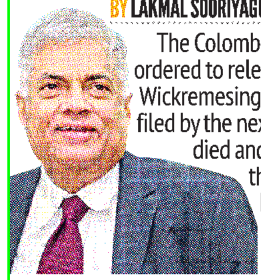




YOUR PAPER TODAY 14 PAGES

Failure to prevent Easter Sunday attacks: President RW released from 108 lawsuits

Decision to release the second defendant from the cases would only operate for the period he holds the post of Presidency



BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA The Colombo District Court yesterday ordered to release President Ranil Wickremesinghe from 108 lawsuits filed by the next of kin of those who died and were injured due to the Easter Sunday suicide bomb blasts which took place in Colombo.

Failure of govt. agencies to hold LG polls challenged in SC

The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) has filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the Supreme Court challenging the failure and refusal of several government departments to take the necessary steps to hold the Local Government elections.

Pujith Jayasundara withdraws his FR petition

The Fundamental Rights petition filed by former Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara seeking an order suspending former President Maithripala Sirisena's decision to send him on compulsory leave following the Easter Sunday bomb attacks was yesterday withdrawn by himself before the Supreme Court.

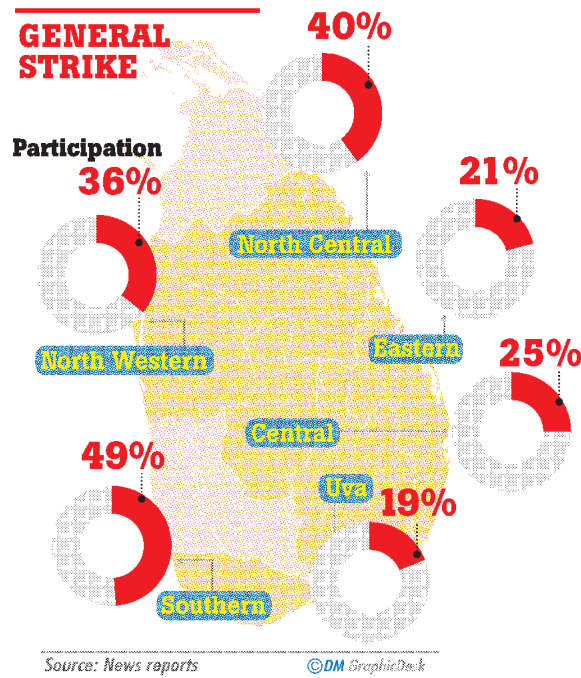
Three senior DIGs in the fray for IGP post

Three senior police officers are set to vie for the IGP post, informed sources said yesterday. Senior DIG Deshabandu Tennakoon, Senior DIG Lalith Pathinayake and Senior DIG Ajith Rohana entered the fray.

CA quashes charges against Ravi in two bond cases

The Court of Appeal yesterday issued a writ of certiorari quashing the charges against former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake in connection with two cases filed in Colombo High Court over Central Bank bond issuance.

GENERAL STRIKE - A PARTIAL SUCCESS



The members of Port Trade Union Collective yesterday staged a protest opposite the Fort Railway Station against the recent tax hikes introduced by the government.

Data in the Sabaragamuwa and Western Province were not available. Only 44,540 out of 148,451 public servants in six provinces participated.

The General strike which was called by trade unions has been a partial success as only 44,540 public servants out of 148,451 in six provinces have participated in it according to a government survey.

Failure to prevent Easter Sunday attacks: MAITHRI'S APPEALS

DISMISSED WITH COST



President's Counsel Faisz Musthapha with Counsel Pulasthi Rupasinghe appeared for the former President. The plaintiffs were the victims of Easter Sunday bomb attacks which took place at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade.

Colombo Civil Appellate High Court yesterday ordered to dismiss the appeal applications filed by former President Maithripala Sirisena who challenged the Colombo District Court's decision to reject his request that he be discharged from several civil lawsuits filed by the victims of Easter Sunday attacks.

More cabinet ministers likely to be appointed this month: SB

Gamini Lokuge, Janaka Bandara Tennakoon, Johnston Fernando, S. M. Chandrasena, C.B. Rathnayake, Rohitha Abeygunawardena and Sarath Weerasekera were among the list of names.

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) MP S.B. Dissanayake said that President Ranil Wickremesinghe will appoint several cabinet ministers including himself soon. He told a television talk show that at least nine more cabinet ministers will probably be appointed by this month.

Obesity among Sri Lankan population on the increase: Medical specialist

The overweight and obesity among male and female population has increased when compared to 2015 where 15 percent of the females and 6.3 percent of the male population were reported with obesity in Sri Lanka medical specialist said yesterday.

No police officers to open PUCSL office

Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) Chairman Janaka Ratnayake said that even though he returned to the country, his office was not open for him. Addressing the media, he said he was out of the country for several days on a personal visit.

Today, 36% of our country's national wealth is generated from the Western Province. The North Central Province's contribution to our country's national wealth is 5%. The contribution of the North Western Province is 9%. The benefits of the economy flow to the people to the extent that they participate in the economy... The rural poor have not got a chance to join the economy.

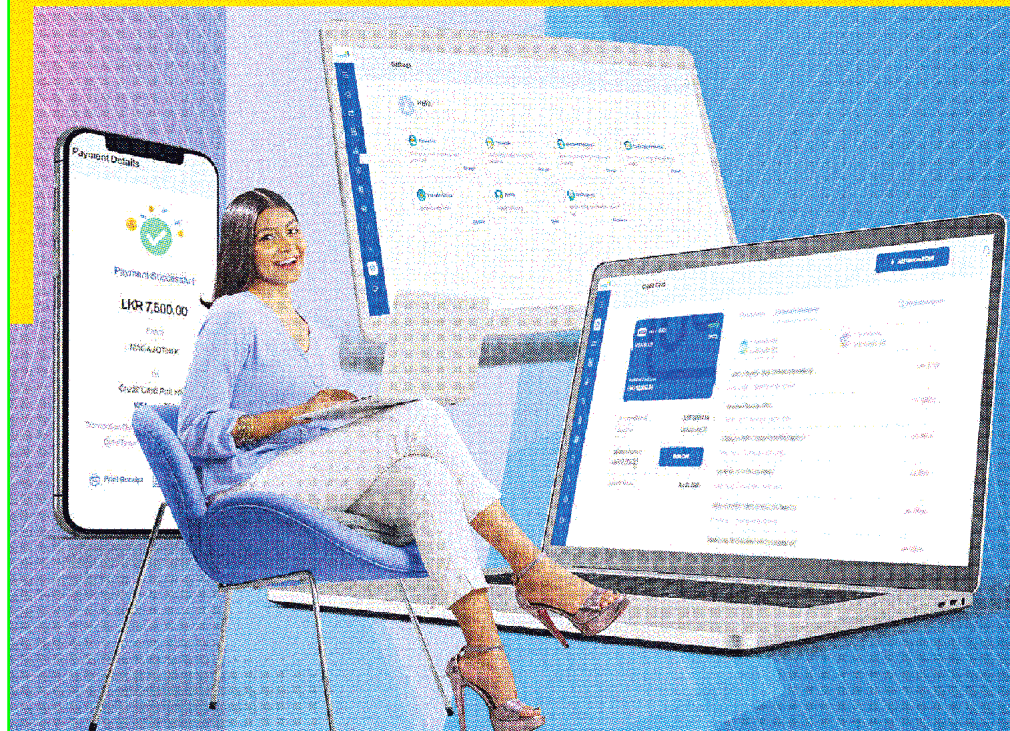
AKD mistakes disparity in total economic activity as disparity in individual participation. Exhibit 1: GDP and Employment Indicators by Province. Table with columns: Province, Total economic output (LKR bn), Economic output per employed person, % Employed per working-age person (age > 15 yrs), Unemployment.

Two day debate on local polls in Parliament next week. Leaders of political parties representing Parliament have decided to conduct a two day debate on the situation pertaining to local government elections in the House next week.

US Senate Committee urges SL to hold elections without further delay. The United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (SCFR) urged the Government of Sri Lanka to hold free and fair local government elections without further delay.

Will take legal action in next couple of days: PUCSL Chairman. Necessary legal action will be taken in the next couple of days relating to the recent increase of the electricity tariff without his consent.

Indian Defence Forces offer SL 1,500 training slots yearly. Indian Defence Forces offer about 1,500 training slots every year to Sri Lanka which are financed through a special programme with an annual allocation of USD 7 million.



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CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

General strike - a partial success

Accordingly 36 percent of workers have engaged in the strike in the North Western Province, 40 percent in North Central, 49 percent in Southern Province, 25 percent in Central, 21 percent in Eastern, and 19 percent have engaged in the Uva Province.

As per the data government doctors have participated in the strike to a high extent. Accordingly 914 Government Doctors out of 1322 in the North Western Province, 434 out of 690 in North Central Province, 1547 Doctors out of 2472 in the Central Province, 942 Doctors out of 1339 in the Southern Province, 454 Doctors out of 1338 in the Eastern Province and 730 Doctors out of 918 in Uva Province were engaged in the strike.

However data in the Sabaragamuwa and Western Province were not available though workers who participated in the strike in the Western Province was reported to be high according to a spokesman from the President's office.

Failure of govt. agencies to hold LG polls challenged in SC

The CPA and its Executive Director Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu filed this petition naming Treasury Secretary, Government Printer and Inspector General of Police and several others as respondents. The petitioners stated that the elections to elect persons as members of local authorities are required to be held every 4 years in terms of the relevant statutes. Elections were previously held in 2018, and the term of the Local Authorities that were due to expire in 2022 were ended for a year thereafter.

The petitioners stated that the conduct of the Government Printer and the Inspector General of Police are indicative of a coordinated campaign to procrastinate the holding of local authority elections. The petitioners also stated that the President in the capacity as the Minister of Finance and the Secretary to the Treasury have not until the very last minute on the 23rd of February 2023 indicated that there is an issue in the allocation of funds to conduct the elections. The petitioners maintained that these actions are prejudicial to the fundamental rights of the petitioners and the citizens of Sri Lanka.

Pujith Jayasundara withdraws his FR petition

Counsel who appeared on behalf of the former IGP informed the court that his client does not intend to proceed with this petition since he has retired from police service.

Pujith Jayasundara had sought a declaration that the actions of the former President and other respondents had infringed the fundamental rights of the Petitioner guaranteed under Article 12(1) of the Constitution. The former IGP stated that he was excluded by the former President from attending National Security Council (NSC) meetings from early October 2018 until after the Easter Sunday attacks of 21st April 2019. He said the former President decided to send him on compulsory leave in an arbitrary manner contrary to the laws. Senior counsel Viran Corea under the instructions of Dinesh Vidanapathirana appeared for the petitioner.

Obesity among SL population on the increase: Medical specialist

Consultant Community Physician Shanthi Gunawardana told a news conference at the Health Promotion Bureau that obesity and overweight among female population has increased to 43 percent in 2021 whereas it was 34 percent in 2015.

She said according to research conducted in 2015 on non-communicable diseases, obesity and overweight among male population has increased to 30 percent in 2021 in comparison to 24.5 percent in 2015.

Dr. Gunawardana said overweight and obesity were decided based on the Body Mass Index (BMI) and that according to statistics of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the BMI of a healthy person should be between 18.5 and 24.9. BMI over 30 is considered obesity and BMI between 25 and 29.9 is considered overweight, she said.

She said people in Asian countries should maintain BMI at 23 and make sure that it is not exceeded 23.

Dr. Gunawardana said food pattern is directly leads to obesity and overweight and added that various medical conditions such as heart diseases, diabetes, lung diseases and certain types of cancers will be caused due to obesity.

MAITHRI'S APPEALS DISMISSED WITH COST

Colombo Civil Appellate High Court two-judge-bench comprising Justice Frank Gunawardena and Justice Chamath Moraes ordered to dismiss these appeals with a cost amounting to Rs.21,000 each.

The relatives of those who died due to the suicide bomb blasts which took place in Colombo and individuals who were injured had filed 108 lawsuits before Colombo District Court claiming compensations from

former President Maithripala Sirisena and several other defendants.

The plaintiffs were the victims of Easter Sunday Bomb Attacks which took place at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade.

On January 7, 2022 the Colombo District Court rejected the request made by former President Maithripala Sirisena that he be released from these lawsuits.

The victims alleged that the defendants

including former President Sirisena have failed to perform their official duties entrusted to prevent the terrorist attacks that took place on April 21, 2019 which caused irreparable damages to them.

President's Counsel Faisz Musthapha with Counsel Pulasthi Rupasinghe appeared for the former President. President's Counsel Shamil Perera appeared for the aggrieved party

PRESIDENT RW RELEASED FROM 108 LAWSUITS

Colombo Additional District Judge Mahesha de Silva observed that second defendant Ranil Wickremesinghe as the President of the country is entitled to immunity in terms of Article 35(1) of the constitution. However, the court observed that the decision to release the second defendant from the cases would only operate for the period he holds the post of Presidency. Meanwhile, the Court rejected the objections raised by former

President Maithripala Sirisena and decided to proceed with the cases against him and other defendants including former Defence Ministry Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former Chief of State Intelligence Service Nilantha Jayawardena.

The victims of those who died and were injured due to the suicide bomb blasts which took place in Colombo had filed these lawsuits before Colombo District

Court claiming compensations from former President Maithripala Sirisena, then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Defence Ministry Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former Chief of State Intelligence Service Nilantha Jayawardena.

All these actions have been instituted claiming damages based on the negligence of the first to sixth Defendants named in the said actions.

Will take legal action in next couple of days: PUCSL Chairman

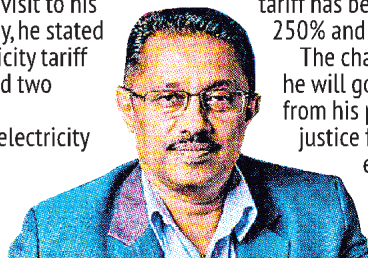
Addressing the media, he said legal action would be taken personally.

Following a visit to his office yesterday, he stated that the electricity tariff had been raised two weeks ago.

He said the electricity tariff has been increased for

5 million people with the lowest income and who use electricity units between 30 and 90. The tariff has been increased by 250% and is no longer valid.

The chairman stated that he will go to court spending from his pocket to bring justice for low-income earners.



No police officers to open PUCSL office

Though they came to his office, the office was sealed and it was not removed, he said. The Kollupitiya Police sealed the office on February 16 upon a court order based on a complaint to prevent the loss or tampering of documents of the state value.

Ratnayake had arrived at the office at 12.30 pm as instructed by the Police. When he entered the elevator, two scene of crime officers (SOCO) were seen leaving the premises, saying they would return soon.

Ratnayake went to his office to find that it was sealed and seal was not removed, two Policemen were there to guard it.

He waited for some time for the Policemen to come back, and called the Kollupitiya Police. "The OIC of the Kollupitiya Police told me that there are no officers to open the door", Ratnayake said.

CA quashes charges against Ravi in two CB bond cases

Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justices Sobhitha Rajakaruna and Dhammika Ganepola made this order consequent to the writ petitions filed by former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake challenging the Attorney General's decision to file indictment over Central Bank bond issuance.

In his petition, former Minister was challenging the decision made by the Attorney General to indict him at the Colombo High Court in connection with the second Central Bank bond issue took place in March 29, 2016 and March 31.

Karunanayake had named the Attorney General, the Registrar of Colombo High Court, the Member of the Commission of Inquiry and several others as respondents in the petition.

The petitioner states the report of the Commission of Inquiry has alleged that he chaired a meeting held at the Ministry of Finance on 28th March 2016 attended by representatives of three State Banks and other officials.

Karunanayake states that although he was a Minister of Finance, neither the Central Bank of Sri Lanka nor the State

Banks came under his purview. He said the Central Bank of Sri Lanka was at that time a subject gazetted under then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and three State Banks were gazetted as a subject under the Ministry of State Enterprises under Kabir Hashim.

The petitioner said he could neither give legally binding instructions to the three State Banks nor provide legally binding assurances on behalf of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as alleged in the conclusions of the Commission of Inquiry.

Indian Defence Forces offer 1,500 training slots yearly to SL

Deputy Indian High Commissioner Vinod K Jacob said that training is the strongest and most enduring pillar of bilateral Defence cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

He made these remarks while addressing the Indian Navy-trained Sri Lanka Defence Forces personnel on-board the Indian Naval Ship Sukanya in Colombo.

Training is imparted for cadets at premier Defence Institutes in India like National Defence College, Indian Military Academy, Air Force Academy and Indian Naval Academy. In addition, various service-specific training modules and staff courses are also offered. Sri Lanka receives the

maximum number of billets in Higher Defence Management and National Defence College Courses. Deputy High Commissioner noted that it is a matter of immense satisfaction for India that some of these alumni have risen to the ranks of Service Chiefs of Sri Lanka.

Deputy High Commissioner Jacob remarked that India-Sri Lanka relations are excellent and form the highlight of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy. While both countries are working to deepen engagement across the board, five areas are of particular significance in the immediate short and medium term. First is the potential for economic and financial cooperation by building on the Indian support to the people of

Sri Lanka in 2022 to the tune of USD 4 billion. He emphasized that focus could be laid on areas such as trade in national currencies, ease of investments and strengthening financial cooperation.

Second, the two sides are working towards increasing air, ferry, digital and energy connectivity. Third, a new type of development cooperation partnership building on the existing multi-billion portfolio with special emphasis on vulnerable communities is required. Fourth, both sides need to enhance people to people exchanges, particularly in tourist movements. Fifth, it is essential to strengthen the cultural, religious, music, movie and sporting links for mutual benefit.

AKD mistakes disparity in total economic activity as disparity in individual participation

Claim (i): CBSL data shows that in 2021, the WP generated 42.6% of the national GDP and the NWP generated 11.1%. Both these numbers are even higher than what the MP claimed, and the disparity cited is also higher, because the NCP generated 4.9%, in line with the MP's claim. That is, WP and NWP respectively generated 8.7 times and 2.3 times the output generated by the NCP.

These figures reflect the extent of disparity in economic output between geographic areas, not the disparity in economic participation of the people in those areas. This is because the population in numbers also vary, and people can have jobs outside of their province.

Claim (ii): To evaluate economic participation, FactCheck.lk considered the economic output per employed person between provinces. Exhibit 1 shows that the output generated per employed person in WP was only 1.9 times that of the NCP, and that of the NWP was

only 1.1 times that of the NCP. Therefore, the disparity between provinces in economic output per employed resident is very small, despite the geographic disparity in economic output.

FactCheck.lk also considered unemployment rates and the percentage of working-age people who were employed. Exhibit 1 shows that unemployment was worse in WP than in NCP and NWP, and the percentage of working-age persons that were employed was also lower in WP than in NCP and NWP. Therefore, the data is significantly at odds with claim 2.

Despite some incorrect data, the MP is correct about the geographic disparity in economic output between WP, NWP and NCP. However, by not adjusting for population and for employment status, he has mistakenly interpreted the geographic disparity as reflecting the human disparity in economic participation.

Therefore, we classify the MP's statement as PARTLY TRUE.

Two day debate on local polls in Parliament next week

Accordingly the two day debate will begin on March 9 and would end on March 9 and 10 2023. The debate will be on from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm each day.

Parliament media unit has issued a statement confirming the same.

However no Consensus has been reached on the proposal made by the opposition to allocate funds for the local government election through a resolution. This request was made by the opposition party members on Tuesday February 28 2023.

US Senate Committee urges SL to hold elections without further delay

The SCFR is a standing committee of the US Senate charged with leading foreign-policy legislation and debate in the Senate

Committee chairman Bob Menendez said that any effort to

stifle the voice of the people of Sri Lanka is undeniably undemocratic and a direct violation of Sri Lankans' rights.

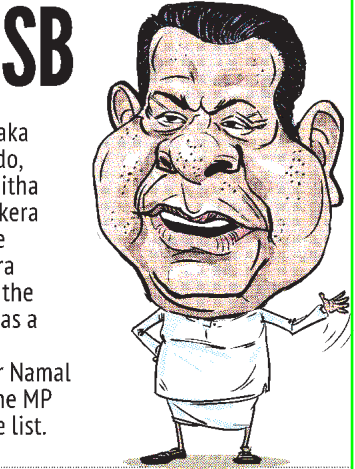
He responded to a report following the announcement by the Election Commission last week that local government polls scheduled for March 9 will not be held due to lack of funds.

The SCFR is a standing committee of the US Senate charged with leading foreign-policy legislation and debate in the Senate.

MORE CABINET MINISTERS LIKELY TO BE APPOINTED THIS MONTH: SB

The MP said that Gamini Lokuge, Janaka Bandara Thennakone, Johnstn Fernando, S. M. Chandrasena, C.B. Rathnayaka, Rohitha Abeygunawardena and Sarath Weerasekera were among the list of names that have been proposed to the President. Pavithra Wanniarachchi's name was also among the list and that she was appointed earlier as a cabinet minister.

When asked whether former minister Nal Rajapaksa's name was also proposed, the MP said Rajapaksa's name is not among the list.



CLASSIFIEDS

I formally known as Lankahaluge Ajantha Neelamani from 409/6/2, Welipillewa, Ganemulla of Mahara Divisional Secretary's Division, Gampaha District, 246, Kandyaliyadapaluwa East Grama Niladhari Division, wish to inform the Government and the General Public of Sri Lanka that I would be changing my name as, Liyanaarachchige Ajantha Nilmini. **DMR 066177**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHITRA SIMITHRAARATCHY

This acknowledges with the most grateful appreciation the active, thoughtful, kindness expressed by so many when my sister Chitra passed away.

In particular, I thank the Lord Bishop of Colombo, the Ven. Archdeacon and the Cathedral Community, the Principal and Staff of Ladies' College and the Prefects, Old Girls both in Sri Lanka and abroad, the OGA Choir, members of the Association of Former Staff of Ladies' College, the YWCA Board of Management and friends and relations of the family here and abroad, who showed their concern and sympathy in many ways.

Thank you most sincerely,

Rupa

SLAF celebrates 72 years of its legacy today

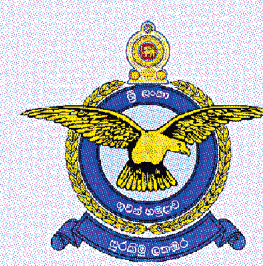
The Sri Lanka Air Force is celebrating its 72nd Anniversary (2nd March 2023) under the leadership of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana.

In the seven decades that ensued, the Sri Lanka Air Force has come under the leadership of 17 commanders. Today, its leadership is in the able hands of its 18th Commander, Air Marshal Pathirana.

The Sri Lanka Air Force has come a long way since its first flight in a humble Chipmunk and de Havilland DC 1, passing through Mig 27s, Kfir C7s, and F-7s today. Many other aircraft have seen the

largely ceremonial air force of the 70s emerge as a successful and battle-hardened air force of the 21st century.

The Royal Ceylon Air Force was formed on 02 March 1951, heralding the dawn of Sri Lanka's age of military air power. On 02 March 1972, the Royal Ceylon Air Force was re-designated as the Sri Lanka Air Force with Ceylon becoming a republic. Following the slogan "Surakimu Lakambara," the



Sri Lanka Air Force has been able to accomplish its duty for the country for the past 72 years.

The Sri Lanka Air Force has consistently secured the airfields on the island and actively assisted the people in their time of need.

The SLAF has also continued to perform its duties as a proud force with a professional, competent and diligent approach, contributing particularly to nation-building projects while using humane and cutting-edge technological advancements.

Sri Lanka Air Force has developed its own Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, the Lihiniya MK-1E which accomplished its greatest milestone yet by flying further and longer than before, proving that the project's development is well underway.

The Sri Lanka Air Force was always ready to conquer new technological methods of the developing world as a force armed with technical knowledge and showing its skills in the air as well as on the ground. In the face of all odds, the Sri Lanka Air Force is geared to face and overcome any threat to sovereignty and territorial integrity through the effective employment of Airpower.



NEWS

IDENTIFY TAX DEFAULTERS: MINISTER

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

Finance State Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya today informed the Inland Revenue Department Commissioner General to take immediate action to identify persons engaged in certain professions who have evaded payment of tax without showing their income.

When there is a lot of attention on public revenue, taxation should also be focused on identifying tax evaders, similar to revenue collection.

The Minister said this during a meeting today with officials of the Inland Revenue Department at the Ministry of Finance.

During the meeting, issues related to the collection of tax revenue were discussed.

The state minister gave instructions to the inland revenue department to prepare a system that could take prompt action.



Ask AKD about economic policies: Sujeewa

Former MP Sujeewa Senasinghe challenged voters to question Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake on their economic policies to understand if they are capable of running a government.

"I don't question the past. I simply ask you to question Anura Kumara Dissanayake on economic policies," he said, stating that the JVP cannot perform.

Female engineering faculty undergrad dies of suspected drug overdose

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The Peradeniya Police has launched an investigation after a 26-year-old 4th-year female undergraduate of Peradeniya University's Faculty of Engineering died while receiving treatment at the hospital.

The student had been receiving treatment for a medical condition and the police are conducting further investigations to determine whether she had taken an overdose of the medicine prescribed to her

The deceased is a resident of Ridigama, Kurunegala.

Police said the university student was admitted to the Peradeniya Hospital following an illness and had died in the early hours of yesterday while receiving treatment.

Police said the student had been receiving treatment for a medical condition and the police are conducting further investigations to determine whether she had taken an overdose of the medicine prescribed to her.

A post-mortem has been conducted and the body has been handed over to the relatives after an open verdict was issued.



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FEATURES

SCHOOL BULLYING

AN ISSUE THAT IS SWEEPED UNDER THE RUG



By **Gayanga Dissanayaka**



arsenal of approved and clandestine punishments to be visited upon fellow students, and many will struggle," said Billimoria. He pointed out that they view respect as a power play, and empathy as weakness. "This is their learning. Not their fault."

IT'S NOT AN ACCIDENT, IT'S ONE SIDED AND ON PURPOSE

Mayuri, a former student from Kelaniya said that she's been through physical bullying simply because she refused to fit in with the rest of the classmates. She was a silent kid and an ardent reader. "I didn't have any crushes to talk about or any other interesting teenage stories to share with my classmates." This paved the path for her classmates to bully and make fun of her whenever they got the chance. Mayuri recalls how her bag and other items got stolen and destroyed continuously and how students collectively jeered at her and made fun of her and tried to push her off the stairs as well. "Looking back it all seems so petty and ridiculous but this made it really difficult to make friends even as an adult. I developed chronic low self-esteem and when I do make friends, I become a people pleaser which isn't healthy for me at all." Mayuri stresses on the importance of accepting different personalities since childhood since it facilitates empathy and understanding.

"I'm not a robot, what they said and did are still there at the back of my mind."

Billimoria explained that by ignoring bullied children and responding with harmful tropes such as "It happens. Be a man. That's the way the world is", we are not giving them the skills to cope positively with bullies, which include being unafraid to reach out to a trusted adult that won't judge them as weak. "Bullying is one sided. It is not a conflict. Bullying is on purpose. It is not an accident. Bullying is repetitive. It is

not a one-off," he said. Nisandi Thilak, a school leaver from Colombo, said that since her primary grades, a group of students continuously bullied her. "They would tease me for my appearance, for the food I brought, for the way I hold my pencil, everything was a joke to them." She explained how one girl would command the

rest to hit her, scrape her and spit in her face. "It was the earliest memory of depression for me," Nisandi said. "I would break down and they would laugh, mimic the way I cried and continue to taunt me." She recalled how she always tried to stay at home back then and that as she grew up, school bullying upgraded according to the grade. She said that bullies would call her "dead body" and made an insulting song which they sang whenever she entered the classroom. "And as a child, unfortunately I took it to heart and it affected my confidence throughout my life." Nisandi said. "I'm not a robot, what they said and did are still there at the back of my mind."

Kaushi, a school leaver from Gampaha said that she didn't know any better as she continuously got bullied for her complexion and weight throughout her school life. "At 17, I gaslighted myself into thinking that being fat and dark is my fault and that beauty standards around me defined who I was." She explained that bullying becomes a wound that you don't grow out of, grow around or grow through, you live with it, vacillating between two ends of a spectrum, where one is bouts of insecurity and the other is romanticising your flaws where neither are healthy options, because you will never know better.

BULLYING AFFECTS BOTH THE PERPETRATOR AND THE SURVIVOR

Nimeshi, an A/L student from Kadawatha, told us about a story where a dyslexic classmate of hers was bullied repeatedly simply for her behaviour and academic incompetency.

"Students made fun of the way she talked and studied," she said. She pointed out that the students were really ignorant and unaware of her condition and treated her like an alien. Nimeshi said that the worst situation is how even the teachers ignored the bullying. Instead they kept on blaming her parents for sending her to school where "normal" students are. "They didn't teach the students about empathy and we regarded such people as weird and humiliating," she said. Nimeshi herself explains how no one taught her to stand up for her in fear of getting bullied herself. The environment in the classroom was so toxic but unfortunately she realised everything much later.

"Bullying made it really difficult to make friends even as an adult. I developed chronic low self-esteem"

"School bullying can and has harmed young minds. To ignore it is to do a disservice to both the perpetrator and the survivor," said Billimoria. He mentioned that we probably normalise and rationalise bullying because we think this form of violence in schools prepares our children for the reality of living in the world as a resilient adult who can cope with, and stand up to the monsters. Billimoria highlighted that when we ignore the bully, we reinforce that behaviour, even justify it, and above all, we don't contend with why they are violent and abusive and seek to hurt and humiliate another child.

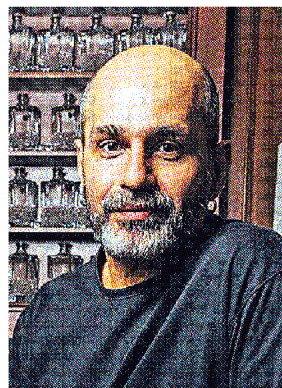
Janith, a former school student shared a story where there was an upper class student who had a bad limp due to an accident from her childhood and how other students bullied her for that. "Students ran away when they saw her and called her names," he said. He told us how they spread rumours about her saying that she had a contagious disease and how they would shout "germs!" at her whenever they saw her in the hallway. He explained how none of the teachers noticed it, or if they did, that they ignored it. He also added how he too used to bully her and regrets it so badly to this day. "I wish someone disciplined us," Janith said. "What we did was clearly wrong and now I live with extreme remorse everyday."

ADULTS NORMALISING BULLYING

Some students shared with us how their teachers facilitated bullying as well and how they didn't have any understanding or education on handling troubled or bullied students.

Chaneshi, a school leaver from Imbulgoda, recalls how in grade nine, a teacher would tell her fellow classmates that she had special needs. Chaneshi shared how the teacher told her parents that she needs psychiatric evaluation and made unnecessary and uneducated assumptions about her sexuality as well. "My grades were incredibly bad during that grade," she said. Even today, whenever Chaneshi gets struck with self doubt, she wonders whether she was right. She has battled depression, unemployment and disability throughout her life. Chaneshi explains how the teacher's influence and perception towards her ruined her relationship with her classmates as well. "She managed to turn a number of students against me," she said. "I was cornered to a point where some students didn't even want to touch something that I touched and would walk away from me while looking at me as if I was junk." Chaneshi explained how she didn't have any friends in that class and how she once locked herself in the bathroom for almost half of the day. Chaneshi hopes that the country's education system would install protocols or systems in place where they screen the teachers before they're employed and even after employed, that they would be subjected to frequent monitoring to make sure that they do not impart anything other than wisdom and kindness.

Bullying is a hidden issue in Sri Lankan schools as well but is often ignored over the misconception that it doesn't exist in Sri Lankan culture. With little to no anti-bullying policies or awareness programmes, this has been normalised and overlooked quite often by both students and elders. It's high time to take prompt actions against these issues that have been swept under the rug. "School bullying can and has harmed young minds. Your child needs you," said Billimoria.



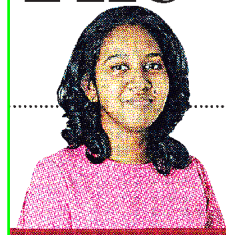
Hans Billimoria

Most of us have come across the idea of school bullying through Western TV shows or movies. In Sri Lanka it's something that's generally considered not to be of concern. Still, when researched and questioned individually, many studying the issue have come across evidence which portrays a different reality. Not only is bullying an issue that many Sri Lankan students endure throughout their childhood, but also the awareness on this issue is significantly low. To shed some much-needed light on the matter, we asked some school leavers and students to share their own personal experiences with school bullying and how it impacted their lives. We also reached out about this issue with Hans Billimoria from The Grassrooted Trust, to generate more insight into the matter.

THE PREVALENCE OF BULLYING

Billimoria explained that bullying can be learned behaviour. "What have our children learned in homes and schools that has led them to bully other children?" he questioned. He explained that bullies always pick on those with less perceived power and that we need to have uncomfortable conversations to encourage respectful and empathetic behaviour. When defining respect, Billimoria highlighted that we need to move the concept beyond relationships of power to which it has been sadly reduced. "Ask prefects in Sri Lankan schools to distinguish bullying from their

The Victorious Century of the Malays



By **Chrishalle Augustin**

Nearly 150 years ago, moving into Ceylon (Sri Lanka) without an expectation of becoming a leading community, growing together as a group that mingled well with the locals and till date serving the country as their homeland, the Sri Lankan Malays are recognized as a remarkable community in the island.

The history of the Padang Complex dates back to the year 1872 when the Ceylon Rifle Regiment popularly known as the Malay Regiment was being disbanded and its cricketers who formed the first Sri Lankan Cricket Club the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC) was presented the Rifle Green grounds, which was next door, as a token of appreciation by the then governing body recognizing their dedicated service and their love for the game of cricket.

Fifty years later in 1922, during the Jubilee Year of the CMCC, these elder sportsmen initiated the formation of the Sri Lanka Malay Association called the All-Ceylon Malay Association at that time. They understood that with the progress of the country there was more to be done to their community. On January 22, 2022, the Sri Lanka



Launch of the Centenary Stamp and the first day cover

Malay Association (SLMA) celebrated its victorious Centenary Anniversary. To mark and commemorate the unique and harmonious journey during these 100 years since formation, the Launch of the Sri Lanka Malay Association Centenary First Day Cover and Commemorative Stamp was held on February 26, 2023 (Sunday). Minister of Mass Media Dr. Bandula Gunawardane the chief guest of the occasion, the Ambassador of Indonesia Her Excellency Dewi Gustina Tobing, the High Commissioner of Malaysia His Excellency Badli Hisham Adam, Mr. Rilwan Lantra President of the Sri Lanka Malay Association, Mr. Rizwan Badoordeen President of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club, Mr. L.G.N. de Silva Director Philatelic Bureau, Mr. S.

R. W. M. R. P. Sathkumara Post Master General (Acting) and distinguished members of the Department of Posts and the Philatelic Bureau were invited to launch the Centenary Stamp and the first day cover.

"The journey was not without its own travails. Be it the trials of a world war, the tremors of an independence, and the agony of a long drawn 30-year civil strife. This small community has braced all these challenges. The Malays have contributed much to the nation. Be it in all spheres of progress, the Sri Lankan Malay is an integral part of this Island nation and played a pivotal role in its progress," stated Mr. Rilwan Lantra President of SLMA while addressing the guests and participants of the evening. He

also added that the Malays are considered as a 'Martial Race' and the characteristics of Trust, Discipline and Loyalty are synonymous and recognized in them. Lantra also mentioned that enhancing the welfare and education of the community, protecting and sustaining its Culture and Language, serving the less-privileged of society and engaging harmoniously with all Sri Lankans, have been and always will be the key objectives of their community.

The chief guest and the other guests were later led to the "Centenary Pasar Malam" which is an open annual cultural extravaganza of the Malays showcasing their delicious food, their attire and lifestyle. An entertaining evening for the family to experience authentic Malay cuisine and cultural performances. The SLMA had a special stall that displayed Malay snacks and sweets. In addition, many other stalls of authentic Indonesian / Malaysian cuisines, local dishes with a mixture of Malay recipes, clothing and accessories stalls, Henna stall and kids stalls such as colouring and games. A large crowd was seen indulging in the fiesta as there were plenty of fun options.

A few performances such as the screening of the SLMA centenary theme song sung by the youth of the Sri Lankan Malays, live dance performances by the Sri Lankan hill country Malay Association and the Indonesian Embassy. The prize distribution for the winners who took part in the Global Singing Competition for Malays, followed.

Ride for Ceylon 2023 kicks off in Arugam Bay



The seventh annual tour to Jaffna, Ride for Ceylon kicked off its 2023 campaign with more than 50 riders joining this year's charity bike ride. Ride for Ceylon is a four-day 475 km bike ride from March 1 to March 4, starting with a new route this year from Arugam Bay, the South-eastern edge of Sri Lanka and finishing in Manipay, Jaffna.

Cyclists from around the world arrived in Sri Lanka to bike hundreds of kilometres in support of the Green Memorial Hospital in Jaffna. Each rider earns funds for the hospital's development through sponsorships and donations.

This year the ride will also be represented by an eleven-man team from City Tatts Club in Sydney, Australia, headed by City Tatt's Director and R4C Ride

Captain Kumar Kalyanakumar, and CT's CEO Marcelo Veloz. "I missed the ride for the last couple of years, but this year I'm very excited to ride along the eastern coast. I want to congratulate all the riders for training really hard and raising the funds. It will be useful for getting an X-ray machine for the hospital," Kumar said.

The fundraising arm of the UK-based non-profit organization, Friends of Manipay Hospital, R4C was initiated by the Arnold brothers, Prof. Jayantha and Anandan, whose wish was to refurbish and reaffirm the hospital's basic mission of community service. Organizers said that the event has now been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism as a tourism promotion event for Sri Lanka under its Visit Sri Lanka programme.

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Today marks the 127th anniversary of St Joseph's College, Colombo 10
Celebrating 127 years of Excellence in producing multi-talented citizens in the Nation



By Maruthai Ravindhiran

"In Scientia et Virtute"

It has always been the motto of the College, to maintain Josephian excellence in body, mind and spirit. Priority has always been given to value-based education in order to achieve Excellence in Education thus promoting spiritual and human values, thereby producing good citizens possessing knowledge, skills and aptitude to serve the community in the public and private sectors, in professions and self-employments besides to serve the Motherland.

well as the newcomers who will join us and commence their journey towards their academic lives, success in their current and future endeavours. Let us continue to dedicate ourselves to work towards building a better future for our young Josephians and young Sri Lankans in order to make our Motherland regain its name as a "Paradise Island."

(The writer was the Former Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of the Blue and White Newsletter Committee, An Editorial Board Member of the Centenary and Millennium Blue and White Magazine Committee, A former member of the Association of "Josephian Blues" and the Founder President of Josephian Group of 88).

NOTICE-CHANGE OF NAME
 NOTIFIED pursuant to Section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 as follows:
 Former name of the Company: GAMAGE TRADING (PRIVATE) LIMITED
 New name of the Company: JANATHA STEEL TUBE (PRIVATE) LIMITED
 Registered Office: PALLEGODAWATTA INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE, MEEGAMA ROAD, MATHUGAMA
 Name change certificate date: 23.02.2023
 Registration Number: PV102229
 Director: Kreston Corporate Services (Pvt) Ltd
 Secretaries of the Company

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HISTORY

The College was founded in 1896 by French Missionaries led by Rev.Fr.Christopher Ernest Bonjean, O.M.I, which stands tall today as one of the leading Schools in Sri Lanka. No event at St.Joseph's College is complete without a reference to Archbishop Christopher Ernest Bonjean because he was instrumental in launching the idea of the need for a Catholic College. He did not live to see his dream realised. However, he had appointed for the project, men who knew his mind and his plan and were capable of implementing them. They were Rev.Fathers Charles Collin and Charles Lytton. Subsequently, they became the First and the Second Rectors of St. Joseph's College respectively.

CELEBRATION

Today, St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 celebrates its 127 years of excellence in Academic, Sports, Extra Curricular activities and Spiritual upliftment and thereby producing a galaxy of multi-talented Josephians, who have created ideas that changed the way people learn, live, work and play for the betterment of our Motherland and the universe. But we believe the best of our abilities lies ahead of us. It is for this reason; we constantly challenge ourselves in the process.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

The educators of the college always strive to impart knowledge, instil values, inculcate positive attitudes, develop, sharpen and inspire young minds and transform young Josephian's as multi-talented exemplary leaders and valuable citizens to our proud nation and the globe. We are at a pivotal point in Josephian's rich history. We are unusually indebted to all our Reverend Father Rectors, administrators and teachers who have inspired and guided us to be ideal Josephians and citizens of our Motherland. Much of our accomplishments in our lives have come from our association with them. We can best pay our debt to our Alma Mater by building a better future for new generations on the framework our forebears established.

VALUES

Values give direction to our behaviour, and put meaning into our existence. The values we hold necessarily blossom forth into action and shape our lives. Education forms develop and reshape values. By the teaching of national traditions, cultural heritage, and civic sense in the classroom situation, children learn how values are shaped. When the student learns to be obedient, diligent and conscientious, there is a genuine growth of values. Through curricular and co-curricular activities, the school must positively promote values. In the higher forms; through literary associations, 'interact' clubs and other societies, a democratic milieu must be fostered by group discussions and critical evaluation of facts. The students must follow the "Triangle of duties"; in other words, Respect, Obedience and Responsibility (ROR) to fulfil the students' motto to lead disciplined and successful lives in this challenging world. The school must not only concern itself with a creative extension of knowledge but be engaged in total quality development of Personality. Considering the above facts, the Josephians are humbled, honoured and privileged to have had the total quality development of Personality by being the students of this sacred Educational Institute.

APPRECIATIONS

It is with great joy, happiness and gratitude, we wish to congratulate and sincerely thank our Shepherd, present Rector and the President of the Old Boys' Union, Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi for his visionary, vibrant and dynamic leadership, guidance, values, immense valuable sermons during the holy masses, wisdom, motivation, inspiration, Devotion to duty, counsel, Daily prayers thereby maintaining the high standards of the Students, Teachers and the staff besides the college. We are greatly indebted to our Reverend Father Rectors and teachers past and present for their noble and yeomen services rendered toward the success of our students and college besides helping and guiding the students to have a brighter future in their lives. We are delighted to note that the past values instilled throughout our opulent heritage and history have been perpetuated in students to date. We wish Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi, the Rector and Principal, Reverend Fathers and Reverend sisters, administrators, educators, Masters and Teachers in charge of the respective associations and teams, coaches, the staff including the Clerical staff, Josephians the young and the old in Sri Lanka and overseas, parents, well-wishers as



Anamaduwa

According to folklore, a land covered in thick vegetation in Puttalam District had an abundance of wildlife, attracting many hunting groups. The stories indicate that one such group lost their way in the middle of the forest due to heavy rain and built a small hut (Maduwa in Sinhalese) on top of a tree for their safety. Folklore states that the villagers used to point to this hut when giving directions to this area, stating "Anna Maduwa. Eka langa" (There is the hut. It is near that). The folklore says that this phrase evolved with time and Anna Maduwa later became Anamaduwa, becoming the name of the village.

Today Anamaduwa is a rapidly developing town and is a centre of economic activity. Commercial Bank, the only Sri Lankan Bank to be ranked among the Top 1000 Banks of the World for twelve successive years, will unveil its newest branch today at the auspicious time of 9.14 am at No 78, Uswewa Road, Anamaduwa to provide world class banking services to this area.

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EDITORIAL

"The very fact that racism degrades both the perpetrator and the victim commands that, if we are true to our commitment to protect human dignity, we fight on until victory is achieved."
- NELSON MANDELA

OUR THOUGHT

Racism: IF PEOPLE CAN LEARN TO HATE, THEY CAN BE TAUGHT TO LOVE

Economically and socially, Sri Lanka is in deep trouble and the crisis deepened with yesterday's general strike by more than 40 trade unions including doctors, university professors, engineers, bank staff and other professionals. They have warned that if cost of living is not brought under control or taxes imposed are not reduced, they will launch an "Aragalaya" or public revolt next week. In such a desperate situation, it is difficult to figure out one key issue that brought us to where we are, but an independent analysis will show that it is racial discrimination.

After independence in 1948, a major controversy arose over G.G. Ponnambalam's 50-50 proposal followed by SWRD Bandaranaike's 'Sinhala Only' Act, his repentance and assassination by a Buddhist monk after his district council's proposal was rejected. In 1965 the United National Party (UNP) leader Dudley Senanayake formed a National Government with the Federal Party also joining. The Party's frontliner M. Thiruchelvam was given the key portfolio as Minister of Local Government and he drafted another District Council Bill. But this was leaked to the media by a Sinhala extremist minister and this led to trouble and tension. This and other reasons including the cut in the rice ration, the Dudley Senanayake government was defeated and Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) swept to victory in 1970 General Election. Among other issues, the Government introduced the district quota system for university admission whereby a Jaffna district student who got four A's in the Advanced Level examination, was left out and preference was given to a Monaragala student who got only two A's.

Many independent analysts believe this was the main cause of the youth revolt in the north and east. Eventually, it led to the setting up of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and other guerrilla groups, which were supported by India. After the "Black July" and the racial riots in 1983, the civil war erupted, hundreds of thousands were killed or injured in the 25-year war and millions were displaced with the economic damage being incalculable. The war ended in 2009, but Sri Lanka is still facing serious charges of war crimes and racial discrimination with an inquiry being held by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

On March 21, the United Nations declared the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with the theme being "Voices for action against racism." The main aim is to highlight the importance of strengthening meaningful and safe public participation and representation in all areas of decision-making to prevent and combat racial discrimination; reaffirming the importance of full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and of protecting civic space; and recognizing the contribution of individuals and organizations that stand up against racial discrimination and the challenges they face.

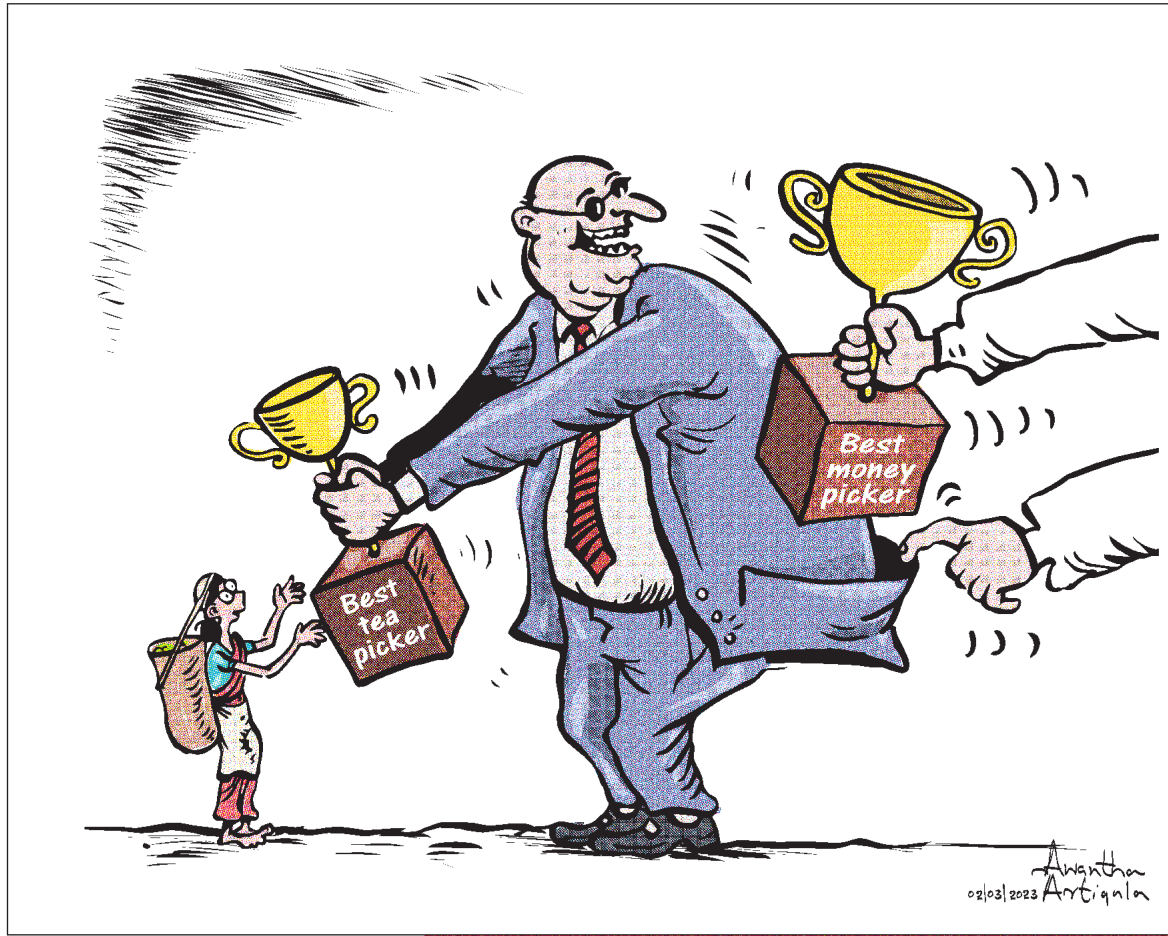
According to the UN, this simple message can be a powerful tool to encourage people everywhere to strengthen and consolidate their voices against racism, to mobilize against all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination and injustice, and to ensure a safe environment for those who speak up. It lends itself towards telling personal interest stories and can feature people and populations from across the world. This theme draws also inspiration on the High Commissioner's report on racial justice and the Agenda Towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality.

This international day is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.

In 1979, the General Assembly adopted a programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. On that occasion, the General Assembly decided that a week of solidarity with the people struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on March 21, would be organised annually in all States.

Since then, the apartheid rule in South Africa has been dismantled. Racist laws and practices have been abolished in many countries, and we have built an international framework for fighting racism, guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Convention is now nearing universal ratification, yet still, in all regions, too many individuals, communities and societies suffer from the injustice and stigma that racism brings.

As one of the world's greatest statesmen Nelson Mandela has said, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his or her skin, background, or religion. If the people can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Racism is a blight on the human conscience. The idea that any people can be inferior to another, to the point where those who consider themselves superior define and treat the rest as subhuman, denies the humanity even of those who elevate themselves to the status of Gods."



FOR MORE CARTOONS LOG ON www.dailymirror.lk/cartoon

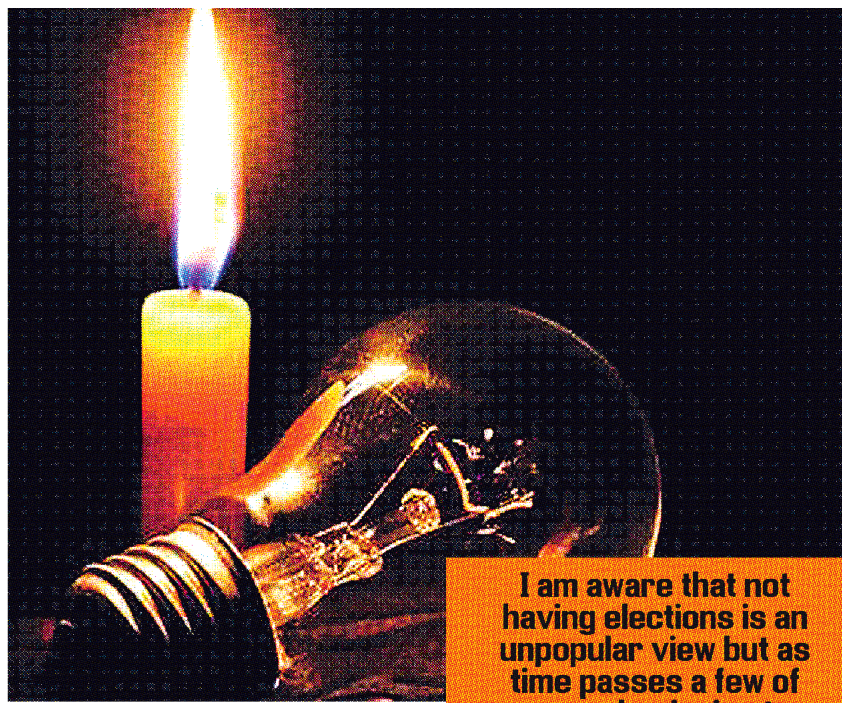
MY GROUSES....



By **Goolbai Gunasekara**

Like most of us Sri Lankan citizens, I have ongoing grouses. Talking to friends, I realize that many of us share common complaints to which we would like to give voice. Here they are, although not necessarily in order of importance.

1. I am aware that not having elections is an unpopular view but as time passes a few of us are beginning to wonder whether it is really going to change anything except to tell the Government what it already knows. It knows it is probably the most disliked and contemptible government we have ever had since the sorry downslide of our 75 years of Independence. But as elections will not remove this Parliament immediately, are we wise in making the demand for them to be held at this time of penury? **Read Ranga Jayasuriya's article** in the Daily Mirror of February 22 for a sensible analysis.
2. When we had power cuts, we would like to know why a few areas never had any power cuts at all? I do not think it was based on the importance of any one person. My weekly masseuse never had a power cut and she does not live near anyone of importance either. So WHY the favoritism?
3. Also, could the team in charge of cutting power, stick to being accurate regarding timing? These cuts are always between 15 to 30 minutes late which completely messes up our routines. They are equally tardy in turning the power on. We see no reason for this lack of punctuality. Especially because our young Minister, **Kanchana Wijesekera** is seen as being hardworking and dependable.
4. We have a large Police force. Has anyone ever noticed that the policemen are quite tubby? I really think our forces should keep their tummies from expanding. They are supposed to look fit surely? Especially so, when they are wielding batons against hungry people.
5. Then there is the noise factor. Loud speakers blare away without hindrance. There is a public area, a mile or so from my home. Every Sunday there is either a school Sports Meet, a political function, a carnival, a cricket match or even a religious function. I can hear the announcements and the proceedings as if they were



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I really think our forces should keep their tummies from expanding. They are supposed to look fit surely? Especially so, when they are wielding batons against hungry people.

Then there is the noise factor. Loud speakers blare away without hindrance. Complaints to the Police do no good and yet I hear there is some sort of rule in place that does not allow noise harassment. The electricity consumption of all these tamashas must be fantastically high. Who authorizes them anyway?

that do not deserve. Can someone please tell us why all the expenditure on them is not reduced (preferable totally canceled) now that we are bankrupt?
Once started I can go on forever, but I realize the futility of asking, or expecting honest and acceptable answers from anyone. However, there is some compensation. At least I am allowed to air my grouses.

'YOUR THOUGHT' is a space, a right of the readers to support or contradict and discuss the issues highlighted in the editorial and other articles in the editorial and op-ed pages. Designed as the reader's editorial; our readers can send in their writings, with a word count not exceeding 200, to 'Your Thought', Daily Mirror Political Features Desk, No 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2 or email to dmreadersthought@gmail.com.

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DM Poll

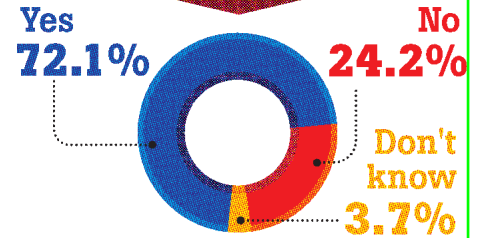
How motivated are you to vote in the coming Local Government election?

- Extremely motivated
- Somewhat motivated
- Not motivated
- Don't Know



LAST POLL

Can the holding of local government elections be justified from a financial perspective during a period of bankruptcy?



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IMF - PANACEA OR TRAUMA?

It is quite apparent that the adverse economic repercussions that the majority of us face nowadays are not only due to a cocktail of mismanagement and rampant corruption during the last four decades or so but also due to many fiscal reforms now being implemented by the govt. in agreement with the IMF.

The so-called IMF bailout package of US\$2.9 billion spread over a period of four years, is the last straw that the president and the govt. are desperately clutching at to heave a sigh of relief more for themselves politically, although for us any such relief would only be a long-haul altogether.

In this background, no wonder we the helpless and hapless tax payers are being burdened with shocking price increases, times without number, to fill up the depleted govt. coffers and also to full fill IMF diktat such as cost recovery-based pricing for fuel, gas, electricity and water (coming soon!) A classic case in point is the recent massive and merciless tariff hike on electricity - for the second time - pushing the majority of people out of the frying pan into fire.

The newly introduced and much controversial payee tax has been simmering beneath the surface since January this year. Practically, all professional bodies are vehemently and vociferously calling for a redress on same. An early reconciliation is very significant as failure to do so by the president, being the finance minister, will not only lead to severe inconveniences to the already battered and bruised citizens but also play havoc with our ailing economy, if trade union action is to continue.

Moreover, if not resolved early will only speed up the already on-going and alarming BRAIN DRAIN. That said, president's standard attitude and ploy to claim IMF conditions to rebuff in toto any reconcilable proposal brought to his attention by the professionals in this regard, is akin to adding insult to injury.

M.R.PATHIRAGE
KOLONNAWA

SL to have nuclear power plant in near future: AEB Chairman

WEB COMMENTS

KUMAR - This is a stupid decision. So, where would you send the spent uranium rods for safe keeping and who would pay the rent next ten thousand years or so? There is a shutdown plant in northern California which has to be monitored 24x7x365 basis!

SNOWFLAKE - This is not a stupid decision, as it will help SL to decrease fuel and coal consumption. Even it's cheaper than fuel electricity generation (efficient)

SANDY - Project announcement is always quick.

DAYA - Another stupid decision for a greater disaster, SL

cannot afford. Still, our politicians are not wise enough to make sound decisions.

JUDE - After solar power and wind turbine energy the nuclear energy is the cheapest!! But the enormous cost to build nuclear power plant will be more than ten times the Fossil fuels power plants!!

HASINTHA - Please don't do this. Chernobyl disaster happened due to installing low cost heads in the reactors which blasted during a test. They spent millions to prevent spreading of nuclear waste. Nuclear energy is a stupid joke... The money invested will be an utter waste and a danger to all...

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

INTERNATIONAL



Rescue crews operate at the site of the crash in Larissa

Greek transport minister resigns after deadly train crash

AFP.COM, 1 MARCH, 2023 - More than 35 people were killed when two trains collided overnight near the Vale of Tempe. Greek Transport Minister Kostas Karamanlis resigned on Wednesday, saying it was his "duty" to step down out of "respect for the memory" of those who were killed. A stationmaster for the city of Larissa has been arrested, although the cause of the crash remains unknown.

It took a bang, and just seconds to turn a long holiday weekend into a nightmare for hundreds of Greeks caught up in a deadly train wreck on Tuesday night.

Tuesday's train crash 220 miles north of Athens killed at least 36 people when a high-speed passenger train heading to the northern city of Thessaloniki careened into a freight train from the opposite direction, flying off the track and bursting into flames.

Witnesses said they felt a strong shudder, then a bang, then chaos.

There were about 346 people on the train, which passengers described as being two-thirds full with many young people.

"Windows were being smashed and people were screaming," said a passenger on the fifth carriage.

Another passenger in one of the last carriages said he felt the train shake, then flip over.

"I managed to get out and went to the front, the train was bent at a 90 degree angle, half of it was hanging over the cliff burning. There were five people injured just where I stood," he said.

As morning broke, rescue crews trawled through a smouldering mangled mass of steel while cranes slowly removed pieces of the train.



TRINITY COLLEGE KANDY

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED FROM REPUTED SUPPLIERS TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL SMARTBOARDS IN THE COLLEGE

The Smartboards should have the following basic specifications:

- > Minimum 65" Screen
- > Be able to work with both Android and Windows OS
- > (Android) should have minimum
 - 32GB Storage capacity
 - 4GB RAM
- > (OPS) should have minimum
 - Core i5
 - 128 GB SSD Storage capacity
 - 8GB RAM
 - OS: Windows 10 pro with license
- > Moveable Stand with safety Cover
- > Network: LAN and WIFI
- > Minimum 3-years warranty
- > Technical support within 24 hours of being informed.

Tender forms could be obtained from the College Administration Office during office hours for a fee of Rs.1,000 between March 7th and 15th March, 2023.

Please email tenders@trinitycollege.lk or call 0812232708 (ext 24) or 070 6656565 (Ext 3) for obtaining Tender forms by email and for payment information.

Sealed tenders will be accepted up to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 15th March and will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the tenderers.

Decisions of the Tender Board shall be final and conclusive.

Principal

www.trinitycollege.lk

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CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

TEST - BACK OF THE JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS FOR IRELAND MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023 AND PAKISTAN MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Corporate Houses/ Companies/ Firms for acquiring the "BACK OF THE PLAYER JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS" for the tours specified below.

- **Ireland Men's Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - One (1) Test Match
Scheduled to be played during 18th to 22nd of April 2023
and
- **Pakistan Men's Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - Two (2) Test Matches
Scheduled to be played during 13th to 31st July 2023

The selected sponsor will be recognized as the 'Back of the jersey branding sponsor of Ireland men's national tour of Sri Lanka 2023 and Pakistan men's national tour of Sri Lanka 2023.

GRANT OF RIGHTS:

Successful bidder will be offered with the branding/advertising rights on the National Team Members – Back of the Player Jersey as specified below:

- Game Day Jersey | Back of the Jersey Position - Size not exceeding 32 SQ Inches (206.45 cm²)

Note: The selected sponsor's logo will be printed using the heat-transfer method for Ireland Men's Tour of Sri Lanka 2023 while the Pakistan Men's Tour of Sri Lanka in 2023 will have the sponsor's logo printed using sublimation method. Further, **only one Brand/Logo** will be accepted in respect of both tours.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- a) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting, gambling shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- b) Marketing Agencies are eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- c) Sub-licensing of the rights herein offered will be permitted.

EOI SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

The EOI along with **financial offer and brand name/logo** qualifying the above mentioned criteria, which will be depicted in the game day clothing must be submitted to the Sri Lanka Cricket Headquarters at No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka **on or before 14th March 2023 - 3PM (Sri Lankan Time)** ['Deadline'] and should be in a sealed envelope addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket.

Alternatively, firms are permitted to submit the EOI along with its financial offer (**Financial Offer as a Password Protected .pdf file**), brand name/logo qualifying the above mentioned criteria and necessary documentation electronically via email to; sponsorship@sri.lankacricket.lk on or before the deadline with all the hard copies of the same being couriered to aforementioned address.

THE EOI NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

01. Certificate of Incorporation / Business registration
02. Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.
03. Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with Certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents
04. Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
05. Reference from a reputed Bank certifying the financial stability (Bank Solvency Certificate)
06. Updated auditor's report on financial statements (in case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT TERMS:

- a) Financial proposal should state the figure of the Net Rights Fee offered in Sri Lankan Rupees and/or US Dollars (in words and numbers) excluding of VAT/Tax/any other deductions depending on local or foreign EOI Participant.
- b) The following payment structure will apply in respect of the rights to be granted and rights fee thereto shall be payable by the successful EOI participant to SLC in the following manner:
 - a. The total Rights Fee (i.e. the Offered Value) should be paid in full on or before **20th March 2023**
 - b. The Mode of Payment: Bank transfer to the SLC Designated Account / Bank Draft issued in favor of SLC.

If you require any further information in relation to this EOI, Please contact Business Development Manager - SLC via +(94) 779 429 035.

The SLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The SLC also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and / or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET

SPORTS

LOCHANA, WARANGANA CLINCH SINGLES TITLES

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Lochana Oshan de Silva and Warangana Jayawardena emerged Open Men's and Women's Singles Champions respectively at the North Western Province Badminton Association (NWPBA) Open Badminton Championships over the weekend.

The championships, the first Level 1 ranking tournament in the SLB event calendar this year, was organised by the NWPBA under the auspices of the Sri Lanka Badminton and took place at Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment Indoor Stadium in Boyagane and the Welagedara Indoor Stadium in Kurunegala.

Lochana fought back from one set down to defeat Aashinsha Herath 15-21, 21-17, 21-14 while Warangana overpowered Rashmi Bhagya Mudalige 12-21, 21-7, 21-14 to win the singles crowns.

Earlier, Lochana and Nadeesha Gayathri won the mixed doubles title by defeating Aashinsha and Warangana 21-19, 13-21, 23-21.

Hasitha Chanaka and Roshan Padmakumara won the men's doubles crown following a 19-21, 21-13, 29-27 victory over Madhuka Dulanjana and R S Kasun in the final while Natasha Gunasekera and Rashmi won the open women's doubles title when they beat Thisheja Damnadee Herath and Ranumi Suhansi 21-15, 21-11.

Champions: U-19 Boys Doubles: Achinthya Ineshak/Pasindu Mihiranga Peiris; U-19 Boys Singles: Aashinsha Herath; U-19 Girls Doubles: Natasha Gunasekera/Rashmi Bhagya Mudalige; U-19 girls Singles: Rashmi Bhagya Mudalige; U-17 Boys Doubles: Pamith bandara Atthanayake/Thidasa Irushika Veragoda; U-17 Boys Singles: Thidasa Irushika Veragoda; U-17 Girls Doubles: Thisheja Damnadee Herath/Ranumi Suhansi; U-17 Girls Singles: Ranumi Suhansi



Manage; U-15 Boys Doubles: Keneth Aruggoda/Senuth Sesmitha Perera; **U-15 Boys Singles:** Senuth Sesmitha Perera; **U-15 Girls Doubles:** Isuri Bhagya Atthanayake/Sithumi Minara de Silva; **U-15 Girls Singles:** Nethmi Amaya Rathnayake; **U-13 Boys Doubles:** Thamindu Randula Fernando/Senuda Nethila Rajapaksha; **U-13 Boys Singles:** Thamindu Randula Fernando; **U-13 Girls Doubles:** Sasand Guruge/Manuli Methara; **U-13 Girls Singles:** Limandi Gajali Padma Bandara; **U-11 Boys Doubles:** Kaweeswara Hirushan Jayawardena/Navithu Kumarapperuma; **U-11 Boys Singles:** Hansaka Rashminda; **U-11 Girls Doubles:** Rashmi Dhinanya Herath/Sanumi Methnara; **U-11 Girls Singles:** Sanumi Methnara; **U-65 Men's Singles:** Gamini Jayawardena; **U-60 Men's Doubles:** Rohan de Silva/Rohan Fernando; **U-55 Men's Singles:** Lakshman Muthukuda; **U-50 Men's Singles:** Jagath Sisira Kumara Perera; **U-50 Men's Doubles:** Kingsley de Silva/George Karunanayake; **U-45 Men's**

Doubles: Upendra Jayawardena/Sahan Pradeep; **U-45 Women's Singles:** Sandamali Senanayake; **U-45 Men's Singles:** Asanka de Silva; **U-40 Men's Doubles:** Randika Peiris/Iranda Sinesh Samaranyake; **U-40 Men's Singles:** Srimal Randesh Aponso; **U-35 Men's Doubles:** Hasitha Chanaka/Amila Perera; **U-35 men's Singles:** Rohan Padmakumara; **U-30 Men's Doubles:** Supun Lakranga Piyaratne/Prasanna Udayakumara; **U-30 Men's Singles:** Hasitha Chanaka; **U-30 Mixed Doubles:** Sahan Pradeep/Nadeesha Gayathri; **Open Men's Doubles:** Hasitha Chanaka/Roshan Padmakumara; **Open women's Doubles:** Natasha Gunasekera/Rashmi Bhagya Mudalige; **Open Men's Singles (Plate):** R P S Rathnayake; **Open Women's Singles (Plate):** Senomi Thinothya Bandara; **Open Men's Singles:** Lochana Oshan de Silva; **Open Women's Singles:** Warangana Jayawardena; **Open Mixed Doubles:** Lochana Oshan de Silva/Nadeesha Gayathri

Malay Club to host 'One Whistle' Invitational Netball Carnival on March 5

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC) will conduct a unique netball tournament this Sunday (March 5) to bring the curtains down on its 150th anniversary celebrations which began in March 2022.

"This netball tournament is the final sports event in our 150th commemorative year. We have successfully conducted cricket, sepak takraw, hockey and badminton tournaments," said CMCC President Rizwan Badoordeen at a press conference held at the Padang auditorium on February 28.

"Netball has a prominent place in the Malay Club. This will be a unique tournament with the participation of schools, clubs, veterans and something very special men's teams," said CMCC Club Captain Rinaldin Rahaman.

A past president of the Netball Federation of Sri Lanka Thamara Dharmakeerthi Herath will be the Chief Guest at the event while former Sri Lanka Asia Cup winning captain and chairperson of the national selection committee



From left: Roshan Allang - CMCC General Secretary, Rinaldin Rahaman - CMCC Club Captain, Hyacinth Wijesinghe - Tournament Director, Rizwan Badoordeen - CMCC President and Perry Jumat - CMCC Netball Secretary at the press conference held at the Padang

Damayanthi Jayathilaka will be the Guest of Honour. Consultant Tournament Director Hyacinth Wijesinghe said a unique feature of this tournament is that matches will be played simultaneously on four courts beginning and ending with one whistle.

"Traditionally netball matches are played in four quarters of 15 minutes each. Here we have shortened the format to make it fast and exciting. The clock will be running from start to finish. Scoring will be fast. Maybe the best team will not win. It will depend on tactics," said Wijesinghe, a former Sri Lanka captain and Asia

THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS ARE:

Schools Under 15: Yasodara Balika, Gampaha, Sacred Heart Convent, Galle, Sujatha Balika, Nugegoda, Piyarathana MV, Padukka, Coach H Club, Panadura Balika, St Claire College, and Kolonnawa Balika; **Clubs:** Hillwood Club, Kalutara Balika Club, HFC Club, Campbell Club, Gothami Club, Coach H Club, Heaven Roses Thihariya, and Girls High School, Kandy; **Veterans:** Track Master, Police, Maliyadeva Old Girls, and Goal Getters; **Men's team:** Moneragala and Rathnapura

Canada national team on four-match tour to Sri Lanka

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

The Canada national cricket team will arrive in Sri Lanka on March 5 for a four-match limited overs tour against the Sri Lanka Development Squad from March 7.

The four-match tour is in preparation for the forthcoming ICC World Cup League A' qualifier tournament scheduled to be played in Namibia where they will be pitted against five teams namely Papua New Guinea, USA, United Arab Emirates, Nepal and Jersey.

The top two teams of that tournament will proceed to the final ICC World Cup 2023 qualifying tournament to be held in Zimbabwe and will brush shoulders with full member ICC nations like Sri Lanka and West Indies.

The Canadian cricket team is being led by an experienced player Saad Bin Safar with Sri Lanka-born former Test



Standing from left - Aaron Johnson, Harsh Thakker, Arman Kapoor, Shreyas Movva, Mathew Spoor, Shree Patel, Pargat Singh, Aman Khilari. Seated from left - Dillon Hellingger, Nikhil Dutta, Ravindrapal Singh, Jeremy Gordon, Saad Bin Safar (Capt), Srimantha Wijeyaratne, Kalem Sana, Nicholas Kirton

player and Canadian national player Pubudu Dissanayake as the coach, who has made arrangements for the pre-tournament practice matches before departing to Namibia for the official ICC qualifying tournament.

Apart from coach Dissanayake, there is another Sri Lankan in the squad in

Srimantha Wijeyaratne, a former Peterite who also represented the Sri Lanka U19 national team in 2007 before migrating to Canada in 2008.

The first match will be played at the Colts ground on March 7, P Sara Stadium on March 13, CCC ground on March 14 and Colts ground on March 20.

Shevon, Ranuda guide SSC to second successive win

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Tons by Shevon Daniel and Ranuda Somaratne supported by five wickets from Kalana Perera and Akmal Fazly paved the way for SSC to record an innings and 12-run win over Army SC which was their second successive win of the Major Club Under 23 cricket tournament played at Reid Avenue. A match bag of 12 for 110 by Dellon Peiris helped Ragama CC coast to an innings win over Kandy Customs CC to record their first win of the tournament played at Welisara. Colts CC and Tamil Union too recorded outright wins against Chilaw Marians CC and Nugegoda S&WC to record their first win of the tournament.

The other matches ended in first inning wins for Ace Capital CC, Moors SC, CCC, Air Force SC, Police SC and Sebastianites CC.

Results:
At Reid Avenue - SSC won by innings and 12 runs
Army SC 207 (Shehan Fernando 103,

Manushka Samith 67, Kalana Perera 5 for 42, Nimnaka Jayatileke 3 for 13) and 187 (Shehada Zoysa 64, Devinda Ekanayake 53, Maheesh Theekshana 18, Chamod Supun 16, Akmal Fazly 5 for 37, Kalana Perera 2 for 29, Nimnaka Jayatileke 2 for 50)

SSC 406 for 5 declared (Shevon Daniel 101, Sadisha Rajapakse 64, Akram Muthaliph 54, Chamindu Wickramasinghe 50, Ranuda Somaratne 100 n.o., Sasindu Malshan 21 n.o., Shehada Zoysa 2 for 90)

At Welisara - Ragama CC won by innings and 31 runs

Kandy Customs CC 151 (Harindu Jayasekera 57, Kavindu Lakshan 30, Rashmika Mevan 22, Dellon Peiris 6 for 62) and 144 (Hirantha Jayasinghe 60, Ramesh Suranga 24, Nisala Akash 24 n.o., Dellon Peiris 6 for 48)

Ragama CC 326 for 4 declared (Lahiru Dewatage 44, Dulaj Bandara 33, Thevindu Dickwella 26, Yohan Liyanage 127 n.o., Ranmith Jayasena 84 n.o.)

At Colts - Colts CC won by innings and 29 runs

Chilaw Marians CC 57 (Keshara Nuwantha 21, Harshana Wickramasinghe 5 for 30, Chamod Battage 4 for 20) and 149 (Tharindu Amarasinghe 40, Binara Sanketh 31, Kavindu Dilhara 21, Ayon Fernando 20: Chamod Battage 5 for 47, Muditha Lakshan 4 for 46)

Colts CC 235 (Avishka Perera 82, Ravindu Rathantha 78, Sheran Fonseka 19: Thimira Irushika 5 for 76, Chamod Sandaru 3 for 30)

At Panagoda - Tamil Union won by ten wickets

Tamil Union 336 for 9 declared (Sathindu Pathirana 96, Vijayakanth Vijayakanth 65, Sahan Kosala 38, Raveen de Silva 28, Kamesh Nirmal 24, Tharindu Harshana 23: Suwath Mendis 3 for 81, Ruvin Seneviratne 2 for 75) and 29 for 0 (Sithara Hapuhinna 15 n.o.)

Nugegoda S&WC 181 (Ruviri Seneviratne 38, Sanoj Perera 35, Rahul Gunasekera 30, Amitha Dabare 23, Nadeesh Bandara 17: Dilum Sudeera 6 for 60, Raveen de Silva 2 for 27) and 183 (Suwath Mendis 36, Kevin Perera 32, Ruvin Seneviratne 31, Nadeesh Bandara 24, Amitha Dabare 16: Dilum Sudeera 8 for 79)

At Galle - First innings win for Ace Capital CC

Ace Capital CC 372 for 7 declared (Ashan Dilhara 56, Kavindu Amantha 53, Mohamed Faizer 47, Dinitha Lochana 36, Sakuna Liyanage 159 n.o.: Mihiranga Silva 3 for 73, Mithun Gamage 2 for 22, Kaveesha Rajapakse 2 for 100)

Galle CC 179 (Vinura Dulsara 46, Mithun Gamage 23, Kavishka Maduwantha 20, Kalpa Chethiya 19, Shannon Fernando 17, Kaveesha Rajapakse 16: Sithun Dissanayake 3 for 16, Praveen Maneesha 3 for 46, Pubudu Bandara 3 for 50) and 91 for 3 (Kanishka Maduwantha 50 n.o.)

At BRC - First innings win for Moors SC

BRC 247 (Dulaj Ashen 126, Shakthi Udara 30 n.o.: Deeshan Gamage 3 for 39, Theesan Vithusan 3 for 62, Imtiaz Slaza 3 for 66) and 136 (Lakshan Gamage 51, Bhagya Dissanayake 21: Theesan Vithusan 3 for 32, Imtiaz Slaza 3 for 64, Abdul Shakour 2 for 7)

Moors SC 379 for 7 declared (Abdul Shakour 85, Janishka Perera 48, Mohamed Razeen 44, Omesh Mendis 38, Mohamed Shamaaz 32, Imtiaz Slaza 103 n.o.: Saviru Bandara 5 for 136)

At CCC - First innings win for CCC

CCC 362 for 7 declared (Anjala Bandara 122, Sonal Dinusha 77, Pawan Pathiraja 33, Kavindu Amameth 26, Sandun Mendis 19, Vinushka Silva 16, Sachira Rashmitha 51 n.o.: S. KASUN 2 for 63, Thamindu Wickramaarachi 2 for 67)

Badureliya CC 120 (Hasitha Amarasinghe 30, Mithira Thenura 20, Vishara Fernando 15: Sandun Mendis 7 for 53, Devindu Kekirideniya 2 for 23) and 130 for 6 (Yeshith Rupasinghe 41, Mithira Thenura 17, Sasanka Nirmal 59 n.o.: Sonal Dinusha 5 for 48)

At NCC - First innings win for Air Force SC

NCC 220 (Vinuka Rubasinghe 118, Sehan Herath 41, Gishan Balasooriya 23: Thenuka Ekanayake 3 for 36, Senash

Fernando 3 for 43) and 106 for 3 (Vinuka Rubasinghe 15, Thaveesha Abishek 67 n.o., Sehan Herath 20 n.o.: Punsara Sandaruwan 2 for 18)

Air Force SC 286 (Sahil Dias 79, Senash Fernando 52, Gihan Asanka 36, Movin Subasinghe 24, Nadun Dilshan 21, Neluka Heshan 19, Kemira Wijenayake 15: Thaveesha Abishek 5 for 54)

At Katunayake - First innings win for Police SC

Negombo CC 234 (Sasanka Nirmal 61, Sandaruwan Chinthaka 52, Isuru Shanaka 25, Avesha Keshan 22, Amoda Vidanapathirana 17, Dimuth Sandaruwan 16: Charuka Jayatileke 4 for 35, Kasun Karunatileke 2 for 43, Dinuka Wanniarachchi 2 for 60)

Police SC 235 for 9 (Rohan Sanjaya 50, Hirushan Perera 41, Kasun Karunatileke 32, Madushan Dilakshana 22, Omal Palihapitiya 32 n.o.: Avesha Keshan 4 for 65, Dimuth Sandaruwan 2 for 28)

At Moratuwa - First innings win for Sebastianites CC

Panadura SC 260 (Rishika Dawatage 54, Sachira Rashmika 35, Kaveesha Sathsara 27, Tithira Weerasinghe 24, Vishwa Kumara 61 n.o.: Miranga Wickramage 5 for 80, Sasika Perera 2 for 60) and 54 for 4 (Sukitha Manoj 26: Sasika Perera 2 for 15, Miranga Wickramage 2 for 32)

Sebastianites CC 305 (Thevindu Senaratne 77, Lohan de Zoysa 74, Kavindu Ranasinghe 53, Lahiru Fernando 27, Lahiru Madusanka 27, Ryan Fernando 19: Yashan Avishka 2 for 41, Kaveesha Sathsara 2 for 105)



Just Fontaine carried by his teammates after scoring four goals against Germany at the 1958 World Cup (AFP)

World Cup finals record goal-scorer Just Fontaine dies

Just Fontaine, the all-time top scorer in a single World Cup finals with 13 goals, has died aged 89, his family told AFP on Wednesday.

Fontaine achieved the record in the 1958 finals in Sweden where France reached the semi-finals for the first time in their history, losing to Pele's Brazil. Part of a wonderful attacking trident at that World Cup alongside Roger Piantoni and Raymond Kopa, Fontaine might never have gone to Sweden at all. Only injuries to fellow forwards Thadee Cisowski and his Reims teammate Rene Biard saw him make the squad and then the starting line-up.

Fontaine also won four French league titles, one with Nice and three with the great Reims side of the post-war era. He played in the Reims team that lost to the Real Madrid of Alfredo di Stefano, Ferenc Puskas and Raymond Kopa in the 1959 European Cup final. Fontaine was then forced to retire in 1962 at the age of just 28 after he suffered a double leg fracture. He later moved into management, lasting just two matches in charge of France in 1967 before leading Paris Saint-Germain to promotion to the top division in 1974 and then coaching Morocco to third place at the 1980 Africa Cup of Nations.

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ON FIRE WITH EASWARAN RUTNAM

NAVIN DISSANAYAKE

"RANIL CONSIDERED WINDING UP OPERATIONS OF UNP"

DailyMirror ONLINE

Murali-Vaas Trophy encounter ends in draw

The Inter School Under 19 cricket encounter between St. Anthony's College and St. Joseph's College ended in a draw at Katugastota yesterday.

Antonians continuing from their day one score went on to score 177 for 7 before declaring. Joes made 36 for 3 at stumps on day 2. The day's play only resumed at 2.30 pm due to heavy overnight rain delaying the start.

St. Anthony's 177 for 7 Dec in 71.1 overs (Induruwa Galapitige 54, Lahiru Abeyasinghe 41, Ravindu Kapukotuwa 18, Muditha Dissanayake 2 for 31, Lahiru Amarasekera 2 for 81)

St. Joseph's 36 for 3 in 7 overs. (SJ)

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

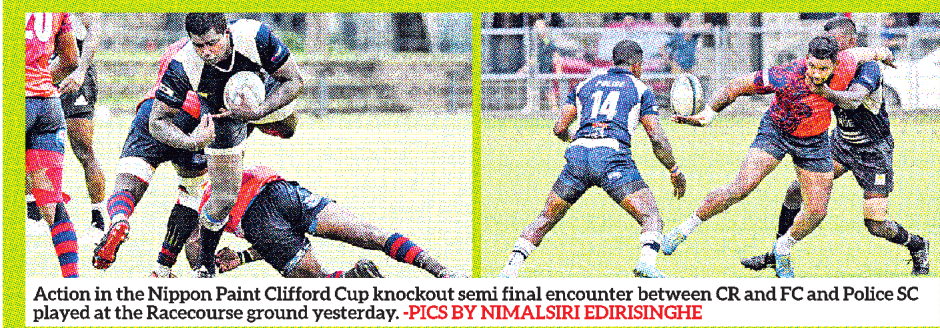
Back-to-back tries from CR & FC in the dying stages of their Nippon Paint Clifford Cup knockout rugby tournament semi-final dashed the hopes of Police SC, as the Reds pulled off a thrilling 23-20 win at the Racecourse ground yesterday.

CR & FC trailed 10-09 at lemons, but made up their final points tally through two goals and three penalties against the two goals and two penalties scored by Police SC.

In fact the Longdon Place club found themselves in an even bigger hole, trailing 20-09 with just over ten minutes of play remaining, before they came back with vengeance with a late burst scoring two successive goals to grab the game from their opponents.

The hotly contested game saw CR & FC putting up the first score on the board in the 13th minute through a penalty booted over by Chathura Seneviratne but the lead lasted only four minutes as Prince Chamara booted a penalty to help Police equalize.

From there on the two sides shared the honours and it took 11 minutes for the next scoring to be done which was by Police from an under the post try scored by Dulanjana Wijesinghe, giving Chamara an easy kick at



Action in the Nippon Paint Clifford Cup knockout semi final encounter between CR and FC and Police SC played at the Racecourse ground yesterday. -PICS BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE

CR'S LATE BURST DASHES POLICE HOPES

goal for Police to extend their lead to 10-03.

Try as they might CR & FC were unable to breach their opponents' defense but reduced

the deficit through penalties booted over by Thenuka Nanayakkara and Seneviratne before the short whistle was blown.



On resumption it was another closely contested affair before Police increased their lead with Prince Chamara making no mistake with a penalty offered.

Chamara helped Police to surge further ahead when he went over for a try which he converted for Police to lead 20-09.

CR & FC made sporadic moves in a last-ditch effort, and gave themselves a chance when Thisila Karunaratne scored a try, before Amith Gurusinghe sent shockwaves through the Police ranks by touching down and putting the Reds a point ahead, with Seneviratne succeeding the two additional points.



INTERNATIONAL

Cricket ● ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP
South Africa vs West Indies
1st Test - Day 3 - (Centurion)
India vs Australia
3rd Test - Day 2 - (Indore)

CDMSportsDesk

Nippon Paint Clifford Cup Knockouts 2023

Army, Navy lock horns with place in final on the line

BY HARSHA AMARASINGHE

Army Sports Club will battle it out against Navy Sports Club in the second semi-final of the Clifford Cup Knockout Tournament at Race Course Grounds in Colombo today.

The winners of this semi-final will meet CR and FC in the final as the Red Shirts claimed a thrilling 23-20 win over Police yesterday (01). Army pulled off a stunning victory over Havelock Sports Club in the quarter-final when they hammered the Park Club 39-17. Wing three quarter Sudaraka Dikkumbura was in sensational form against Havelock SC scoring once in that memorable quarter-final.

Fly half Ashen Bandara was also among the tries for the Soldiers and former Sri Lanka playmaker could make a huge impact in this semi against the Navy backline. Navy Sports Club though getting off to a slow start this season, made great improvement towards the end and now are two matches away from bagging the prestigious Clifford Cup.

The Navy backline have showed their classes throughout this season with players like Thilina Weerasinghe, Dinesh de Silva and Samuel Maduwantha contributing very well.

Their forwards will be up against it when they go head to head against Army this evening, but having the experience of national players such as Adeesha Weeratunga will give Navy edge.

Dambulla, Galle battle for supremacy in NSL final

The final of the National Super League Provincial four-day cricket tournament between Dambulla and Galle will begin today at the Galle International Stadium. The two teams made it to the final with Dambulla recording an outright win by 132 runs over Jaffna and Galle registering a first innings win against Kandy.

Incidentally Kandy and Jaffna were the champions and runners up respectively at the previous edition of the tournament.

The encounter is no doubt going to be a closely contested affair, but on paper Galle, led by Sangeeth Cooray, who is deputizing for Ramesh Mendis, will have the edge having finished as table leaders and also prevailing over Dambulla by an innings in the league stage.

Mendis will miss the final as



The two captains holding the NSL trophy

he is part of Sri Lanka's squad for the tour of New Zealand this month. Dambulla will be led by Minod Bhanuka.

Looking at the strength of the sides, Galle will pin their batting hopes on skipper Cooray, Lakshan Edirisinghe, Sohan de Livera, and Pasindu Sooriyabandara who have all scored centuries.

Sooriyabandara is in top

form as he slammed a career-best unbeaten knock of 214 against Jaffna in the semi-final encounter last week while the bowling will hinge on foursome Wanindu Hasaranga, Kavishka Anjula, Asanka Manoj and Mohamed Shiraz from whom they will be expecting a lot.

On the other hand, Dambulla will bank on skipper Bhanuka, Pavan Ratnayake, Ashan Priyanjan and Gayan Maneeshan to guide them along with Sanoj Dharshika, Lahiru Samarakoon and Dushan Hemantha who will also be expected to spearhead the bowling along with Chalana de Silva, and Priyanjan. Dambulla will be sans two key players in Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando, who are also in Sri Lanka's Test squad currently in New Zealand.

(MSA)

Rs 2.5 million up for grabs in Tour de Air Force Cycling Race

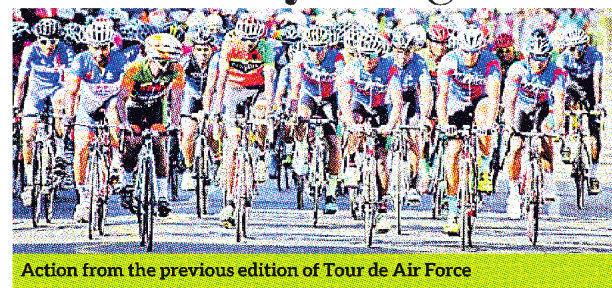
BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Cycling Union of Sri Lanka Air Force has decided to award a sum of rupees 2.5 million as prize money for the 24th edition of the Tour de Air Force (Sri Lanka) 2023 Cycling Race starting March 2 (today) at 8.30 a.m. in front of Airforce Headquarters.

Held to coincide with the 72nd Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF), this cycling event will be flagged off by the Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana.

Nippon Paint Lanka Pvt Ltd will be the Principal Sponsor for Tour de Air Force Cycling Race this time.

The SLAF says that over 185 riders both graded and non-graded who are affiliated with the Cycling Federation of Sri Lanka are going to participate in this Cycling Tour. The Tour de Air



Action from the previous edition of Tour de Air Force

Force Cycling Race which consists of three stages will cover a total distance of 408 km.

The first stage on March 2 is from Colombo to Kandy (123km), the second stage on March 3 is from Pallekele to Polonnaruwa (154km) and the third and final stage on March 4 is from Polonnaruwa to Anuradhapura (131km).

Apart from the three-day men's race, the 12th edition of the women's one day cycling

race is on March 4 from Habarana to Anuradhapura.

The winner of the men's race will receive Rs.400,000 while the women's race winner will get Rs.100,000.

Prize money will be awarded for 1st to 25th places in the men's race and 1st to fifth place in the women's race.

Awishka Madonza and Shalika Dilini of SL Army became the men & women overall champion of the last edition held in 2022.

CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

SRI LANKA CRICKET NATIONAL TEAM SPONSORSHIP (INBOUND) FOR IRELAND MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023 AND PAKISTAN MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Corporate Houses/ Companies/ firms for acquiring the "Sri Lanka Cricket Inbound National Men's Team Sponsorship Rights" for the tours specified below.

- **Ireland Men's Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - One (1) Test Match
Scheduled to be played during 18th to 22nd of April 2023
and
- **Pakistan Men's Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - Two (2) Test Matches
Scheduled to be played during 13th to 31st July 2023

The selected sponsor will be recognized as the 'Inbound Team Sponsor for Ireland Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023 and Pakistan Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023'.

GRANT OF RIGHTS:

Successful bidder will be offered with the branding/advertising rights on the National Team Members Player Jersey as specified below:

- Game Day Jersey | Middle Chest Position - Size not exceeding 32 SQ Inches (206.45 cm²)
- Game Day Jersey | Right Chest Position - Size not exceeding 10 SQ Inches (64.5 cm²)
- Practice Jersey | Middle Chest Position - Size not exceeding 32 SQ Inches (206.45 cm²)

Note: The selected sponsor's logo will be printed using the heat-transfer method for Ireland Men's Tour of Sri Lanka 2023 while the Pakistan Men's Tour of Sri Lanka in 2023 will have the sponsor's logo printed using sublimation method. Further, **only one** Brand/Logo will be accepted in respect of both tours.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting, gambling shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Marketing Agencies are eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Sub-licensing of the rights herein offered will be permitted.
- Bidders are permitted to nominate the brand name/ logo to be displayed on the player jerseys from the following product and service categories only.
 - Telecommunication
 - Pay TV and Digital Entertainment
 - Digital (FinTech, EduTech & Digital Health)

EOI SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

The EOI along with **financial offer and brand name/logo** qualifying the above mentioned criteria, which will be depicted in the game day clothing/practice clothing must be submitted to the Sri Lanka Cricket Headquarters at No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka **on or before 14th March 2023 - 3PM (Sri Lankan Time)** ['Deadline'] and should be in a sealed envelope addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket.

Alternatively, firms are permitted to submit the EOI along with its financial offer (**Financial Offer as a Password Protected .pdf file**), brand name/logo qualifying the above mentioned criteria and necessary documentation electronically via email to: sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk on or before the deadline with all the hard copies of the same being couriered to aforementioned address.

THE EOI NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- Certificate of Incorporation / Business registration
- Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with Certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- Reference from a reputed Bank certifying the financial stability (Bank Solvency Certificate)
- Updated auditor's report on financial statements (in case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).

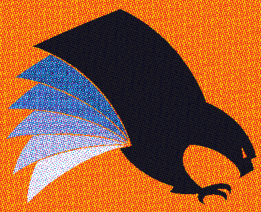
FINANCIAL PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT TERMS:

- Financial proposal should state the figure of the Net Rights Fee offered in Sri Lankan Rupees and/or US Dollars (in words and numbers) excluding of VAT/Tax/any other deductions depending on local or foreign EOI Participant.
- The following payment structure will apply in respect of the rights to be granted and rights fee thereto shall be payable by the successful EOI participant to SLC in the following manner:
 - The total Rights Fee (i.e. the Offered Value) should be paid in full on or before **20th March 2023**
 - The Mode of Payment: Bank transfer to the SLC Designated Account / Bank Draft issued in favor of SLC.

If you require any further information in relation to this EOI, Please contact Business Development Manager - SLC via +(94) 779 429 035.

The SLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The SLC also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and / or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET



Rupee appreciates further as CB tweaks guidance peg

The Sri Lankan rupee further appreciated yesterday, hitting the lowest value against the US dollar since May, last year, amid the Central Bank tweaking the guidance peg. As per the Central Bank data, the buying rate of US dollars yesterday was Rs.351.72, down from Rs.358.36 on Wednesday. The selling rate was Rs.362.95, down from Wednesday's Rs.367.93. The currency dealers cited the increase of daily trading band pertaining to the guidance peg from Rs.2.60 to Rs.5.00 by the Central Bank as the immediate reason that helped the rupee to appreciate against the dollar. Following the botched free floating

of the rupee in March 2022, which resulted in the collapse of the rupee from Rs.200 to Rs.360, the Central Bank repegged the rupee at 360 to the US dollar and introduced a guidance rate based on the interbank rate. The Central Bank via a communiqué instructed all licensed bank CEOs yesterday to use Rs.358.46 as the middle spot exchange rate of the USD/LKR interbank transactions and variation margin of Rs.5.00 on either side—plus or minus—of the middle spot exchange on March 1, 2023. It further said the rates applicable to other currency transactions against the Sri Lankan rupee should also be derived based on the new middle

spot exchange rate and the variation margin. Despite the banks being flushed with dollars, lower demand in the domestic forex market may have prompted this move by the Central Bank. According to the banking sector sources, the average daily volume in the interbank forex market is now about US \$ 42 million, compared to US \$ 8-10 million in May/June 2022. In February 2018, this used to be around US \$ 50 million. Sri Lanka's economy is in a deep contraction as a result of the tough measures introduced by the Central Bank and authorities to crush the aggregate demand in the economy by jacking up interest rates significantly to tame

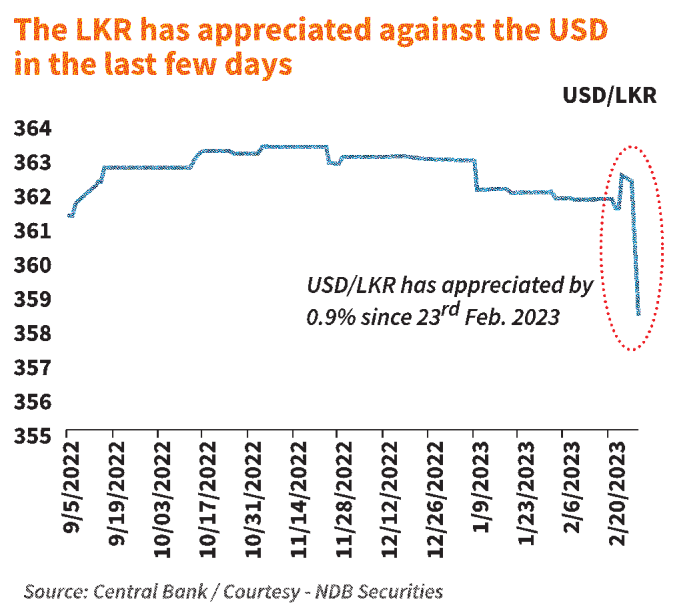
inflation, which had gone out of control. As a result, there is an evident drop in importer dollar demand. Prospects of Sri Lanka securing the envisaged International Monetary Fund bailout, recent International Finance Corporation announcement of providing US \$ 400 million financing to three local banks, reduction in surrender requirement for export proceeds and higher foreign inflows to the country's equity and bond markets may also have contributed to the recent appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar. In addition, according to NDB Securities, forex conversions by exporters in anticipation of a further appreciation of the rupee may also have contributed for the rupee to gain.

Bets divided equally between a rate cut and maintaining tight policy

- FCR analysts however double down on a dovish tilt at next monetary policy review
- Sri Lanka raised policy rates by an unprecedented 950 basis points in 2022
- Analysts believe any future action by Monetary Board is largely tilted towards rate cuts
- Second monetary policy review for this year will be released at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow

rate setting committee at the next review, with a sizable rate cut in the second quarter. The members of the Monetary Board meet tomorrow morning for the second time of the year to determine the appropriateness of the current monetary policy stance, which they established through the first half of last year by taking it to ultra-tight levels to rein in the runaway inflation and also to alleviate the pressure on the foreign exchange conditions. After raising the policy rates by an unprecedented 950 basis points in 2022, the Monetary Board has paused the policy at the exiting levels to see the impacts of its actions on the real economy. According to the classical economist Milton Friedman, the monetary policy has long and variable lags between the monetary policy action and its impact on the economy and specially on inflation. Hence, the Monetary Board members appear to have taken a wait-and-see approach, to see if their previous actions have more room to run their cause.

The analysts at First Capital Research (FCR) assigned equal weightage between a rate cut and an unchanged policy stance at the upcoming monetary policy announcement tomorrow afternoon but they doubled down on their bets on a dovish tilt by the members of the



February tourist arrivals exceed monthly target by 2.5%



A group of tourists cross a road in Colombo Fort area PIC BY PRADEEP PATHIRANA

Tourism in Sri Lanka made significant strides in February, surpassing the monthly arrival target set by the authorities. For the entire month of February (01-28), Sri Lanka welcomed over 107,000 international visitors, exceeding the monthly tourism arrival target by about 2.5 percent. The provisional data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) showed that the island nation welcomed a total of 107,639 tourists in the second month of the year. When compared with February 2022, this was an increase by about 12 percent year-on-year (YoY).

Indian CEO Forum meets US ambassador

The Indian CEO Forum (ICF) met US Ambassador Julie Chung and her team at the US mission in Colombo, on March 1, 2023 and discussed the opportunities for mutual collaboration to support the people of Sri Lanka in the current situation. The ICF has over 70 companies as members, including some companies headquartered out of the USA and headed by Indian nationals in Sri Lanka. The CEOs appraised Chung about various social initiatives taken by the Indian companies in Sri Lanka that encompass areas such as promoting employment for women, mental health initiatives and food and nutrition for children. Chung was appreciative



of the timely Indian help to Sri Lanka and stressed that the common agenda of both the US and India is to assist Sri Lanka to handle the current economic crisis. She offered her guidance on various initiatives, which the Indian companies want to undertake to help the people of Sri Lanka. Chung was also

IRD told to come up with a programme to swiftly identify income tax evaders

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has been instructed to come up with a suitable programme to swiftly identify the income tax evaders, in order to minimise the revenue leakages. As the government targets Rs.3.65 trillion in state revenue for this year, Finance State Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya at a meeting held at the Finance Ministry yesterday advised the IRD officials to pay equal attention to identify the tax evaders, along with the tax collections. In particular, he pointed out that the individuals employed in certain professions have been hiding their incomes, in



Ranjith Siyambalapitiya

order to evade the income taxes. Therefore, he instructed IRD Commissioner General D.R.S. Hapuarachchi to come up with a suitable programme to swiftly identify such income tax evaders. According to the Finance Ministry, 120,965 persons or 2.6 percent of the labour force, who are earning over Rs.100,000 per month, are subjected to the PAYE tax.

Amana Bank 4Q earnings hurt by higher provisions, operating expenses

Amana Bank PLC reported some tepid financial performance in the three months ended in December, as the bank had to deal with higher provisions against the possible defaults and the rising operating costs amid the pressure on margins. The bank, which operates on Islamic banking principles, reported a net financing income of Rs.1.66 billion in the three months to December, up 54 percent from the same period a year ago. However, the financing margin of the bank came under somewhat pressure, due to its deposits being repriced at a faster pace than its advances, the bank said. The margin therefore got trimmed by two basis points to 3.6 percent by the end of December, from 3.8 percent at the start of the year.



Chairman Asgi Akbarally



MD/CEO Mohamed Azmeer

Depth of crisis affirms SL needs new economic development model: WB

- WB VP points out road to recovery is challenging and fiscal adjustment measures can be painful
- Stresses international community must help Sri Lanka to strike right balance
- Asserts SL has a chance to reset its development model towards green, resilient and inclusive growth



Martin Raiser

fiscal adjustment measures can be painful. "Debt relief from Sri Lanka's creditors and fresh financing from international financial institutions are thus urgent to ensure people don't lose patience with reforms and the opportunity for a change isn't lost," pointed out WB Group Vice President South Asia Region Martin Raiser, in his latest blog. Given that the country is visibly struggling to cope with the daily struggles, Raiser asserted that the international community must help

Sri Lanka strike the right balance between pursuing critical reforms to get the economy back on track. Efforts are also needed to ensure that people have access to safety nets, better jobs and economic opportunities. The economic crisis has left deep scars. Poverty nearly doubled in Sri Lanka between 2021 and 2022, climbing from 13 percent to a staggering 25 percent and is projected to increase by more than two percentage points in 2023. In the same time frame, urban poverty tripled from 5 to 15 percent. People have been forced to quickly adapt to a new reality, where prospects for a good job are limited, incomes are lowered and eroded by inflation and opportunities for a better future are becoming increasingly rare. In 2022, at least half a million people lost their jobs, most of which were in the industry and services sectors and employed women.

Efforts towards establishing equal rights for women hit with 'reform fatigue'

- Pace of reforms fallen to a 20-year low
- Women Business and Law index rose just half a point to 77.1 in 2022
- "Governments can't afford to sideline as much as half of their population" - WB

The efforts towards achieving equal rights for women have lost momentum globally and according to the World Bank, it poses an obstacle to economic growth at a critical time for the world economy. While the establishment of equal rights for women is currently hit with 'reform fatigue', the pace of the effort has fallen to a 20-year low, a new World Bank report

showed. In 2022, the global average score on the World Bank's Women Business and Law index rose just half a point to 77.1—indicating women, on average, enjoy barely 77 percent of the legal rights that men do. At the current pace of reform, in many countries, a woman entering the workforce today will retire before she will be able to gain the same rights as men, the report notes. "At a time when global economic growth is slowing, all countries need to mobilise their full productive capacity to confront the confluence of crises besetting them," said World Bank Group Chief Economist and Senior Vice President Development Economics Indermit Gill. "Governments can't afford to sideline as much as half of their population. Denying equal rights to women across much of the world is not just unfair to women; it is a barrier to countries' ability to promote green, resilient and

inclusive development," he added. Worldwide, nearly 2.4 billion women of working age still do not have the same rights as men. Closing the gender employment gap could raise long-term GDP per capita by nearly 20 percent on average across countries. Studies estimate global economic gains of US \$ 5-6 trillion if women started and scaled new businesses at the same rate as men do. In 2022, only 34 gender-related legal reforms were recorded across 18 countries—the lowest number since 2001. Most reforms focused on increasing paid leave for parents and fathers, removing restrictions to women's work and mandating equal pay. The WB notes it will take another 1,549 reforms to reach substantial legal gender equality everywhere in the areas measured by the report. At the current pace, it would take at least 50 years on average to reach that target, the report said.



SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC

1319 www.sarvodayafinance.lk



01.03.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. (MILLION)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE (%)	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. (MILLION)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE (%)	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. (MILLION)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE (%)
MAIN BOARD								LAUGFS GAS	58,660	25.40	25.40	26.50	25.40	25.80	0.40	AMBEON HOLDINGS	2,035	33.00	34.00	34.00	33.00	33.00	
ASPEN HOT HOLD	39,017	57.00	57.80	58.00	57.00	57.20	0.20	LAUGFS GAS [LGL X0000]	49,407	16.90	14.80	17.60	14.80	17.30	0.40	AMFCO LTD	79,682	7.50	7.70	7.70	7.10	7.20	(0.30)
ABANS	15	162.40	155.00	173.50	155.00	162.00		LAXAPANA	100	13.00	13.20	13.20	13.20	13.20	0.20	ASIPCO INSURANCE	64,529	22.50	22.40	22.40	20.90	22.20	(0.10)
ACCESS ENG SL	2,001,357	13.30	13.30	14.20	13.20	14.00	0.70	LB FINANCE	85,925	47.80	47.70	48.80	47.70	48.60	0.80	ASIA SIVAKA	926,790	4.20	4.30	4.30	4.00	4.20	0.20
ACL	44,823	72.30	72.40	73.90	72.40	72.70	0.40	LION BREWERY	26	660.00	640.00	640.00	631.00	660.00		BANSEI RESORTS	2,261	10.40	11.20	11.20	10.50	11.10	0.70
ACL PLASTICS	2,099	390.25	400.00	408.75	385.00	386.50	(3.75)	LMF	79,036	140.00	138.00	143.75	138.00	140.25	0.25	BERUWALA RESORTS	214,010	1.40	1.30	1.50	1.30	1.40	
ACME	910	6.80	6.70	7.10	6.70	7.10	0.30	LVL ENERGY	78,815	7.10	7.00	7.00	6.80	7.00	(0.10)	BOGALA GRAPHITE	43,007	58.90	60.80	61.30	58.30	60.80	1.90
AGALAWATTE	67,070	33.20	34.40	35.20	33.40	34.60	1.40	MALWATTE	12,515	79.90	81.80	82.40	81.80	82.00	2.10	BOGAWANTALAWA	23,100	47.10	47.10	49.90	47.00	49.90	2.80
AHOT PROPERTIES	5,814	40.00	42.00	42.00	41.90	42.00	2.00	MALWATTE [MAL X0000]	30	50.00	46.10	46.10	46.10	50.00		BPPL HOLDINGS	5	21.70	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.70	
AITKEN SPENCE	736	144.25	146.00	146.00	139.50	142.00	(2.25)	MELSTACORP	423,116	58.70	58.00	59.50	58.00	59.00	0.30	BROWNS	1,587	113.00	113.50	113.50	112.00	112.25	(0.75)
ALLIANCE	7,396	56.90	56.70	58.00	56.70	57.00	0.10	MERCHANT BANK	1,311	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.40	3.60	0.20	BROWNS INVSTMENTS	1,599,437	6.00	6.00	6.10	5.90	6.00	
AMANA BANK	3,486,647	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.70	2.70		MULLERS	91,025	1.20	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.00	(0.20)	C T LAND	114	24.20	25.50	25.50	25.20	25.30	1.10
ASIA ASSET	1,907	8.10	8.20	8.30	8.20	8.30	0.20	NAMUNUKULA	6	359.25	365.00	365.00	365.00	359.25		C W MACKIE	1,399	80.00	80.10	80.10	78.60	79.00	(1.00)
ASIA CAPITAL	10	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.00		NAT DEV BANK	91,827	40.50	41.00	41.50	40.80	41.10	0.60	CALT	217,579	32.40	32.50	32.50	31.70	32.00	(0.40)
ASIRI	576	26.10	25.50	26.00	25.40	25.80	(0.30)	NATION LANKA	190,209	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.50		CEYLON TEA BRKRS	498	4.00	4.00	4.20	4.00	4.20	0.20
ASIRI SURG	10,642	12.80	12.70	12.70	12.40	12.40	(0.40)	NATIONS TRUST	57,903	62.30	62.00	62.50	60.50	62.00	(0.30)	CFT	14	68.00	60.50	66.40	60.50	68.00	
BAIRAHA FARMS	8,435	139.00	140.00	140.00	138.25	139.75	0.75	NATIONS TRUST [NTB-X-0000]	20	66.20	66.10	66.10	66.10	66.20		CITRUS HIKKADUWA	49,570	4.90	5.00	5.00	4.90	5.00	0.10
BALANGODA	9,890	69.50	69.90	72.00	69.30	69.70	0.20	OVERSEAS REALTY	123,575	15.10	15.10	15.20	15.10	15.20	0.10	CITRUS WASKADUWA	45,059	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.50	2.60	
BUKIT DARAH	160,036	397.25	400.00	410.00	400.00	409.75	12.50	PAN ASIA	197,807	12.20	12.20	12.70	12.20	12.50	0.30	COM CREDIT	4,961	23.90	23.70	23.90	23.00	23.50	(0.40)
CARGILLS	10	220.25	219.00	229.00	219.00	220.25		PANASIAN POWER	32,356	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.50	0.10	COMMERCIAL DEV	13	106.00	105.00	109.50	105.00	106.00	
CARGO BOAT	200	47.10	45.40	45.40	45.40	45.40	(1.70)	PEOPLES INS	29,234	21.80	21.40	22.00	21.10	21.90	0.10	DILMAH CEYLON	63	1050.00	1060.00	1060.00	1035.50	1050.00	
CARSON	1,351	278.00	255.25	278.00	255.25	275.00	(3.00)	PEOPLES LEASING	446,547	7.40	7.40	7.90	7.40	7.70	0.30	E - CHANNELLING	132,782	12.70	12.80	13.10	12.20	12.40	(0.30)
CENTRAL FINANCE	36,354	69.10	70.40	70.40	70.00	70.00	0.90	PGP GLASS	550,604	15.00	15.00	15.50	14.80	15.20	0.20	ELPITIA	15,489	80.40	80.40	82.00	79.00	82.00	1.60
CENTRAL IND	5,695	82.60	83.70	83.70	80.20	81.00	(1.60)	PRINTCARE PLC	7,080	51.80	52.10	53.70	51.70	51.90	0.10	EQUITY TWO PLC	13	41.00	40.10	41.00	40.10	41.00	
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS X0000]	400	1052.25	1028.00	1028.00	1028.00	1028.00	(24.25)	R I I PROPERTY	89,917	5.40	5.60	5.60	5.40	5.60	0.20	EXTERMINATORS	360	7.30	7.60	7.60	7.50	7.50	0.20
CEYLON GUARDIAN	354	70.00	69.90	70.00	69.90	70.00		REGNIS	1,808	42.10	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	(0.10)	F TRESURIES	8,742	23.70	24.30	24.30	23.50	23.50	(0.20)
CEYLON INV	23,808	34.60	33.10	35.00	33.10	35.00	0.40	RENUKA AGRI	613,644	5.20	5.30	5.30	5.10	5.20		FIRST CAPITAL	130,029	35.70	35.00	36.00	35.00	35.40	(0.30)
CEYLON TOBACCO	289	645.00	640.00	645.00	637.75	642.75	(2.25)	RENUKA CITY HOT	1	349.25	379.00	379.00	379.00	349.25		FORTRESS RESORTS	117,197	16.90	17.20	19.10	17.20	18.10	1.20
CHEMANEX	3,500	74.50	76.00	76.00	76.00	76.00	1.50	RENUKA FOODS	136,473	22.00	22.00	22.50	22.00	22.00		GALADARI	808,063	13.00	13.20	13.80	13.20	13.70	0.70
CHEVRON	598,327	98.90	98.00	99.00	95.00	95.40	(3.50)	RENUKA FOODS [COCO X0000]	12,020	16.00	16.00	16.50	16.00	16.00	0.40	HAPUGASTENNE	601	52.80	49.10	52.30	48.00	50.00	(2.80)
CIC	14,406	75.00	77.90	78.00	75.10	75.50	0.50	RENUKA HOLDINGS	60,001	13.00	13.50	13.50	13.40	13.50	0.50	HATTON	1,800	24.60	24.00	24.00	23.00	23.10	(1.50)
CIC [CIC X0000]	88,853	53.20	53.80	53.80	52.50	52.50	(0.70)	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL X0000]	1,610	11.40	11.40	11.40	11.40	11.40	0.40	HNB FINANCE	23,247	4.70	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	0.20
CITRUS LEISURE	1,701	6.10	6.20	6.40	6.20	6.20	0.10	RESUS ENERGY	18,084	13.80	13.70	13.80	13.50	13.80		HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-X-0000]	7,406	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.50	4.60	0.20
COLD STORES	860	34.60	34.60	34.60	34.10	34.30	(0.30)	RICHARD PIERIS	1,524,601	21.00	21.00	21.80	20.80	21.00		IIVA FOODS	1,237	4.10	4.10	4.20	4.10	4.10	
COLOMBO CITY	39	1004.25	1025.00	1035.00	1025.00	1004.25		ROYAL CERAMIC	260,003	29.30	29.40	30.00	29.00	29.70	0.40	JANASHAKTHI INS	4,798	30.10	30.50	30.50	29.90	30.00	(0.10)
COLOMBO LAND	8,960	19.40	18.70	18.80	18.00	18.70	(0.70)	SMB LEASING	1,488,288	0.80	0.80	0.90	0.70	0.80		JETWINGS SYMPHONY	419,884	6.90	7.00	7.40	7.00	7.30	0.40
COMMERCIAL BANK	148,619	65.00	64.90	65.00	64.70	65.00		SMB LEASING [SEMB X0000]	1,617,425	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30		JOHN KEELLS	180	66.60	66.60	69.10	65.50	65.60	(1.00)
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB X0000]	10,761	53.40	53.00	53.80	52.90	53.10	(0.30)	SAMPATH	1,453,175	51.70	51.80	52.90	51.80	52.00	0.30	KAHAWATTE	61,665	22.10	21.90	22.00	21.20	21.50	(0.60)
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	21,571	24.00	23.20	23.80	23.10	23.40	(0.60)	SANSON INTERNET	314	221.00	229.75	235.00	229.75	231.75	0.75	KEELLS FOOD	2,297	156.50	156.50	175.50	156.50	156.50	
DCC BANK PLC	32,876	43.30	43.10	44.50	42.10	42.50	(0.80)	SANASA DEV BANK	4,618	23.70	23.70	24.70	23.70	24.60	0.90	KEELLS HOTELS	79,840	17.60	17.50	18.00	17.50	18.00	0.40
DIALOG	25,249	8.90	8.90	9.00	8.80	8.80	(0.10)	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	5	11.60	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.60		KELSEY	74	20.70	22.00	22.00	20.40	20.70	
DIMO	414	481.25	487.00	500.00	487.00	495.25	14.00	SEYLAN BANK	1,936	33.00	33.10	34.00	33.10	34.00	1.00	LANKA CERAMIC	42	94.60	95.20	95.20	95.20	94.60	
DIPPED PRODUCTS	166,405	29.30	29.50	29.80	29.20	29.40	0.10	SEYLAN BANK [SEYB X0000]	17,449	22.20	22.20	22.90	22.20	22.40	0.20	LANKEM CEYLON	16,814	93.50	93.10	93.10	89.90	89.90	(3.60)
DOCKYARD	500	56.20	57.00	57.00	57.00	57.00	0.80	SEYLAN DEVTS	42,203	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.20	14.30	(0.20)	LAUGFS POWER	200	9.50	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	0.50
DOLPHIN HOTELS	55,711	30.50	30.40	33.70	30.40	33.00	2.50	SHAW WALLACE	18,170	7.10	6.90	7.10	6.90	7.00	(0.10)	LCB FINANCE PLC	1,012,408	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.10	2.20	(0.10)
DURD																							

ENT specialists and Vision Care Hearing Solutions organize special awareness programme

The World Health Organization (WHO) marks World Hearing Day on 3rd March of each year to raise awareness about hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care. World Hearing Day 2023 will be celebrated under the theme "Ear and hearing care for all" where the importance of integrating ear and hearing care within primary care as an essential component of universal health coverage will

be highlighted globally as well as in Sri Lanka through various events. To achieve this objective, ENT specialists together with Vision Care Hearing Solutions have organised a special awareness program titled "Ear and Hearing Care for All". These programmes will be carried out on 3rd March at five main Vision Care branches around Sri Lanka – Mount Lavinia, Maharagama,

Galle, Negombo, and Kurunegala. The awareness programme will aim to educate and inform primary healthcare workers such as midwives, General Practitioners (GPs), nurses, and even teachers and Grama Sevakas, as well as the general public about the importance of identifying ear and hearing care issues. The goal of these events is to provide

the participants, especially the primary healthcare workers, with necessary education to properly identify individuals with hearing loss or those at risk of hearing loss, whereby they can be referred to the relevant medical professional for further examination and treatment, if necessary. Several leading ENT specialists in Sri Lanka including Dr Chandra Jayasuriya, a renowned name in the field,

will be conducting the awareness sessions as well as providing free consultations. Additionally, free hearing checkups will be provided Islandwide to the general public through all Vision Care outlets on World Hearing Day on the 3rd March. Those interested are advised to make prior appointments by contacting the nearest Vision Care branch.

Ninewells Hospital first in healthcare sector to implement SAP Business One

Healthcare in Sri Lanka is undergoing a digital transformation, and Ninewells Hospital is leading the charge. The implementation of SAP Business One in partnership with Pristine Solutions (Pvt) Ltd, one of Sri Lanka's prominent information system solution providers, marks a major milestone for the hospital as well as for the healthcare industry. The implementation of this new software was celebrated at an event attended by top executives and staff members of both Ninewells Hospital and Pristine Solutions.

new software will help us provide a better experience for our patients, who remain our top priority. Our partnership with Pristine Solutions has been invaluable in making this happen, and we are excited to see the positive impact it will have on our future operations." Together with SAP Business One, Ninewells Hospital is poised to set a new standard for patient care. The integration of digital technologies will provide faster, more accurate billing services, and a seamless and efficient healthcare experience for their patients. The hospital's commitment to digital transformation is a testament to their commitment to providing the highest quality of care for their patients, and the results of their efforts will be felt for years to come. Also expressing his thoughts, Chaminda

Dias, Manager of ICT at Ninewells Hospital, said, "Digital transformation is crucial for the healthcare industry to keep up with changing times and meet the needs of patients. We believe that SAP Business One will help us stay ahead of the curve and provide the best possible care to our patients." The official unveiling was attended by top executives at Pristine Solutions, including Priyantha Kumara – Chairman, Shivanthi Ratnayake – Director, Nilupa Wijesinghe – Head of Project Delivery, Geethika Waduge – Project Manager, as well as management of Ninewells Hospital, including Dr. Thiasha Fernando – Director, Dr. Vibash Wijeratne – COO & Director, Tharanga Weerasuriya – General Manager, and Chaminda Dias – Manager of IT.



Tharanga Weerasuriya

Doc990 introduces digital health services via Amazon's Alexa

Introducing the next frontier for conveniently accessing healthcare services from home, Doc990 powered by Dialog Axiata PLC, extended Amazon Alexa voice command support for digital health services for the first time in Sri Lanka. This new feature enables customers to easily access the Doc990 services with simple voice commands via Alexa, which can be accessed via Android, iOS with Alexa app and Alexa-supported home devices. Users can simply channel a doctor or book an appointment via Alexa and instantly add the total cost to their Dialog mobile postpaid monthly bill, deduct from their prepaid balance, or pay via their credit/

debit card, genie, eZ Cash etc. Speaking on the service launch, Renuka Fernando, Group Chief Digital Services Officer of Dialog Axiata PLC stated, "Doc990 is always on the search for how we can harness the power of technology and improve access to healthcare that also facilitates a modern user's evolving digital lifestyle. We are pleased to launch Doc990 services via Alexa voice commands as this feature enables customers to conveniently access digital healthcare services, thereby reiterating Dialog's commitment to implement and develop a state-of-the-art, integrated, e-commerce infrastructure for Sri Lanka's healthcare sector as its digital platform enabler".

Lanka Hospitals hosts Health Fiesta 2023



Sri Lanka's premier private healthcare provider, Lanka Hospitals hosted the 'Health Fiesta 2023', an event that combined health and fun, at the hospital premises in Colombo 05 recently. 'Health Fiesta 2023' was open to Lanka Hospitals patrons as well as the general public and everyone was eligible for a host of free services and the best discounts offered by a private hospital in Sri Lanka, all in a festive atmosphere. Free services offered to participants and their families at 'Health Fiesta 2023' included ECG Testing, Body Fat Analysis, Random Blood Sugar Checks, BMI, Vision Checks, Doctor Consultations, Nutrition Advice and Physiotherapy Advice among others. Some of the best consultants and health professionals of the country were present at the 'Health Fiesta 2023' and participants were

able to get the best deals ever by a private hospital when they signed up for continued services by Lanka Hospitals. "Today all of us, young and old, live a busy lifestyle and we naturally tend to ignore or postpone attending to our health concerns. This is where 'Health Fiesta 2023' comes in as a single event combining health and fun for you and your whole family. We are glad that the event was a great success as all visitors could get almost all the important checkups done for free, get valuable professional health advice while having a good time with their families" said Deepthi Lokurachchi, Group CEO, Lanka Hospitals PLC. 'Health Fiesta 2023' was planned as an event for the whole family and featured a host of fun activities for kids along with a food festival that everyone enjoyed.

Medihelp Hospitals expands footprint to Gampaha District with Kelaniya branch

The country's largest and fastest-growing primary care chain Medihelp Hospitals, recently commenced operations at its new healthcare facility in the historically significant city of Kelaniya, thereby marking its entry to the Gampaha District. With its easily-accessible, new address at No. 625, Kandy Road, Kelaniya, the fully-fitted primary care centre will cater to the community of Kelaniya and surrounding towns with a broad scope of affordable, high quality healthcare services offered by an experienced, qualified team of consultants and healthcare professionals.



Medihelp Chairman Lesley Wijesiriwardana, Director of Laboratories Sunanda Wijesiriwardana and guest of honor Prof. Janaki Hewavisenthi, dean of the faculty of Medicine university of Kelaniya ceremoniously opening the Medihelp Kelaniya Hospital

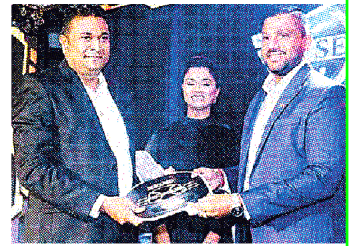
The ceremonial opening, held on 21st January, 2023, was attended by Prof. Janaki Hewavisenthi, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine – University of Kelaniya, the board of directors and top management of Medihelp Hospitals, along with a host of distinguished invitees and members of staff. The new four-storey facility houses a fully-fitted OPD, ETU, laboratory, pharmacy, and dental clinic as well as facilities and equipment to accommodate x-rays, US Scans, Echocardiography, physiotherapy, optometry services, and specialist consultations. It is made complete with spacious, modern waiting areas and large car park accommodating over 60 vehicles. Commenting on the recent opening, Medihelp Hospitals Chairman Leslie

Wijesiriwardana stated, "We are delighted to step into the Gampaha District with our new facility in Kelaniya, which is a historically and geographically significant city in Sri Lanka. Marking the opening of our 15th branch in such a notable location is a privilege." Medihelp Hospitals provides access to a network of over 350 specialists, and leverages numerous digital tools and state-of-the-art technology to offer an elevated, well-rounded portfolio of exceptional healthcare services to all its patients. Apart from its 15 primary healthcare facilities spread across the western province, Medihelp Hospitals operates a multi-specialty hospital in Horana and has plans to open yet another fully-fledged hospital in Mt. Lavinia this year. Founded in 1985 as a single laboratory, Medihelp

Hospitals today has grown to encompass a network of 15 Primary Healthcare Facilities in Horana, Nugegoda, Piliyandala, Moratuwa, Homagama, Kalutara, Panadura, Beruwala, Mathugama, Bandaragama, Ingiriya, Bulathsinhala, Wethara, Athurugiriya and Kelaniya. The chain operates eight OPD/ETU facilities, 10 digital X-ray departments, 200 sample collection centers across three districts, and 10 pharmacies. Medihelp Hospitals offers its patients access to a specialist consultant network of 350 consultants as well as a comprehensive mix of healthcare services, including OPD consultations, Emergency Treatment Units (ETU), medical diagnostic laboratories, pharmacies, medical imaging units with Ultrasound scanning, Echocardiography and digital X-Ray, operating theatres for minor surgical procedures, dental clinics and Optometry services.

Royal Nursing Home procures Lankan made 100 Senaro GN125 motorcycles for staff

Royal Nursing Home (Pvt) Ltd. recently procured Sri Lanka made 100 Senaro GN125 motorcycles to be distributed among 100 staff members who have been with the company for over 10 years. Manuja Hewawasam, Chairman of the company, procured the bicycles at an event held at Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel where the GN125 was introduced to the market. The GN125 is assembled in Sri Lanka with a local value addition of up to 35 percent. Hewawasam said that Royal Nursing Home has a staff of 800 and that these motorcycles will be distributed among those with the longest service.



Manuja Hewawasam, Chairman of Royal Nursing Home (Pvt) Ltd receiving the keys

Roshana Waduge, Chairman of Senaro Motor Company, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries and Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms, were present at the event.

HealthRecon Connect global delivery center in Colombo reunites after three years



The 1300 strong team at HealthRecon Connect's global delivery center in Colombo, part of a three-city global team which provides technology-enabled Revenue Cycle Management solutions to healthcare providers in the USA, reunited its team in Colombo in a much-needed effort to bringing the team together after three years. With a presence in six countries and global delivery centers across Chennai, Manila and Sri Lanka, HealthRecon Connect is a leading customer-centric data-driven and technologically advanced RCM solutions provider. Through the years of the pandemic and economic crisis, the global delivery center's annual get-together did not take place and hence, January 2023 was the ideal time to bring together the team. While some

team members met for the first time since the pandemic, this was also the ideal opportunity to recognize those who had completed the Emerging Leadership and Management Development Programmes, displaying extraordinary commitment to the organisation's values throughout 2022. HealthRecon Connect leverages over three decades of deep domain expertise, machine learning, Artificial Intelligence, cutting-edge analytics and automated workflows through its global delivery centers in Sri Lanka, India and the Philippines. Its competitive edge is in helping healthcare providers in the US solve operational inefficiencies of the revenue cycle process by reducing costs and improving cashflow and thereby, patient outcomes.

Nawaloka Hospitals remains committed, resilient amid economic, political instability

The economic and political arena in Sri Lanka over the past few months has been in peril with a lot of uncertainty and state-level decisions that have adversely affected most businesses, industries and individuals, and Nawaloka Hospitals was no exception to this. Commenting on the situation the hospital was faced with, Nawaloka Hospitals Group Chairman Dr. Jayantha Dharmadasa said "as a humane and people-driven hospital, our commendable efforts to maintain the affordability aspect resulted in most of the costs being absorbed by us, but this is a decision we came to from our hearts, despite the outcome. This situation is the best iteration of our resilience and commitment to stay loyal and honest with our patients through thick and thin." During this period, Nawaloka Hospitals went that extra mile to facilitate transport for patients free of charge, in order to ensure a seamless continuation of operations while also encouraging patients to visit the hospital

to obtain vital healthcare facilities. This service was also extended as a shuttle service from the hospital to various suburbs with patients who are struggling to find transport to the hospital. In addition, the hospital also started its mobile laboratory services, with lab tests on line facility, along with its Mobile Drug Delivery service, bringing patients their prescribed medication conveniently to their doorstep. Nawaloka Hospitals was also the first in the country to set up a center specifically for patients having post-COVID complications, headed by a consultant, Respiratory Physician Dr. Riaz Mowjoed. To bring further convenience, safety and ease to patients, the hospital also introduced an e-billing system during this time, allowing patients to pay their bills from the comfort of their homes, and the Nawaloka App was another achievement for the hospital this year. Nawaloka Hospital has also implemented a picture archiving and communication system (PACS) to

securely store and digitally transmit electronic images to relevant stake holders. With this state-of-the-art technology, radiologists from any part of the world has access to all patient related radiology records and images, enabling them to provide consultations and reports on-the-go. This promises convenience and real-time updates to provide efficient services to our patients. The facility was widely used by consultants and patients during the pandemic. Simultaneously implementing measures to improve and enhance the work flow and productivity of hospital staff has also been one of the key focus areas during this time. The hospital commenced its in-house COVID treatment center, instead of running multiple COVID intermediary care centers, and also introduced its mobile post-COVID clinic, where a mobile team, along with a doctor would



Dr. Jayantha Dharmadasa

visit patients at their homes. However, it was also during this time that the hospital saw a drop in both its local and overseas patient counts, although there was a noticeable increase in video consultations. This was because the hospital premises were in close proximity to the "protest site" and public unrest led to lockdowns in the area. The situation only worsened from that point, as the country's socio-economic issues led to both a fuel and energy crisis in the country. Despite all, Nawaloka Hospitals takes pride in its stance as a people-centric healthcare service provider, as the hospital understands the challenges people were undergoing during this period. During this time, the hospital also underwent an organizational restructuring to better adapt to the volatile situation - prompted by the country's economic crisis and inflation. The restructuring was complete by the third quarter.

DailyMirror

Life

THURSDAY
MARCH 02, 2023
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P-13

'REST YOUR BEST!' POKEMON SLEEP GAME COMING THIS YEAR

Pokemon's last major smartphone hit, "Pokemon Go", had fans on the move hunting the lovable characters, but its next release will focus on a more relaxing activity: sleep. The Pokemon Company has revealed it will release "Pokemon Sleep" across most of the world in summer 2023, four years after it first announced plans for the game. "Turn your sleep into entertainment," the company said in a press release late Monday. **AFP**



CORPORATE SHIRTS

We are Corporate by Stripes & Checks Inc. We specialize in the manufacturing of corporate uniforms for both Men and Women. We import superior-quality fabrics and we are focused on a quick turnaround to deliver both large and small order quantities in the right quality - every time.



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Text Tiranya Yalindee Ranasinghe

Taking her own spin on artisan cookies, Radeesha De Silva has revamped KUKIFIX to be a hip, trendy cookie spot that aims to please your sweet tooth. At the heart of KUKIFIX resides hard work and dedication to constantly innovate new flavours such as Crème Brulee and Kinder Joy which are quite hard to find in the current Sri Lankan cookie sphere. Utilising the powerful tool of social media, KUKIFIX has garnered a substantial number of followers over a short period of time which is proof of KUKIFIX's success. Taking confidence in their soft and gooey cookies, KUKIFIX is definitely not to be overlooked as they continue to appeal to the taste buds of the public with their artisan cookies.

Kukifix

What kind of baked goods does KUKIFIX offer?

Homemade artisan cookies

What inspired you to start this business?

I really liked baking since I was very little, so I started my initial baking business when I was 16. Then, stopped the business because of the external challenges in the country. But my customers kept asking me to restart KUKIFIX. My cookies were a major hit already and I thought of using that strength and doing something unique and new in the Sri Lankan market.

What would you say makes you different from other home-bakers?

I believe I'm the only home baker doing artisan cookies. I have researched and found unique flavours and have experimented with my own creations. For example, the Kinder Joy and crème brulee cookie are one of my biggest hits. My cookies also lean towards the more soft and gooey side rather than the crispy chewy kind - which I find that a lot of my customers really enjoy.



More on Page 14



Chamali Migelheva

text Panchali Illankoon

How do our food experts cook and eat? This week, food photographer and food stylist, Chamali, takes our Q&A!



How did you stumble into food photography?

I started food photography as a hobby. At first I just wanted to take some beautiful photos of my cakes and desserts. But later I joined a Facebook food photography group called Food Print. Thanks to them I groomed as a food photographer and one and a half years ago, I started my career as a professional food photographer. Now here I am with some of the best brands in Sri Lanka.

Which came first, cooking or food photography?
Cooking, well actually baking. I love baking cakes and making desserts. I can't live without butter & sugar.

What's something you love to eat but not to make?

Hand pulled cotton candy. It's a sweet dessert I love but quite challenging to make at home.

Your biggest achievement as a food photographer?

I won the first place twice in 2022 at the Sri Lankan Food Photography community challenge.

You eat with your eyes first - agree or disagree?

As a food photographer I agree with you. We eat with our eyes first. But at the end of the day, taste has to be good too.

What would you do if you knew you could not fail at it?

Having my own food photography academy.

What's a milestone you want to achieve as a food photographer?

Be a food photography educator and author while becoming a brand name.



Dead or alive, who would be your dream dinner-party guests to cook for?

Nigella Lawson, since she is the "Domestic Goddess" and Rege-Jean Page who is one of my favourite actors.

What was your favourite childhood meal?

My mother is a fantastic cook. Honestly, picking a favourite meal is a bit difficult. But my most favourite is her "Milk Toffee". We've been making them for every special occasion simply out of nostalgia.

Light, colour, composition, set up - you can only have one in a shoot, what would it be?

Light. Because lighting is the soul of the image.

It DISH OUT

What's your favourite part about being a food photographer?

Limitless creativity and self-satisfaction. Food photography is a visual storytelling language and it gives such a pleasure when you see the final output after giving your best.



A dish you'd love to relive for the first time?

Pavlova. Such a simple dessert but so delicious. I still remember being blown away when I tried my homemade Pavlova for the first time.

How would you describe your style when it comes to food styling and food photography?

I really do enjoy food photography and want to try out every category. My style is mostly "Dark & Moody" lifestyle category, and I always love to use human hands in the frame. It gives a beautiful vibe to the image. This category is new to Sri Lanka, but it's very attractive.



Your favourite food shot?

Ohh! That's a very tough call. Honestly, I love all of my photographs. I put so much effort into every single capture. Out of the shots I've taken recently, I think this coffee photograph is one of my favourites. Because I am obsessed with the homely cosy vibe in the shot.



What's the trick to food styling done right?
Composition techniques and the practice. The more you practise the more you improve.



From Page 13

Kukifix

How do you plan to stay competitive in the dessert market?

I have a unique marketing strategy to keep my customers hooked, by introducing a limited-edition cookie flavour every week, which has so far been a major hit. I also have a knack of social media content creation which I have built into my marketing strategy, such as fun videos and ways to engage my customers. I also don't cut corners when it comes to the ingredients I use. I make sure to use the very best quality ingredients but also keep it affordable.

In the post-Covid era, what do you think has changed the most for home-bakers?

COVID has shown people that they don't have to go to a shop to get what they need or want and that anything is available online at their fingertips, delivered to

their homes - this has given home bakers the opportunity to grow their businesses.

What is the most fulfilling thing you have felt during the operations of your business?

The feedback from my customers really keeps me going even on challenging days. Usually, it seems that my cookies brighten their day and makes them happy - generally they say it is the best cookies they have had - this in turn is really fulfilling and is exactly why I wanted to become a baker.

What is the product you are most proud of?

I am proud of all the unique flavours that my cookies comprise of.

What kind of orders do you take? Are they often customised or do you have a standard menu?

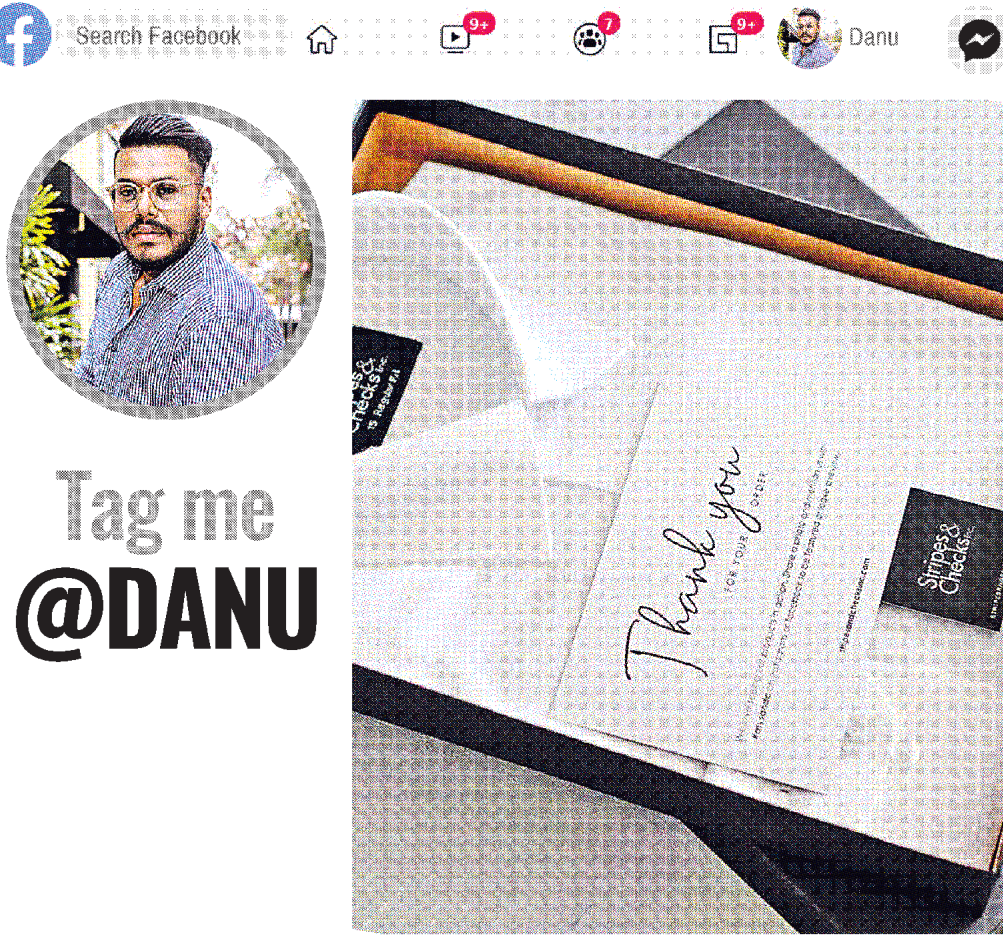
I have a standard menu, but customers are able to create their own boxes picking from the range of cookies available in the menu. I also do a limited-edition cookie every week - which is not permanently on the menu. But at the end of the promotion period, I will be giving customers the chance to vote on what cookie they would like to keep on the menu permanently.

What has been the biggest challenge you've faced as a home-baker?

The economic crisis really hit a lot of home business, including mine in which I've had to shut down my previous operations due to the cost of ingredients and fuel price hike. The fuel issue also affects me now because delivery charges are pretty high, which sometimes can deter customers away from ordering cookies.

What are your future plans for KUKIFIX?

I would like to one day open a cookie bar - with a unique style and offerings so that customers can walk in, sit in and enjoy their favorite cookies with a nice hot cup of coffee or tea!



Tag me @DANU

DRESSING UP FINE

Today I was tagged on Stripes & Checks, a brand that has become a part of every gentleman's closet. It's hard for everyone to find a shirt off the rack as we all have the tummy rice - Bath Bada. Well these guys have given the confidence and also the choices in making outfits beautiful for men. Today I sit down to speak to the boys about what made this brand what it is today.

WITH ALL THE DISTRACTIONS IN PLACE HOW HARD IS IT TO RUN A BUSINESS THAT'S LOCAL? We're feeling the effects from all directions. Costs of supply have risen along with, or more than the exchange rate and operational costs have increased as well with utility tariffs and salary adjustments. We've tried our best to keep any price adjustments as reasonable as possible, but the reduced disposable income has made a serious dent on our sales. Adding to this, we're competing with migration opportunities to retain staff which together with the rest of the issues make an unholy business environment at present.



YOUR BRAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR THE FABRIC. HOW HAS IT BEEN THE LAST FEW MONTHS? The last few months have been manageable compared to the middle of 2022 when the economic situation impacted our ability to import our fabrics. We're able to import fabrics now but the demand isn't the same as it was a year ago.

HOW WOULD YOU BEST DESCRIBE MEN AND THEIR TAKE ON FASHION? From what I have experienced in the past with our customers, most men like to play it safe. Subtle over bold, simple over flashy would best describe it.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT CONCENTRATING ON WOMEN'S OUTFIT CAN GIVE YOU MORE TURNOVER? Womenswear requires additional technical expertise and investment for which we feel the timing is not right now.

WHEN THE THREE OF YOU MET UP, HOW DID THIS BUSINESS TAKE OFF? We always had an issue of buying shirts is Sri Lanka with varying body shapes and heights. This resulted in us wanting to start a brand of shirts that were made to fit all body types - and that was the birth of Stripes & Checks 9 years ago offering custom tailored shirts for men. It was challenging at the start with none of us having any sort of industry related experience, but we learnt on the job and continue to learn even today.

CAN YOU SAY, THE MEN WHO HAVE WALKED INTO YOUR STORE, CAN BE FUSSY AND PICKY? Not all of them. Our collections are carefully curated to include everyday staples, subtle styles, and bold designs through which we try to cover the tastes of our buyers. Some can be picky but that's only because they have specific taste or requirements which our sales personnel do their best to cater for.

HOW HARD IS IT TO MAKE A MADE-TO-MEASURE SHIRT? It is a complex and time-consuming process as each shirt is made to an individual's specific requirement and physique. Two men with a similar physique may want a different fit for their shirts. One would want his shirt fitted which he intends to tuck in while the other would prefer a relaxed fit and likes to wear his shirt out. We have many customization options to choose from, from the type of collar, cuff, placket, button, and thread colours, and adding a monogram to make it even more personal which means there is quite a bit of effort that goes into creating a shirt.

HAS THE PRICE POINT BEEN AN ISSUE WITH THE DOLLAR RATE? It certainly has - demand has dipped drastically year over year due to cost escalations. In addition, with the tax increases lowering disposable incomes from the start of this year, we don't expect demand to increase in the short to medium term.



GAMES & CARTOONS

4748

Sudoku

		9					7	1
							3	2
		8						
		7	9	5				
								9
			2			8	4	6
3				6	8	1		
8	2		1	7			4	
	4	3						

SOLUTION NO. 4747

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. The solution will be published on next game page.

1	6	3	9	8	7	2	5	4
9	5	7	4	2	1	3	8	6
8	2	4	5	6	3	9	1	7
7	9	6	8	4	5	1	3	2
5	1	2	7	3	9	6	4	8
3	4	8	2	1	6	5	7	9
2	7	5	3	9	8	4	6	1
4	3	1	6	7	2	8	9	5
6	8	9	1	5	4	7	2	3

DailyMirror CROSSWORD

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD NO. 1518

Solution for No. 1517

1	T	2	E	3	R	4	E	5		6	C			
7	G	U	N	G	H	O	8	S	A	N	D	A	L	
	N	O		U	T		A		T					
8	M	A	G	I	10	T	R	E	N	C	H	E	R	
			S		I		R		T		R			
11	H	12	O	R	M	O	N	E	13	A	S	P	I	C
			V		E		14	F			N			
15	V	E	R	S	E	17	T	I	L	L	A	G	E	
	R		A		19	S		N		O				
20	F	L	O	T	I	L	L	A	21	C	A	S	T	
	E		I		I		N		K		W			
23	B	A	R	R	E	D	24	C	O	E	V	A	L	
	P		E		E		E		R		M			

Across

- Set on (6)
- Formula (6)
- Good (4)
- Right to vote (8)
- Banger (7)
- Award for winning a championship (5)
- cutting or thrusting weapon (5)
- Combine with oxygen (7)
- Infirmity (8)
- Void (4)
- Fireplace (6)
- Emanating from God (6)

Down

- Capri for eg. (4)
- Aromatic bulb used as seasoning (6)
- Cause to be nervous or upset (7)
- Transplant (5)
- Hard to find (6)
- A small refracting telescope (8)
- Having a lean and bony physique (8)
- Burst (7)
- Account (6)
- (Latin) from the beginning (2,4)
- Nervous and unable to relax, Fretful (5)
- A floor covering (4)

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