LG Polls SJB alleges JJB in agreement with govt. to postpone by a year: SJB

It is only SJB that has done its utmost to avoid postponement of the local poll

YOHAN PERERA

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) yesterday alleged that Jathika Jana Balawegaya (JJB) had got into an agreement with the government to postpone the local government elections by an year.

The allegation was made by SJB MP Nalin Bandara Jayamaha during a media briefing.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON AZ >>>

Stealing T-56 firearm from Sigiriya SLAF base Two including aırman caught

The firearms had gone missing when he was resting while on duty at night in a security booth at Sigiriya Air Force base

DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Two suspects including an airman of the Sigiriya Air Force Base have been arrested by the Homicide and Organized Crime Investigation Division for stealing a T-56 firearm and two magazines containing 60 rounds of ammunition from the camp.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON 42

Country needs a ceasefire: Karu Jayasuriya

It should also be emphasized that we have so far failed to find answers to a number of issues that need to be resolved

Claiming that the country needs a short period or a ceasefire, the National Movement for Social Justice (NMSJ)said today that it is the absolute responsibility of all not to contribute to activities that may that may have any effect on anarchy in the country. Its Chairman Karu Jayasuriya said the National Movement for Social Justice (NMSJ)

said they are very concerned that Parliament has failed to make some basic decisions that need to be taken in relation to the Provincial Council elections and the Local Government elections despite a parliamentary select committee being appointed for that purpose in 2022.

Counsel lock horns during Diana Gamage passport case

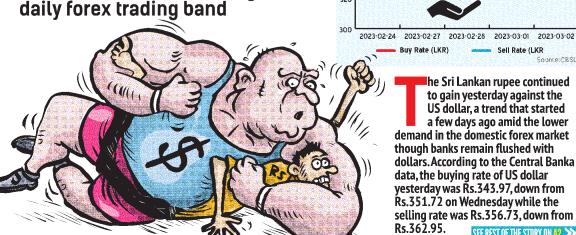
Arsecularatne objected to the submissions of the CID by asserting that the CID was maintaining double standards

Colombo Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis yesterday critically commented over the behaviour of lawyers in the courtroom during the inquiry into a forged Birth Certificate case of State Minister Diana Gamage and remarked that whatever category a lawyer may be, he should behave decently before the Court. SEE REST OF THE STORY ON AZ >>>

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RUPEE CONTINUES TO GAIN AGAINST

Two specific actions by the Central Bank have also contributed positively for the rupee's appreciation. They are, the relaxing of surrender rules on export proceeds to 15 percent from 25 percent and the increasing of the



he Sri Lankan rupee continued to gain yesterday against the US dollar, a trend that started a few days ago amid the lower demand in the domestic forex market though banks remain flushed with dollars. According to the Central Banka data, the buying rate of US dollar yesterday was Rs.343.97, down from Rs.351.72 on Wednesday while the selling rate was Rs.356.73, down from

United States Dollar

366

357

362

351

Sell Rate (LKR)

356

367

358

Buy Rate (LKR)

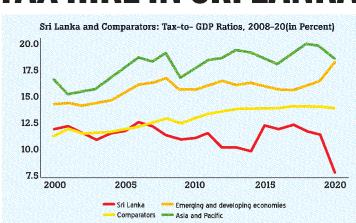
358

The current economic crisis has a number of origins, including the government's inability to meet government spending needs through its revenue collections

Y EASWARAN RUTNAM

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has defended the tax reforms which has drawn strong public opposition in Sri Lanka.

The IMF said the current economic crisis has a number of origins, including the government's inability to meet government spending needs through its revenue collections.



Notes: Comparator Countries: Bangaladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR. Malaysia Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam,

Source: WEO, IMF internal World revenue Longitudinal Database(WoRLD

Student alleges Principal assaulted him for not taking gas cylinders to Principal's house

Parents said several individuals were interfering with investigations

BY KANCHANA KUMARA

A student of Naula Monty Gopallawa Maha Vidyalaya, who sustained injuries in an assault, allegedly by the Principal of the school for not taking two gas cylinders in the school building to the Principal's residence, was admitted to Ambana Divisional Hospital, the Police said.



White van press conference case

Key witness admits he made a false statement to Magistrate

The second prosecution witness informed that he was influenced by CID officers to implicate former Minister Rajitha Senaratne

One of the key prosecution witnesses in the controversial white van case against former Health Minister Rajitha Senaratne yesterday admitted during the High Court trial that the confidential statement he made before the Magistrate was a false one. SEE REST OF THE STORY ON M2 >>

Reducing traffic congestion in WP

Police launch monthlong special programme

- This programme would be held from March 01 to 31st., covering all Police areas in the Western Province
- Certain offences will be given priority and awareness activities will also be carried out

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Arrangements have been made to conduct a month-long awareness programme for drivers, passengers and pedestrians to reduce the traffic congestion in the Western Province,

the Police announced. Police said this programme would

be held from March 01 to 31st., covering all Police areas in the Western Province.

DUE TO FUEL PRICE HIKE

"My expenses to visit Colombo was Rs. 20,000, but now I have to pocket out at least Rs. 60,000"

People visiting Dambana was stopped after the Easter Sunday attack and COVID pandemic

CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

Because of the increased fuel prices, people do not visit the Veddha community in Dambana, Veddha chief Uruwarige Wannila Aththo said. He told the media that people visiting Dambana was stopped after the Easter Sunday attack and COVID pandemic.

Register for welfare benefits before March 31: PMD

The Welfare Benefits Board cautions that failing to provide data before the deadline. could result in the loss of benefits

The on-going information survey aimed at identifying eligible individuals for the welfare benefits payment programme, as instructed by President Ranil Wickremesinghe, will conclude on March 31, according to the Welfare Benefits Board, President's Media Division (PMD) said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON 🗥 🔀

Election Commission, Other Commissions to get new members this month?

The CC, a parliamentary body headed by the Speaker called for applications to select nominees to the commissions



The Constitutional Council (CC) is planning to finalize the appointments of members to the independent commissions including the Election Commission before the end of this month, a top source said. The CC, a parliamentary body headed by

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane, called for applications to select nominees to the commissions in keeping with 21st Amendment to the Constitution.

Mahinda Deshapriya seeks to rejoin EC

priority is to serve as the Chairman of the Delimitation Commission

KELUM BANDARA

Chairman of the National **Delimitation Commission** Mahinda Deshapriya has sought to rejoin the Election Commission.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON AZ >





SJB alleges JJB in agreement with govt. to postpone by a year: SJB

"We heard the JJB Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake saying that his party would give a period of one year for the government to hold the local government election. One wonders whether this would mean that JJB has got into an agreement with the government for postponement of the local polls," Jayamaha said.

"It is only SJB that has done its utmost to avoid postponement of the local poll. JJB held only one protest against the postponement of the election,"

The SJB expressed fears that the Election Commission would refrain from announcing the new date of the local poll today. "It was assured by the polls chief that he will announce the new date for the local poll today (March 3), but we fear that it would not be done," Jayamaha said.

Two including aırman caught

The Sigiriya Police had received a complaint that a -56 duty firéarm, two magazines and magazine holder which were in the possession of an airman have gone missing when he was resting while on duty at night in a security booth at Sigiriya Air Force base, on November 4 last year. Later, the investigations were handed over to the Homicide and Organized Crime Investigation Division for further progress. Accordingly, the magazine holder was found near the air force base and it was discovered that the firearm was stolen by an airman in the same base.

Based on that information, the suspect airman was rrested at the Sigiriya Air Force Base and another person who assisted him was also arrested in Ridigama.

The arrested suspects, aged 32 and 37, are residents of Kurunegala and Ridigama.

Student alleges Principal assaulted him for not taking gas cylinders to Principal's house

The student was later transferred to Dambulla base hospital. The victim, S.M. Nileka Sithum (15) was a Grade 10 student of the school. His parents complained in this regard. The student stated that the Principal told him to carry two gas cylinders from the school building to the Principal's private house. He said he told the Principal that he was engaging in sports practices and that he would attend to it after practices. However, he said the Principal had assaulted him with a club. Principal S.M. Nimal Bandara said he lost his temper when the student concerned refused to carry out his request and that the students should obey the teachers. However, he said he did not assault the

student through hatred but he realized its seriousness. Meanwhile, the parents said several individuals were nterfering with investigations and attempting to brush under the carpet their complaint through senior Police

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RUPEE CONTINUES TO GAIN AGAINST US DOLLAR

A dovish tilt in the monetary policy is expected to support the economic revival and for the demand to return

The middle spot rate was Rs.354.65 against the US dollar, down from Rs.358.46 on Wednesday.

Two specific actions by the Central Bank have also contributed positively for the rupee's appreciation. They are, the relaxing of surrender rules on export proceeds to 15 percent from 25 percent and the increasing of the daily forex trading band.

Yesterday, the Central Bank increased the trading band to Rs.7.50 from Wednesday's middle spot rate of

Rs.353.65. This initially was Rs.2.60, and on February 27 the Central bank raised the trading band to Rs.5.00.

In addition to these, expectation of an earlier deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), higher inflows by way of workers' remittances, tourism and increased foreign investor interest in government securities and stocks trading on the Colombo Stock Exchange have positively contributed to the recent

upward movement of the rupee. But most of all, the demand in the domestic forex market has plunged owning to the contracting economy. After defaulting, the authorities and the Central Bank destroyed the aggregate demand in the economy by raising policy rates and tightening the monetary policy to rein in on inflation, which was getting out of

A dovish tilt in the monetary policy is expected to support the economic revival and for the demand to return. Sri Lanka unlocking the IMF bailout package as early as possible remains key for this.

IMF Defends tax hike in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is among the countries to collect the least amount of fiscal revenue in the world, with tax revenue to GDP ratio at only 7.3 percent in 2021. According to the IMF, external

creditors are not willing to provide financing to fill this gap. Peter Breuer, Senior Mission Chief for Sri Lanka, and Masahiro Nozaki, Mission Chief for Sri Lanka, IMF said that tax reforms

are needed to correct the

imbalance.

expenditures, and avoid further slashing of critically important outlays. These reforms will also help regain confidence of creditors," the IMF said. The two officials said that

efforts to increase tax revenues should be pursued in a growthfriendly manner while protecting the poor and most vulnerable. "Ít is however also important

"Only with appropriate tax

receipts will the Government

will be able to fund essential

that those who can most afford it, make commensurate contributions to the financing of the necessary government expenditures," the IMF said.

The IMF said that the tax package the authorities have introduced, including the new tax rate schedule for the personal income tax, helps to meet these objectives.

"The tax rates proposed under the authorities' programme are also in line with

international comparison," the IMF added.

The IMF also said that it understands the hardship people of Sri Lanka are experiencing at this time.

"Increases in the cost of living, loss of employment and livelihood, and falling real incomes have hit large parts of the population, and particularly the poor and vulnerable who have no buffers to withstand these hardships," the IMF said.

PEOPLE DON'T VISIT DAMBANA DUE TO FUEL PRICE HIKE

"Now people are unable to refuel their vehicles, and the prices of vehicles have also gone up exorbitantly high. Earlier, my expenses to visit Colombo was Rs. 20,000, but now I have to pocket out at least Rs.

60,000," he said. "Some people used to visit us on holidays," he said.

The Veddha chief requested the people's help to protect the forest after visiting

"People were punished by the nature. People who visit every nook and corner of the country, including forests, should bear in mind that they shouldn't harm nature,"

NPP not giving opportunity to youth - NDF

A newly formed political party National Democratic Front (NDF) has accused the National People's Power (NPP) for not giving any opportunity to youth, but its leaders are spreading hatred

among the youth. General Secretary of

the NDF Gomitha Yasas emphasized that the responsibility of building the country and protecting the motherland should be given to the youth and his party is committed to that.

Addressing a press conference at the party

office headquarters at Pore, Athurugiriya, Mr. Yasas also said that at the forthcoming local government election a large number of NDF's members are contesting in 10 districts. "We are the members of the party who are contesting under the

car symbol. "After being appointed as members, we are obliged to serve without receiving any stipend or monetary benefits," he said.

He also urged the government to hold local government elections immediately.

Police launch month-long special programme

During the programme, certain offences will be given priority and awareness activities will also be carried out.

Police said the programme had been launched under the instructions and guidance of the DIG in charge of

the Western Province Traffic Division. Accordingly, driving without a driving license, driving under the age of 18, driving without revenue licenses, or insurance certificates, violation of traffic rules, faults related to roundabouts and at

pedestrian crossings, driving in lanes, violation of traffic signals, faults made at bus stops, parking of vehicles in prohibited areas and riding motorcycles without safety helmets will be strictly monitored during the programme.

Key witness admits he made a false statement to Magistrate

Athula Sanjeewa Madanayake,the second prosecution witness in the case, informed Colombo High Court that he was influenced by CID officers to implicate former Minister Rajitha Senaratne.

In this case, the indictments had been filed against former Minister Rajitha Senaratne and former SPC Chairman Rumi Mohammed under fourteen counts including giving false statements about the personal character of SLPP Presidential Candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa during the 2019-Présidential Election. When the matter was taken up for trial before High Court Judge Damith Thotawatte, witness Madanayake said what he said at the white van press conference was a true incident that he had to experience in his life.

However, he said he was compelled to make a false statement to Colombo Chief Magistrate owing to the influence made by the then CID Director. He further said he was forced to make this false statement after thinking about the importance of family well-being.

Meanwhile, Colombo High Court issued an arrest warrant for the arrest of first prosecution witness Sarath Kumara for his failure to appear before court to give evidence.

The Attorney General had filed indictments consisting of fourteen counts against two accused in connection with organising the white van press conference on November 10, 2019, ahead of the Presidential election. Sakalavalli Arachchige Sarath Kumara and Watareka Gamage Athula Sanjeewa Madanayake who were present at the controversial press conference had been named as the witnesses in the case

Senior Deputy Solicitor General Dileepa Pieris appeared for the Attorney General. President's Counsel Anil Silva with Maithri Gunaratne PC appeared for the defence.

Counsel lock horns during Diana Gamage passport case

Colombo Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis made this remark when President's Counsel Shavindra Fernando interrupted as Counsel Rienzie Arsecularatne PC was making submissions.

The incident took place when Arsecularatne objected to the submissions of the CID by asserting that the CID was maintaining double standards by making submissions in court without arresting Diana Gamage.

Arsecularatne said the CID had not arrested Diana Gamage while there was ample proof that she had committed a punishable offence. Arsecularatne further told the Magistrate that a "B' report filed

in court by the CID had clearly stated that Diana Gamage had obtained a passport by tendering a forged birth certificate to the Immigration and Emigration Department and now without arresting the suspect the CID was trying to let her go scot-free by saying that they are further investigating the matter and had sought the assistance of the Foreign Department of Great Britain to ascertain her British Citizenship.

At this point Shavindra Fernando PC attempted to interrupt Arsecularatne PC and subsequently Senior Counsel Gunaratna Wanninayake intervened into the incident.

Country needs a ceasefire: Karu Jayasuriya

"We are well aware that there are four elections of national importance that should have been held and should be held, especially during the period of 2022-2024. They are provincial councils (PC), local government (LG) elections and presidential elections and general

It should also be emphasized that we have so far failed to find answers to a number of issues that need to be resolved as a country. In order to make some basic decisions that need to be taken in relation to the PC elections that have not vet been held as scheduled and the LG elections that are scheduled to be held, a parliamentary select committee has been established in the year 2022 according to a proposal made by us, but it has not yet been able to make the necessary

decisions until now. We are very worried about that. It must be said emphatically that many such responsibilities have been neglected by the Parliament, Even under such a situation, we believe that we should find solutions through the Parliament itself to overcome these challenges.

Accordingly, it is our sole belief that in the current situation, they will not be able to find any solution by boycotting the Parliament or by taking measures to disable the country. All challenges must be won democratically and peacefully. There, the primary responsibility is assigned to the public representatives representing the Parliament.

Also, it is the opinion of the majority of the society that the executive presidential system peculiar to our country, which has laid the foundation for the creation of many issues that we are facing today, must be abolished.

For that, the responsibility of preparing the environment has been assigned to the Parliament. Moreover, the responsibility of dealing with the existing corruption in the country and recovering the huge amount of wealth that has been looted from the country is assigned to the people's representatives

OBITUARY NOTICE Born Demise 1939 2023 04 03 25 01 MR. M. Mookiah Sri Devi Pawn Brokers (Proprietor) Beloved Husband of Parameswary Mookiah and father of Senthil Kumaran, Sridaran, Wije Pradesh (Singapore) and Dr. Kiruthiga Devi (Singapore). Father-in- law of Praveena, Andrea, Shagari and Karthik. Beloved grandfather of Sanaya, Samayaa, Meth, Ashwanth, Avnish, Trinethra and Rishaan.

Passed away peacefully on 1st March 2023. Funeral Services

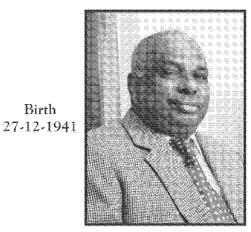
for viewing will be held on Friday 3rd March 2023 from

9.30 a.m. at VIP Restpect Parlor, Jayaratne, Borella and

cremation will be held on 4th March 2023 from 10.30 a.m.

at the Hindu Crematorium, Kanaththa.

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Birth

Death 03-03-2019

Alfred S. Subasinghe

May you attain the supreme bliss of nibbana!

Remembered with love and gratitude and sadly missed by

your wife, children and grandchildren

REGISTER FOR WELFARE BENEFITS BEFORE MARCH 31: PMD

cautions that failing to provide data before the deadline, could result in the loss of benefits. They urge all applicants to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of their data by promptly providing it to the field officers conducting the Information Survey for the Welfare Benefit Payment Programme.

this programme will align with the amended Welfare Benefit Payment Orders No. 1 of 2022, as per the provisions of the Welfare . Benefits Act No. 24 of 2002. The Cabinet of Ministers approved this amendment, which was published in the Special Gazette No. 2302/23 dated 20 October 2022, as

per the Special Gazette No. 2310/30 dated 15 December

The application process to identify eligible candidates for welfare benefit payments has concluded, with a total of 3,728,139 applications received. However, as of Wednesday (01), only 102,143 applicants have provided accurate data.

Election Commission, Other Commissions to get new members this month?

The source said the applications are sorted out for the selection of candidates at the moment.

"New commission members are to be appointed within the course of this month," the source said on condition of anonymity.

The commissions to be constituted are the Election Commission, the National Delimitation Commission, the Police Commission, the Public Service Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Finance Commission, the National Audit Services Commission, the National Procurement Commission and the Bribery Commission

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA

The Constitutional Council which makes appointments to the independent commissions has called for applications from prospective candidates. Mr. Deshapriya told Daily Mirror that he applied to join the Election Commission

upon requests by many

including his subordinates.

priority is to serve as the Chairman of the Delimitation Commission

He served as the Chairman of the Election Commission earlier and supervised the conduct of many national elections including the presidential polls in 2015 and 2019.

A2

FROM PAGE 1







Europeans arrive at MRIA

The first European airline charter flight was received at the Mattala Mahinda Rajapaksa International Airport last morning with 175
Bulgarian passengers. The flight was received at MRIA from Sofia
International Airport in Bulgaria via Sharjah International Airport after
refueling. The flight will remain at the airport for 10 days and then leave
with the passengers.

Vocational education for children who leave school half way: Minister • He said that every child should obtain some

professional skills

Y CHATURANGA PRADEEP

The Education Ministry is working in coordination with all related institutions to provide vocational education to children who stop in the middle of their school education, Minister Susil Premajayantha

Addressing the media, he stated that every child should

obtain some professional skills and that it is the responsibility of parents to direct their children to get professional qualifications in order to contribute to the country's labour requirements.

"The direction of education should be changed to develop the skills of the children. It is expected that the education transformation process to be

carried out in the future will produce designers who have balanced knowledge and mental development with skills," Minister Premajayantha

The minister also mentioned that our children are equipped with the necessary knowledge. There should be a change in the attitude of the adults, but not among the children.

Zahira College Past 1st XI Cricketers' Association

Notice of the 3rd Annual General Meeting – 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the above Association, will be held, In Sha Allah to elect The President and the Executive Committee Members of the Past 1st XI Cricketers' Association

: 15th March 2023

Time : 07.00 p.m.

Venue : Zahira College swimming pool Complex Auditorium

Presiding : Mr. Nuzry Mansoor

Resolutions and or Amendments

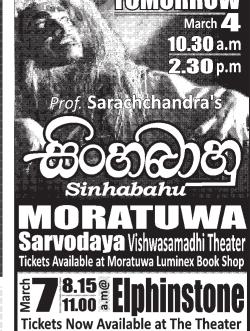
Resolution and amendments to the constitutions may be submitted in writing duly Proposed and seconded by two other members and shall be addressed to the General Secretary to reach on or before 10th March 2023

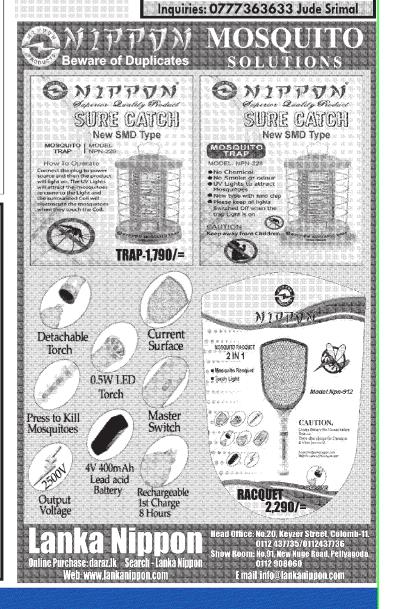
Ershad Rashmishab Hony General Secretary Past 1st XI Cricketers' Association Zahira College Colombo

406, Orabi Pasha Road, Colombo 10

Contact: 077 17 94 144 Email: secretary.pcazcc@gmail.com



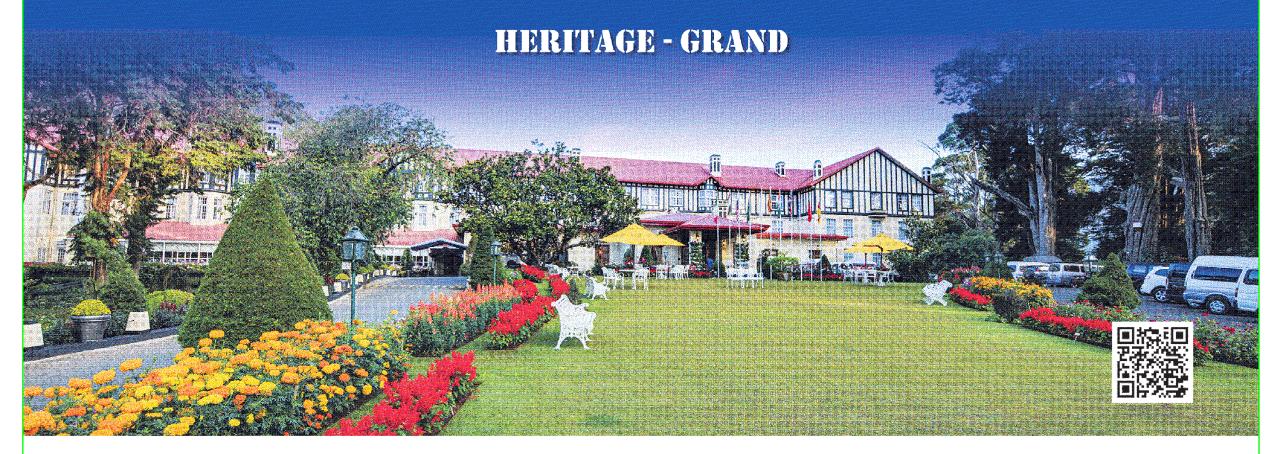






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EDITORIAL

"A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices."
— WILLIAM JAMES

OUR THOUGHT

Why Govts. don't want locals to think like foreigners

he number of people applying for passports and those leaving the country are of great concern these days. A pastor attached to a popular Christian Life Centre situated in the Western Province was heard asking the question 'who is going to pull this country out of the woods when everyone wants to seek greener pastures oversees'.

This is the question people who decide to remain here for whatever reasons have to ask themselves in order to remind themselves that they are true patriots. A similar question was asked from parents during the days of the civil war. Most families were asked whether they gave at least one child to the security forces to strengthen the government's fight against terrorism.

Now is the time to do some worthwhile contribution to the country. Now is the time when people can remind themselves of the old saying 'Don't ask what the country has done for you, but instead ask the question what you have done for the country?'.

Just the other day this writer saw a post on Facebook that made an impact on those wearing their thinking caps all the time. The post said 'Sri Lanka is a paradise for foreign tourists, but a hell for Sri Lankans'. Now let's start thinking.

Why do foreign tourists visit this beautiful island? They do because they can enjoy their stay in one of the best tropical islands in Asia or the entire world for a reasonable price. Imagine what a tourist who is arriving at the BIA must be feeling if he or she bumps into a local who is trying to fly out of the island! Just for the record the number of tourist arrivals, according to government sources, was 102,545 in January this year. Government sources have also revealed to us that the Department of Immigration and Emigration has put a ceiling on the number of passports issued for a single day and that figure stands at 2500. Apart from this the government also plans to set up 50 regional centres that will issue passports in future and towns like Kurunegala, Matara, Kandy and Vavuniya have been earmarked for this purpose.

Why do foreign tourists choose Sri Lanka? They do because they are given much respect, no one dares cheat on them and they get value for money when buying goods and services. Thanks to the internet they know beforehand the prices of goods and services and even the taxi fare from the hotel to any destination. Overall the visiting tourists are well informed and well prepared for their short stay in Sri Lanka. They cannot be taken for a ride!

When the situation in the island isn't safe for foreign tourists to travel here they are given travel warnings by their governments. Contrary to that, in Sri Lanka, the islanders get no warning until the government does something silly or decides on a course of action that squeezes the life out of its citizens.

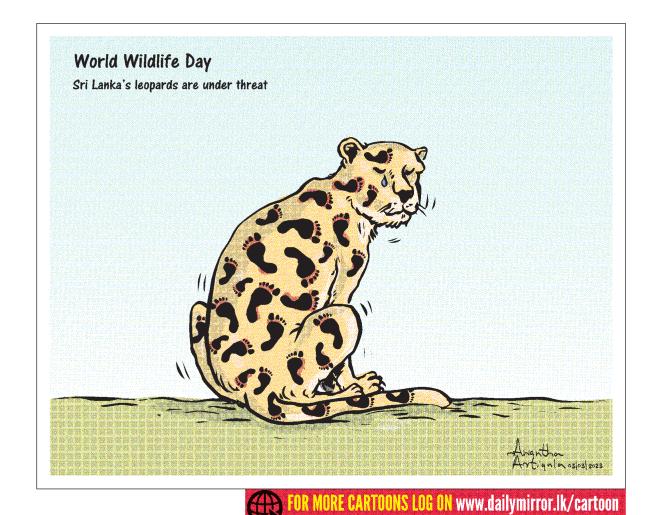
Many years ago the general 'pulse' of the majority of citizens in this country was that the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government should spend all the money it has on the finishing off the civil war and even if there was an economical difficulty created as a result the people said that they'd survive on one meal a day.

Fast forward the clock 13 years from that time and we are facing an economical difficulty once again and a good number of people are down to one meal; but that is not by choice!

People in this country are also demanding from the government to conduct the local government polls. The regime maintains that it has no finances to conduct the polls. On the other hand the regime likes the people to continue nurturing the islanders' thought pattern; which is to survive on very little and if that too is not available to survive on a jackfruit that can be plucked from the garden. All this happens while the lawmakers continue robbing off the people.

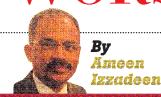
This is why the government representatives of this country cherish it when they meet or have to employ less affluent citizens who have nothing else to say other than proudly boast of having the capacity to endure any hardship and survive the mightiest of challenges.





HUWARA TERROR:

PALESTINIANS FACE WORSE NICHTMARES



o terrorism is more heinous than the act of condemning the Resistance as terrorism.

No sooner the occupied West Bank village of Huwara was raided by marauding Israeli settlers than Israel's hardline politicians started tarring the Palestinians with the terrorist brush. It is as much an act of justifying the settlers' horrendous crime as it is an attempt to mitigate the global censure that followed Sunday night's horror.

The deadly attack in Huwara and other villages near Nablus saw armed Israeli settlers who occupy the Palestinian land firing their weapons at will and setting fire to houses, vehicles, trees, farm animals, shops and other facilities, while the Israeli security forces looked on

One Palestinian was killed and hundreds were wounded in the raids reminiscent of the horror that happened in the months before Israel was set up on May 14, 1948. Palestinians call the massacre and ethnic cleansing that took place 75 years ago an-Nakba or the Catastrophe. Estimates vary as to the number of Palestinians who were evicted at gunpoint during Nakba but it is believed some 750,000 to 900,000 Palestinians were chased out from 530 villages by Zionist terror gangs such as Hagana, Irgun, and Stern Gang.

In the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin, the Zionist terrorists lined up the people and killed 110 of them — men, women and children — as a warning to Palestinians in the nearby villages. Throughout the Nakba period from 1947 to 1949, some 15,000 Palestinians were killed while the then world powers turned a blind eye as they do now.

The maximum the Western powers, which claim they champion a rules-based and liberal global order where justice, human rights, and democracy are protected and promoted, would do is to issue statements often expressing concerns and seldom condemning the crimes of the Zionist state and its settler terrorists.

In the aftermath of the Huwara attack, Western nations did issue statements. Beyond that, they did nothing. There is no follow-up action; no attempt to convene the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution calling for punitive measures.

If any other country were to carry out a fraction of the atrocities Israel has been committing in occupied Palestine for the past 75 years, sanction after sanction would have been slapped on that nation.

Take, for instance, Russia, a superpower. What Russia is doing in Ukraine has some similarities to what Israel has been doing in occupied Palestine. Since the war started in February last year, 10,600 Russian citizens, 3,431 companies, and 492 institutions have been slapped with Western sanctions.

Just as Russia has annexed swathes



An aerial view of the destruction caused by Israeli settlers in the Palestinian village of Huwara. AFP $\,$

of occupied Ukrainian territories, Israel, encouraged by the mollycoddling it receives from Western nations, has annexed and keeps grabbing Palestinian lands with each passing day. Yet, Israel is slapped with no sanction. The West, by its failure to punish Israel, encourages it to continue its crimes, which include land grabbing, the apartheid system, and the wanton killings of Palestinians, amid a culture of impunity.

Rarely are Israeli security forces personnel and settlers brought to justice. Even if they are, they are freed or given mild punishment. The killing of al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, an American citizen of Palestinian origin, is a case in point. Israel has said it would not punish any Israeli security forces personnel for killing her.

Even as condemnations over Sunday night's terror poured in, Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich had the gumption to say that Huwara should be "wiped out".

The inflammatory statements came after another extremist politico and Knesset member Zvika Fogel, justified the attacks, saying, "A terrorist came out of Huwara – and Huwara was closed and burned. This is what I want to see. That's the only way we'll achieve deterrence." She was referring to the killing of two Israeli settlers by a Palestinian on Sunday hours before the settlers torched Huwara. This attack came a week after 11 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank town of Jenin.

Israel's state terrorism and settler terrorism followed by retaliations by the Palestinian resistance will continue as long as the Western powers, especially the United States, take the side of aggressor Israel. Resistance is not terrorism. Anyone who calls resistance terrorism and a freedom fighter a terrorist is a bigger terrorist.

The plight of the Palestinians will only worsen under the present hardline Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu, as the West remains focused on the war in Ukraine and some Arab countries reward Israel by improving their ties with the Zionist entity.

Worse still, the Netanyahu government, which depends on the support of Jewish extremist parties, is also undermining the independence of Israel's judiciary.

Even if the entire Palestinian population is ethnically cleansed or subjected to genocide, the West will not take serious action except for issuing a 'tough' statement, carefully worded not to hurt Israel much.

Netanyahu's electoral pact with Jewish extremist parties includes a declarative commitment to annexing the entire West Bank to Israel. Netanyahu and his hardline cabinet intend to make Israel an exclusively Jewish state.

The deal also calls for the Israeli government to amend the enemy property law to implement it in the West Bank and take more of Palestinian land. In a recent assessment, Just Security, an initiative of the New York University's School of Law, has highlighted measures in place for Israel to annex the West Bank.

Slavoj Žižek, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, in an article he wrote to Project Syndicate says: "So, how will the annexation be managed? If the West Bank simply becomes part of Israel, shouldn't the nearly three million Palestinians who live there become Israeli citizens who can vote in Israeli elections?

"Obviously, that outcome would be unacceptable to Netanyahu and his right-wing allies. Yet they have only two options for preventing it. They can either expel as many Palestinians as possible from the annexed territories, or they can impose what Just Security describes as 'an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over another, with the intention of maintaining this regime, otherwise known as apartheid'."

Whither the West's call for rules-based international order? Is it only aimed at Russia and China?

The more the West takes the high road to justify its military, political and moral support to Ukraine the more its duplicity is exposed. The West cannot hail Ukraine's war against Russia as heroic resistance and condemn the Palestinian resistance against the occupation of their country and the apartheid system as terrorism. If Ukrainians can carry arms and kill Russians, the Palestinians should also be encouraged to turn whatever weapons they have against the occupiers in Palestine.

DM Poll

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

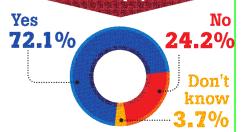
- Extremely motivated
- Somewhat motivated
- Not motivated
- Don't Know



Scan to Vote

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

IMF-Panacea or trauma?

It is quite apparent that the adverse economic repercussions 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 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

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 into any reconcilable proposal brought to his attention by the professionals in this regard, is akin to adding insult to injury. One may also wonder, whether president is intentionally insulting the intelligence of these professionals who are no doubt our valuable and national assets unlike some of the rotten and inane political leaders and politicians who are both a liability and a bane to this island nation!

In the mean time, as we plod from bad to worse, wondering as to what new hell's depth can our blessed island descend further, the president and the govt ministers are waxing eloquent on the IMF PANACEA for economic recovery. On the contrary, and most certainly IMF has now become a nagging TRAUMA for most citizens!!

M.R.PATHIRAGE KOLONNAWA

SL needs new economic development model: WB

WEB COMMENTS

solution for SL. Political reforms and very harsh anti-corruption laws are needed. The Parliament should be reduced to a maximum of 100 MPs and the Cabinet must have a maximum of 20 individuals (including Deputy Ministers). All ethnicity and religion based political parties should be banned.

REFORMIST -There is

one most important

developed country in the future. Find out who was actually behind the ethnic war that continued over 30 years and devastated our economy. Petty politics was used in Sri Lanka for individuals to remain in power at the expense of true development.

SHNIL GAMAGE

Without reconciliation

we can't think of a truly

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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No 8. Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2. P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.

Editorial: Tel: 011 2 436 998, 011 2 479 479 (ext.327,356). Fax: 011 2 304 545

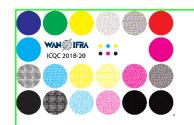
Advertising - 2479597 / 2479519

Head of Circulation - (Dir.) 0112 479 672 077 3 219 775

Head of Circulation - (Dir.) 0112 479 672, 077 3 219 775

Subscription Manager-(Dir.)2 479 626, 2 479 628, 077 3 502 183

E-mail: dmnews@dailymirror.wnl.lk



STF MARKS 40 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

ith the emergence of armed rebellion in the 70s to carve out a separate state in the North and East for ethnic Tamils, the Police in the course of their duties had to face armed attacks carried out by the armed groups. These attacks resulted in the killing of police personnel, damaging Police Stations, and assassinating of key individuals who ran the government functions in the North and the East. Moreover, the incidents that took place during the southern insurgency in 1971, where a number of police stations were destroyed or captured by the insurgents, were fresh in the minds of those who were administrating the Ministry of Defence in Sri Lanka. Hence the necessity arose for the formation of a special military arm within the Police Service to counter emerging threats that undermined peace and order in the areas threatened by the rebels. Alarmed with the developments, the government appointed a committee headed by a former minister J. W. Subasinghe in 1978 to study and make recommendations in this regard.

FORMATION OF THE FORCE



In light of the above, administrative formalities commenced at the Ministry of Defence to form a Special Armed Police Unit within the Police to take on the rebels head-on as the country's armed forces were heavily preoccupied at that time with fighting the emerging separatism advocated by several armed groups. As a result, the Special Striking Force (SSF) precursor to the STF came into being on 01 March 1983 with 60 Police Personnel selected from the many applicants who volunteered to join the new unit.

Primarily, they were trained by the Sri Lanka Army training team led by then Major Ananda Weerasekara (later he rose to the rank of Maj. General and was ordained as Buddhangala Ananda Thera after retirement from the Army and passed away on 28 December 2021)at the Combat Training School (CTS) Ampara. After the training, they were deployed to Point Pedro, Velvettiturai and Kankesanturai Police Stations in Jaffna District to enable law and due to threats posed by the rebels. Ravi Jayawardene, is a man with extraordinary integrity and intelligence. He wanted some of these personnel absorbed into the security detail of the then President, his father His Excellency J. R. Jayawardene. The President saw the emerging threat as a serious obstacle to his development plans and wanted security forces and the police to curb this menace quickly and accordingly entrusted the responsibility of modernizing the security sector to his National Security Advisor Ravi Jayawardene ensured that the armed forces and the police in Sri Lanka would get the best available training and weaponry in the world at the time and worked tirelessly towards that end. The SSF was renamed as Special Task Force (STF) and the ex – SAS (Special Air Service) Regiment personnel of the British Army were brought in, to provide specialized training with special emphasis on Counter Revolutionary Warfare (CRW) in 1984 and the force was equipped with modern weaponry such as M-16 rifles, Heckler & Koch support weapons, Night Visions, Secure Communication Equipment etc. With those changes, the STF began to shape into a fully-fledged professional Counter – Terrorist Outfit and predominantly deployed in the ethnically sensitive Eastern Province of the country.

The STF suffered its first casualties on 01 September 1984 when the LTTE detonated a landmine in Tikkam, Jaffna targeting a truck carrying STF personnel killing four of them and injuring the others. This attack was believed to be conducted as a retaliatory attack for the killing of one of the rebel leaders named 'Ranjan Lala' by the STF troops a few days before. Since then, the STF commemorates its war heroes' on September 01 every year.

FIRST EELAM WAR

During the first phase of the counterinsurgency campaign, the STF effectively took control of Batticoloa and Ampara Districts by defeating insurgents in many parts and driving them into jungles where they had to struggle for survival as they lost population centers which provided them the resources to run the campaign, New camps established in Kiran, Kallady, Kalawanchikudi, Thrukkovil, Karadiyanaru, Akkaraipattu, Vavunativu, Morakottanchena, Ariyampattu, and Pillumalai and ensured that the writ of the government prevails in the affected areas. During this period, the LTTE led by Velupillai Prabhakaran emerged as the dominant rebel group decimating other organizations. With the induction of IPKF into the Northern and Eastern Parts of the country in July 1987 as a result of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord, the majority of the STF personnel were brought to the southern part of the country to deal with the insurgency erupted in that part of the country.

SECOND EELAM WAR

After the departure of the IPKF, and the brief lull that prevailed thereafter during peace talks, the hostilities started again on 10 June 1990 with the attack on Security Forces and the taking hostage of a large number of police personnel in the East. The STF began its advance.

However, with great effort, the STF gradually took control of both the districts and re-established camps by the end of the year 1990 restoring the status quo. With the change of government in 1994, again peace talks started between the Government and the LTTE with the intention of bringing in a lasting solution to the conflict.

THIRD EELAM WAR

The Peace Talks between the Government and the LTTE broke down again in April 1995 with a surprise LTTE attack on Naval Vessels docked in the Trincomalee harbor. The LTTE which was confined to the jungles, before peace talks came out and carried out attacks on STF Camps at Tikkodai, Porativu, and Ambalanturai with the intention of overrunning them. However, in the face of courage, determination, and bravery of the STF troops the rebels retreated with heavy casualties. The STF extended its deployment to Wanni theatre too, in 1997 providing security to the main supply routes from Vavuniya to Mannar. In the third phase, fighting went on until 2002 when another round of peace talks began.

EASTERN & NORTHERN HUMANITARIAN OPERATION

The 4th and final phase of Eelam war began on 26th July 2006 from Trincomalee District. The STF put its total weight behind the Sri Lanka Army which spearheaded the operations to liberate the Eastern Province. The STF conducted a series of operations to disrupt the enemy supply lines and destroyed the remaining pockets of resistance. On 11th July 2007 the security forces liberated the entire Eastern Province with the capture of the last LTTE stronghold in the East, Thoppigala. The conflict came to an end on 19th May 2009 with the death of almost all the top-level leadership of the LTTE

including Prabhakaran and the surrender of thousands of remaining LTTE cadres to the Security Forces. With the dawn of peace, the STF also joined the wider government effort of reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the Eastern Province for a brief period in the aftermath of the end of the conflict before being redeployed to play more of a policing role across the Island. The new responsibilities of the STF comprise fighting illicit narcotic Trade and Organized Crimes, Public Order Management, engaging in high-risk arrests of violent criminals, Protection of Radio Active Materials deployed across the Island, Crisis Response, VVIP Security, Search & Bomb Disposal, Fire & Rescue in Expressways, and enforcement of the law with regard to the offenses related to the environment. In addition, the STF is going to undertake peacekeeping abroad under the United Nations in the near future by contributing fully equipped, trained, and self-sustained Formed Police Units (FPU) to the UN for deployment in any part of

Since its inception, the STF has been led by some of the finest policemen ever produced by the Sri Lanka Police. Late SDIG Bodhi Liyanage became the first Commandant of the STF and he was succeeded by late DIG Dharmasiri Weerakoon, followed by late SDIG Zerney Wijesuriya, late DIG Lionel Karunasena, late DIG Nimal Gunathilleke, SDIG Nimal Lewke, DIG K.M.L. Sarathchandra, DIG R.W.M.C. Ranawana, DIG J.K.R.A. Perera, SDIG M.R Latiff and DIG Lionel Gunathilleke.

The STF is currently headed by DIG Waruna Jayasundara who has worked in the STF alongside most of the leaders mentioned above. Since he assumed duties as Commandant / STF on 11 June 2020, he revamped the force so that it could successfully deal with the current and future law

enforcement challenges posed especially by the techno-savvy criminals.

During the 40 years of service to the nation, the STF lost 464 of its men in the line of duty together with 06 civilian employees while 774 were wounded. They will always remain in the hearts of the people of this grateful nation as the saviours of the country. The Special Task Force always strives for professional excellence Assured" and is committed to its obligations to the Nation at all times.

COWARDLY ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT ELECTIONS MUST BE RESISTED-CMU

Sri Lanka's one of the oldest Trade Unions Ceylon Mercantile, Industrial and General Workers' Union (CMU) complains that the cowardly attempts to prevent elections must be resisted. The full statement is as follows.

Knowing well that there is growing public anger and resentment against his rule and that of his SLPP-led government, President Wickremesinghe has now sought to postpone Local Government Elections by devious means.

The Government Printer appears to have been coerced to refuse printing the Postal Voting documents without receiving funds in advance, while the Secretary to the Treasury has claimed there are no funds available for the elections even though 10 billion rupees have been allocated for elections. The Government Printer has said that despite many requests the Police Department has not deployed police personnel to provide security for the ballot printing process and cited this as the "main reason" for the delay in printing the ballot papers for postal voting. This has led to the Elections Commission informing the Supreme Court that it cannot hold the Local Government polls on the scheduled date.

As a result, it is almost certain that elections will not be held on March 09 as scheduled, or before March 19, 2023, as mandated by law. While noting the cowardice of the President and his government to face the people in an election,

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0772270212

our Union denounces their sordid attempts to undermine the constitution and subvert democracy.

It is objectionable that a President who was not elected by the people at an election is now trying to deny the people their fundamental right to elect their representatives. The only member of his Party to hold a seat in Parliament, through the bonus seat allocation, Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed President by a majority of Members of Parliament, led by the SLPP a political front that was bitterly opposed to him. Wickremesinghe had led the UNP to its worst defeat at the last election where his Party failed to gain a single elected seat. He himself had lost in his own constituency. The Union notes it is deplorable that our Constitution provides for such a distortion of the people's sovereignty and makes a mockery of democracy.

President Wickremesinghe has also leveraged the full powers of the Executive Presidency to suppress any form of opposition to his government and to deny the people of their fundamental right to engage in peaceful protests. Effectively, he has used his dictatorial powers to shut down virtually every avenue available to citizens to express their disapproval of the government and its actions. Our Union does not believe the Local Authority elections will have any significant impact on the lives of the ordinary people facing the brunt of the economic crisis, who have seen their living standards drop precipitously. None of the political parties competing in these elections have clearly spelt out their plans to bring us out of our misery. In relation to the working people especially, none of them have specific proposals for a national minimum wage or for a Workers'

Charter that will strengthen the rights of workers to organise and engage in collective bargaining to improve their lives. Nevertheless, we firmly defend the constitutional right of our people to elect their representatives to local government bodies or to cast their votes to register their strong opposition to those in power, as we are certain many voters would. This fundamental right cannot be taken away on the whims of a President merely because he fears he and his government will be soundly defeated at the elections. If unchallenged, this will set a dangerous precedent for the President to put off any election by blatantly using public officials to withhold funds and the allocation of other resources to keep himself or any unpopular government in power as long as he pleases. This is why the actions of the Government Printer, the Secretary to the Treasury and the Inspector General of Police must be seriously called into question. We fully endorse the statement of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) who have pointed out in their statement on this matter that "Articles 104 B (2) and 104 GG (1) of the Constitution make it clear that all state authorities are duty bound to cooperate with the Elections Commission and that refusing or failing to do so is a criminal offence punishable with imprisonment".

We stand with the BASL on their position that "all attempts to interfere with the electoral process must not only be defeated but all those responsible for such interference must be dealt with in accordance with the law." The CMU will join hands with all like-minded organisations in this effort to defend and uphold the sovereignty of the people.

Organised by

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Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions)

Act No. 04 of 1990

Branch: KOCHCHIKADE

MANIKKUGE UPUL INDRAJITH KUMAR PREMASIRI SOLE PROPRIETOR OF SIGIRI ENTERPRISES

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 24th November 2022 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas MANIKKUGE UPUL INDRAITH KUMAR PREMASIRI SOLE PROPRIETOR OF SIGIRI ENTERPRISES as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 5786 dated 06.04.2017 attested by G M M Fernando, Notary Public of Negombo in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan facility of Rs. 20,300,000.00/- granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to MANIKKUGE UPUL INDRAITH KUMAR PREMASIRI SOLE PROPRIETOR OF SIGIRI ENTERPRISES.

And whereas the said MANIKKUGE UPUL INDRAJITH KUMAR PREMASIRI SOLE PROPRIETOR OF SIGIRI ENTERPRISES has made default in payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bond and due on the said Term Loan of Rs. 20,300,000.00/- extended to him among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 26th September 2022 a sum of Rupees Twenty One Million Six Hundred and Eighty four Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Nine and Cents Twenty Seven Only (Rs. 21,684,679.27) on the Said Bond and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 990, do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged property as described in the schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No. 5786 be sold by Public Auction by P K E Senapathi Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 21,684,679.27 together with further interest at the rate of 15% p.a from 27th September 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs. 20,053,650.00/- to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

1. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 12060 from and out of the land called Dedurusiri Estate together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Sittamadama Village within the Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha Limits in Anaivilundan Pattu of Pitigal Korale North in the Grama Nildhari's Division of Sittamadama and Divisional Secretariat of Arachchikattuwa in the District of Puttalam North Western Province (within the registration Division of Chilaw) and bounded on the North by Road Lands of Victor Vijendara & W K P de Mel on the East by Land of W K P De Mel & Old Road (RDA) on the South by Deduru Oya and on the West by Road (abandoned) and containing in extent Seventeen Acres Twenty Three Perches (A17:R0: P23).

2. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 2 depicted in Plan No. 12060A from and out of the land called Dedurusiri Estate together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Sittamadama Village within the Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha Limits in Anaivilundan Pattu of Pitigal Korale North in the Grama Nildhari's Division of Sittamadama and Divisional Secretariat of Arachchikattuwa in the District of Puttalam North Western Province (with the registration Division of Chilaw) and bounded on the North by Reservation for means of access on the East by Land 3 in Plan No. 675 dated 08.07.1985 made by M Samarasekera on the South by Dedurusiri Kele of No Claimant and on the West by Old Road (RDA) and containing in extent Eleven Acres Three Roods and Twenty Two Perches (A11:R3: P22).

By order of the Board of Directors. K A L T RANAWEERA DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY



A6 FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023 Daily Mirror

SPORTS

NALANDA EYE REPEAT, ANANDA LOOK FOR FIRST WIN IN MORE THAN TWO DECADES



National Super League Final

scored in this clash with the Nalandians leading that tally with 16 to Ananda's 14. Anandian

Thilina Kandambi holds the record for the highest individual score with 144 scored

In bowling, late Anura Ranasinghe with 14 wickets for 67 runs holds the best haul of wickets

in a match. He performed this feat in 1975 as the captain. Nalandian Yohan Gunasekera claimed eight wickets for 32 runs in 1976, the

Ananda scored 329 for four in 2006, which

Ananda is led by Nethma Samaraweera, a third-year player who will expect his young team to come up with an outstanding performance

still stands as the highest team score while the

lowest was the 48 scored by Nalanda in 1939.

best figures in a single innings

Spinners rule, 14 wickets fall on day one

Y M. SHAMIL AMIT

in 1999.

The first day's play of the four-day National Super League final encounter between Dambulla and Galle played at the Galle International Stadium turned out to be all about the bowlers as 14 wickets fell for 274 runs.

First it was left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage who ruled the morning session of play after Dambulla were invited to take first lease of the wicket. He ended with a five-wicket haul to restrict the strong batting side to 248 runs. Right-arm spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Ashan Priyanjan combined with effect to have the Galle side reeling on 26 for 4 from the ten overs they batted.

Dambulla's innings had an inauspicious start as they lost their first wicket with nine runs on the board before Abishek Liyanaarachchi who made a top score of 58 in 75 balls inclusive of seven boundaries and a six joined by Pavan Ratnayake associated in a 77-run stand for the second wicket before they lost two quick wickets for the addition of two runs and slid to 86 for 3.

Skipper Minod Bhanuka who made a half ton with eight boundaries came to the rescue of the side as he



VIDUNA WIJEBANDARA With 500 runs under his belt, left handed batsman Wijebandara

along with Sanoj Dharshika put on a valuable 78 runs for the fourth wicket.

But the late order batting failed to make any impression and in the process they lost wickets at regular intervals -- from 166 for 5 they lost their

SCORES

remaining five wickets for the addition of just 82 runs.

Dambulla: 248 (Abishek Liyanaarchchi 54, Minod Bhanuka 50, Sanoj Dharshika 37, Pavan Ratnayake 31: Dunith Wellalage 5 for 58, Kavisha Anjula 2 for 38)

Galle: 26 for 4 (Wanindu Hasaranga 2 for 13)

Navy make it to final in thriller

Navy SC came out victorious in the second semi final of the Nippon Paint Clifford Cup knockout tournament with a thrilling win over Army SC with the match being decided in extra time after it ended at 13 each at the Racecourse ground

Right-arm offspinner Sithmal has 48 wickets to

is name and is the

eading wicketaker for Ananda

PIX BY NISAL BADUGE

yesterday.
Full back Thilina Weerasinghe was the hero of Navy SC as he executed a 50-metre drop goal in the first minute of the extra time, ensuring the

final slot for Navy SC.
Army SC came into the game with a load of confidence due to the fact with their comfortable 39-17 win against Havelock SC in the quarterfinal while Navy SC was coming out for the first time in the knockout segment.

It almost repeated the first semi final encounter as Navy SC made a comeback in the last ten minutes with Army SC leading 13-6 at that stage.

The early proceedings saw Navy SC putting up the first score in the 14th minute from a penalty booted over by full back Thilina Weerasinghe and 14 minutes later Army SC took over the lead with a try scored by Chalika Sandaruwan and fly half Chamath Fernando making the conversion and 7-3 stood the score in favour of Army SC at lemons.



RUSIRU VILOCHANA Vilochana became the first schoolboy to

reach the 1000 runs this season and has scored a total of 1192

> MINOD CALDERA With 46 wickets, Caldera has been the main wicket taker for Nalanda

> > PIX BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE

uns for Nalanda



NIPPON PAINT WEB<mark>X</mark>PAY

PAIN RELIE SPRAY

through a penalty booted over by fly half Samuel Maduwantha.
But Army increased the lead thanks to fly half Chamath Fernando booting over two penalties to

lead 13-6.
A last minute try by scrum half Harsha Madusanka and with Isuru Kongahawatte making the conversion made it 13 each when the long whistle was blown which followed with the first minute drop goal by full back Thilina Weerasnighe to ensure the final slot for Navy SC's second Clifford Cup final appearance having emerged champions in the year 2014 defeating Havelock SC.



MirrorBusines



Sri Lanka's country perception plunges in global perceptions index

The global perception of Sri Lanka took a steep dive in the Brand Finance Soft Power

The nations are scored across seve Index, falling from 73rd to 115th place in the annual ranking, released in London

The Global Soft Power Index is the world's most comprehensive research study on perceptions of a country, surveying opinions of over 100,000 people across more than 120 countries.

Respondents representing the general public responded online during October December 2022, from which an understanding on the influence that nations nave around the world and how they can

The nations are scored across several metrics which measure external perceptions of the country on business & trade, governance, international relations, culture & heritage, media & communications, education & science, people & values, and sustainability.

Sri Lanka's position has dropped sharply from the previous year, falling as much as 42 places from 73 to 115, making it the country with the steepest decline in this year's index.

The individual soft power measures have also shown a decline pushing Sri Lanka's

rank to among the bottom 10 countries on the index. The lowest perceptions are observed in governance and international relations, where Sri Lanka ranks 118th and 120th out of 121 countries measured.

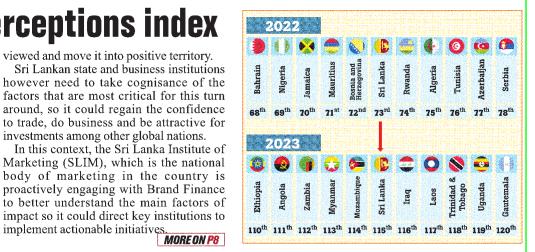
According to David Haigh, Chairman and CEO of Brand Finance this study is a reflection of the reality that the country went through when it announced bankruptcy and the resultant domestic turmoil and suffering of the people since April 2022.

With the urgent need to rebalance the political, economic and social situation, he said, the country can change the way it is

viewed and move it into positive territory. Sri Lankan state and business institutions however need to take cognisance of the factors that are most critical for this turn around, so it could regain the confidence

investments among other global nations. In this context, the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), which is the national body of marketing in the country is proactively engaging with Brand Finance to better understand the main factors of impact so it could direct key institutions to

implement actionable initiatives. MORE ON P8



Foreigners return to Sri Lankan bonds as they scoop up Rs.7bn worth G-Secs

Frontier market investors displaying increased risk appetite overlooking short-term risks

LKR has been gaining ground on expected positive news, CB's move to increase daily Fx trading band

Initial foreign interest in G-Secs fizzled out few weeks after the announcement of staff level deal with the IMF last Sept.

more debt issued by the oreigners accumulated Sri Lankan government last week after weeks-long hiatus as frontier market investors displayed heightened risk appetite overlooking short-

In the week ended in February 23, foreign holdings in Sri Lankan treasuries rose by 27.5 percent or Rs.7.0 billion in rupee equivalent.

Sri Lankan rupee appreciated quite substantially starting from Tuesday on a host of expected positive news, including an early deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as Central Bank's decision to increase the forex daily trading band amid lower demand

Treasury bill auction fully taken up with yields easing across tenors

first time in weeks, the

yields of all three bill tenors

eased from their previous

week's levels reflecting

rising optimism over easing

financial conditions in the

markets, particularly in

liquidity, interest rates and

Investors scooped up all the Treasury bills (T-bills) the Central Bank issued this week bucking the trend seen during the last couple of weeks which saw the auctions ending up undersubscribed.

Meanwhile, also for the

for dollars in the domestic forex market. Yesterday, the Central Bank increased the trading band to Rs.7.50 from Wednesday's middle spot rate

of Rs.353.65. This initially

foreign exchange markets. was Rs.2.60, and on February 27 the Central bank raised the

trading band to Rs.5.00. According to Central Banka data, the buying rate of US dollar yesterday was Rs.343.97

MORE ON P8 while the selling rate was Rs.356.73, both down from Wednesday's rates. The middle spot rate was Rs.354.65 against

the US dollar.

The Central Bank

issued Rs.85.0 billion in

bills-Rs.45.0 billion

under 3-month bills and

Rs.20.0 billion each under

6-month and 12-month on

Wednesday, which matched

with the accepted amounts.

MORE ON **P8**

Indian tourists



Private sector-led promotional

campaign launched to woo

From left:THASL President M. Shantikumar, Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay, Dentsu Group Chairperson Neela Marikkar, Past President of SLAITO, Harith Perera, and SLAITO President Nishad Wijetunga

SLAITO, THASL, and Dentsu launch 'And You Thought You Knew Sri Lanka' campaign

To bring spotlight on lesser-known attractions in the island nation

Campaign to be rolled out in Bangalore, Delhi, and Mumbai

Sri Lanka tourism witnessed the launch of a fresh promotional campaign led by the private sector this week which aims to lure Indian travellers to explore the lesser known attractions of the island nation.

In an effort to fast-track the

revival of the local tourism sector that has faced several challenges since 2019, the campaign 'And You Thought You Knew Sri Lanka was conceptualised. The campaign is rolled out in

PIC BY WARUNA WANNIARACHCH

partnership with the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO), The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL), and the Dentsu Grant Group Sri Lanka and Dentsu India. Senior officials of the Dentsu

Grant Group said the integrated marketing campaign is "gifted" to Sri Lanka's tourism industry. While the new campaign targets the Indian traveller, especially young professionals falling

between the 31 - 36 year age MORE ON P8

FAO, USAID assist govt. to boost productivity and resilience of ricebased ecosystems

Efforts are underway to increase the roductivity and resilience of rice-based ecosystems in the dry and intermediate zones across the island, as Sri Lanka look to improve its position on food security. The Food and Agriculture

initiative.

Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is working together with the Ministry of Agriculture to roll out the

Currently, nearly 75 percent of the 890,000 hectares of agricultural

land used for paddy

farming in Sri Lanka is

under smallholder farmers

and despite the country's

potential, the productivity in

major growing ecosystems

has been stagnant or

declining over the last 10

years. This is in contrast to

the increase in productivity

seen in other paddy-growing

According to a joint statement by the Agriculture

Ministry, FAO, and USAID,

if paddy productivity is

increased by just 10 percent in the dry and intermediate

countries in Asia.





Sunadasa

zones, Sri Lanka will produce an extra 0.5

million tonnes. "If more productive and efficient farming techniques are introduced, then productivity can be increased with less water and chemical inputs, and more cost-

"More efficient farming can also release approximately 100,000 hectares of land for other field crops and reduce the country's reliance on imports," the institutions said.

Accordingly, the FAO, USAID, and the Department of Agriculture are developing a plan of action to increase paddy productivity. An initial workshop was carried out by the FAO with experts and stakeholders from the International Rice Research Institute, Manila (IRRI), the government, academia, agriculture scientists, civil society, and the private sector. Attendees developed a roadmap to create an enabling environment and to increase farmer access to technology and skills required to boost paddy productivity.

MORE ON P8

Chinese tourists in Sri Lanka for first time since pandemic outbreak



Sri Lanka yesterday saw tourist arrivals from its once top source market, China, resume, which will bring a fresh boost to the fast-

A group of 120 leisure travellers arrived in Colombo yesterday from Guangzhou, a first since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic for which the epicenter was Wuhan. Earlier in

January, Chinese authorities relaxed the outbound travel restrictions that were in place to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The group that flew in with national carrier SriLankan Airlines is in the island on an eight-day tour.

At the airport to receive the group was Tourism Minister Harin Fernando, State Minister of External Affairs Tharaka

Balasuriya, Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong, Cultural Counsellor Zhang Yingbao, First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka Li Qingru, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) Chairman Chalaka Gajabahu, and Airport & Aviation Services Chairman Major General G. A. Chandrasiri.

MORE ON P8

Aitken Spence welcomes inaugural Bulgarian flight for 2023



Aitken Spence Travels (AST) welcomed a charter flight from Bulgaria on March 2nd to the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) with 200 holiday

The visitors from Bulgaria will be discovering Sri Lanka with excursions to explore the vivid culture of the country including Kandy city, the cultural triangle, Pinnawela, the misty mountains of the hill country as well as the classic beaches during their

nine-day. Their accommodation choices vary between 4- and 5-star properties along with boutique properties.

One of the leading tour operators in Bulgaria has partnered with AST for this charter flight operation. The agent was privy to presentations made during sales calls last year by the AST team and with persuasion and convincing resulted in this charter flight operation becoming a reality.

MORE ON P8

Universal tax registration not advisable for Sri Lanka, says Verité Research Economic Policy Group

Shares four pragmatic alternatives which could help the ongoing tax reform agenda

Senior economists argue universal tax registration would be administratively costly, could divert scarce resources from more productive uses

A universal tax registration is not advisable for Sri Lanka, Verité Research Sri Lanka Economic Policy Group said in its latest research note where it advised other practical strategies should be explored to widen the tax base and improve the productivity of the country's Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

The fourth policy note by the Economic Policy Group presented four pragmatic alternatives to the universal adult tax registration which could help the island nation in its ongoing tax reform agenda.

The four alternatives proposed for immediate implementation are; allocation of Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) to all individuals whose total Withholding Tax (WHT) deductions in any year imply earnings in excess of Rs. 1.2

million; allocations of TINs to all government servants whose basic annual salaries exceed Rs.1.2 million; mandate all individual professionals and companies affiliated with a government/ professional body to register for a TIN; and allocate TINs to all employees who currently have taxes deducted from salaries under the Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) system and have incomes that are subject to a WHT deduction. President Ranil Wickremesinghe in his Interim Budget Speech on August 30, 2022, proposed to "introduce compulsory tax registration for all residents who are above 18 years of age without considering their annual









income and tax-free thresholds."

Professor Mike Moore and Dr. Nishan De Mel in the policy note argue that implementing this policy would be administratively costly and divert scarce resources

from more productive uses and is unlikely to result in a significant increase in tax revenue. Instead, it would contribute to increased public burden and potential repression of citizens.





SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC

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MARKET

ECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A.	OBEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE (RS.)
IAIN BOARD SPEN.HOT.HOLD	609.326	57.2	58.4	61.5	58	59.9	2.7
CCESS ENG SL	258,416	14	14.1	14.2	13.9	13.9	0.1
CL							
CL PLASTICS CME							-0.3
GALAWATTE							
HOT PROPERTIES	10,090	42	42	42	39.5	41.1	0.9
ITKEN SPENCE							
LLIANCE							
MANA BANKSIA ASSET						8.3	
SIA ASSET [AAF-P-0000]							
SIA CAPITAL	463	4	4.2	4.2	4	4	
SIRI	6,495	25.8	26	26	25	25	0.8
SIRI SURG							
UTODROME AIRAHA FARMS							
ALANGODA							1.8
UKIT DARAH							4
M HOLDINGS	2,174	65.1	68.5	72.3	67	68.7	3.6
T HOLDINGS	477	178.25	178.5	178.5	178.5	178.5	0.25
ARGILLS ARGO BOAT							
ARGO BOAT							
DB [CDB.X0000]							
ENTRAL FINANCE	763,175	70	70	72	70	72	2
ENTRAL IND	19,008	81	81.3	83.5	80	81.5	0.5
EYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]							
EYLON GUARDIAN EYLON INV	215	70 ɔr	70	70	69.9	70	-0.1
EYLON TOBACCO	5 300	642 75	660 25	675	650 25	34.9 .663 75	21
HEMANEX							
HEVRON	315,635	95.4	96.9	96.9	94.9	95.1	0.3
[C	68,568	75.5	74.6	76	74	74.1	1.4
[C [CIC.X0000]	167,959	52.5	52.7	53.1	52	52.1	0.4
ITRUS LEISURÉ DLD STORES	334,087 84,574			34.6	0.4 31	 346	0.4 0.3
DLOMBO LAND							
OMMERCIAL BANK	2,242,266	65	65.9	67	64.9	67	2
OMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]							
ANKOTUWA PORCEL							
FCC BANK PLCIALOG							
IMO							
IPPED PRODUCTS							
OCKYARD	4,265	57	58	59.6	56.5	58	1
OLPHIN HOTELS							
URDANS URDANS [CHL.R0000]							
URDANS [CHL.R0001]							
URDANS [CHL.X0000]	3,450	100	97	99	97	99	1
B CREASY	4,364	20.5	21	21	20.5	20.9	0.4
AST WEST	34,900	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.1	7.2	0.6
ASTERN MERCHANT							
(POLANKA							_
ORT LAND	196,342	27.1	28	28.1	27.2	28	0.9
ALLE FACE CAP	2,267	19.3	19.3	19.3	18.5	19.2	0.1
RAIN ELEVATORS							
AYCARB							
AYLEYS AYLEYS FABRIC							
AYLEYS FIBRE	2,360	55	56	56	54.6	55	
AYLEYS LEISURE	8,511	22	23.4	23.5	22	23.4	1.4
DFC	730	27	27.9	28.3	27.9	28.3	1.3
ELA	218,787	8.9	9	9.1	8.7	8.7	0.2
EMAS HOLDINGS NB	1/8,109 276 170		54 109	65	b3.L	b3.8 113 25	U.4 ⊐7 7
NB ASSURANCE	19.368	50	50 8	50 8	49 9	. 115.25 50 1	() 1
NB [HNB.X0000]	66,079	82.6	82.5	93	82.5	89.9	7.3
ORANA	528	56	55	55	54.2	54.2	1.8
OTEL SIGIRIYA							
OTELS CORP							
IDUSTRIAL ASPH(H							
ANDY HOTELS	13,186	7.5	7.4	8.4	7.4	7.9	0.4
APRUKA	2,000	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	0.2
EGALLE	3,098	132	133.25	136	133.25	. 133.25	1.25
ELANI CABLES							0.25
ELANI TYRES							
ELANI VALLEY INGSBURY							
OTAGALA	90,023		7	7.1		7 1	().2
O L C HOLDINGS							
ANKA ALUMINIUM	16,159	16	16.1	16.5	16.1	16.3	0.3
ANKA HOSPITALS	6,080	104.5	105	105	102.5	103.5	1
ANKA IOC	150.088	199	199	200	195 25	196.25	2.75
ANKA REALTY							

SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A.	OBEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE (RS.)
LANKA VENTURES							
LANKA WALLTILE							0.8
LANKEM DEVLAUGFS GAS							
LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	80,607	17.3	17.6	18.6	16.6	18.5	1.2
LAXAPANA							
LB FINANCELION BREWERY	7,305 996	48.6 660	48.5 650	48.8 660	48.1 650	48.4	-1.5
LMF	8,016	140.25	143.75	144	140.25	. 140.25	
LVL ENERGY	6,923	7	7	7.1	7	7	
MALWATTE MALWATTE [MAL.X0000]	15	82	75	75	75	82	0.1
MELSTACORP	1.172.984	59	58.5	59.4	58.5	58.9	
MERCHANT BANK	53,255	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.5	0.1
MULLERSNAMUNUKULA							
NAT. DEV. BANK							2.8
NATION LANKA	151,679	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	
NATIONS TRUSTNATIONS TRUST [NTB-X-0000]							
OVERSEAS REALTY							
PAN ASIA	760,756	12.5	12.6	13.2	12.4	13.1	0.6
PANASIAN POWER	18,031	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	0.1
PEOPLE'S INS PEOPLES LEASING	97,944 386 598	21.9 77	21.5 7.8	22.7 79	21.5 7.8	22.4 7 8	0.5
PGP GLASS	531,174	15.2	15.3	16.3	15	16	0.8
PRINTCARE PLC							
R I L PROPERTYREGNIS							0.2
RENUKA AGRI			5.3	5.5	5.2	5.4	0.2
RENUKA CITY HOT	123	349.25	360.5	360.5	360	360	. 10.75
RENUKA FOODSRENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]							
RENUKA HOLDINGS	51,262		13.5	13.5		13.1	0.4
RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	1 ,650	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	0.1
RESUS ENERGY							
RICHARD PIERISROYAL CERAMIC	525,075 313.958	21 29.7	21.8 30.2	30.2	21.4 29.6	22.2	0.3
S M B LEASING	26.967	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	
S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	10,402,097	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	
SAMPATHSAMSON INTERNAT							
SANASA DEV. BANK	19,871	24.6	24.8	25.4	23.7	24.9	
SARVODAYA DEVFIN	1,920	11.6	11.5	11.8	11	11.6	
SEYLAN BANKSEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]							
SEYLAN DEVTS	53,875	14.3	14.3	14.9	14.3	14.5	0.2
SHAW WALLACE							
SIERRA CABLSIGIRIYA VILLAGE							0.4
SINGER FINANCE							
STANDARD CAPITAL							
SUNSHINE HOLDINGSWISSTEK	457,951 61,677	41.4	41.5	42.5	41	41.3	0.1
TALAWAKELLE	5,200	89.8	87.5	90	86	89.9	0.1
TANGERINE							
TEA SMALLHOLDER TEEJAY LANKA							
THREE ACRE FARMS	2,000						
TOKYO CEMENT	253,369	41	41.1	41.1	40.3	40.3	0.7
TOKYO CEMENT [TKYO.X0000]							
UNION BANKUNISYST	3.095	5.6	5.6	5.6	9.5 5.6	5.6	0.2
UNITED MOTORS	72	64.4	58.9	64.4	58.9	64.4	
VALLIBELVALLIBEL FINANCE	81,221	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	1 2
WATAWALA							
WINDFORCE	7,402	17.2	17.2	17.3	17	17.2	
YORK ARCADE	253	127.5	128	138	128	128	0.5
HSENID BIZSECOND BOARD							0.3
ABANS FINANCIAL	2,320	22.6	22.5	22.5	21	22.3	
AMBEON CAPITAL							
BROWNS BEACH DIALOG FINANCE							
DISTILLERIES	572.023	18.6	18.3	18.8	18.2	18.5	0.1
EDEN HOTEL LANKA	644,158	17.4	17.8	18.2	17.6	18	0.6
HUNAS HOLDINGS JAT HOLDINGS	9,169 272 542	26 15 7	25.5 15 7	26.5 16.1	25.4 15.7	26.5 15.9	0.5 n 2
KOTMALE HOLDINGS	2	386.25	419.75	419.75	419.75	. 386.25	
LOLC FINANCE	864,152	6.1	6.2	6.3	6	6.1	
MADULSIMA							
ORIENT FINANCESINGER SRI LANKA							
SLT	65,425	83.8	84.6	86.9	83.3	84.8	
EMPOWER BOARD							0.5
ALPHA FIRE CHRISSWORLD	610	11./ 12	12 12	12	12 12	12	0.3
EML CONSULTANTS	119,476	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	0.1
DIRI SAVI BOARD							

GE (S.)	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A.	CHANG (R
1	AGSTAR PLC							
.8	ALUMEX PLC							
.1	AMANA LIFE							
.2	AMBEON HOLDINGS							
.2	AMF CO LTD	84,486	7.2	7.4.	7.4.	7.1	7.2	
.2	ARPICO INSURANCE							
.5	ASIA SIYAKA BANSEI RESORTS	145,362	4.2	4.1.	4.2.	4.1	4.1	0.
	BERUWALA RESORTS	4 320 862	11.1 1.4	11.1.	11.1. 16	11.1 1.4	11.1 15	ი
-	BOGALA GRAPHITE							
.1	BPPL HOLDINGS							
.1	BROWNSBROWNS INVSTMNTS							
.1	C.W.MACKIE							
.5	CALT							
.8	CEYLON TEA BRKRS							
 .9	CIT CITRUS HIKKADUWA							
.9	CITRUS WASKADUWA	2 291 007	2.6	2.6	29	2.6	2.7	0.
	COM.CREDIT	51,174	23.5	23.8	25.8.	23.8	25	1.
.6	COMMERCIAL DEV	163	106	105.	108.	105	105	
.1	DILMAH CEYLON E - CHANNELLING	21	1,050.00	. 1,060.00.	.1,060.00.	1,060.00	1,050.00	
.5 .1	ELPITIYA							U.
.8	EXTERMINATORS	3,574	7.5	7.3.	7.5.	7.2	7.2	0.
.2	FC TREASURIES							
.2	FIRST CAPITAL FORTRESS RESORTS							
.2	GALADARI							
75	HAPUGASTENNE	161	50	52.2	52.2	48.4	49.2	0.
1	HARISCHANDRA	100	4,000.00	. 4,000.00 .	4,000.00.	4,000.00	4,000.00	
1 .4	HATTON HNB FINANCE							
.4	HVA FOODS							
.2	JANASHAKTHI INS							
.2	JETWING SYMPHONY							
.3	KAHAWATTE KEELLS FOOD							
	KEELLS HOTELS							
.9	KELSEY							
	LANKA CERAMIC							
.3	LANKEM CEYLONLAUGFS POWER							
.4	LCB FINANCE PLC							
.9	LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL	29,211	27.5	28	28.8.	26.7	27	0.
.2	LOLC GENERAL INS							
.2 .4	LOTUS HYDROLUMINEX							
.8	MACKWOODS ENERGY							
.4	MAHAWELI COCONUT							
.5	MAHAWELI REACH	3,011	12.2	12.5.	12.5.	12.5	12.5	0.
.1 .1	MARAWILA RESORTS MASKELIYA							
.1	MILLENNIUM HOUSE	34.050	3	3	3.2	3	3.1	0.
.5	MYLAND	9,863	9.1	9.1.	9.2.	8.9	9	0.
.2	NESTLE							
.6	NUWARA ELIYA PALM GARDEN HOTL	19	1,434.75 58.4					
.7	PEGASUS HOTELS							
.3	PEOPLE'S MERCH	249	3.8	3.8.	3.8.	3.8	3.8	
.2	PRIMERESIDENCIES	2,835,939	7.7	7.8.	8.2.	7.7	8	0.
	RAIGAM SALTERNSRAMBODA FALLS	89,109	5.9 25.1		6.4. 25.5	5./ 25.5	0.1 25 1	U.
	RENUKA HOTELS							
.2	RICH PIERIS EXP	498	580	580 .	580.	575.25	576.25	3.7
	ROYAL PALMS							
	SATHOSA MOTORS SERENDIB HOTELS							
.5 .3	SERENDIB HOTELS [SHOT.X0000]	1,441,352	6.3	6.4.	7.4.	6.4	6.9	0.
	SERENDIB LAND							
.3	SINGER IND.							
.3 .3	SINGHE HOSPITALSSOFTLOGIC CAP							
	SOFTLOGIC FIN							
.1	SOFTLOGIC LIFE							
.6	TALLANKA							
.5 .2	TESS AGRO TESS AGRO [TESS.X0000]							
	UDAPUSSELLAWA	271	93.5	94.5.	95.	94.5	94.5	
	UNION ASSURANCE	31,997	37	36.9.	38.	36.9	37.1	0.
	VALLIBEL ONE							
.3 .1	VIDULLANKA VIDULLANKA [VLL-X-0000]							
1	WATCH LIST		4.0	4.0	4.0.	4.0		0.
	COOP INSURANCE	296,791	3.3	3.3 .	3.4.	3.3	3.3	
.3	NAWALOKA							
	ODEL PLCRADIANT GEMS							
	10 OFFICE OFFICE				30.	29	د.وے	4.

Exchange Rates

(1) The average rates of the following currencies quoted by commercial banks

n Colombo for Telegraphic Transfers (TT) at 9.30 a.m. are as follows.						
CURRENCY	BUYING RATE	SELLING RATE				
Australian Dollar	229.8286	242.0736				
Canadian Dollar	250.1132	263.3926				
Chinese Yuan (Renminbi)	48.9995	52.2009				
Euro	364.8593	381.2960				
Japanese Yen	2.5101	2.6307				
Singapore Dollar	254.3941	266.5380				
Sterling Pound	411.1135	429.3269				
Swiss Franc	361.6307	380.8229				
US Dollar	343.9719	356.7393				

(2) The approximate exchange rates of GULF Currencies based on previous

day's market weighted average rate for the US\$ are as follows.				
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	INDICATIVE RATE		
Bahrain	Bahrain Dinar	938.0129		
Kuwait	Kuwait Dinar	1,152.3062		
Oman	Oman Rial	918.5349		
Qatar	Qatar Riyal	96.8306		
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian Riyal	94.2450		
UAE	UAE Dirham	96.2822		

Bullish run continues

Indices closed in green as a result of price gains in counters such as Hatton National Bank, Sampath Bank and Commercial Bank with the turnover crossing Rs. 1.4 bn.

High net worth and institutional investor participation was noted in Sampath Bank, National Development Bank and Commercial Bank.

Mixed interest was observed in Melstacorp, Central Finance Company and Expolanka Holdings whilst retail



interest was noted in SMB Leasing nonvoting, Browns Investments and

Renuka Agri Foods. Foreign participation in the market activity remained at subdued levels with foreigners closing as net buyers.

The Banking sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Sampath Bank and Commercial Bank) whilst the sector index gained 4.48%. The share price of Sampath Bank increased by Rs. 1.90 (3.65%) to close at Rs. 53.90.

The share price of Commercial Bank gained Rs. 2.00 (3.08%) to close at Rs. 67.00. Food, Beverage & Tobacco sector was the second highest contributor to the market turnover (due

to Melstacorp) whilst the sector index increased by 0.31%.

The share price of Melstacorp moved down by Rs. 0.10 (0.17%) to close at Rs. 58.90. Central Finance Company and Expolanka Holdings were also included amongst the top turnover contributors. The share price of Central Finance Company recorded a gain of Rs. 2.00 (2.86%) to close at Rs. 72.00. The share price of Expolanka Holdings declined by Rs. 2.00 (1.13%) to close at Rs. 174.75.

Contd. from Page 7

Foreigners return...

The initial foreign interest in Treasury bills and bonds fizzled out few weeks after the announcement of the staff level agreement with

the IMF back in September last year. Renewed interest by foreigners may signal that Sri Lanka could be weeks away from jumping off the final hurdle in unlocking its deal with the IMF which will make available US\$ 2.9 billion worth of foreign assistance

throughout four years. Foreigners' increased risk appetite on Sri Lanka could also suggest that they are willing to buy into the tough reform path Sri Lanka has committed to as the last couple of days and weeks saw the officials pushing through a few of the remaining reforms such as the second round of power tariffs and the new Monetary Law Act which will establish Central Bank's independence.

Treasury bill...

The 3-month bill yields fell13 basis points to 29.59 percent, and both 6 and 12-month bill yields fell 3 basis points each to 28.64 percent and 27.64 percent respectively, bringing the total decline in cumulative yields from the December peak to 3.05 percent, 3.56 percent and 1.63 percent for the three tenors.

The Central Bank is scheduled to determine the trajectory of the key policy rates at the monetary policy review scheduled to be announced this afternoon.

In a further notable development, the average prime lending rate also fell sharply by 114 basis points last week to 24.21 percent in a sign of further easing in market lending rates.

Sri Lanka's country...

UK headquartered Brand Finance, is a specialist brand strategy and valuation consultancy, which has been operating in Colombo, since 2004.

Chinese tourists...

In a statement to the media, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotions Bureau said the resuming of Chinese tourists visiting Sri Lanka also gives an opportunity to enhance bilateral and cultural ties between the two countries, especially as China has been a longtime friend of Sri Lanka, assisting in Cultural, Economic and infrastructure development, and lending a helping hand at the most difficult times.

From March 1, Chinese travellers will enter Sri Lanka through China Eastern Airlines and SriLankan Airlines.

Srilankan Airlines announced last month that from April 2023 it will operate a thrice weekly service, each to Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou.

In 2018, China was the highest tourist traffic generating market for Sri Lanka.

Private sector...

The campaign will be rolled out in three phases to capture the interest of the US\$ 10 billion market. Promotional activities in the first phase will focus on Bangalore, while the second and third phase will emphasise on Delhi, and Mumbai.

The new campaign positions Sri Lanka as an exciting destination that offers a wide array of experiences, many that are little known and offthe-beaten track.

According to Dentsu Grant Group Chairperson Neela Marikkar, India was the market of choice as going by the agency data, it is estimated that there are around 24 million potential target audience within South India alone. "This is significant. We wanted to have a new story to tell our younger audience about amazing aspects of Sri Lanka that they won't know about. And that's what our campaign will do," she said.

"The campaign will highlight Sri Lanka's hidden gems, which offer authentic and unique experiences that appeal to the target demographic. The Indian market has been a key support for Sri Lanka's tourism industry always and we believe this re-energised effort to attract more Indian Millennials and Gen Z's will be a win-win initiative for all parties and support Sri Lanka's economic recovery," said SLAITO President Nishad Wijetunga addressing the launch event held in Colombo this week.

Reflecting similar sentiments, THASL President M. Shanthikumar noted that

the industry is confident that the Indian market will be moved by the "exciting and heartwarming experience" created by Sri Lanka and its people, while helping the tourism industry boom once again. The partners to the campaign are Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), Cinnamon Hotels, Lois London, PR, Greenfolk, iFilm, Malinda Bandara, Gal Oya, Juice, and Water Garden, Aitken Spence Hotels & Aitken Spence Travels. The campaign launch event was graced by the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay, Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando, along with other industry stakeholders, social media influencers and the local media.

Aitken Spence...

Furthermore, the agent gained confidence after the successful charter operation from Uzbekistan and other countries handled by the company. Further strengthening the partnership, this high-potential operator is looking forward to operating full capacity flights to Sri Lanka during the Winter season, this year.

Commenting on the same, the tour operator stated, "This is our inaugural flight to Sri Lanka, and we are looking forward to promoting Sri Lanka at a larger scale. We are confident that our guests will enjoy your beautiful country, and everything will be

The company has been successful in winning the trust of agents from new source markets and will continue to make investments in agent education by offering familiarization tours to agents to get a better understanding of the destination and will be helping them with destination promotions. With more visibility for the destination, it is anticipated that potential clients will feel more confident travelling to Sri

As an organisation leading the way in inbound tourism for 45 years, Aitken Spence Travels will continue to explore new source marketsby making significant efforts to promote destination Sri Lanka.

FAO, USAID...

Speaking to the attendees, the USAID Mission Director for Sri Lanka and Maldives, Gabriel Grau, noted that collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Private Sector, FAO, and USAID is more about increasing food security in Sri Lanka. The combined long-term objective is to transform Sri Lankan agriculture from subsidy-driven to marketbased, private sector-driven, competitive agriculture.

"To achieve this, new technologies, more efficient systems, and the long term commitment of all stakeholders in the agriculture sector will be critical," she said.

The recommendations developed through the workshop will be presented to the Minister of Agriculture Mahinda Amaraweera within two weeks to be taken forward with the continued support of FAO and USAID.



Jehan Jeyaretnam appointed as Acuity Knowledge Partners Sri Lanka Country Head

Acuity Knowledge Partners Acuity), a leading provider of nigh-value research, analytics and business intelligence to the financial services sector, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jehan Jeyaretnam as Senior Director and Country Head, Sri Lanka.

In the new role, Jeyaretnam will oversee Acuity Sri Lanka operations,

drive expansion of the business and King said, "I'm pleased to help maintain Acuity's position as the leading financial services KPO firm in the region.

Acuity plans to expand its Colombo delivery centre to over 1,000 employees in the next few years.

Congratulating Jeyaretnam, Acuity Chief Executive Officer Robert

welcome Jehan as our new leader for Sri Lanka. Jehan has a proven track record of serving global clients, building exceptional teams, driving service delivery and technology innovation and building strong partnerships with local bodies. We are Jehan Jeyaretnam



thrilled to have him lead Acuity's continued growth in Sri Lanka. I also thank Chanakya Dissanayake for the exceptional job done as Sri Lanka's Country Head over the years and wish him the best as he takes on greater global responsibilities within Acuity to drive our

next phase of growth and service delivery excellence.'

Jeyaretnam has been with Acuity for the past 17 years, serving in a variety of leadership roles. Since 2016, he headed Acuity's Compliance Solutions business unit. This unit has grown significantly in recent years and is expected to become a significant growth engine

Acuity Knowledge Partners Managing Director Chanakya Dissanayake said, "Jehan has proven

management and leadership skills and a strong understanding of Sri Lanka's business ecosystem and I am confident he will enable us to continue to drive Acuity's expansion

Colombo Stock Exchange opens newest branch in Panadura

the Panadura branch of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) was officially opened to the public by CSE Chairman 💹 Dilshan Wirasekera yesterday, with the participation of a few stockbroker firms, Sinhala Business Association President Gihan Kuruppu, CSE CEO Rajeeva Bandaranaike, the senior management and staff.

The Panadura branch is the CSE's ninth branch and adds to the branch network in Matara, Kandy, Kurunegala, Negombo, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Ratnapura and Ambalanthota.

The interested investors in the region could access to four stockbroker firms at the Panadura branch and they are Asha Securities Ltd, Lanka Securities Ltd, Bartleet Religare Securities and Softlogic Stockbrokers (Pvt.) Ltd.

Among the services the branch offers are the facilitation of opening CDS accounts, investor educational workshops, access to multiple stockbrokers, etc.



CSE Chairman Dilshan Wirasekera opens new Panadura branch

the CSE's branch network, Wirasekera presence and growth initiatives are step in our effort to create greater

Commenting on the latest addition to sustained during periods of strong market performance and otherwise. stated, "It is important that market The new branch is yet another

convenience and better engagement opportunities for investors around the country.

"The initiatives driven through the branch network relate to various aspects of financial literacy, including regional investor forums, educational workshops, programmes for schools and universities and other awareness programmes targeting investors and the public at large."

Wirasekera also mentioned that, as the CSE is a facilitator for capital raising, the SMEs in the region could avail the Empower Board to take their businesses to the next level of growth.

"Further, for the investors, presently, we have equity and debt as instruments for investments. We would be diversifying our product offering to cater to different market segments, so that the investors could have diversification option when investing with the CSE," he added.

The CSE intends to conduct an Investor Forum also in Panadura on March 18, 2023.

13th Jaffna International **Trade Fair opens today**

The 13th edition of the mega trade fair, Jaffna International Trade Fair (JITF), will be held in the heart of Jaffna on March 3, 4 and 5, 2023, at the Muttraweli Grounds, adjoining the Jaffna Fort.

The event is organised by Lanka Exhibition and Conference Services (Pvt.) Ltd, in association with the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Yarlpanam. Since the first edition in

2002, the JITF has evolved into an annual trade platform. The exhibition makes it possible for stallholders to reach a large portion of the market in Jaffna. Both consumers and businesses based in Jaffna and in the North, visit the exhibition over the three days and typically thousands of visitors from diverse demographics visit the exhibition. The location of the event next to the Jaffna Fort, makes for maximum visibility for

those participating as stallholders. The exhibition will also feature major corporates in the country, representing various industries. The main sponsor for this year's event will be Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC. Co-sponsor of the event is Maliban Biscuit Manufactories (Pvt.) Ltd. Ruhunu Foods is the official spice partner for the event. The official snack partner of the event is Ceylon Biscuits Limited (Munchee). The official hygiene and illumination partner is Sun Match Company (Pvt.) Ltd. The official education partner is Northern Institute of Technology (Pvt.) Ltd. The official T-shirt partner is Express Factory Outlet and the official tyre partner is Adams Tyre Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. The official renewable energy partner is Fentons Ltd (Hayleys Solar) and the official riding partner is City Cycle Industries

BMICH hosts Pakistan lifestyle expo

offered by Pakistan.

The exhibitors stayed for a total of 10 days in the country, which is 1500-room nights, as a direct result of the

boost to tourism. Their accompanying family members travelled within the country during the period of their stay in Sri Lanka. The exhibition stalls included traditional Pakistani clothes, homeware, jewellery, shoes, hand crafted items, food and a wide range of

have hosted the exposition, which saw a stream of enthusiastic shoppers visiting the exposition and obtaining a first-hand experience of Pakistani high-quality products," said BMICH Chief Executive Sunil Dissanayake.

"We would like to thank the Commerce Department and Imports and Exports Control Department for their help and support extended clearing the exhibitor consignments expeditiously and without hassle," added Head of Business Development/ Reservations and Events Devanthi Ambuldeniya.

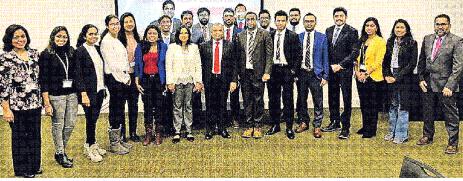
The BMICH, Sri Lanka's most recognisable and iconic landmark, hosted a group of 150 Pakistani lifestyle exhibitors from February 15-19, providing an opportunity for Sri Lankans to get a glimpse of the vibrant colours, products and culture

exposition, providing a

beauty products.

"We are delighted to

CA SL expands global footprint with Canada Chapter



Participants at CA Sri Lanka Canada Chapter inauguration event

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka), which prides itself on being a world-class professional body, continued to expand its global presence by launching its seventh overseas chapter in Canada.

The CA Sri Lanka Canada Chapter was formally launched at Burnaby Executive Hotel in Vancouver, in the presence of CA Sri Lanka President Sanjaya Bandara.

The new chapter is boosted with a membership of over 100 members of CA Sri Lanka, who are currently employed in Canada, serving multiple industries spread across the Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan provinces.

The Canada Chapter was formed to provide support for CA members residing in Canada to further their knowledge and provide knowledge and experiences chapter will also assist in residing and working



Canada Chapter President Fernando welcomes participants

CA Sri Lanka President gathering

improving the technical and other skills, while enabling members to meet the minimum Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements as mandated by CA Sri Lanka, in line with international standards.

In his speech, Bandara said that CA Sri Lanka has systematically spread its wings globally by establishing overseas a forum for sharing their chapters in countries where there is a large of working in Canada. The concentration of members

He also noted that the formation of the chapter in Canada is specially historic because it is the first overseas chapter of CA Sri Lanka in the North

American region. "I am hopeful that the formation of the new CA Sri Lanka Canada Chapter will be the beginning of an enhanced relationship, not only in relation to our profession but also as an important nexus in strengthening the ties between both Sri Lanka and Canada," he added.

The Executive Committee of the CA Sri Lanka Canada Chapter comprises of the following members: President Nilmini Fernando, Vice President Pasan Hettiarachchi, Secretary Niluka Abeygunaratne, Treasurer Priyantha Wijayasinghe, Director Vishwanath Kumar, Director Sureka Randunuge, Director Asintha Hewage, Director Dickshan Maduranga and Director Nalinda Dissanayaka.

CA Sri Lanka also has chapters in Australia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 04 of 1990

Branch: GAMPAHA

JAYALATH ARACHCHIGE DON MANJULA RUWAN KITHSIRI

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 24th November 2022 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas <mark>JAYALATH ARACHCHIGE DON MANJULA RUWAN KITHSIRI</mark> as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated properties morefully described in the First, Second and Third Schedules hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 13373 dated 13.11.2017, 13374 dated 13.11.2017, 13745 dated 29.06.2018 and 13870 darted 10.09.2018 all attested by P N Ekanayake, Notary Public of Gampaha in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan facility of Rs. 20,250,000/- granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to JAYALATH ARACHCHIGE DON MANJULA

And whereas the said JAYALATH ARACHCHIGE DON MANJULA RUWAN KITHSIRI has made default in payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and on the said Term Loan of Rs. 20,250,000/- and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 18th September 2022 a sum of Rs. 22,341,834/45 (Rupees Twenty Two Million Three hundred and Forty One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Four and cents Forty Five Only) on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, as amended do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged properties as described in the First, Second and Third Schedules hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 13373, 13374, 13745 & 13870 be sold by Public Auction by L B Senanayake Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 22,341,834/45 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR+3% p.a from 19th September 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs. 20,250,000/- to date of sale together costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1A depicted in Plan No. 2702 dated 07th September 2012 made by HANP Ranasinghe, Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "Halgahawatta alias Mediyagahawatta" together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Kirindiwita within the Limits of Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabha in Ragam Pattu of Aluthkuru Korale Grama Niladhari Division of No. 220, Kirindiwita and Divisional Secretariat of Gampaha in the District of Gampaha Western Province and which said Lot 1A is bounded on the North by Balance portion of Lot 1 in Plan No. 224, on the East by Land of Senani Nissanka on the South by Balance portion of Lot 1 in Plan No. 224 and on the West by Road (Lot 5 in Plan No. 224) and containing in extent of Thirteen Decimal Seven Five Perches (A:0 R:0 P:13.75) according to the said Plan No. 2702.

Together with right of way over Lot 5 depicted in Plan No. 224 dated 30.01.1988 made by E M T Ekanayake Licensed Surveyor

THE SECOND SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot B depicted in Plan No. 15614 dated 25th March 2008 made by S B Jayasekara - Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "Delgahawatta" together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Horagolla within the Limits of Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabha in Ragam Pattu of Aluthkuru Korale Grama Niladhari Division of No. 216, Horagolla and Divisional Secretariat of Gampaha in the District of Gampaha Western Province and which said Lot B is bounded on the North by Lot A land of Heirs of late W Silva on the East by land of heirs of late E Silva on the South by land of heirs of late E Silva and on the West by Road (RDA) & land of heir of late W Silva and Containing in Extent of Twenty One Perches (A:0 R:0 P:21) according to the said Plan No. 15614.

THE THIRD SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

1. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot D depicted in Plan No. 22268 dated 04th August 2017 made by S B Jayasekara, Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "Polhena or Korasakela" together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Thibbotugoda within the Limits of Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabha in Ragam Pattu of Aluthkuru Korale Grama Niladhari's Division of No. 216B, Thibbotugoda South & Divisional Secretariat of Gampaha in the District of Gampaha Western Province and which said Lot D is bounded on the North by land of C Rajapaksha & others and Cemetery (State land) on the East by Lot 4 in Plan No. 817 on the South by Lands of K Nimal & K A M S Perera and Lots E & J and on the West Lots E, J & C and containing in extent Thirty Four Decimal Three Five Perches (A:0 R:0 P:34.35) according to the said Plan No. 22268.

2. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot E depicted in Plan No. 22268 dated 04th August 2017 made by SB Jayasekara, Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "Polhena or Korasakela" together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Thibbotugoda within the Limits of Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabha in Ragam Pattu of Aluthkuru Korale Grama Niladhari's Division of No 216B, Thibbotugoda South & Divisional Secretariat of Gampaha in the District of Gampaha Western Province and which said Lot E is bounded on the North by Lots I & J, on the East by Lot D on the South by lands of K Nimal & K A M S Perera H I Priyaraj and K G Priyanthaie and on the West Lots F and containing in extent Twelve Decimal Seven Five Perches (A:0 R:0 P:12.75) according to the said Plan No. 22268.

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot F depicted in Plan No. 22268 dated 04th August 2017 made by S B Jayasekara, Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "Polhena or Korasakela" together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Thibbotugoda within the Limits of Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabha in Ragam Pattu of Aluthkuru Korale Grama Niladhari's Division of No 216B, Thibbotugoda South & Divisional Secretariat of Gampaha in the District of Gampaha Western Province and which said Lot E is bounded on the North by Lot H & I on the East by Lot E on the South by Lands of K G Priyanthie and M S Fernando & K L Iranganie and on the West Lot G and Containing in Extent Twelve Decimal Five Naught Perches (A:0 R:0 P:12.50) according to the said Plan No. 22268.

By order of the Board of Directors. K A L T RANAWEERA DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 04 of 1990

Branch: PETTAH

FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR

Manufacturing (Pvt.) Ltd.

Carrying on Partnership under the name style & firm of M/S Commercial Exports Company At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held

on 29th September 2022 it was resolved specially and unanimously: Whereas Fareena Nadeera Subhair, Mohamed Haneefa Mohamed Subhair, Mohamed FAWAZ SUBHAIR carrying on Partnership under the name style & firm of M/s Commercial Exports Company as the Obligors and MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR as the Mortgagor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by Virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 5232 dated 31.03.2022 attested by S R Faaiz, Notary Public of Colombo, in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of a Short Term Loan (Packing Credit) facility of Rs. 500,000,000/- granted among other facilities by Hatton National Bank PLC to FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR, MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR, MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR is now due and owing to the Bank as at 08th June 2022 a sum of Rs. 350,945,832/81 together with interest at the rate AWPLR + 2% p.a. on the capital outstanding of

Rs.313,205,394/75 to date of sale together with costs advertising and other charges incurred

Whereas FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR, MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR, MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR carrying on Partnership under the name style & firm of M/s Commercial Exports Company as the Obligors and MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR as the Mortgagor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by Virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 4410 dated 19.03.2022 attested by USK Herath, Notary Public of Colombo, in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of an Overdraft facility of Rs. 50,000,000/- granted among other facilities by Hatton National Bank PLC to FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR, MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR, MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR is now due and owing to the Bank as at 08th June 2022 a sum of Rs.52,332,779/87 together with further interest at the rate AWPLR + 2% p.a. to date of sale together with costs advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received

Whereas FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR, MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR, MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR carrying on Partnership under the name style & firm of M/s Commercial Exports Company as the Obligors and MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR as the Mortgagor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by Virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 4411 dated 19.03.2022 attested by U.S.K. Herath, Notary Public of Colombo and 5947 dated 28.06.2018 attaested by N C Jayawardena Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of a Packing Credit Loan Facility of USD 646,000/- granted among other facilities by Hatton National Bank PLC to FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR is now due and owing to the bank as at 08th June 2022 a sum of USD.1,212,630/12 together with further interest at the rate of 3 Months LOBOR (USD) + 4.75% on the capital outstanding of USD 1,168,229/44 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

And whereas the said FAREENA NADEERA SUBHAIR, MOHAMED HANEEFA MOHAMED SUBHAIR, MOHAMED FAWAZ SUBHAIR have made default in Payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and on the said Short Term Loan (Packing Credit) Facility of Rs.500,000,000/- overdraft facility of Rs.50,000,000/- totaling to a sum of Rs.550,000,000/- and Short term Packing Credit facility of USD 646,000/- and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 08th June 2022 a sum of Rs. 350,945,832/81 & Rs. 52,332,779/87 totaling to a sum Rs. 403,278,612/68 (Rupees Four Hundred and Three Million Two Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Twelve and Cents Sixty Eight Only) and USD 1,212,630/12 (US Dollars One Million Two Hundred and Twelve Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty and Cents Twelve Only) due from the packing Credit facility on the said Bonds and the Board of Director of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 as amended do hereby esolve to sell mortgaged property as description in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 5232, 4410, 4411 & 5947 be sold by Public Auction by K P N Silva Licensed Auctioneer of All island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 350,945,832/81 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR 2% p.a on the capital outstanding of Rs. 313,205,394/75, Rs. 52,332,779/87 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR +2% p.a and USD 1,212,630/12 together with further interest at the rate of 3 MONTHS LIBOR (USD) +4.75% on the capital outstanding of USD 1,168,229/44 to Date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land Marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 6340 dated 14.12.2011 made by H R Samarasinghe Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "PITAKOTUWEHABARANEKUMBUR" presently bearing Assessment Nos. 203, 203/5, 211 & 211/1, Alwis Town Road situated along Alwis Town Road in Hendala - Wattala within the Grama Niladhari Division of 172, Hendala South and Divisional Secretary's Division of Wattala within the Hendala Sub-Office of Wattala Pradesiya Sabha Limits in the Ragam Pattu of Aluth Kuru Korale South in the District of Gampaha (but within the Registration Division of Colombo) Western Province and which said Lot 1 is bounded on the NORTH by Lot A2 in Plan No. 181 road & Lot 4 in Plan No. 957 on the EAST by Land of M J Peiris on the SOUTH by Lot B in Plan No. 115 and Alwis Town Road and on the WEST by Alwis Town Road and Lot A2 in Plan No. 181 and containing in extent Three Roods and Twenty Six Decimal One Nought Perches (AO-R3-P26.10) according to the Plan No. 6340.

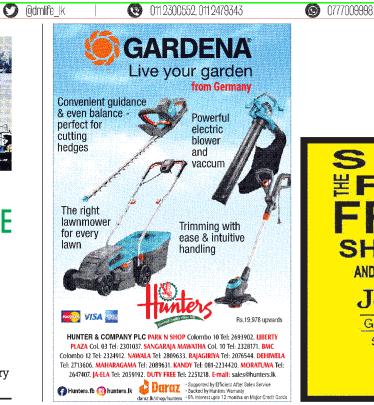
By order of the Board of Directors. K A L T RANAWEERA DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY



life lk

PRESTIGIOUS

Joni Mitchell, the pioneering singer-songwriter behind poignant hits including "A Case Of You," was set Wednesday to receive a national lifetime achievement award at a star-studded gala celebrating her vast contributions to popular song. The Canadian-born artiste joins an elite coterie of composers including Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney and Carole King in receiving the US Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize, AFP





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ADJOINING THE POST OFFICE



in many fashion shows locally and internationally at Expo Dubai, Dubai Fashion Week, GICW in Delhi, CFW x Luxor Show, Pune and Shades of Ceylon, London, Kamil decided to step out of his comfort zone and go out on his own and began designing for his clientele. He has ventured into creating bridal ensembles too. The transition had not been easy at the start. Eventually having built a client base in Sri Lanka and overseas, Kamil is now happy that he took the bold step. Kamil has immense talent and I am happy that he is now working on what his true

Q WHY DID YOU GET INTO YOUR PREVIOUS FIELD?

I always had a passion for clothes and when I got the opportunity to work at Romafour as their Merchandiser and Sales Manager, I found that it was tailor-made for what I had in mind.

passion is. When I recently met Kamil I asked him

a few questions to which he gave me short and

WAS IT A HARD DECISION FOR YOU TO CHOOSE TO PURSUE A NEW CAREER?

Not really, as this was my eventual plan.

WHAT SKILLS FROM YOUR PREVIOUS WORK DO YOU FEEL CONVERTS THE MOST TO THIS CAREER CHANGE?

I have travelled a lot to different countries for merchandising and through this I learnt a lot of what was happening in the fashion world



and where to find fabric etc. I also learned to understand the needs of customers and how to keep them satisfied.

HOW HAVE YOU PREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES OF RESTARTING YOUR CAREER IN THIS CHOSEN FIELD?

My mother was the biggest influence for my decision to move forward in this field. For as long as I can remember, although she was a teacher, she would be at the sewing machine creating beautiful dresses for my five sisters and the girls from the neighbourhood, when time permitted it.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NON-PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES THAT YOU FEEL CAN BE APPLIED TO YOUR **NEW CAREER?**

Observing lines of fashion daily in magazines, people roaming on the streets as well as when I travelled overseas admiring the silhouettes of people and nature around me inspires me to develop a kaleidoscope of colour and fashion lines.

Q WHAT DO YOU ANTICIPATE AS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES TRANSITIONING INTO THIS CHOSEN FIELD?

Right now, finding good fabric and accessories to produce all the beautiful creations we have in our minds. I wish Kamil all the success in his quest for fashion and that very soon his label, LIMAK, will be recognised internationally.





Prof. Ediriweera Sarathchandra's "Sinhabahu"

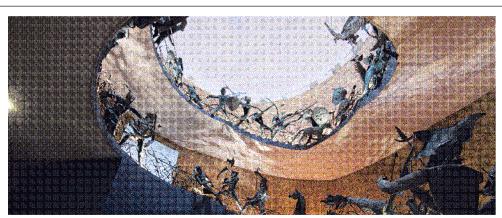
at Moratuwa & Colombo

"Sinhabahu" a great play of Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra's will stage it's two special shows on March 04th Saturday at 10.30 a.m & 2.30 p.m at Moratuwa Sarvodaya Vishawa Samadhi Theatre and March 07th Tuesday at 8.15 a.m & 11.00 a.m at Elphinstone Theatre. These special shows are organised by Jude Srimal.



'Charithe Horu Aran" March 5th at Dehiovita

"Charithe Horu Aran" a hilarious play which is directed by Ravindra Ariyarathne the director of "Balloth ekka be" will stage it's special show on Sunday 5th March 2023 at 3.30 p.m & 6.30 p.m at (Air Conditioned) Dehiovita Provincial Council Auditorium. With Kumara Thirimadura, Gihan Fernando, Sarath Karunarathne, ChamilaPeiris, Ferny Roshani and Chinthaka Peiris in performance, music composition, set designing, makeup and stage management will be maneuvered by Anthoney Surendra , Luvoline Wanderwall, Wasantha Wittachchi and Sumeda Prasanna respectively. All seats are box planned. Tickets now available at Sarasavi Book Shop- Nugegoda & Elphinstone Theatre



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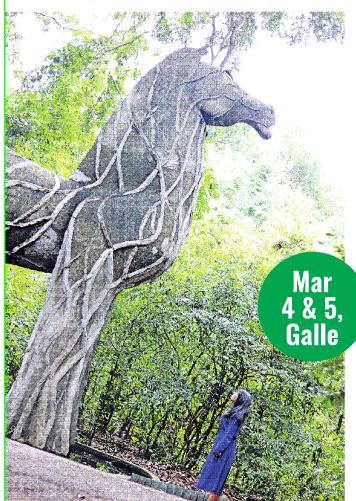
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CELEBRATING LAKI SENANAYAKE **AND HIS ARTISTRY**

experimental artist, is considered one of Sri Lanka's legendary interdisciplinary artists. He grew up in Madampe, a village located in the North Western Province of Sri Lanka. During the 1950s, Laki gained recognition in the local art scene by collaborating with Geoffrey Bawa and Ulrik Plesner at the Edwards Reids and Begg firm. He received his artistic education from Stanley Abeysinghe, a renowned painter, and learned techniques and styles to depict the mysticism surrounding him. Laki's well-known sculptures include a large brass peacock for Bentota Beach Hotel, several brass palm and plaster reliefs for Neptune Hotel in Bentota, and two owl sculptures displayed at Barefoot Gallery and Cafe in Colombo. Highly praised for his sculptural stair presentation at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel in Galle,

and his creation of Diyabubula, Laki's

works are celebrated, dissected and

and its launch at the Jetwing Hotel. 'The Works of Laki Senanayake' will not only be a biography of his works throughout his presence but also will stand as a testament to who the artist was. ARTRA Magazine's Edition of Laki's work will include a critique from the renowned Ismeth Raheem whose friendship with the celebrated artist was closely knit. Ismeth Raheem was first an artist and, with Laki Senanayake, a founder member of the Young Artists Group. He studied architecture at Katubedde and in Copenhagen and assisted Geoffrey Bawa between 1968 and 1976 and worked on a number of key projects such as the Serendib Hotel and the Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

Alongside Raheem are two more celebrated artists whose voices have been penned for previous editions of the magazine for their beauteous and soulful writings of many artists from Barbara Sansoni to himself, C. Anialendran, Renowned architect.



The Laki Senanayake Edition & Art Experiential Festival is set to take place on the 4th & 5th of March

1000 March 1000 March

penned many great accounts of esteemed artistes including 'Bawa - The Complete Works (2002), 'Anjalendran, Architect of Sri Lanka (2009) and more. His extensive experience and knowledge led him to be Professor of Architecture at the University of Brighton and the National University of Singapore. Sri Lanka's living legend, Chelvadurai Anjalendran is a spirited modernist who draws from Sri Lanka's rich vernacular traditions in his authentic approach to architecture. Simple and sincere in his applied art, Anjalendran's refined eye and erudite understanding of the artistic mind distinguishes his buildings to be of cultural integrity vicarious in character and

writer and critic David Robson has

environment. Writer, editor and part-time lexicographer Michael Meyler and daughter of Laki Senanayake, Mintake are also contributors to this wonderful edition of Laki's works. Each of these contributors have their own unique relationship with the celebrated artist and provide interesting accounts of his work. Michael got to know Laki only in the last few years, as editor of a planned book on his currency note designs, and subsequently wrote an obituary of Laki on the Groundviews website. Whilst Mintaka's childhood surrounded by Laki's eccentric and nature-inspiréd adventures create a holistic perspective on the life that the

respectful to the

The launch of the Laki Senanayake

Edition and its Art Experiential Festival offers an opportunity for art aficionados to gather together, explore Laki Senanayake's artistic universe, and learn how art can enrich people's daily lives and environments while also honouring Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage in a one-of-a-kind event. "The vision behind the Art Experiential Festival is to garner larger reach and consumption for Sri Lankan Modern & Contemporary Art whilst also shedding light to the role it can play in sharing the story of Sri Lanka, from inimitable and inventive personal standpoints, which are certainly more invigorating and perceptive than those

of the conventional. to launch Art Tourism, together with Jetwing Hotels, Sri Lankan Airlines and Sri Lanka Travel and Promotions Bureau through this festival as we collectively work towards celebrating

ingenious works of local artists to attract the attention of cultural tourists and the support of the Sri Lankan diaspora in building and strengthening Sri Lanka's art economy, that we believe can contribute to our country's cultural assets" shared Azara Jáleel, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of ARTRA. The festival will also organize exclusive luncheons and dinners of culinary delights over captivating art conversations in celebration of interdisciplinary artistic flairs, in addition to a magnificent selection of art talks, tours, and exhibits







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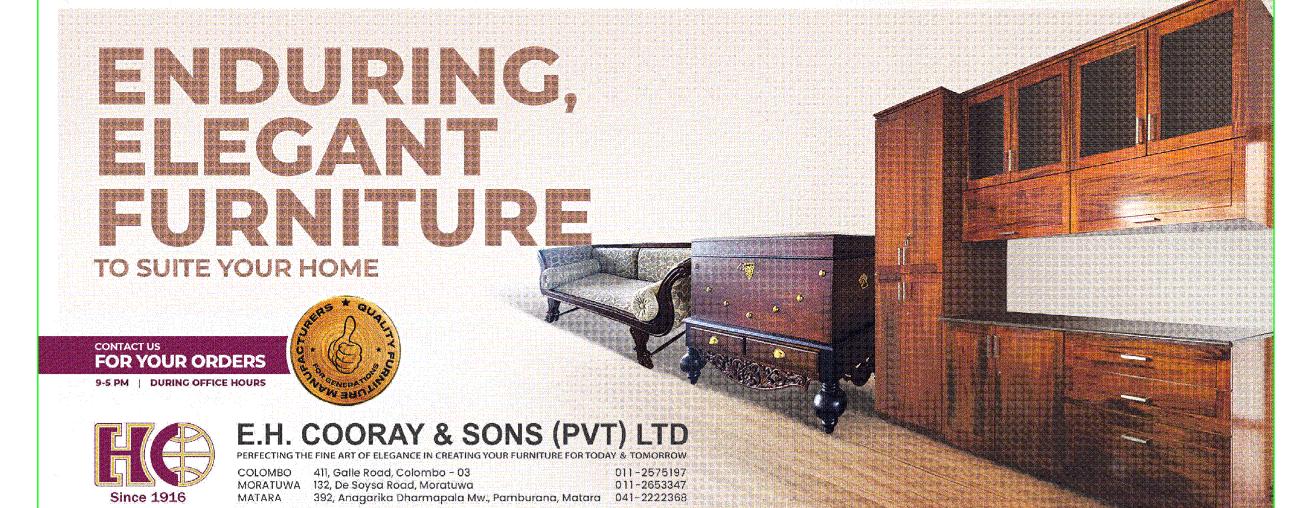
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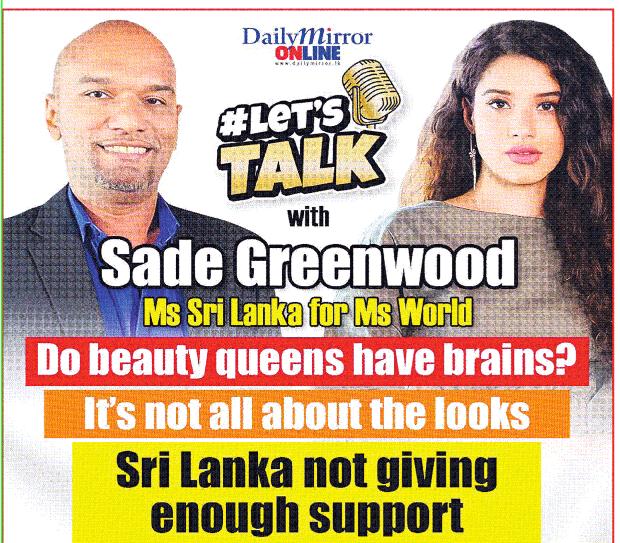
Hard Cover - Pages 248
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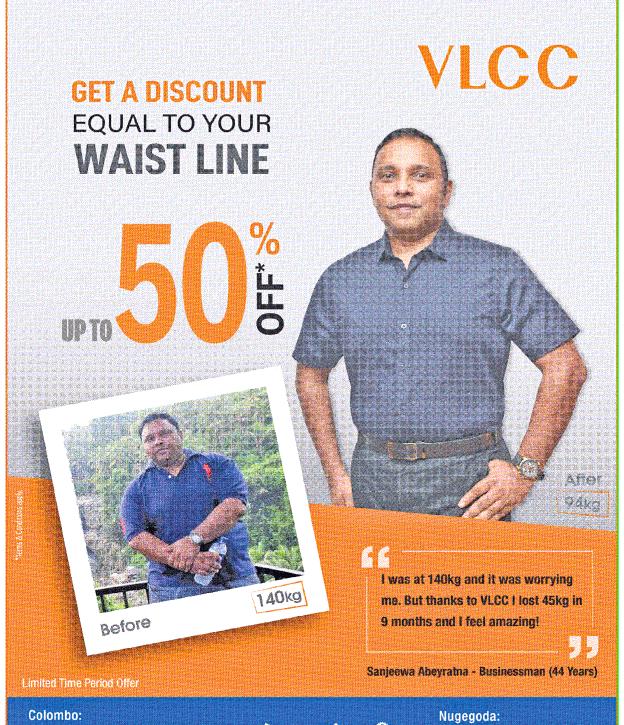


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