, is built with pure natural rubber, highly dispersible silica, recycled carbon black, and reclaimed rubber from used tires.

Natural soybean oil, which is a sustainable material, has also been used instead of petroleum-based oil, and the carbon footprint has been reduced as it is produced using bio-sourced and recycled materials.

■ Benchmarks six made-in-Sri Lanka car and SUV tyre variants against major competitor brands at NATRAX in Indore

## CEAT revisits Indian test track to put radial tyres through paces

SIX sizes of locally-manufactured CEAT radial tyres were recently tested rigorously against the major competitor brands as part of an ongoing process to further develop CEAT's existing product range and assess individual product performance by key value propositions identified by customers.

To fulfil this mission, CEAT commissioned a series of track tests at India's state-of-the-art National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) of the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) in Indore. CEAT Kelani Holdings conducted similar tests for the company's motorcycle tyres at this location earlier this year.

The latest benchmarking process took place to score the selected CEAT radial tyres in four value drivers – low noise, ride comfort, handling stability, and dry and wet braking stability. The tests pitted the chosen CEAT radials against counterparts from USA, Japan, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The final test scores revealed that CEAT 185/70R14 Fuelsmarrt, 195/65R15 Secura Drive, 185/65R15 Secura Drive, 205/55 R16 Secura Drive, 175/65 R15 Secura Drive, and 265/70 R16 Czar HP tyres were superior in some key aspects, and on par in terms of other features with the products of the competitor brands, the company disclosed.



More specifically, the track tests affirmed that in comparison to the competitor brands, the CEAT Secura Drive, Fuelsmarrt and Czar HP tyre patterns are better for wet and dry braking and offer superior braking stability. Additionally, all six of the CEAT tyre sizes were rated superior or comparable for ride comfort, while the Secura Drive and Fuelsmarrt tyres were declared on par with their counterparts in generating minimal noise.

It was also observed that the 175/65 R15 Secura Drive performance could be marginally improved in the handling stability parameters. The company said these findings have now been incorporated in the pattern

architecture for new and improved products that will lead to enhanced performance. CEAT Kelani Managing Director Ravi Dadlani said: "As a brand that supplies almost half the tyre requirements of the country, CEAT is committed to listening to voice of consumers and delivering products that are suited to their needs and local conditions. These tests we conduct enable us to consistently fine-tune our offerings, meet the expectations of our consumers, and release products that are on par with competitor tyres, if not better. The heavy investments we make in such testing even in difficult times like the present, demonstrate our commitment to quality above all else."

The four Key Value Propositions around which the track tests revolved were dictated by consumer insights from research findings that highlighted the main drivers in the customers' purchase decisions in the radial tyre segment. The tyre variants and sizes that were tested fit vehicles such as the Honda Civic, Civic EK3 and Jazz, Hyundai i20 and Venue, Mahindra Thar, Mitsubishi Montero and Sportero, Nissan Leaf and Patrol, Renault KWID, Suzuki Spacia, and Toyota Allion, Aqua, Axio, Corolla, Hilux Vigo, Land Cruiser, Premio, Prius and Vitz which are popular cars and SUVs on Sri Lankan roads.

## DPMC Workshop, Madapatha expands facilities to include commercial vehicles

are many common and frequent issues such as white/black smoke, low pulling power, high fuel consumption, overheating of brake drums or cooling systems and various suspension and drivetrain related repairs that need to be addressed on a day-to-day basis in addition to periodic servicing of vehicles.

"We are fully equipped to deal with these types of running repairs and have a qualified, experienced, and trained set of mechanics to provide our clients with the much-needed professional service they are expecting," Ranawaka said.

DPMC Workshop Madapatha has expanded to equip itself to take over the responsibility of maintaining fleets of commercial vehicles including mini cabs, buddy lorries, buses, sin-gle/double cabs, freezer lorries, tippers, container trailer and prime movers with the opening of their commercial vehicle facility. It is ready to go one step further by offering roadside assistance for companies that appoint them as their total maintenance partner. This will allow corporates to focus on their core business while maintenance, running repairs and overall fleet maintenance are done by the specialists.

DPMC Deputy General Manager (Services) Channa Ranawaka, said there



"We are not restricted to undertaking only mechanical repairs, but offer body repairs and paint work too,

including tinkering and accident repairs. DPMC Workshop Madapatha caters to all the services required for any commercial fleet under one roof," Ranawaka added.

DPMC Workshop Madapatha also specialises in brake and engine overhaul, hub greasing, differential adjustments, gearbox and engine, suspension, air brake system, air condition, electrical and fuel system repairs for private non-commercial vehicles. In addition, they also offer a range of interior and exterior detailing services.

## High Commissioner Milinda among early customers of new 2022 Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara SUV

SRI Lanka's High Commissioner in India Milinda Moragoda has become one of the early customers of Maruti Suzuki's newest offering, the Grand Vitara.

Maruti Suzuki India Chairman R.C. Bhargava handed over the Intelligent Electric Hybrid variant of the Grand Vitara to the High Commissioner at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi.

An Indian car enthusiast, High Commissioner Moragoda has previously owned many Indian cars, ranging from Hindustan Ambassador to Maruti Suzuki Gypsy. He introduced Maruti Suzuki cars to Sri Lanka in 1986.

Maruti Suzuki unveiled Grand Vitara in India, in July 2022. The vehicle has received over 75,000 bookings, and of these around 10,000 units have been delivered.

Setting a new benchmark for SUV enthusiasts in the country, the Grand Vitara appeals to a wide range of customers with



Maruti Suzuki India Chairman R.C. Bhargava hands over the Intelligent Electric Hybrid variant of the Grand Vitara to Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in India Milinda Moragoda in New Delhi

multiple offerings. The Grand Vitara Intelligent Electric Hybrid boasts segment-leading fuel efficiency of 27.97 Km/l (in e-CVT) and a pure EV driving mode.

The All-Wheel Drive (AWD) Grand Vitara featuring Suzuki's legendary ALLGRIP SELECT technology is made for

the hardcore SUV enthusiasts. The Grand Vitara Progressive Smart Hybrid is available with five-speed Manual and six-speed Automatic Transmission options. Maruti Suzuki with the new Grand Vitara paves the way towards a cleaner, greener, sustainable and carbon-neutral world.

THE Association of International Marketing Graduates (AIMG) together with Ceylon Motor Traders Association (CMTA) will host a joint forum on EV Introduction in Sri Lanka on 30 November from 6 to 8 p.m. at Jetwing Colombo 7.

The speakers of the program are VEGA (the first Electric Super Car made in SL) Founder Dr. Harsha Subasinghe, University of Moratuwa Logistics Specialist Dr. Niles Perera, GGGI Regional Program Development Lead Maricor Muzones, and Ministry of Transport and Highways Additional Secretary Lalith De Alwis, while CMTA Immediate past Chairman/Carmart Ltd. CEO Yasendra Amarasinghe, will serve as the Moderator.

## AIMG, CMTA forum on Electric Vehicles on 30 Nov.

The main objective of this joint forum is to initiate productive discussion within the community and to impart knowledge on the introduction of EV to the Sri Lankan market and its impact to the economy of Sri Lanka.

CMTA Chairman Charaka Perera said, "CMTA has always remained proactive in adding value to the nation's efforts towards economic growth. This time

CMTA has joined hands with AIMG which will definitely add value to the business fraternity and marketing environment. This forum will be a platform for the participants to gain knowledge and share valuable insights."

AIMG Chairman Sujith Silva said, "We are proud to partner with CMTA and extremely grateful for their support."

THE Tyre House Group being the foremost importer of numerous globally renowned automotive tyres, has announced the launch of "Veedol", appending another product to its repertoire.

"Veedol" is a century-old lubricant brand and has been the "Professional's Choice" in several lubricant markets across the world with its technological edge, including workshop partnerships and OEM link-ages. High quality and highly efficient Veedol Lubricants have been undergoing technological evolution for 110 years to appraise its categorisation.

"Veedol" was inaugurated in 1913 in the United States of America under "Tide Water Associate Oil".

"Veedol" has 19 blending facilities all over the world serving more than 70 countries. It is being registered in Edinburgh, U.K., with

## Tyre House Group rolls out Veedol lubricant



Tyre House Managing Director Sunil Fonseka (left) hands over the first can of Veedol to U&H Wheels Service proprietor

global rights for a wide trademark for the master brand-Veedol. European Engine manufacturers recommend Veedol lubricants.

Mercedes Benz, VW, Audi, Peugeot, MAN, BMW, GM Dexos, Mack,

Volvo, Renault and MTU are a few of them. Veedol is OEMs for Honda Motors and Scooters, Honda Cars, Hero Moto Corp., Kubota, Yamaha, and Kobelco for the supply of co-branded and genuine oils.



From left: National Sales and Marketing Manager Chaminda Nawarathna, Group Managing Director Gayan Fonseka, Malinda Oil mart Proprietor, Ransithu Lubricants Proprietor, Lubricants General Manager Prabath Jayawardana, Managing Director Sunil Fonseka, U&H Wheels Service Proprietor, Chandana Oil mart Proprietor, Working Director Rohan Peries, Chief financial Officer H.M.S. Milroy



From left: BP Castrol Assistant Sales Manager Salinda Rathnayake, BP Castrol Head of Lubricants Charith Panditharatne, AMW Group Managing Director Peter Mackenzie, Drive One Managing Director Hiran De Silva, Drive One Director Nimantha Hatharasinghe

IN line with the sustained global strategic partnership between Castrol and Audi, AMW Group and Drive One Ltd. authorised representatives of Castrol and Audi in Sri Lanka inked the agreements recently to renew the prestigious partnership in Sri Lanka by another three years.

Being two of the biggest brands in the global automotive industry, Audi and Castrol have been in a flourishing strategic alliance since 2008 and their joint research and development efforts have resulted in the formation of tailor-made

## Castrol and Audi renew strategic partnership in Sri Lanka

lubricant solutions for Audi's unique engine technology requirements.

Especially, the collaboration between the two brands has brought about significant improvements in fuel economy and CO2 reduction across fuels, engine oils and transmission fluids in recent years.

The Audi – Castrol partnership in Sri Lanka has been in effect for the last 14

years, enabling Sri Lankan Audi lovers to maintain their esteemed rides in perfect condition, adhering to global standards.

Castrol being the officially recommended brand of lubricants by Audi, the renewed Audi – Castrol partnership will ensure that Audi lovers in Sri Lanka are provided easy and uninterrupted access to Castrol products. Thus, as Castrol prioritises Audi customers, they will be safe

from any potential shortage of lubricant stocks in the market as a result of the current forex crisis.

In order to provide the best service to Audi customers, Castrol has installed a state of the art lubricant dispensing system for Audi vehicles at the Drive One workshop in Wattala.

The management of AMW Group including Managing Director Peter

Mackenzie, BP Castrol Head of Lubricants Charith Panditharatne and others, met up with their counterparts at Drive One recently to sign off the official agreements pertaining to the renewal. Drive One Managing Director Hiran De Silva and Drive One Director Nimantha Hatharasinghe took part in the occasion representing Audi Sri Lanka.



## ATTRACTIVE INTEREST RATES ON FIXED DEPOSIT

Incorporated in Sri Lanka and registered as a Public quoted Company, Limited by shares under the Company Act No. 7 of 2007 (Company Regd: No. P Q 00251293), Date of Incorporation 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, Licensed by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under the Finance Business Act No. 42 of 2011. Eligible deposit liabilities are insured with the Sri Lanka Deposit Insurance Scheme implemented by the Monetary Board for compensation up to a maximum of Rs.1,100,000 per depositor.  
\*Lanka Rating Agency BB Stable Outlook.

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One Year Maturity  
**25.00%**  
(A.E.R)  
**25.00%**



PERIOD (Month)	FD Rates Effective from 2022.09.30							
	NON SENIOR				SENIOR			
	Monthly		Maturity		Monthly		Maturity	
	Rate	AER	Rate	AER	Rate	AER	Rate	AER
1			21.00%	23.14%	21.00%	23.14%	21.00%	23.14%
3	22.00%	24.36%	23.00%	25.06%	22.00%	24.36%	23.00%	25.06%
6	22.50%	24.97%	23.50%	24.88%	22.50%	24.97%	23.50%	24.88%
12	23.00%	25.59%	25.00%	25.00%	23.50%	26.20%	25.50%	25.50%
13	19.00%	20.75%	20.00%	19.85%	19.50%	21.34%	20.50%	20.34%
15	19.00%	20.75%	20.00%	19.54%	19.50%	21.34%	20.50%	20.02%
18	17.00%	18.39%	20.00%	19.11%	17.50%	18.97%	20.50%	19.57%
24	17.00%	18.39%	20.00%	18.32%	17.50%	18.97%	20.50%	18.74%
36	17.00%	18.39%	20.00%	16.96%	17.50%	18.97%	20.50%	17.33%
37	17.00%	18.39%	20.00%	16.86%	17.50%	18.97%	20.50%	17.22%
48	17.00%	18.39%	20.00%	15.83%	17.50%	18.97%	20.50%	16.15%
60	17.00%	18.39%	20.00%	14.87%	17.50%	18.97%	20.50%	15.16%

\*Conditions Apply

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## Japan stun wasteful Germany in dramatic World Cup comeback

**DOHA, AFP:** Japan stunned Germany 2-1 in their World Cup opener yesterday, punishing the four-time champions for not taking their chances after they dominated the first half.

The German team covered their mouths for the team photo before the match in a powerful protest against FIFA's decision to ban rainbow-themed armbands.

Hansi Flick's team came to Qatar under huge pressure to avoid the disaster of 2018, when they failed to make it out of the group stage in Russia

as holders. They took the lead through a first-half penalty from Ilkay Gundogan and should have been out of sight after creating a host of chances.

But Japan hung on and equalised through substitute Ritsu Doan in the 75th minute.

Takuma Asano then completed a remarkable turnaround eight minutes later, smashing the ball home to send the boisterous Japanese fans wild.

Germany's World Cup future is now on the line, with games to come in Group E against Spain



Japan's Ritsu Doan (right) celebrates scoring his team's first goal against Germany in the World Cup – Anne-Christine POUJOLAT AFP

and Costa Rica.

Japan are eyeing a place in the knockout round after a dramatic

comeback that scarcely looked possible at the end of the first half.

The Blue Samurai made

a positive start, with Daizen Maeda putting the ball in the net as early as the eighth minute only for the linesman to flag for offside.

### German chances

But it was to prove a false dawn for Japan as Antonio Rudiger headed past the post from a corner, before Joshua Kimmich tested goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda, with Gundogan blasting the rebound over the bar.

Gundogan peppered the Japan goal with shots, with Gonda keeping him out before Maya Yoshida

threw his body in the way of another effort.

Gundogan put the Germans ahead after they were awarded a penalty when Gonda tripped David Raum, coolly slotting his kick down the middle.

Jamal Musiala give a glimpse of his immense talent when he turned and flashed a shot over the bar on the stroke of half-time.

There was just enough time for Kai Havertz to put the ball in the net before the interval, only for VAR to rule the goal out for offside.

Musiala returned to torment Japan after the break, skipping through the defence before blazing over.

The 19-year-old then turned provider, laying the ball off for Gundogan to lash against the post.

Japan brought on livewire forwards Asano and Kaoru Mitoma to try to inject some energy into the four-times Asian champions.

But Germany kept up their pressure and only a string of last-ditch saves from Gonda prevented Japan from falling further behind.

Hiroki Sakai had a golden chance to equalise but blazed wildly over the bar after Manuel Neuer had parried the ball into his path.

Doan showed him how it was done just minutes later, converting after Neuer had palmed away Takumi Minamino's effort.

Asano then put the Japanese fans in dreamland, racing away into the box before lashing home a shot that Neuer was powerless to stop.

Germany threw everyone forward in a desperate search for an equaliser but it was too little too late.

## ASIA RUGBY THIRD LEG IN UAE

### Soori tipped to lead outfit to UAE

NATIONAL Rugby Selections Committee headed by former Ananda, Police SC, Kandy SC and National XV-a-side skipper Asoka Jayasena and his team comprising of Hemantha Yatawara, Rohan Abeykoon, Leslie De Silva and Kapila Knowton according to reliable source is likely to retain Sooriyabandara as the skipper while making a few changes for the Asia Rugby third leg which will take place in Al Ain, UAE which will take place on 26 and 27 November.

The Selectors had sent the squad for approval to Ministry of Sports as at last evening. According to source from the Korean leg squad, they have replaced Richard Dharmapala and Ramesh Fernando with Sudharaka Dikkumbura and D.S. skipper Dinupa Seneviratne to the squad. Both Akash Madushanka and Dharshana Dabare retains their place from the second leg squad.

Former Isipathana and Kandy Sports Club player Srinath Sooriyabandara is tipped to lead the sevens outfit for the Asia Rugby third and final leg encounter.

Sri Lanka Men's outfit after their South Korean leg where they ended on number 4 position returned for training soon afterwards. They had couple of training sessions plus an Outbound Training at the Sri Lanka Army Camp in Ganemulla. Sevens outfit having displayed good quality rugby went on to secure number 4 position.

Securing the kick off ball and ball handling will be the main two key factors Head Coach Nilfer Ibrahim will



Sri Lanka Womens miss out on UAE tour

### Asian Rugby Sevens 3rd Leg

Shamseer Jaleel

Reporting from UAE



Dabare, Dinupa Seneviratne, Chathura Seneviratne and Sudharaka Dikkumbura. Head Coach Nilfer Ibrahim.

Women's rugby skipper to be deported from South Korea

Sri Lanka

be looking for the boys to improve and reduce their errors.

The final training session will take place in the morning hours today at the CR and FC ground, and the team will leave for UAE same day in the evening. Sri Lanka will feature from Pool A alongside Hong Kong, Malaysia and China.

### Probable squad subject to Ministry approval

Srinath Sooriyabandara, Kavindu Perera, Tharinda Ratwatte, Nigel Ratwatte, Mithun Hapugoda, Anjula Hettiarachchi, Adeesha Weeratunga, Akash Madushanka, Dhanushka

Women's skipper on South Korean tour Dulani Pallikondage will be deported back to Sri Lanka very soon. The Foreign Ministry has already written to South Korean Government with regard to this overstay. All players were issued with 10 days visa for their matches and Dulani went missing soon after the final day's play.

Sri Lanka Women's outfit missed out on the third leg in UAE due to financial burden and not properly organised for the event. They would be given couple of local tournaments before the next series at the South Asian Games and postponed Asian Games which will take place in 2024.

## Lanka can ill-afford to drop a single game against Afghanistan

By SA'ADI THAWFEEQ

SRI Lanka's white ball team will shift gears from T20 format to the 50-over format when they take on Afghanistan in a series of three matches commencing at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium from tomorrow.

For the past five months, Sri Lanka has been heavily involved in T20 cricket with a home series against Australia (which they lost 1-2), the Asia Cup in UAE (where they emerged champions) and the T20 World Cup in Australia (where they failed to qualify for the knockout stage).

The ODI series against Afghanistan – the first bilateral series between the two countries is one that Sri Lanka can ill-afford to drop a single match because of the precarious position they are currently placed in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League 2020-23 standings.

Sri Lanka occupy 10th position in the Super League table with 62 points and a minus net run rate. The upcoming series against Afghanistan followed by another three-match ODI series against New Zealand in March

are the only remaining matches Sri Lanka has to complete their quota of 24 ODI matches in the Super League.

So it is imperative that Sri Lanka make the maximum use of their remaining six matches to push themselves up the table because only the top eight teams at the end of the Super League will gain automatic qualification for the 2023 fifty-over World Cup in India next October.

West Indies have completed all their fixtures and are placed in eighth position with 88 points. But they could find themselves finishing even lower when teams 9, 10 and 11 – Ireland (68 points, 3 matches to play), Sri Lanka (62 points – 6 matches to play) and South Africa (59 points – 8 matches to play) complete their respective fixtures.

A win carries 10 points and a No Result or Abandoned match 5 points for each team.

Sri Lanka's recent record in ODIs is quite encouraging. They have played two ODI series at home against Zimbabwe in January and against Australia in June and won both by margins of 2-1 and 3-2 respectively.

Unfortunately for Sri Lanka, their win over Australia does



Sri Lanka and Afghanistan last met in an ODI match in the 2019 World Cup at Cardiff, Sri Lanka won by 34 runs

not count as part of the Super League, which would have otherwise helped them immensely towards improving their position in the standings.

If Sri Lanka can make a clean sweep of the series against Afghanistan the 30 points they will gain from that win will lift them to eighth position displacing West Indies. Afghanistan on the other hand are nicely placed to

gain automatic qualification as they are currently in seventh position with 100 points and have a further 12 matches to complete their cycle. In their last ODI series played in January, Afghanistan beat Zimbabwe 3-0 in Harare. Sri Lanka and Afghanistan have met on four occasions in Asia Cup and ICC World Cup tournaments with Sri Lanka holding onto a 3-1 advantage.

## SLC invites ICC Anti-Corruption GM to investigate allegations of match fixing

THE Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket yesterday decided to invite ICC Anti-Corruption Unit General Manager Alex Marshall to Sri

Lanka to investigate recent allegations of "match fixing" made by a parliamentarian regarding the recent-

ly concluded Pakistan tour.

Sri Lanka Cricket, as a full member of the ICC and mandated

to uphold the integrity of the game at both the national and international level, believes that it is the

correct course of action to take in light of the recent allegations made by the aforementioned parliamentarian, which have caused immense reputational damage to Sri Lanka Cricket and its stakeholders.

## Ronaldo seeks new club after Man Utd exit

**LONDON (AFP):** Cristiano Ronaldo is searching for a new team after a tumultuous few hours at Manchester United, during which they announced the superstar forward was leaving and the club could be sold.

The veteran Portugal forward set the stage for his Old Trafford exit last week with an outspoken interview on TalkTV, in which he said he felt "betrayed" by the club and had no respect for new manager Erik ten Hag.

There was clearly no way back for Ronaldo and United issued a state-



Cristiano Ronaldo

ment on Tuesday confirming they were parting ways with one of the greatest players in their history by "mutual agreement, with immediate effect". Ronaldo, currently at the World Cup in Qatar, issued a statement of his own, declaring his love for

the club and saying it "feels like the right time" to seek a new challenge. As well as lashing out against United and Ten Hag, the 37-year-old was scathing about the club's unpopular US owners in his interview with Piers Morgan.

Ronaldo said the Glazer family, who loaded the club with huge debts when they bought it in 2005, cared more about the money-making potential of United than results.

Hours after the statement confirming Ronaldo was exiting the club, United issued another bulletin saying the Americans were considering selling up.

## Chamika gets one-year suspended ban and fine

### Breach of Player Agreement during T20 World Cup

SRI Lanka Cricket stated yesterday that the three-member panel inquiring into the alleged violations by nationally contracted player Chamika Karunaratne has found him guilty of breaching several clauses in the Player Agreement during the recently concluded



Chamika Karunaratne

ICC T20 World Cup held in Australia. Karunaratne had

pleaded guilty to all charges levelled against him.

Considering the seriousness of the violations committed by Karunaratne, the Inquiry Panel in its report has recommended to the Executive Committee of the SLC to strongly warn the player to refrain from further violations and to impose a punishment that will not have an impact on

his cricketing career. Subsequent to the said findings and recommendations of the inquiry panel the Executive Committee of SLC has handed a one-year ban from taking part in all forms of cricket, and the said ban will be suspended for a period of one year.

Further to the said suspended sentence a fine of \$ 5,000 was also imposed against Karunaratne.