



Nine tourist cruise ships set to reach SL by March

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA AND YOHAN PERERA
While claiming that the tourism sector was picking up, Civil Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said yesterday nine tourist cruise ships were scheduled to reach Sri Lankan ports by March next year.

Amaraweera axed from UPFA General Secretary post

The Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) yesterday decided to remove Mahinda Amaraweera from the post of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) General Secretary and unanimously decided to appoint Thilanga Samathipala to the post.

SJB questions presence of Police Commission members to welcome Basil at airport

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA
While the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) questioned the presence of Police Commission members Chandra Fernando and M.P. Perera to welcome former Minister Basil Rajapaksa at the airport, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena assured that new members will be appointed to the commissions soon.

SLFP ASKS JVP TO APOLOGIZE TO NATION OVER ITS TERRORIST ACTS

BY SANDUN AJAYASEKERA
The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) yesterday called on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) to tender an apology to the nation for the atrocities committed in 1971 and 1989 - 90 period and also an assurance that the JVP would not resort to terrorism once again.

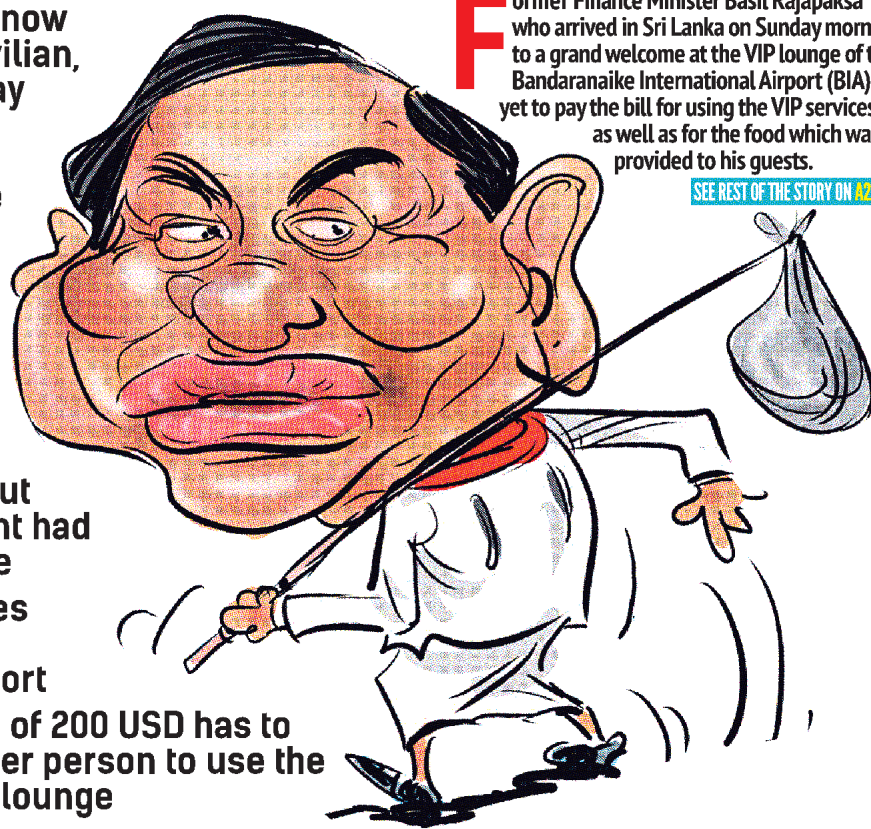
Woman arrested over alleged human trafficking racket was a translator

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
It was revealed before Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court that a woman arrested in connection with the investigations into alleged human trafficking to Dubai and Oman was a translator attached to a foreign employment agency. Accordingly, the woman was ordered to be released on bail after being produced before the Magistrate.

NO PAYMENT MADE BY BASIL TO USE VIP ARRIVAL LOUNGE AT BIA

- With Basil now being a civilian, officials say he cannot use the Gold Route Service free of charge
Several SLPP MPs were seen enjoying the food, but no payment had been made
Basil leaves BIA with police escort
A payment of 200 USD has to be made per person to use the VIP arrival lounge

Former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa who arrived in Sri Lanka on Sunday morning to a grand welcome at the VIP lounge of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) is yet to pay the bill for using the VIP services as well as for the food which was provided to his guests.



An earthquake on the main Indonesian island of Java has killed at least 162 people and injured hundreds

- Rescuers were working into the night to try and save others thought to still be trapped under collapsed buildings
An earthquake on the main Indonesian island of Java has killed at least 162 people and injured hundreds, regional governor Ridwan Kamil has said.

C'WEALTH ASSURES ASSISTANCE FOR UNI ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Countries such as the USA, UK, Japan and Korea have pledged their support to Sri Lanka for climate change matters
BY YOHAN PERERA
The Commonwealth has assured its assistance to construct the University on Climate Change, Presidential Advisor Ruwan Wijewardene said yesterday.

WORLD'S LARGEST SAPPHIRE AGGREGATE NOT SOLD YET, BROUGHT TO DUBAI FROM SWITZERLAND

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
The world's largest single natural blue star sapphire cluster has not been sold as yet, and the cluster is being moved to Dubai from Switzerland, National Gem and Jewellery Authority Chairman Viraj de Silva said.

MRS. GRAND INTERNATIONAL 2022 ALLEGES SHE WAS ASKED FOR SEXUAL BRIBE

- Rasangi Chamika Withanawasam participated in the beauty pageant which was held in Mandalay, Myanmar, from November 8 to 14, representing SL
Malith Ranasinghe who represented MR Entertainment company was tasked with organizing the international event in Sri Lanka
Ms. Withanawasam claimed that she had been requested by Malith Ranasinghe the Director of MR Entertainment, for a sexual bribe
An audio recording of Malith Ranasinghe trying to coerce her to use drugs banned in Sri Lanka was released to the media



Magen Ratata Organization President Sanjaya Mahawatte claims that Sri Lanka's representative for Mrs. Grand International 2022, Chamika Withanawasam, had allegedly been asked for sexual bribes by the Director of M.R. Entertainment Malith Ranasinghe.

MANY TEACHERS ATTEND SCHOOL IN CASUAL ATTIRE



They claimed that purchasing sarees was unaffordable due to the economic crisis
BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA
Several female teachers in many schools in the island have begun attending schools dressed in casual clothes instead of the mandatory saree dress code.

SL WANTS RESOLUTION OF UKRAINIAN CRISIS THROUGH DIALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY

Foreign Minister Ali Sabry who met Levan Dzhagaryan, the Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, said he discussed bilateral relationship between our two nations and emphasized Sri Lanka's consistent position to see an immediate resolution of the Ukrainian crisis through dialogue and diplomacy. The Minister said this in a Twitter message.

SJB TO HOLD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT, BUT NOT FOR ALL PARTY GOVT.

Says dialogue will be based on issues currently faced by the nation
BY YOHAN PERERA
Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) is to go for a dialogue with President Ranil Wickremesinghe shortly, SJB General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said yesterday.

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PRESIDENT ASSURES HIS SUPPORT TO EXPAND SRI LANKA SCOUT MOVEMENT

President Wickremesinghe invited the Scout Movement to join the environment-related programmes

President Ranil Wickremesinghe assured to provide the necessary assistance to expand the scouting movement by increasing its membership to 200,000 covering all nine provinces by 2024.

The President also mentioned that he would seek the support of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth

Affairs for this purpose. The Sri Lanka Scout Association officially conferred the title of Chief Scout and Patronus to President Ranil Wickremesinghe this morning (21) at the President's Office, where he made these comments.

The Scout Commissioner, Attorney-at-Law Janaprieth Fernando, commissioned and presented the Scout Scarf and the

appointment certificate to President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

A report on the progress of the Scout Movement was also presented to the President.

Speaking at this occasion the President further stated that he expects to get the full support of the Scout Movement for the 75th Independence Celebration.

President Wickremesinghe invited

the Scout Movement to join the environment-related programmes which are being held with the intervention of the President's Office and headed by President's Adviser on Climate Change Ruwan Wijewardene.

The commemorative medal for the 60th anniversary of the Homagama District Branch affiliated to the Sri Lanka Scout Association was presented to the President by Girl Scout Potaka Thitulu Kathya. The related commemorative souvenir was also presented to the President.

Some SLPPers to vote against budget 2023

The second reading vote of the budget 2023 will be taken up at 5pm today

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Some groups of SLPP are to vote against the budget 2023 today while some opposition parties are to make the final decision today.

SLPP MP who is now sitting in the opposition Charitha Herath told a press conference yesterday that his group will not vote in favour of the budget if the amendments proposed by his group is not accommodated.

Mr. Herath said some of the MPs who voted for President Ranil Wickremesinghe including himself will have to vote against the budget if the amendment which was proposed by them to withdraw the releasing of lands from the purview of Mahaweli Authority.

MPs Channa Jayasumana, Gevindu Kumaratunga and Mr. Herath opposed the proposal to hand over the authority of lands to District Secretariats from the Mahaweli Authority. MP Sarath Weerasekera also opposed this proposal.

Samagi Jana Balawegaya ally Tamil Progressive Alliance is to make its final decision today according to its leader MP Mano Ganesan. It is possible that MP Rajitha Senarathne welcomed the budget and rated it as good vote in favour or might even absent himself at the time of voting.

The second reading vote of the budget 2023 will be taken up at 5pm today

Killed at drinking party

BY HIRAN PRIYANKARA JAYASINGHE

An altercation between two individuals during a drinking party at Nagawila in Pallama on Sunday evening (20) had resulted in one of them being stabbed to death with an iron spike. A group of four individuals had felled trees in a private land in Nagawila area for firewood and after selling them had consumed liquor.

Investigations revealed that two of them had an altercation under the influence of liquor and that



one had stabbed the other with an iron spike piecing his neck. The owner of the land had been away to



bring in more liquor. The victim Chandawala Chanaka Jayanath Perera (38), a resident of

Nagawila area had died at the scene. Police said the main suspect wanted in connection with the killing had fled from the area.

However, the owner of the house and another were taken in for questioning by Pallama police.

Anamaduwa Magistrate was scheduled to visit the scene and hold the preliminary magisterial inquiry yesterday afternoon.

Pallama police are conducting further investigations.



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ZELENSKY ASKS NATO TO PROTECT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS FROM RUSSIAN 'SABOTAGE'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday urged NATO members to guarantee the protection of Ukraine's nuclear plants from Russian "sabotage".

"All our nations are interested in not having any dangerous incidents at our nuclear facilities," Zelensky said in a video address to NATO's Parliamentary Assembly in Madrid. "We all need guaranteed protection from Russian sabotage at nuclear facilities."

UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi on Sunday denounced the "targeted" strikes at Ukraine's Russian-

controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, calling for a "stop to this madness".

Around a dozen strikes had targeted the plant, he said, and the situation was "very serious", the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency told French broadcaster BFMTV.

Kyiv and Moscow traded blame.

"The news from our team yesterday and this morning is extremely disturbing," said a statement Sunday from Rafael Grossi.

"Explosions occurred at the site of this major nuclear

power plant, which is completely unacceptable.

"Whoever is behind this, it must stop immediately," he added. "As I have said many times before, you're playing with fire!"

There were more than a dozen blasts overnight Saturday to Sunday, some of which a team of experts from the agency on site had themselves seen, the IAEA said in a statement.

"The people who are doing this know where they are hitting. It is absolutely deliberate, targeted."

AFF.COM, 21 NOV, 2022



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks via video conference during the 68th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Madrid, Spain, Monday, November 21, 2022

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INTERNATIONAL



A hospital worker carries an earthquake victim on a gurney outside a hospital in Cianjur, Indonesia, November 21, 2022.

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE DEATH TOLL MOUNTS TO 162: GOVERNOR

The governor of the worst-hit province and a local official said the death toll from an earthquake on Indonesia's main island of Java on Monday had jumped to 162.

"I regret to inform that 162 are dead," West Java governor Ridwan Kamil said in a video seen by AFP. Adam, the spokesman for the local administration in Cianjur town in West Java, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, confirmed the toll to AFP.

Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency, BNPB, still lists the toll at 62. Due to miscounting, officials offered wildly fluctuating death tolls after an Indonesian stadium disaster last month.

Doctors treated patients outdoors after the quake, which was felt as far away as the capital Jakarta, left hospitals in the West Java town of Cianjur without power for several hours.

Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency said 25 people remained trapped under the rubble as the rescue mission stretched into the night.

The agency increased the death toll from 56 and said more than 2,000 houses were damaged and more than 5,000 people were taken to evacuation centres.

"You can see it yourself, some got their heads, feet sewn outdoors. Some got stressed and started crying," Kamil told a news conference broadcast on Kompas TV.

Kamil said power had been partially restored by the evening, without specifying if that meant by generators or connection to a power grid.

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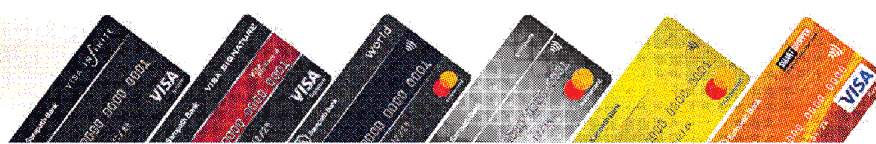
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SPORTS

PRIMA GROUP CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF JUNIOR CRICKET



The five captains Viran Chamuditha, Kithma Widanapathirana, Rehan Peiris, Sethmika Seneviratne and Thivanka Pabasara posing along with the Prima SLYL trophy



Mohan de Silva, Secretary SLC is seen receiving the sponsorship package from Sajith Gunaratne, Deputy General Manager, Ceylon Agro Industries, Prima Group Sri Lanka flanked by Samantha Dodanwa, Chairman Tournament Committee SLC and Donovan Ondaatje, Senior General Manager Ceylon Agro Industries, Prima Group Sri Lanka

BY M. SHAMILAMIT
 The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) organized Sri Lanka Youth League (SLYL) limited over tournament sponsored by Prima Group Sri Lanka for the 13th successive year with the objective of identifying talented and potential young cricketers will be contested by five teams.
 This was revealed at a press briefing held at the SSC auditorium on Monday.
 Sajith Gunaratne, Deputy General Manager of Prima Group Sri Lanka, briefing the media said, "We are happy to confirm the sponsorship for the 13th successive year with the aim of developing cricket at junior level."

Speaking further he said that, "We at Prima believe, it is our responsibility to encourage and inspire the youngsters who are seeking to gain recognition by showcasing the talent they possess, to lend our hand to fulfill their aspirations and we will be providing the players with nutrition's, cricket attire to encourage them further."
 In conclusion he stressed, "It's after a lapse of two years we are having this tournament and we are glad and honoured to become a party in reviving this tournament with the aim of encouraging the next generation of young cricketers and the Prima U15 SLYL is no doubt a stepping stone for talented youngsters who get the opportunity to lay the foundation to

go greater heights."
 The five teams for the provincial U15 SLYL were selected by the SLC district and provincial coaches under the supervision of the national junior selection committee during the progress of the district tournament which was conducted recently.
 The five teams in the fray are Colombo North led by Kithma Widanapathirana, Colombo South led by Rehan Peiris, Galle by Viran Chamuditha, Kandy by Sethmika Seneviratne and Dambulla by Thivanka Pabasara.
 The matches will be played at MCA grounds in Colombo and National Sports ground in Ratmalana. The final is scheduled to be played on November 29.

Tissapura MV bag VB double at School Games

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
 Tissapura MV, Uhana, Ampara clinched the Girls' Under-16 and Under-18 titles at the 2022 All-Island School Games Volleyball Tournament held at the Rajasinghe MV, Grounds in Ruwanwella.
 The tournament was conducted by the Ministry of Education after a lapse of two years.
 In the Girls' Under-16 Tournament final Tissapura MV defeated Vijayaba National School, Hungama while

in the Girls' Under-18 Tournament final Tissapura MV had the better of Walasmulla National School.
 Maliyadeva Model School and Henegama MMV won third place in the Girls' Under-16 and Girls' Under-18 Tournament respectively.
 Meanwhile, Gankanda MMV, Pelmadulla won the Girls' Under-20 volleyball title while Vijayaba National School emerged runners-up and Rathnapala MMV, Mahauswewa, Anamadawa secured third place.



Under 10 All Island Consolation Championship 2022 St. Michael's Batticaloa Juniors clinch All Island U10 tennis championship

St. Michael's College Batticaloa's Junior Tennis 'Red' Team clinched the Under 10 All Island Consolation Championship 2022, at the Inter School Cool Tennis Tournament 2022 organised by the Sri Lanka Tennis Association, held recently.
 As a distinguished school, recognised for its rich history of sporting achievements, St. Michael's two Junior Teams - Red and Blue Teams participating in the Under 10 Tournament consisted of young motivated and enthusiastic youngsters.
 The Red Team showed immense promise winning seven of the eight matches. In the Group matches they secured wins against St. Peter's College Negombo, Dr. Kulasinghe College Ja-Ela, St. Antony's College Wattala, Zahira College. The team triumphed in Round Sixteen winning against Richmond Galle. However, they experienced a setback losing to Maliyadeva College Kurunagala in the quarter final.
 The Red Team was selected into the Consolation Round and proceeded to the semi-finals. They beat Ananda College B Team and won the finals against St. Joseph's College Maradana becoming Group Champions and earning



St. Michael's College Batticaloa's Junior Tennis Blue Team



The Red Team Members - G. Krishaangan, A. Atheethan, Y. Thonishiyas, Daniel Aaron Lovell, P. Luxhimidhar, H. Nathuninth and A. Darkish with General Secretary of the Tennis Association of Sri Lanka

the crown of Under 10 All Island Consolation Championship 2022.
 The Red Team comprised G. Krishaangan, A. Atheethan, Y. Thonishiyas, Daniel Aaron Lovell, P. Luxhimidhar, H. Nathuninth and A. Darkish.
 The team's success was due to the hard work of the children and the dedication of the coaches and the academic staff of the school. A total of 1,300 schoolchildren representing 121 teams across the island participated in the tournament. The organisers included fun activities for the children throughout the Championship to educate and motivate young enthusiasts from grassroots level.

Bystec Holdings unveils SL's first US Open-spec tennis courts at Royal College

Two latest tennis courts at the Royal College, Colombo, constructed to US Open standards by all-weather tennis court contractor Bystec Holdings (Pvt) Limited, marking a first in Sri Lanka was declared opened recently.
 This facility was gifted to college by Royal College Old Boys East Coast Foundation, USA (RCOBEF) with a generous donation by Dr. Suku Nagendran, a distinguished old boy of Royal College.
 The newly established court was aptly named 'P. Nagendran Tennis Complex', honouring the memory of Dr. Suku Nagendran's late father.
 The project was envisioned, planned, supervised, and executed by group of fellow Royalist from the Group 96 batch.



The company also marked history, obtaining the exclusive rights to Laykold, the official surface brand of the US Open, to implement the same tournament-grade tennis court surfaces in Sri Lanka, giving players a more competitive edge. This project is the first of many to implement Laykold surfaces, according to the company.
 Commenting on the initiative, Bystec Holdings Managing Director Boshan Dayaratne said: "I am very pleased and excited as we managed to get the exclusive rights for Laykold in Sri Lanka and Maldives, and it is commendable for us to introduce such an international brand in the country for the very first time."
 "As a former tennis player back in the mid-90s, the facilities that we had were

not up to the international competition standards as we played on clay courts, which were especially rough to play on during adverse weather conditions. I am however elated to be part of the force which brings the perfect balance of terrain and adaptability in all weather conditions to our country's tennis players".
 Most available tennis courts in Sri Lanka are traditionally built with clay surfaces, which often don't reflect the same consistency as hard courts. But most of the international tournaments are held on hard

courts. It is important that our players get to practice in these international surfaces prior to participating in international tournaments. Our objective of setting up Bystec Holdings is to support our players in this context. We have converted many clay tennis courts to hard surface during past several years.
 Now, everyone can practice on the same competition-spec surface ahead of any tournament, without worrying about adverse weather, as even rainwater will disperse in no more than 5-10 minutes on the all-weather hard court.

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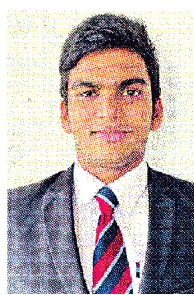
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Under 19 Cricket Mahanama, St. Anthony's clash in quarters today

BY M. SHAMILAMIT
 Mahanama College Colombo and St. Anthony's College Katugastota will clash in the Under 19 Division One Tier 'A' limited over cricket tournament quarter final encounter scheduled to be played at Dharmapala MV ground in Pannipitiya.
 In the run up to the quarter final saw Mahanama Colombo led by Sachira Weliwatte coming out on top in their group while St. Anthony's led by Sri Lanka youth player Lahiru Abeysinghe ended up as the fourth best team in their group.



Sachira Weliwatte (Mahanama Capt)



Lahiru Abeysinghe (St. Anthony's Capt)

The Teams:
Mahanama Colombo: Sachira Weliwatte (Captain), Anjala Bandara, Bhanula Algewatte, Duvindu Ranatunge, Inuka Karannagoda, Dasith Gunathilake, Nadeesh Yasiru, Omesh Udara, Tharindu Lakshan, Brain Perera, Ruchira Hansara, Lithika Vithanage, Kaveesha Gimhana, Rashmika Hirushan, Kavindu Amameth, Koojana Perera, Viranga Yeshan, Wenuk Hettiarachchi, Dulnith Sigeru, Chamika Heenatigala.
St. Anthony's Katugastota: Lahiru Abeysinghe (Captain), Travin Mathew, Mohammed Akeel, K.S. Bandara, Thisara Ekanayake, Ravindu Kapukotuwa, Ryan Anthonys, Induwara Galapitage, Kaveesha Piyumal, J. Rathnasiri, J. Ekanayake, K.R. Fernando, N.B. Rathnayake, T.D. Welanga, R.Y. Kasthuriarachchi, S.A. Fonseka, S.G. Abesekera, D.O. Ganegoda, K. Kumarasinghe, Sanuka Kalpana.

Sri Lak Golden Jubilee Meet on December 18

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
 The Golden Jubilee track and field meet of Sri Lak Athletic Club will be held on December 18 at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo.
 This year's event will be named as 'Laxman de Alwis Memorial Athletic Meet' in respect to the late Laxman de Alwis, who was a pioneer in inaugurating the Sri Lak Athletic Club.
 The Sri Lak Athletic Club has produced several top athletes during the past 50 years



Laxman de Alwis

Upali, Narendra Silva, V.K. L. Samarasinghe, Ramani Mangalika and Manoj Mallawarachchi.
 Over 1,500 athletes are set to participate in this meet, which will include events for Boys' and Girls' Under-11, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18 and Under-20.
 The entries for the meet will close on December 10 and all entries should reach Lakruwan Perera, Secretary, Sri Lak Athletic Club, 28/6A, Subhodi Mawatha, Battaramulla.
 including Sriyantha Dissanayake, Vijitha Amarasekera, Benildus Fernando, Ineka Cooray, H.P.M. Gunawardena, U.K.

CSE partners with Wayamba and Jaffna Universities to improve financial literacy among undergrads

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (WUSL) and the University of Jaffna Sri Lanka (UOJ) to formalize collaborative efforts to improve financial literacy among undergraduates. The MoUs were signed respectively with the Vice Chancellor of Wayamba University, Senior Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe, and the Vice Chancellor of Jaffna University, Prof. S. Srisatkunarahaj, at their respective University premises.

Both collaborations are to promote capital market education among undergraduates by working



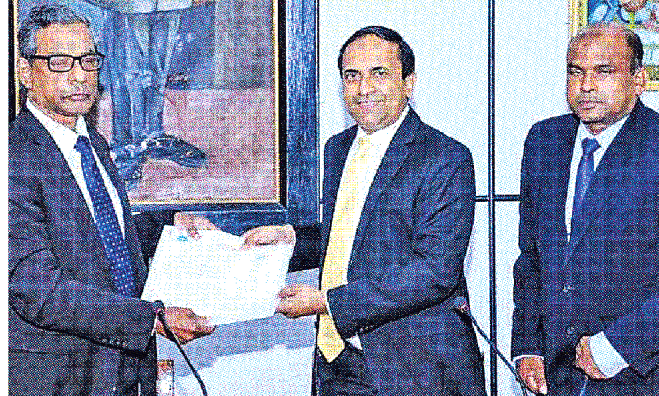
From left: Vice Chancellor of the Wayamba University, Senior Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe and CSE Senior Vice President-Marketing Niroshan Wijesundere

together on several mutually beneficial strategic initiatives.

Accordingly, the initiative would offer practical educational training and internship opportunities for students of both universities who are engaged in accountancy and finance, business management, and

economics related degree programmes with the CSE.

Further, under the terms of the MoU, the CSE will grant an award to the student from WUSL and UOJ who obtains the highest value in the Grade Point Average ("GPA") in the Financial Management Specialization Programme.



From left: Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna Prof. S. Srisatkunarahaj and CSE CEO Rajeeva Bandaranaike

WUSL and UOJ will also collaborate with the ongoing educational initiatives of the CSE, the Advanced Diploma in Financial Markets (ADFM), as well as future educational activities, by

providing the required expertise and resource persons to the seminars and workshops organized by the CSE for investors around the country in promoting the capital market investments.

Tourism Alliance releases report on global travel demand for Sri Lanka

The Tourism Alliance has released a comprehensive report analyzing international traveller demand for Sri Lanka utilizing search data.

Currently tourism trends are analyzed through visitor arrivals. As a majority of potential travellers' research holidays online, search terms and volumes can gauge future tourist arrival trends.

Some of the key areas in the report covers critical questions such as which markets are searching for Sri Lanka? Top Sri Lankan hotels by online demand, pick up comparison compared to last year, safety related search trends and which experiences are in demand.

"The Tourism Alliance commissioned the Sri Lanka Demand Insights and Trends Report from our digital solutions partner Antyra which analyzed 5,082 keywords relating to Sri Lanka. Flights, Travel, Hotels, Tours, Destinations, Activities, Hotel Brands etc. were used to understand the overall online demand for Sri Lanka," said Malik Fernando, Chair of the Tourism Alliance.

The downloadable report offers year-to-date trends and demand for experience

types and hotel brands up to the end of September 2022. The October data will be published in November.

Unsurprisingly, the report revealed a significant drop in demand, in line with feedback the industry receives that consumer overseas are unaware of the improvements in the ground situation.

The findings were utilized by the Tourism Alliance to launch the first ever private sector-driven mini destination marketing campaign, themed "Fall in Love Again" to help drive winter season bookings. "The objective of the campaign is to reignite the desire to visit Sri Lanka by promoting a positive message about readiness to welcome tourists and to help dispel the widely held belief that the country is still in strife, amidst shortages" added Fernando.

The Alliance started the mini digital Destination Marketing campaign on 1st of October focusing on the UK and Europe with encouraging results. The report also includes results of the first 30 days of the campaign, and can be downloaded on sri.lankatourismalliance.org

Effie Awards SL 2022 to recognize best marketing efforts during turbulent times

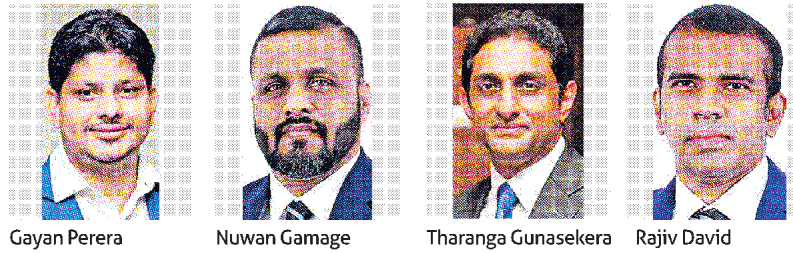
The Effie Awards Sri Lanka, the world-renowned international awards programme, organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), is a coveted event that is highly anticipated and celebrated by advertising agencies and marketers, both locally and globally, as the most distinguished honour in the industry.

Celebrating and inspiring the advertising industry of Sri Lanka, the 13th edition of the Effie Awards Sri Lanka 2022 is to be held this year focusing on the creative work and effectiveness of campaigns during these turbulent times.

Now open for entries, the 2022 Effie Awards Sri Lanka recognizes any marketing effort, whether a full

campaign or targeted effort within a campaign, that ran in Sri Lanka from January 01st 2021 to March 31st 2022, showcasing the perseverance and determination of marketers, in order to keep the brands alive and strengthen revenue.

The entry deadlines are categorized into two where the on-time entry deadline is set on 20th December 2022 and the final deadline on 23rd December 2022. The awards competition constitutes of main awards categories evaluated under the industry sector for which its business falls in to, and special awards, where marketing efforts could be evaluated based on specific areas under marketing communication effectiveness.



Gayan Perera Nuwan Gamage Tharanga Gunasekera Rajiv David

Also, this awards competition gives the opportunity for winning case studies of a particular country program to compete in regional as well as global Effie competitions for greater recognition.

Nuwan Gamage, President of SLIM said, "SLIM, as the national body of marketing in Sri Lanka, continues to

work towards promoting marketing excellence and elevating the standards of the Sri Lankan marketers with the ultimate vision of leading the nation towards economic prosperity. Effie Awards Sri Lanka is a world-renowned awards program offering the SLIM franchise with Effie US. It's a truly global award for the marketers

who are in the advertising industry."

Gayan Perera, Vice President of SLIM, also commented on the awards. "As the franchisee of Effie Awards Sri Lanka, the SLIM is proud to organize the 2022 edition of the awards torally around both advertising and marketing fraternity, especially during these challenging times, offering the opportunity to showcase and be recognized for their creative work and effective campaigns."

Tharanga Gunasekera, Head of the Judging Panel of Effie Awards Sri Lanka 2022 said, "I am honoured to be a part of the prestigious Effie Awards Sri Lanka. This year's awards comes at a time when we all seek inspiration as brands showcase their hard work

carried out and overcome challenges posed by the country's worst economic crisis. However, tough times don't last, but the good work done during those tough times will surely be remembered."

Project Chairperson for Effie Awards Sri Lanka 2022, Rajiv David said, "I am honoured to be given the opportunity to lead this project and give back to the industry. The Effie Awards is the only platform available for advertising companies to showcase and be recognized for their creative work that has brought ROI for the brands and helped keep alive that much-needed engagement amongst brands and their consumers despite the turbulent times."

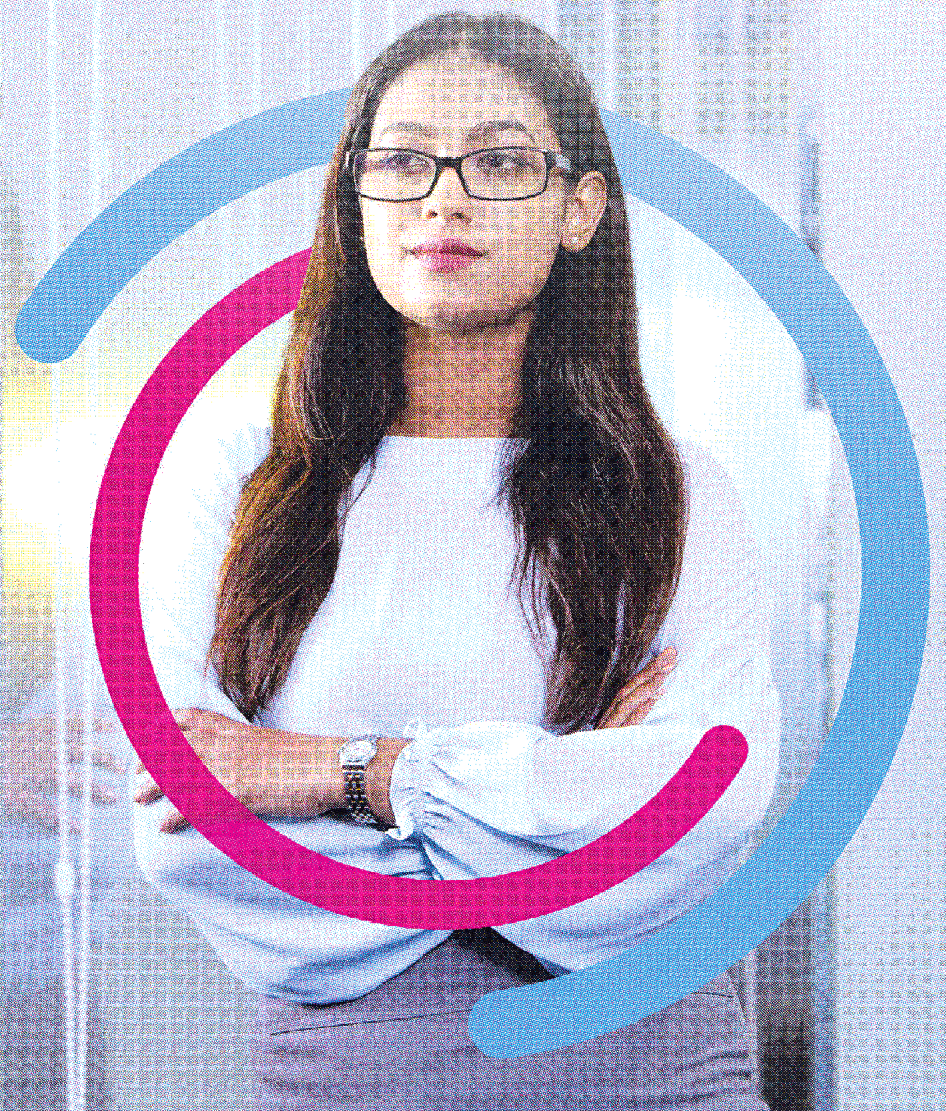
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21.11.2022

Table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, V.W.A, CHANGE. Contains multiple columns of stock market data.

Exchange Rates 21.11.2022

Table of exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Euro, etc.

Week commences in red

The ASPI closed in red as a result of price losses in counters such as Lanka IOC, Carson Cumberbatch and Vallibel One with the turnover crossing Rs 1.2 Bn.

Capital Goods sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to John Keells Holdings) whilst the sector index lost 0.22%.



highest contributor to the market turnover (due to Citizens Development Business Finance) whilst the sector index

decreased by 0.27%. The share price of Citizens Development Business Finance closed flat at Rs 200.00.

Contd. from Page 12

FTX crypto...

Last week, new FTX chief executive John Ray hit out at the way the failed crypto exchange was run, saying he had never "seen such a complete failure of corporate controls".

Bankman-Fried told the Vox news website he regretted filing for bankruptcy, saying the decision had largely taken financial matters out of his control.

Ceylon Chamber...

The chamber recently published a set of proposals to ensure an independent, productive and efficient public service.

of the state. "It is vital that proposals such as these are implemented so that national development can be accelerated through efficient and independent service delivery by the government," the statement concluded.

National inflation...

The prices measured on a monthly basis rose by 0.3 percent in October over September levels, significantly slowing from 2.3 percent between August and September.

Inflation measured by the Colombo Consumer Price Index, the authorities' preferred inflation gauge, eased to 66 percent in October, from a peak of 69.8 percent in September.

The annual non-food prices eased to 61.3 percent, from 62.8 percent a month ago while the prices measured on a monthly basis too decelerated substantially to 1.4 percent, from

4.0 percent in September, predominantly due to the downward price revision in petrol.

This deceleration in prices may provide some sense of relief for the people that the worst is behind them though the acute economic hardships still remain with a large majority of low- and middle-income earners having to significantly upend their lifestyles just to survive.

The Central Bank in total raised the key policy rates by 950 basis points from January through July this year, including the bumper 700-basis-point hike in April, to tamp down runaway inflation, which was looking to surpass 100 percent.

The current bout of decades-high inflation around the world with the exception of China is a result of strong consumer demand caused by the record-high pandemic stimulus, colliding with disruptions to supplies and supply chains.

by Russia's war against Ukraine, threatening global energy and food security. What makes Sri Lanka's situation a bit more different is the free fall in the rupee after the currency was floated in early March, causing the rupee to shed 80 percent of its value, the commodities shortages and tax hikes, which sent the prices higher.

Lankan gem...

At the official announcement event yesterday, the event organisers said the 2023 edition would see about 100 booths.

Efforts are made to shed light on the SME sector in the upcoming edition, where 10 SME gem and jewellery entities will be featured at the National Gem and Jewellery Authority pavilion.

According to Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association President Altaf Iqbal, Facets Sri Lanka will concentrate on creating international

design trends where all artisanally crafted jewellery will place a coloured gemstone as its centrepiece. "If you look at some of the most valuable masterpieces among royalty around the world, for instance, it is a Sri Lankan gem that holds the centrepiece. We have to bring that trend back, bigger and better of course," he said addressing the media.

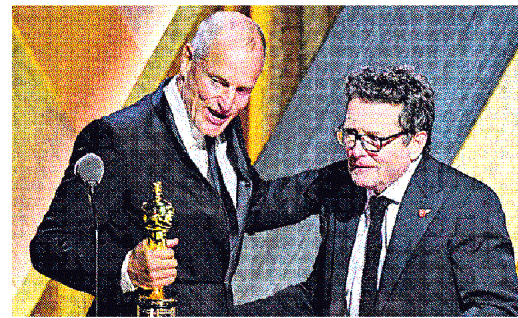
For the first 10 months of 2022, Sri Lanka's gem and jewellery sector recorded an overall growth of 35 percent compared to the corresponding period last year, fetching a revenue of US \$ 255.16 million.

In an effort to boost the sector, National Gem and Jewellery Authority Chairman Viraj De Silva called on industry stakeholders to conduct business activities in markets such as the USA, Singapore, Thailand and Europe.

He pointed out that in addition to the pandemic, China's zero COVID-19 policy has adversely affected the sector since China ranked as the fourth largest gem importer for Sri Lanka. Following Facets, the authority has made arrangements to facilitate the participation of local stakeholders at international gem and jewellery exhibitions in Dubai, Singapore and Germany.

ELTON JOHN BIDS FAREWELL TO AMERICA WITH 'EMOTIONAL' LOS ANGELES CONCERT

Clad in a sequined bathrobe, Elton John signed off the final US concert of his farewell tour Sunday with a typically flamboyant show in Los Angeles, the city that helped launch him to global fame half a century ago. John took to the stage of the Dodger Stadium -- the baseball arena that played host to two of his most celebrated, career-defining shows in 1975 -- for what he said was a "very special, very emotional" concert live-streamed on Disney+. **AFP**



BACK TO THE FUTURE STAR AND PARKINSON'S ACTIVIST FOX GETS HONORARY OSCAR

Michael J. Fox was awarded an honorary Oscar Saturday for his campaign to fund Parkinson's research since being diagnosed with the neurodegenerative disease at the peak of his acting career. Fox received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual statuette for humanitarian work by a film industry figure at a black-tie gala crammed with Hollywood's biggest stars in Los Angeles. **AFP**

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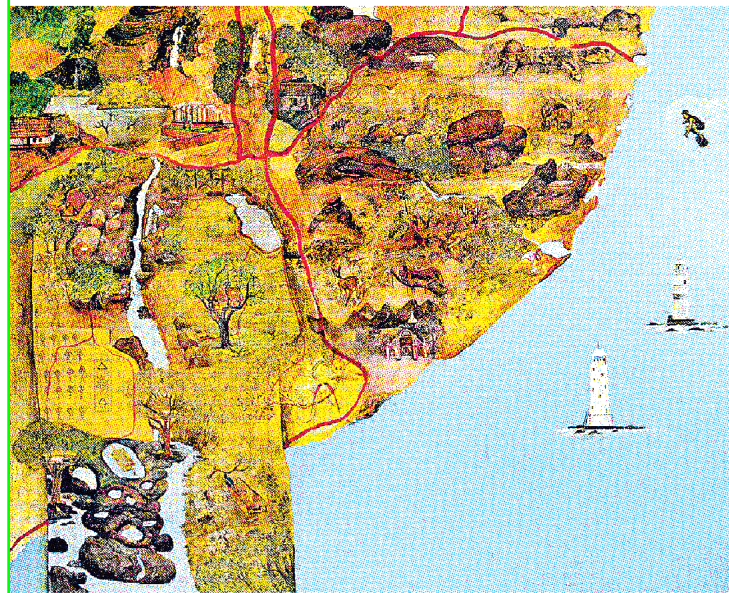
BY KAMANTHI WICKRAMASINGHE

A cozy abode bordering a paddy field amidst an abundance of greenery in the heart of Athurugiriya is veteran contemporary artist Pala Pothupitiya's workshop cum resting space, aesthetically designed by the late artist extraordinaire Laki Senanayake. Despite his simple lifestyle, Pothupitiya has placed Sri Lanka on the world map with his various artworks which questions caste-based differences while confronting issues such as colonialism, nationalism, religious extremism and militarization. His works are also an attempt to generate a critique of Euro-centrism in the postcolonial setting. Born in 1972, Pothupitiya hails from Deniyaya and has earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Visual and Performing Arts.

IN CONVERSATION WITH PALA POTHUPITIYA

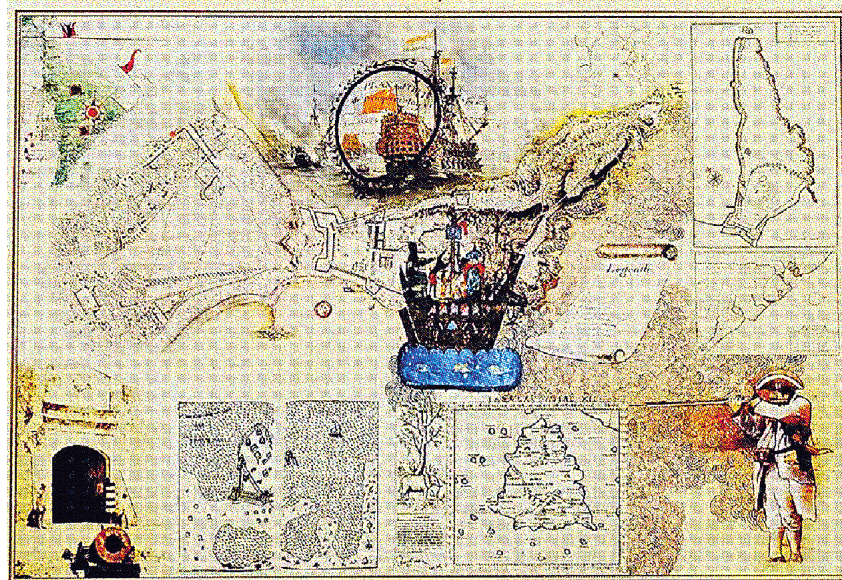
DISRUPTING COLONIAL

stereotypes through artistic expressions



Pothupitiya draws inspiration for his artworks from his father, Somaweera Pothupitiya. His early memories are of his father stitching decorative pieces of art, designing costumes, decorating streets for the Matara tradition of low country dancing. At his hometown in Deniyaya, he used to design clothes alongside his father. "I then shifted to Matara to do my A/Ls and later got selected to Heywood College of Fine Arts," said Pothupitiya in an exclusive interview with the Daily Mirror Life. "Here I got to know various people. The Heywood had no walls around it and everybody involved in arts to drama would come to the college to have a cup of tea. I have seen them until I left the college and regular conversations with them helped me improve my knowledge. One of my mentors was Jagath Weerasinghe who inspired me to portray an idea, life experience or feeling as a form of art. He was a pioneer in bringing about the '90s trend' along with the 'Theertha Artistes Collective'. It is around this time that I got addicted to the arts."

His final year project was to project how Western art highlighted Eurocentrism as a superior force. "Therefore, traditional forms of art were looked down upon as underdeveloped and primitive genres as means of suppressing them. One thing I have seen in contemporary art is where art researchers and curators study about these so-called primitive forms of art, thereby suppressing them further. Certain aspects of



traditional dance genres still exist and they are living traditions but critics and art researchers would say that these dance forms had more value back in the day. Such thoughts suppress the expression of these dance forms and projecting them to be witnessed through a modern lens. So I took a keen interest to study about how colonial influences teach us to suppress ourselves through various institutions."

Pothupitiya is a founding member of the Theertha International Artists Collective. In 2005, he was selected to participate in the Third Fukuoka Triennial at the Fukuoka Art Museum in Japan, and in 2010 he won the jury award of the Sovereign Art Asian Prize, Hong Kong. He has participated in many local and international art exhibitions and events including Colombo Art Biennale (2012), Colomboscope (2013), Serendipity Art Festival, Goa (2015), Inaugural Karachi Biennale, Pakistan (2017) and Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain (2019) to name a few. His works are in the collections of Fukuoka Art Museum, World Culture Museum, Germany, Vina Museum, Austria and Museum of Contemporary

Art, Barcelona, Spain. Pothupitiya is of the view that schools condition children to become racist, feeding them to consider Eurocentrism as a supreme force. "My father has never been to school, but he's not racist. But once I started going to these colonial institutions I was being taught that Sinhalese is a majority race deliberately making me look down upon another race. On the other hand, institutionalized Buddhism is accompanied by political power. So I try to highlight these colonial elements in my artworks."

Pothupitiya is known for his unique way of reconstructing maps where he portrays these colonial elements in a more subtle manner. He defines a map as a powerful tool that portrays colonialism and colonization. "Colonialists have mapped colonization, trade and cultural colonization. Our map has been designed by colonialists," he added. His earliest works of map art included reconstructing Sri Lanka's district maps into figures of lions and tigers. He says that maps separate people, similarly to separatism which was one of the fundamental reasons for the 30-year ethnic conflict. "This conflict was engineered by those in

the powerful social class but the victims were the underprivileged, innocent youth in rural settings. People in the South and North were equally affected by the conflict. But the issue is that most events done in Colombo give more prominence to people in the North and the Tamil-speaking community. Many are of the view that only those in the North were impacted. But those in the South too were affected. We shouldn't show the divide between the North and South. This is what I try to show through map art."

"I see global politics as a mafia and through that, powerful forces engineer various conflicts. We receive global support to continue the conflict. Once I reconstructed the world map using the logos of all media channels in the world. Most media institutions have zero ethics. Media wants to sell happiness and sorrow at the same time. Therefore I have less respect for most institutions. The behaviour of religious leaders, political leaders, media have a greater impact on the prevailing crisis."

Pothupitiya's aim is to portray global politics and violence through maps. His series of upside down maps of South Asia, titled the Colonial Dress to the various reconstructions of Sri Lankan maps drawn by Ptolemy and other colonialists portray his critique about Eurocentrism in the postcolonial setting. He says he has been successful in his efforts to express his ideas and is proud about the fact that he's a full time artist. "We have been conditioned to think that an artist is always poor. This is one way of fooling artists so that people can get their work done for a pittance."

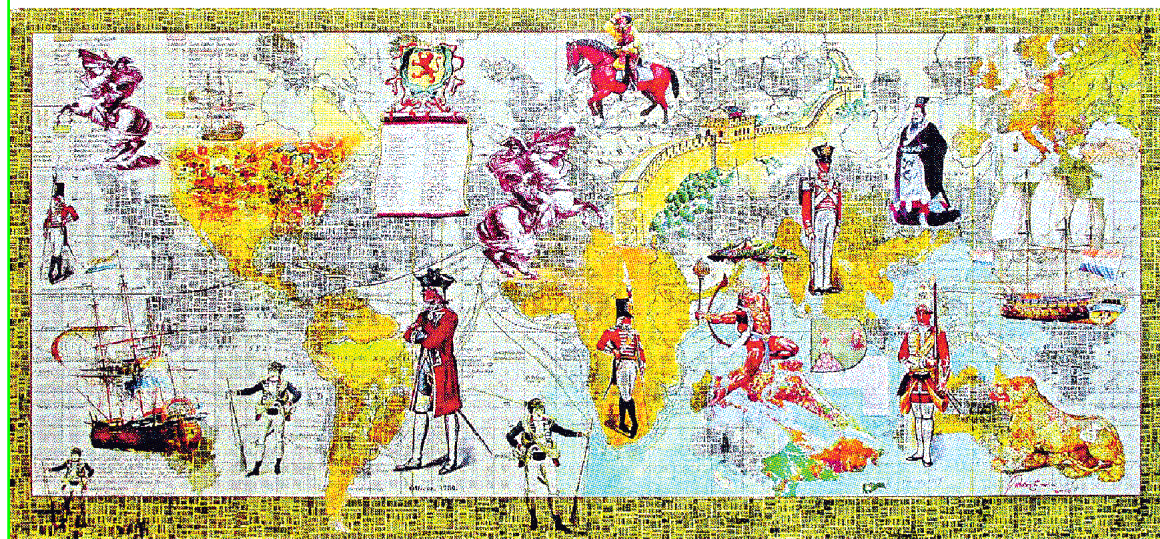
Therefore, traditional forms of art were looked down upon as underdeveloped and primitive genres as means of suppressing them.

However he has identified a dearth of new knowledge that could have been disseminated from universities. "Even though Sri Lanka's contemporary art has achieved some sort of recognition, one thing that has to be noted is that the university curricula have not evolved to inspire future generations. There's no space for art criticism. There's nothing that happens beyond drawing, painting etc; there's no space for concept design." This is why the Mullegama Art Centre has been initiated since 2011 to disseminate new knowledge about various forms of art to youngsters in his community. He says that this is a more sustainable model as the target group is less and the approach is more people-centric.

"New knowledge is developed in the alternative space. But that again is uncertain. The Theertha Collective has done many workshops but it's high time for a team of fresh thinkers to take the baton forward."

Even though traditional artists may sometimes perceive digital art as a threat, this hasn't been the case for Pothupitiya. In fact most of his maps have been reconstructed digitally. He says it's the idea that needs to be highlighted. The media is immaterial. "Following the influence of the '43 group' there was a time where the urban artist portrayed the rural setting in a very exotic manner. With that there was a change in the expression of ideas through art during the '90s. But we are stuck with archaic ideas. There's a dearth of new, innovative knowledge. Art will prevail but in a more linear form," he said in conclusion while adding that there are no potential elements as yet, to dilute this linearity. (Pix-palaart.com)

New knowledge is developed in the alternative space. But that again is uncertain. The Theertha Collective has done many workshops but it's high time for a team of fresh thinkers to take the baton forward.



According to Feng Shui, an ancient Chinese Science on living, energy is referred to as 'Chi' and you need to provide an environment at home that allows Chi to move around freely. While beautiful interior décor gets half the job done, organising things in your home is the other half. Since energy never dies, but just keeps changing form, here are some ways to harness the positive energy into your home:

The flora and fauna of a space gives an insight on the quality of the energy existing in the piece of property. Looking at the plants, greenery, a fair amount of information can be retrieved and adjusted in accordance with the observations. The first step is to assess the garden or yard. A sunny area with lots of colourful plants will be yang dominate. A yin area will be shaded and have stagnant water, and cool coloured plants. Once the required corrections, layout and design are in place, the energy of the garden can also be enhanced and balanced to support the building and the occupants. Sound energy in the garden is also beneficial. It could be wind chimes, bells or bamboo flutes - all acceptable instruments to

Flow and feel



use. Make sure they produce a sharp melodious sound versus a clang. Wind-chimes and flutes need to be placed in a sheltered part of the garden.



Wind chimes
Install wind chimes at the entrance of your door as these are known to usher in positive energy.

Fresh air

It's well-known that pollution is on the rise, especially in the cities, but, you still need to open your doors and windows daily - even if for a short while, to allow the spent energy to leave and usher in fresh vibes.



Fresh Plants and flowers

These are always soothing to the eyes and bring instant positive energy into the home. Aside from their rejuvenating splash of green colour, certain indoor plants are also known to cleanse the indoor air of toxins, hence enhancing your family's health.



Bad memories

Remove anything from the home that has bad memories attached to it. Like photographs or mementos of events that didn't go well. Keep more of things that will make your family smile.

Colours

There is a whole subject on how colours affect our moods. You should ideally have a mix of warm and cold colours in your home to create a balance.



Once you get home, your senses should be stimulated with a clean home, aroma of a dish cooking/nice smell, soothing music and loving family. All these add to the positive energy of a home.

Each of the occupants, place and thing is alive and connected together with the universal energy called "Chi". Everything is connected by this vital energy which is always changing. When we integrate the Vaastu and Feng Shui principles into our life, we see and interact with the world in a new powerful way. In both Vaastu and Feng Shui each area and corner of the house relates to some aspect and aspirations of you and your life. Any missing corner, cluttered area or dark area has an influence on the occupant's life with regard to the specific corner.



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