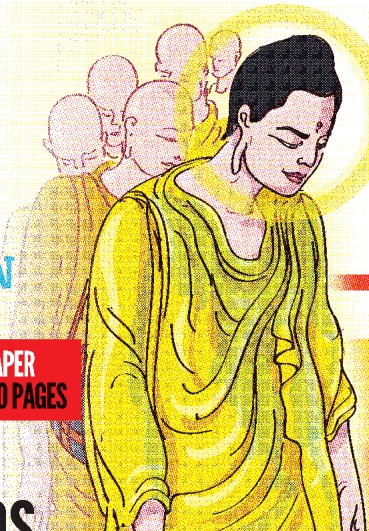


Daily Mirror



Carance nadhigaccheyya - Seyyam sadisamattano
Ekacariyaram dalham kayira - Natthi bale sahayata.

If a person seeking a companion cannot find one who is better than or equal to him, let him resolutely go on alone; there can be no companionship with a fool.

Dhammapada Verse 61



No revision in gas prices for March: LITRO Head

The decision was taken considering the appreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against US\$ and thereby passing the benefit to LITRO consumers



BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

LITRO Gas Lanka Ltd., has decided not to increase the prices of domestic gas this month as announced earlier, its Chairman Muditha Peiris said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SRI LANKA AGAIN REJECTS RESOLUTION 51/1, SAYS WILL REMAIN OPEN TO DISCUSSION

Sri Lanka has once again rejected the resolution 51/1 against Sri Lanka adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in October last year, but said Sri Lanka will remain open to discussion with the Council.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Ingredients for Ayurvedic medicines in short supply

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Government Ayurveda Medical Officers' Association (GAMO) yesterday claimed that there is a acute shortage of at least 130 essential ingredients used for manufacturing ayurvedic medicines.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SHOOTER AND RIDER ARRESTED OVER MURDER OF BUSINESSMAN IN PANADURA

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Two suspects including the shooter wanted over the murder of a businessman who was found shot dead in his luxury vehicle at Pinwatta in Panadura had been arrested, police said. 57-year-old Anuradha Sampath Kudagoda, a resident of Bangalawatta, Kirillawala, who owns several wine stores and other businesses in Kadawatha was found shot dead on February 28.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Two arrested for robbing former SLC Chairman

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Two suspects who threatened and handcuffed the former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cricket Board, Ana Panchiweva, and robbed him of cash and other property near the Borella Cemetery, had been arrested by the Borella Police.

Police said the suspects were identified as two civilian workers at the Inspector General's warehouse.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER PRESSURE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO POLITICOS' RELATIVES?

- In the foreign service, there are 98 vacancies to be filled, both at 55 Sri Lankan missions abroad and the Ministry in Colombo
- It is learnt that the son of former Minister MP Dissanayake and the close relative of Education Minister Susil Premajayantha are among those seeking posts

BY KELUM BANDARA

The Foreign Ministry is once again under pressure for the appointment of various ruling party politicians' relatives to diplomatic posts, Daily Mirror learns. In the foreign service, there are

98 vacancies to be filled, both at 55 Sri Lankan missions abroad and the Ministry in Colombo. Daily Mirror learns that the politicians with links to the government had sought to secure posts for their relatives, including children. The approved cadre of the foreign

service is 264. However, only 166 have been filled resulting in 98 vacant slots. It is learnt that the son of former Minister MP Dissanayake and the close relative of Education Minister Susil Premajayantha are among those seeking posts.

15-foot Croc captured and handed over to DWC



- The crocodile was 15ft. long and weighing more than 1000 kilos

BY KRISHAN JEEWAKA JAYARUK

A huge crocodile which had crawled into a village in Matara was captured and handed over to the wildlife conservators by villagers. Residents of Piladuwala said that the reptile had been captured with great difficulty.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A3 >>>

Crocodiles in populated areas

January 12, 2016: A 16 foot crocodile was caught by villagers of Kananke, Imaduwa.	June 27, 2021: The residents spotted the A crocodile, which was over 8-foot in size, while waiting outside their home in Habaranagama, Anuradhapura.
November 07, 2016: A crocodile, over 17 foot long, was captured Nilwala river in Matara.	April 25, 2021: A 15 foot long crocodile was captured from the Madu River in Balapitiya.
A 13-foot crocodile was caught by a group of officials attached to the Department of Wildlife in Hambantota.	

Source: News reports / Internet ©DM GraphicDesk

Finance Committee Chair Harsha cries foul over Vajira's appointment



BY YOHAN PERERA

The tussle for the Chairmanship of Public Finance Committee has taken a new turn with the appointment of UNP MP Vajira Abeywardena on the temporary basis and SJB MP Harsha De Silva alleging that the appointment is a violation of standing orders.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A3 >>>

"Payments assigned for A/L exam duties insufficient"

- Lesser payments would cause delays in releasing results of examinations

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Ceylon Teachers Union (CTU) yesterday said that the daily payment assigned for examiners to evaluate 2022 GCE Advanced Level (A/L) papers must increase to Rs.3,000. CTU Secretary Joseph Stalin said yesterday that the daily payment of Rs 2,000 sanctioned for checking the answer scripts is not enough.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Motorcycle exchanged for four packets of heroin

BY TONY KARUNANAYAKA

A drug addict who sold a motorcycle valued more than Rs.500,000 for four packets of heroin of which the market value was about Rs.8000, and the individual who bought the motorcycle were remanded till March 14 by Minuwangoda Acting Magistrate Indika Ratnayake.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

EC RULES OUT CONDUCTING LG POLLS BEFORE AVURUDU

BY SANDUN A JAYASEKERA

While stressing that the date for the Local Government (LG) polls remains in the hands of the Treasury, the Election Commission (EC) ruled out yesterday

the possibility of holding the election before the Sinhala and Hindu New Year which falls in mid-April. EC Chairman, Nimal G Panchiweva told Daily Mirror that even if the Treasury releases funds for the election immediately based on

the Friday's Supreme Court ruling the election has to be held between 5 - 7 weeks from the day of declaration of the polls. Hence, the LG polls have to be held in the second half of April, 2023.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Lorry goes down precipice at Labukele

BY RANJITH RAJAPAKSE

A lorry veered off the road and fell into a 70-foot deep precipice last morning at Labukele in Nuwara Eliya causing serious injuries at least to 14 individuals on board. The lorry which was transporting labourers to the Nuwara Eliya Economic Centre when it met with the accident.

The injured, five of them critically, were admitted to Nuwara Eliya general hospital. Investigations revealed that the driver had lost control of the vehicle due to excessive speed. Nuwara Eliya police are conducting further investigations.



Will honour court decision and proceed accordingly: State Finance Minister



- It can be the Ministry of Finance, the government or an institution, It is everyone's responsibility to act on the court's decision

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The government will honour the Supreme Court's decision preventing withholding any funds allocated to conduct Local Government Polls 2023 and will proceed accordingly, State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapatiya said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Don't enact a more draconian law after repealing the PTA: Zuhair

The Government must repeal the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act together without attempting to enact more draconian laws under new names and prevent the abuse by the executive of the provisions of the Constitution, particularly its fundamental rights provisions, former MP M. M. Zuhair said yesterday.

Many new laws such as the Prevention of Money Laundering

Act, Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act etc. with powerful investigative mechanisms already exist.

Extensive violations of the constitutional and other legal protections have become a common occurrence but most citizens cannot afford the costly process of accessing the fundamental rights protections in the Supreme Court.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A3 >>>

Conduct LG polls straight away respecting SC verdict: Lawyers for NPP

- If the Elections Commission was taking the side of the people, it should fix an early date for the election

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Lawyers for National People's Power (NPP) yesterday urged the political authority and the relevant officials to make arrangements to conduct the Local Government Election respecting the verdict of the Supreme Court on the matter. Attorney-at-Law Sunil Watagala told a news conference that the Elections Commission has been made a respondent in the case and that if the Elections Commission was taking the side of the people, it should fix an early date for the election.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Opposition MPs tell EC to conduct local polls before March 20

Ten opposition MPs in a letter addressed to Chairman of Election Commission Nimal Panchiweva had wanted him to conduct the local polls before March 20 as per the Supreme Court order.

MPs Vijitha Herath, G.L. Peiris, Mano Ganesan, Rishad Bathiudeen, Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Rauff Hakeem, S. Rasamanickam, M. A. Sumanthiran and Dayasiri Jayasekera had wanted the polls chief to act

upon the restraining order issued by Supreme courts on March 3, 2023.

"We write consequent to the order of the Supreme Court made on March 3, 2023, in SC FR 69/23 restraining the Minister of Finance, the Secretary to the Treasury and others from withholding necessary funds for the conduct of local polls that was scheduled to be held on March 9, 2023.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Principal arrested for sexually assaulting schoolgirl

A Principal of a school in Pinnawala, Balangoda has been arrested on charges of sexually assaulting a schoolgirl, police said. Initial investigations revealed that the suspect had sexually assaulted an 11-year-old girl living near the suspect's house.

Police said the girl has been hospitalised for treatment. The 50-year-old principal, a resident of Balangoda will be produced before the Balangoda Magistrate's Court today. The Balangoda Police are conducting further investigations.



Daily Mirror

www.dailymirror.lk

No revision in gas prices for March: LITRO Head

He said the decision was taken considering the appreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against US\$ and thereby passing the benefit to LITRO consumers.

According to the pricing formula and the current Global gas prices, the domestic 12.5kg gas cylinder price should be increased by a reasonable amount.

However, the current prices are valid until this month (March) as well.

The current prices in Colombo are as follows: A 12.5kg gas cylinder is Rs.4,743 and the price of 5kg is Rs.1,904. The price of a 2.3Kg gas cylinder is Rs.883.

Sri Lanka again rejects resolution 51/1, says will remain open to discussion

Accordingly, the Kalutara Crimes Division who had launched investigations into the shooting had arrested the shooter and the rider of the motorcycle who carried out the crime.

During the questioning of the suspects, a pistol suspected to have been used for the shooting and 08 bullets were seized.

The motorcycle used for the shooting had been found after it was abandoned in the Wadduwa area.

The arrested suspects, aged 34 and 40, residents of Ginimalagaha area were detained for 48 hours after being produced before the Panadura Magistrate's Court.

Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the murder.

EC RULES OUT CONDUCTING LG POLLS BEFORE AVURUDU

Punchihewa told Daily Mirror last morning that the EC was ready to announce a short date for the LG polls if the Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardene promises to release adequate funds to the EC to conduct polls at the meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow morning at the EC also attended by the IGP, Chandana Wickramaratne and Government Printer Gangani Liyanage.

"I can't give you an assurance whether the EC could hold the LG polls or if that is the case when. All depends on the availability of enough funds to the EC. If the Treasury takes the responsibility to release sufficient funds at tomorrow's discussion, we are ready to hold the LG polls on a nearest possible day. The ball is

in Treasury's hands" Punchihewa emphasized.

"However, the Treasury can also tell us that it is more than happy to release funds to the EC but they don't have enough cash to do so at the moment. They can release funds only in a few months. But I don't think this kind of scenario would arise tomorrow at the discussion," he added.

If the EC failed to obtain a firm pledge from the Treasury immediately for sufficient funding to conduct the much delayed LG polls, there will be another legal issue. The highest court in the country has given ruling to the Secretary to the Treasury not to retain funds allocated to the EC from the budget 2023. Therefore, the Treasury is officially and legally bound to

release funds to the EC. If not, it will amount to contempt of court. The EC does not want to involve in another legal battle. The petitioners either who obtained this court ruling will need this, Punchihewa stressed.

If the Treasury promises to release funds immediately, the EC will try its best to release the gazette notification indicating the day of the polls through 25 District Returning Officers (DROs) on Wednesday (8) and unless on Thursday.

Commenting on the remarks coming from certain quarters that he did not call the all-important meeting at the week end, Punchihewa said it was a long week end and many public servants go out of the city and also they are officially not bound to attend officials meetings.

Will honour court decision and proceed accordingly: State Finance Minister

He said everyone should respect the court's decision.

"It can be the Ministry of Finance, the government or an institution, it is everyone's responsibility to act on the court's decision. According to the court decision, we have to align expenses," he said.

Supreme Court three-judge-

bench comprising Justices Preethi Padman Surasena, Janak De Silva and Priyantha Fernando yesterday issued an interim order preventing the Treasury Secretary, the Attorney General who is representing the President and any other state official from withholding any funds allocated for the polls.

SJB warns Govt. not to play dirty tricks to further delay LG polls

BY SANDUN A JAYASEKERA

The main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) sounded alarm yesterday that if the government attempts its dirty tricks to further delay the conduct of LG polls, it will be a big miscalculation and added the government will learn a lesson it has not learnt so far.

The government, well aware of its total annihilation at the upcoming polls will apply all dirty tricks known to delay the LG polls further. But the SJB, as the leading political force that fought the legal battle to win the fundamental rights of 22 million Sri Lankans and their universal franchise is not ready to let it happen. If the government has the audacity to try that kind of covert and overt operations, the SJB will bring the entire country to a standstill and millions of people on to the street, the chief opposition whip and senior vice president of the SJB, Lakshman Kiriella said.

"A failure to carry out the ruling given by the highest court in the country, the Supreme Court that ordered the Treasury Secretary not to hold back budgetary allocations to the

EC any further is a contempt of court. Therefore, I believe the government would not resort any foolish act. We, at the SJB are determined not to allow the government sabotage our hard earned legal victory on behalf of our people," Kiriella stressed.

The SJB expects the Election Commission to declare the Election Day soon after a successful conclusion of the discussion tomorrow with the Treasury Secretary, IGP and Government Printer.

The UNP and all other minions ask as to why an election at this juncture. I must tell them that not only the 22 million people in the country but the global community, the international financial agencies like the IMF, the World Bank and the ADB, Sri Lanka's donors and creditors like to see a stable government with a leader who commands the respect and a mandate of the people. This regime and the President are hated, rejected and condemned by all Sri Lankans living in and out of the country. The LG polls are the stepping stone to kick out this cursed regime and its leader. That is the simple truth, Kiriella noted.

Shooter and rider arrested over murder of businessman in Panadura

Accordingly, the Kalutara Crimes Division who had launched investigations into the shooting had arrested the shooter and the rider of the motorcycle who carried out the crime.

During the questioning of the suspects,

a pistol suspected to have been used for the shooting and 08 bullets were seized.

The motorcycle used for the shooting had been found after it was abandoned in the Wadduwa area.

The arrested suspects, aged 34

and 40, residents of Ginimalagaha area were detained for 48 hours after being produced before the Panadura Magistrate's Court.

Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the murder.

Ingredients for Ayurvedic medicines in short supply

GAMOA President Dr. P.Hewagamage told the Daily Mirror that, the said number of ingredients were imported as they were not available in our country. Most of them are imported from countries such as China and India.

"The difficulties faced by the

suppliers prevented them from importing the ingredients. This could cause a serious issue for the Ayurvedic medicine manufacturing in the future," he said.

Information reached us say that the physicians could not complete the Ayurvedic prescription without

the essential ingredients, Dr. Hewagamage said.

Therefore, the GAMOA requested the President to take immediate action to grant concessions for suppliers to import the essential ingredients so that we could continue our service.

Two arrested for robbing former SLC Chairman

The incident was reported on February 15 and the suspects had stolen Rs.200,000 in cash, an Apple mobile phone and a watch of the former SLC Chairman.

The suspects later contacted Punchihewa and demanded Rs.250,000 to return the mobile phone and the watch. Punchihewa had informed the incident to the police and on the instructions of them had asked the suspects to come near the Borella cemetery to collect the money.

Accordingly, the Police had arrested the suspects when they arrived to collect the cash.

Conduct LG polls straight away respecting SC verdict: Lawyers for NPP

He said if the verdict of the Supreme Court was disregarded, it would amount to contempt of court on the part of all responsible officials.

He said according to the interim order issued by the Supreme Court, Ranil Wickremesinghe as the

Finance Minister and the Cabinet have to release the Rs.10 billion allocated for the LG polls through the 2023 budget.

Watagala said the state officials including Treasury Secretary, the Attorney General and IGP also have to abide by the interim order.

World's largest aircraft touches down at BIA

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA AND T.K.G. KAPILA

The world's largest passenger aircraft an Airbus A-380 operated by Emirates airlines landed at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) yesterday morning for the third time. The airbus touched down at the Airport at 3.10 am yesterday for refueling en route to Dubai from Auckland in New Zealand.

The last time the BIA witnessed such an aircraft was in 2019, before the COVID 19 outbreak.

There were 413 passengers and 29 crew members on board the aircraft, none of them disembarked, the giant airplane was on the tarmac for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes for refueling purposes.

Presently Dubai is experiencing heavy fog ahead of the onset of a long summer in the gulf region, and as a result, poor visibility conditions prevail in the vicinity of the airport.

The pilots had decided to refuel the aircraft to enable being airborne for an extended period to enable touch down at Dubai airport once visibility improved.

Accordingly, the Katunayake Airport Petroleum Corporation had taken steps to provide 62,800 litres of Jet A-1 type fuel worth Rs. 16.8 million to this aircraft.

After refueling, the airbus departed BIA to Dubai at 4.50 am last morning.

Opposition MPs tell EC to conduct local polls before March 20

Court has also made a further order to the Government Printer in respect to the printing of ballot papers. You gave an understanding to SC Writ 6/2023 and SC Writ 7/2023 that you will hold the said election according to the law. You are aware that according to the law, the said election should be held on or before March 19. When the Secretary to Treasury and the Government Printer did not cooperate with you, you filed a motion in the aforesaid two cases seeking court's direction on

them," the MPs added. "Now that the Supreme Courts have removed the only impediment to hold the elections according to the law, it is your imperative duty to conduct the election on or before March 19. We do not see any reason why you should consult the Secretary to the Treasury or anyone else now that they have bound to comply with the interim order of the Supreme Court," they added.

In addition, the MPs had sought an appointment to meet the Election Commission Chairman on March 7, 2023.

"PAYMENTS ASSIGNED FOR A/L EXAM DUTIES INSUFFICIENT"

● The Education Minister had agreed to increase the daily payment for correcting examination answer scripts to Rs.3,000 through a cabinet paper

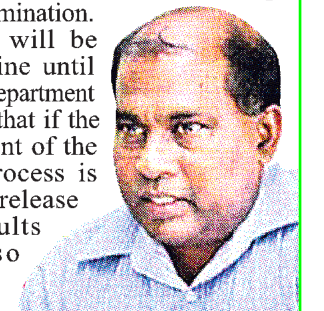
However, the Education Minister had agreed to increase the daily payment for correcting examination answer scripts to Rs.3,000 through a cabinet paper, he said. Lesser payments would cause delays in releasing results of examinations, Stalin said.

"Teachers were in favour of continuing with examination activities. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic and at times when issues were created by the government, teachers used to work without any charges," he said.

Even the examinations department knows that the announced payments are not enough. Therefore, the government should intervene in the issue, he added.

Meanwhile, the examination department has again called for applications to recruit examiners to check answer scripts of the A/L examination.

Examiners will be recruited online until March 8. The department further stated that if the commencement of the evaluation process is delayed, the release of A/L results would also be delayed.



MOTORCYCLE EXCHANGED FOR FOUR PACKETS OF HEROIN

The buyer of the motorcycle had in his possession 5.8 grams of heroin at the time of arrest.

The suspects U.K.M. Shehan Madusanka of Batepola in Divulapitiya and R.A. Sumith

Pushpakumara of Ithalagama in Mabodale had been arrested by Divulapitiya Police.

Police told court that the Suspect Shehan Madusanka had stolen the motorcycle from Katana area and sold it for

four packets of heroin to the other suspect Sumith Pushpakumara. The latter who rode the motorcycle to Pallewela area and met with an accident. He had left the motorcycle by the roadside and fled from the scene.

BRITISH COUNCIL ESSAY COMPETITION Junior Mirror

The Junior Mirror, together with the British Council, will hold an essay competition for kids between the ages of 8 to 12 years. An essay topic will be given each month and there will be a winner each week. The word count for your essay should be 150-200 words. Winners will receive a free annual subscription "Kids Membership" to the British Council Library.

TOPIC FOR MARCH 2023: MY FAVOURITE TEACHER.....

Only entries with the following details included will be accepted:

Your full name, date of birth, home address, phone number and the name of your school

- All entries must be certified by a teacher or parent/guardian as your own work.
- Please send your entries and details to jm.dailymirror@gmail.com

OR
JUNIOR MIRROR ESSAY COMPETITION
C/O DAILY MIRROR
WIJEYA NEWSPAPERS LTD.
COLOMBO 2

PHOTO CORNER



The 57th Colombo Camporee was held recently at the Viharamahadevi Park in Colombo with the participation of schools from the Colombo District. (Pics by Nisal Baduge)

CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

DON'T ENACT A MORE DRACONIAN LAW AFTER REPEALING THE PTA: ZUHAIR

The Human Rights Commissions, all along, had failed to deliver alternative justice except in high profile publicity-oriented cases. The appointment of a Commission will expose how people suffer in silence more out of fear of complaining than because of the costs of litigation. In 2018 the then government attempted to enact a new Counter Terrorism law but it was abandoned following strong criticism of its draconian provisions such as 'widening the scope' of terrorist offences into impacting on freedom of expression, social media and opening channels for

foreign manipulations of investigations statutorily vested in the Sri Lankan Police. What is required is the elimination, even by amending the PTA, of the controversial provisions in the terror law, such as the admissibility of confessions 'invariably threatened' to be given by investigators while suspects are in continuous police custody and admissibility of such alleged confessions in violation of the Evidence Ordinance; detention orders and remand orders being decided by the executive without judicial determinations and bail provisions which avoid judicial

interventions, unreasonable refusal by the executive to 'consent to bail' etc. In the light of the recent determination of the seven-member Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, in the failures to avert the Easter Sunday attacks case, expressing 'shock and dismay at the deplorable conduct of affairs pertaining to Security, Law and Order and Intelligence', what is presently required is to tighten the laws making investigators accountable and not laws that facilitate their continued infringement of citizens' rights.

South Asian Climate Change journalists forum formed

Formation of Executive Committee of SACCJF Dhaka (Bangladesh): South Asian Climate Change Journalists' Forum in its meeting unanimously constituted its first Executive Committee with representatives from all the eight SAARC countries as its Office Bearers and EC Members. It also finalized its Constitution unanimously after the elections. Asish Gupta (India) and Karamot Ullah Biptob (Bangladesh) were elected as President and Executive President

respectively. Asaduzzaman Samrat was elected as Secretary General and Masum Billah also from Bangladesh as the Treasurer of the Forum. There are three Vice Presidents - Mahinda Pathirana (Sri Lanka), Shri Ram Subedi (Nepal) and Mohammad Rabnewaz Chowdhury (Pakistan). Bisma Raj Ojha (Nepal) and Rae Munavvar (Maldives) was elected to Assistant Secretary-General vacancy. The following Members were elected to the Executive Committee C. K. Nayak, Kuntak Chatterjee, Sunit kumar Bhuyan (all from India), Rinzin Wangchuk (Bhutan),

Imran Y. Choudhry, K.J. Faiza Gillani (Pakistan), Kelum Bandara (Sri Lanka), Pragati Dhakal (Nepal) and Raquul Islam Sabuj (Bangladesh). The South Asian Climate Change Journalists' Forum made its debut with journalists from South Asia at the World Climate Conference (COP 27) held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November last year. The basic aim of the Forum is to highlight and protect the fragile environment of South Asia, the most vulnerable part of the world with both mountains and seas.

Harsha cries foul over Vajira's appointment

"The appointment of Vajira Abeywardena to the post is a violation of standing orders as the Chairman should be from the opposition. The government had made a mess of it by nominating an MP from the opposition to the post right from the beginning. There is no provision to appoint an acting Chairman to the post as per the standing orders, MP De Silva said. MP De Silva said Speaker has no say on the matter as it is the opposition which has the right to nominate a chairman. "The position I am in today was achieved by my own efforts and not because of my father and mother. My father was a public servant but me and my father are different people and he has nothing to do with my achievements," he added. SJB MP Mayantha Dissanayake who was initially appointed as the chairman of finance Committee earlier said those who argue that he is not capable of holding the post of finance Committee Chairman got it wrong as his father the late Gamini Dissanayake was able to complete the Mahaweli project successfully without being an Engineer. Dissanayake also said he would always follow his father's footsteps. The final decision pertaining to the finance Committee Chairmanship will be taken on Tuesday March 7, 2023.

15-foot Croc captured and handed over to DWC

They said they were living in constant fear of crocodiles from the Nilwala river crawling into home gardens via the nearby canal. Wildlife conservators said the crocodile was 15ft. long and weighing more than 1000 kilos. They said it would be released back to the Nilwala river in another area.

Doctors car falls into Kandy lake



BY SHANE SENEVIRATNE
A motorcar driven by a Doctor from the Peradeniya teaching hospital had veered off the road and fallen into the Kandy Lake in the early hours of last morning at about 12.30am. The doctor and his wife, a doctor from the Kandy General hospital, had received minor injuries. They were admitted to the Kandy General Hospital. The accident had occurred near the Sangharaja Pirivena and a crowd gathered had broken the windscreen and evacuated the two doctors. Kandy police are conducting further investigations.

OBITUARIES

PERERA - A.J.C. (TONY). It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Tony Perera (formerly of Kotahena). Beloved husband of Phyllis, nee Smith, loving father of Marina (UK) and Mark, brother of Mina Cabral, Dennis and Maxi (all deceased). **A private Funeral took place on Saturday 4th March.** Details of the memorial mass to be held will be notified later. "Come to me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

ONLINE OBITUARIES
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries

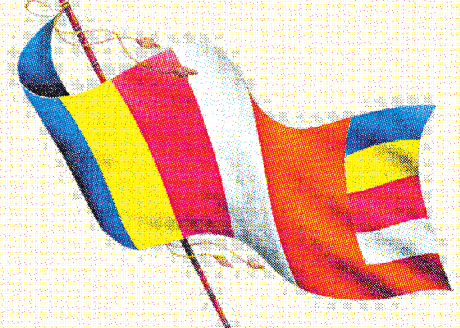
Medin Full Moon Poya Day

It was on Medin Full Moon Day and in response to the request made by Arahant Kāludai that the Buddha set forth, together with twenty-thousand Arahants, on his long journey from the city of Rajagaha to Kapilavastu which eventually resulted in several happenings - the ordainment of Godhika, Subāhu, Valliya and Uttiya - the four Malla Princes from the city of Pāvā who had arrived in Kapilavastu on some other errand and found themselves greatly impressed on having witnessed the awesome Twin Miracle performed by the Buddha in order to dispel the haughty attitude evinced by them; his royal father's and step-mother Maha Prajāpathi Gothami's attainment of Sakadāgāmi and Sotāpanna stages respectively; his former wife princess Yasodara's expression of her reverence and the ordainment of his half-brother Nanda and his son Rāhula - that are considered to be events of special significance in the life of the Buddha.

"නිබ්බනං වා පවත්තාරං - සං පස්සේ වජ්ජදස්සිනං
නිත්භස්සිභවාදිං මේධාවිං - තාදිසං පණ්ඩිතං භජේ
තාදිසං භජමානස්ස - සෙසියෝ හෝති න පාපියෝ"

If one sees a wise man, who, like a revealer of treasure, points out faults and rebukes, one should associate with such a person. One will fare well and not ill in the company of such a person.

-Dhammapada : 76



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EDITORIAL

*"You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence."
- HENRY BOETCKER*

OUR THOUGHT

WAR IN UKRAINE, STRIKES IN SRI LANKA

The war in Ukraine has dragged on for over 371 days. Ukraine has been laid waste. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified a total of 8,006 civilian deaths during Russia's invasion of Ukraine as of February 26, 2023, of them, 488 were children.

Another 2,383 persons have been injured according to UN estimates. Statista.com estimated on February 14, the damage to housing facilities from the Russian invasion of Ukraine based on publicly available evidence was estimated at US\$ 54 billion.

According to reports in 'AA' (a Türkiye media outlet), Ukrainian forces have claimed that 19,300 Russian troops had been killed, 152 Russian aircraft, 137 helicopters, 112 unmanned aerial vehicles, 722 tanks, 1,911 armoured vehicles have also been destroyed.

At the Munich Security Conference earlier this month, China's top diplomat Wang Yi told world leaders that China is working on a peace proposal to end the conflict in Ukraine.

While Ukraine leader Volodymyr Zelensky said he would like to discuss the Chinese proposal, the European External Action Service reported on February 26, citing EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell saying China's "position paper" regarding Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine is not really a peace plan.

US President Joe Biden dismissed the Chinese plan out-of-hand saying "Putin is applauding it, so how could it be any good? I'm not being facetious," he said. "I'm being deadly earnest." And so... the war in Ukraine continues with the numbers of dead and wounded rising by the day. But the US and her hand maidens in NATO, are sacrificing Ukraine to their aim of encircling Russia.

While the Ukrainian president has expressed interest in the Chinese peace plan, the US and its NATO allies (West European countries) seem to have no interest in bringing the conflict to an end. Instead, they are pouring weapons of destruction into Ukraine to extend the conflict, fully knowing Ukraine has no capacity to militarily defeat Russia.

In our own country, a similar battle is being fought on the economic front. Our country has been bankrupted having no means to repay its creditors. We have lost our credit-worthiness in the eyes of international banking system.

Our international debt is over US\$ 40 billion. A scarce year ago, the country was facing an anarchic situation with chronic shortages of basic foods, medicines, rolling 8-hour power cuts, a breakdown of the education system, unavailability of fuel and gas, a skyrocketing cost of living and closure of a large number of small and medium business enterprises.

In turn this led to loss of employment and further suffering.

Rage at the ongoing situation resulted in the masses taking to the streets. It culminated in the bloodless overthrow of the elected president and the constitutional installation of Ranil Wickremesinghe as president.

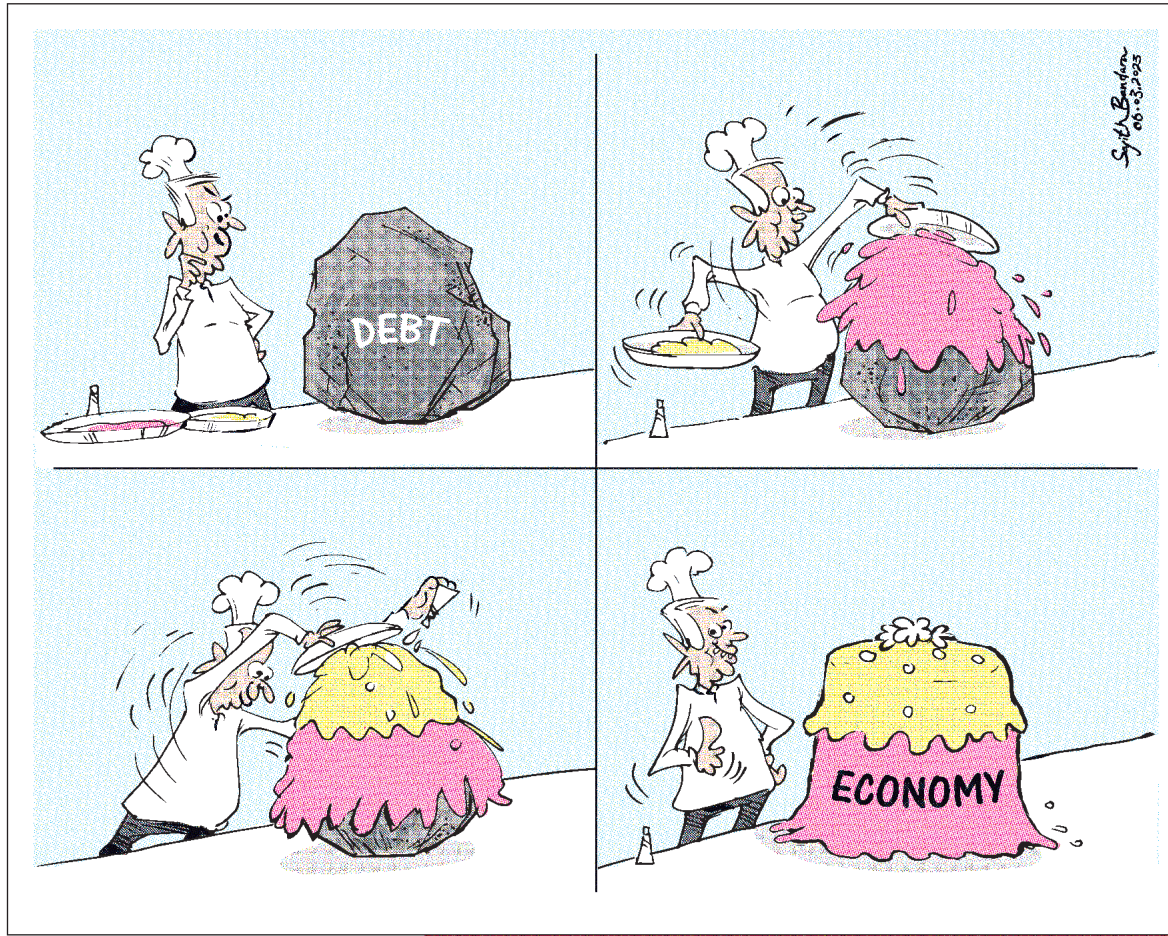
In under a year, since his installation, shortages have been reduced and daily power cuts are now a distant memory. The new president and his team - though unpopular - are on the brink of successfully negotiating an IMF bailout facility. Through careful fiscal management, there has been a rise in the country's foreign reserves and an appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar.

But with wages not keeping pace with the rising cost of living, government is unpopular. Again, the government is attempting to postpone local government elections which are due this month, claiming it does not have the finances to carry out that exercise. Simultaneously, a new tax regime which affects the wealthy and does not hurt the poor has been imposed.

Yet, strikes and work stoppages against the tax and postponement of LG elections are being called by trade unions (TUs), who should be protecting workers' rights, not protecting the wealthy. These disruptions could drag down the recent economic gains the country has made. The losers will be the ordinary folk of this country. The rich and the wealthy have the capacity to ride out the present financial crisis.

Are we, through blinkered vision, creating conditions for the sons and daughters of the less fortunate sections of society to be turned into 'drawers of water and hewers of wood' to the rich and privileged in society?

The question our trade unions must ask themselves is, in whose interest is it, to sabotage recent economic gains, by raising false foes, in the face of an economic melt-down.



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

By **KKS PERERA**

The above sentence was an ornament Karl Marx' added to the beginning of Chapter One of his masterpiece, 'The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte', which endeavored to explain in elegant style how in times of revolutionary conflicts those involved often blind themselves in the political, and ideological symbols of past generations, but in a farcical form when initially they all failed tragically.

Political leadership was one vital ingredient that lacked in the Aragalaya movement and that very independent condition caused its cessation. The highly successful August 1953 Hartal or the violent mass uprising against the Dudley Senanayake government over the price increase in rice ration was organized and led by the Marxist leaders of LSSP, NLSSP and CP; however, the real beneficiaries of the historic insurrection were Bandaranaike and his SLFP that won elections defeating UNP three years later.

The unpretentious apolitical youth who created history by evicting the most powerful regime failed to reap the benefits while the Red Comrades brutishly grabbed that opportunity defeating all opposition stakeholders, including Pohottu-dissidents fairly squarely. Their learning is beyond the unsophisticated mentality of the present political leadership. And by being so lethargic and fearful in the organization to resolving many complex issues that challenge the country of today, both Sajith and Anura have become enablers of the very system that aragalaya youth wished to end and replace. The two most formidable political parties, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) are impatient; their respective leaderships amply displayed hesitancy, reluctance, and haplessness when the call was for an authentic, vigorous, and steadfast approach to the political, social and economic, expedition of the nation after the collapse of Rajapaksa regime. Their leadership's approach to lead the Aragalaya was met with hostility, and in SJB's case its leader had a narrow escape at the hands of maverick youth.

PREMADASA-WIJEWEERA BLOODBATH-88/89

"Ranil's hands are soaked with blood," says the orator son of former president, while the leader of the Jathika Jana Balavegaya - JVP leader, Anura Kumara Dissanayake has issued a strict warning to president Ranil Wickremesinghe for attempting to repress people's uprisings in a "barbaric manner" over the unfortunate death of a demonstrator.

The environment was polluted as usual with the smoke emanating from burning 'rubberized' human carcasses, on one evening in late 1988, I was standing outside my gate, talking to two neighbours about the previous night's tragic detection of eight half-burnt bodies on tyre-pyres a stone throws away. Four bearded young men walked up to us and questioned on our 'task' outside the home, and 'ordered' us to disperse. With little or no choice, we moved out temporarily allowing them to proceed, and regrouped once they passed beyond their vision. Within a few minutes, three men who looked like part of a security

Hartal '53, Bloody- '88/89'

PEACEFUL ARAGALAYA AND CROCODILE TEARS

"History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as farce"



Arbitrary detention, disappearances, torture chambers, and mass graves were used as weapons by Premadasa regime against Wijeweera's boys. The JVP's biggest fans then were young impoverished Sinhalese youth from rural areas and undergraduates

contingent, and in civvies, with one of them carrying an automatic firearm hidden under his jersey confronted us in the same manner and ordered us in. The first gang was JVP/DJV and the second was from the security network of local UNP MP. Sensing some serious destructive event on the cards we dispersed.

In less than an hour, something similar to the sound of crackers echoed the air. The junior minister and his 'keep' a resident of the area escaped the assault, leaving the poor driver and two bodyguards who were slow in their retaliation facing T-56 bullets of the 'November heroes'. The junior minister in Premadasa government who was visiting his mistress, half a km away from my residence was targeted by the JVP-NPP, sorry the JVP/DJV (Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya). The Government's official and unofficial 'troups' responded the same night displaying six charred bodies of youth near the bridge. This is just one of a series of tragic occurrences of 1988/89' that the writer personally experienced.

Do not doubt the sincerity of the two leaders in their laments over the dead man. The two leaders are now locking horns in a battle for supremacy with JVP holding the edge. One cannot blame them for the mayhem of 88/89' being sons and junior party men for they are not responsible in the slightest manner for the brutality of their parents and masters. However, none of them have condemned

the atrocities of 88/89, but instead they proudly boast of "November Heroes" and the other pompously declares himself as, "Premadasage Putha..."

Arbitrary detention, disappearances, torture chambers, and mass graves were used as weapons by Premadasa regime against Wijeweera's boys. The JVP's biggest fans then were young impoverished Sinhalese youth from rural areas and undergraduates. Those who lived through the terror reign of '88 - '89 will remember the cruel punishments meted out by the Wijeweera 'viruwo' to those who disobeyed them and returned from the polling booth after casting their vote. Three-and-a-half decades have passed since the JVP's second revolt, there is little to advocate that they have transformed their hostile ways; they are threatening the state with "hook or crook" methods. Both the JVP and government, displayed the bodies of their victims to serve as a warning to the rest. Mutilated bodies strewn about in the open were a common site in all parts of the island. Ban on military connections, commercial shutdowns and electoral boycotts, were ordered by the JVP on 'chits', death is the punishment for violators.

One of the most vicious killings was the family of Udugampola, DIG, they labelled him as the 'slaughterer'. In July, 1988, they raided his home in Poddala and burned his house after locking up his mother, brother, sister-in-law, and two young children inside. Most of the killings were done in secret. In Tissamaharama in 1987, the JVP conducted an anti-government protest, and the government retorted by shooting. Vigilante squads shot dead villagers in retaliation. In 1989, after the JVP/DJV killed the families of some army men in Panadura, Kundasale, and Aranagala, vigilante groups [PRAA and Yellow Cats] in return murdered young men suspected to be supporters of JVP; more than 100-150 people were killed by them too.

There were journalists who did not fear to report the slaughters. The best example is Richard de Zoysa, a very well-known artist, human rights activist senior journalist and a member of one of the most powerful affluent families five decades ago. He was taken away in the night by the authorities promising his mother the safe return after recording a statement. However, his mutilated body, as reported, had been dumped at sea by a helicopter. Mother, identified his kidnapper to be one Gunasinghe, an SSP, and close confidante of President Premadasa.

The number of murders has been assessed to be at least 35,000-60,000; with the majority attributable to the state. The bhishanaya was perhaps the nastiest time to be in Sri Lanka. In the north, the war was intense. If you are aligned with one terrorist group, you could find yourself the target of another. In the south, you could be the victim of a terrorist attack by the JVP. Crocodile tears!

kksperera1@gmail.com

DM Poll

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

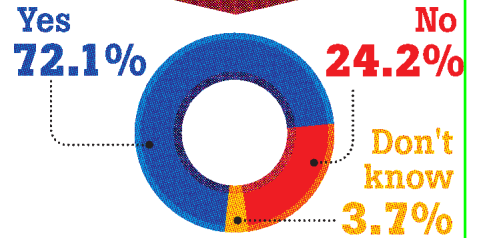
- Extremely motivated
- Somewhat motivated
- Not motivated
- Don't Know



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for a paradigm shift

After reading your editorial of March 2, I thought of penning these few lines. We, the Sri Lankans, need a paradigm shift from our lives of religiosities to a life of spirituality rooted in the intrinsic worth of every Sri Lankan, which is universal, inalienable and inviolable.

Such a spirituality will also empower Sri Lankans to affirm the equality and the inclusion of every Sri Lankan living in Sri Lanka, with basic rights and obligations, in order to promote the common good of all the Sri Lankans. Pope Francis says "Until exclusion and inequality in society are reversed, it will be impossible to eliminate violence. The poor and the poorer people are accused of violence, yet without equal opportunities the different forms of aggression and conflict will find a fertile terrain for growth and eventually explode."

-FR. EMMANUEL FERNANDO OMI

Need solutions, not politics...

In the letter to the Daily Mirror of March 2, Goolbhai Gunasekera calls the present government "the most disliked and contemptible" in the last 75 years.

This is an example of being carried away. As a retired senior public servant, I am aware that there are many who do not agree with her choice of words. A number of people feel that President Ranil Wickremesinghe is brave and patriotic in taking decisions putting the economy above petty politics.

In the short, run inflation and economic hardship are inevitable, but the Government must introduce welfare measures to alleviate the hardships of the lower income classes. What realistic solutions do the opposition have or had to offer? If they come to power, they too would have to take the same hard measures. Rabble-rousing speeches can draw large crowds that are protesting against skyrocketing prices and the cost of living, but the opposition, if they are in power would find they have to take the same hard measures.

I think the opposition fear that if the present policies are continued, there would be a marked improvement in the short to medium term that would dim their electoral prospects.

-BANKER

US\$ 36 bn of SL's export revenue held offshore

WEB COMMENTS

KINGSLEY WIJESINHE - The main problem is lack of accountability. Once an article like this appears in the press, it must be taken up in parliament, a full inquiry must be held and the officer/officers responsible in the Central Bank or wherever must be dealt in a serious manner.

recent times have to answer, bank governors too, had it been taken up in parliament, they will be aware of this issue.

KUKULA - Mr. President over to you. You go around preaching about Finance and economy, when you can solve these claims which are right under your nose?

NAVATRINE WILLAMUNE - Finance ministers of

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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THE VISION OF A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

The civilizational factor and Russia's place in the emerging world order



By
**Alexey
Drobinin**

Director, Foreign Policy Planning
Department, Russia's Foreign Ministry



President's Valdai speech: "The meaning of today's historical moment lies precisely in the fact that all civilizations, states and their integration associations see opportunities opening before them to pursue their own democratic, ingenious path of development."

In other words, the crystallization of civilizations, or we may call them civilizational platforms, each with the unique structure, as well as the development of connections between them, is what builds the pathway to a fundamentally new system. **A system that is on the cusp of replacing the existing paradigm dominated by one civilization that expanded worldwide under the slogans of globalization, Westernization, Americanization, universalization, liberalization and erasure of national borders.** According to Vladimir Putin, "Whereas the liberal globalization means depersonalization and imposing Western model on the entire world, the integration, conversely, is about unlocking each civilization's potential in the interests of the entire world so that everyone will win." So, the world is moving on from globalization to the emergence of civilizational platforms, which can also be referred to as centres of power or "poles", and onward to the interaction and integration between them. This is a long term historical process, a whole new era that we are entering whatever we like it or not. New centres of world development see multipolarity as chance to preserve their sovereignty and socio-cultural identity and to develop harmoniously – in line with their traditions and guided by their national interests and aspirations of their peoples.

Importantly, civilizational commonwealths need not be, and indeed cannot be, equal in their economic and military might, territorial scope or population numbers. They are united by the fact that they can influence global processes and introduce to the global discussion their own views on how to address various problems.

What other attributes can we use to identify a civilizational commonwealth? Since the 19th century, Russian scholars have been offering semantically close definitions. Each civilization "is built on the foundation of some kind of spiritual background, some primary cultural symbol of sacred value, which later become the basis for the emergence of an authentic culture". A Civilization is "a special category of states with lengthy and uninterrupted history, a pronounced authenticity, with citizens and leaders who are prepared to resolutely uphold their cultural identity". Civilizations are defined by "social and political practices enshrined in their culture which are permanently reproduced over an extended period of time; stable, albeit evolving civilizational matrices that reveal the existence of a certain civilizational core".

A civilization is marked by sovereign development. Its identity "is based on the domination of the worldview which translates into the energy of culture and practice of world-building, as reflected in its political project and its historical goal-setting". A civilization is metaphorically defined as "a particular mankind on a particular land" or as a "particular soul" of each people, "a particular self-sufficient mankind living on a particular land".

Now, let us translate the above into the language of political pragmatism and provide a list of criteria which, we believe, civilizations and other globally significant players should meet.

First and primarily, it is about the capability and will to carry out a sovereign and independent domestic and foreign policy.

Second, it is about the availability of a sufficient comprehensive economic, military, demographic, scientific educational and technological potential. It is also about access to adequate resources that make it possible

President Vladimir Putin pointed out that a common future for all will require a dialogue between the West and "new centres of a multipolar international order". More specifically, he made it clear that the basis of the world civilization consists of the "traditional societies of the East, Latin America, Africa and Eurasia"

Undoubtedly, deep down the reasons for the World Majority's unwillingness to become part of the anti-Russian coalition are not directly related to Ukraine. Russian experts are of the view that "residents of the former 'third world' believe that opposing former colonial rulers is right and historically irreversible". Russia's actions are viewed through the prism of restoring the historical justice

As a cover for its hegemonic aspirations, the West has been promoting the concept of "rules-based order". According to Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, it predetermines "a racist division of the world into a group of 'exceptional' countries that can getaway with anything, and other countries that must follow in the footsteps of the 'Golden Billion' and serve its interests"

to maintain socioeconomic resilience and high-level of self-sufficiency of the national economy.

The capability to act as an "assembly node" for contiguous geographical spaces and to lead integration projects is a critical element.

Finally, an integral aspect of any civilizational identity finds its expression in its authentic philosophy of development as well as its own "signature" vision of international politics, its authentic cultural and spiritual potential with significance for the world at large. As it appears, these criteria are met to varying degrees by civilization-states and civilizational commonwealths such as Russia, China, India, Southeast Asia (ASEAN community), the Arab world and the Muslim Ummah, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Western civilization with its Anglo-Saxon and continental Europe components. These top-level players are preparing to involve themselves deeply in determining the shape of the multipolar world. The World Majority will do so by combining capabilities and constructive work, while the West (in its current state of teenage rejectionism with regard to the natural course of history) will

do so by setting itself in opposition to the rest of the world.

The structure of civilizations/civilizational commonwealths may vary. **The civilizations themselves at varying degrees of assembly, showing diversity of architectural solutions. Nevertheless, each civilization consists of core (a civilization-state or a number of regional leader states). A second and third peripheral belts are formed around this core. Standing apart are "capable loners" – countries that possess above-the-average serious ambitions within the framework of the regional and, in some cases, global agenda as well as tools for their implementation.** However, these loners do not have sufficient aggregate resources to form a civilizational commonwealth, although they may attempt to do it (Iran, Turkey, Israel and some others, including, perhaps, Japan).

The compliance with the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in the UN Charter is called upon to guarantee freedom and prosperity of all countries in a multipolar world, regardless of their affiliation with a particular civilizational commonwealth. Let us be clear: this basic principle is not only about the equality of relations between states. It also calls for independent countries to become genuinely sovereign, and to pursue national interests in their domestic and foreign policy. Thus, by working to ensure the compliance with this principle, we are defending a major constant in the fight for the democratization of international relations, for the protection of cultural, civilizational diversity and for the construction of a multipolar world system, in which no nation's interests should be infringed upon.

The very logic of the natural course of history seems to facilitate the formation of civilizational commonwealths or platforms as pillars of a new architecture of international relations. Before our eyes, the Western world is losing its 500-year long dominance, which began in a tentative 1492 (the Reconquista on the Iberian Peninsula and the beginning of America's colonization). A leading Russian specialist in international affairs pointed out that the West's predominance "began to crumble in 1960s" under the impact of decolonization momentum. When World War II ended, as many as 750 million people (one-third of the world's population) lived in colonies. Since 1945, 80 former colonies have become independent states.

However, the decolonization in the 1960s did not lead to the new independent states achieving a full-fledged economic and political sovereignty. The US dollar-centric system of international settlements and foreign exchange reserves, the Bretton Woods institutions, the cross-border movement of capital by Western transnational corporations, and much more, represented a new more sophisticated and legally (but not morally) defensible form of colonial domination. Neo-colonialism was designed to ensure a continuous diversion of resources from the developing world to satisfy the needs of the "Golden Billion." In the wake of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and socialist commonwealth, this system spread practically worldwide under the slogans of globalization. Neo-colonial patterns enabled the ruling groups in the West to keep their economies afloat, to ensure high levels of mass consumption and to preserve, on this basis, the so-called liberal democracy, as a social development model. This last one, however, began to erode rapidly, returning to the antisocial norm, i.e. that historically inherent in the West (very Hobbesian war against all) as the economic crisis aggravated.

In the early 21st century, the rise of the Global East and Global South, which gained momentum thanks to the expanded cross-border cooperation, broke this economically and morally untenable paradigm. In 2021 BRICS countries surpassed the G7 share in the global economic activity and accounted for 32 percent of the Global GDP, calculated on the purchasing power parity basis. Economic development is followed by the acquisition of a political entity status, that very sovereignization of nation states mentioned above. Each of the world's macro-regions saw a globally significant leading country, or several such countries, come to the fore.

Up until recently, this process was natural and erratic, even spontaneous. The long-term trend was pretty well visible, but it needed time to shape up in a structured way.

There are reasons to believe that Russia's special military operation has brought the transformative trends to a

new level. This can be seen in the World Majority's unwillingness to join the anti-Russian sanctions and political propaganda campaign, generated by the West. The vote count on the notorious UN General Assembly draft resolution about war reparations to Ukraine (November 2022) is revealing. More than half of the UN member states refused to support the confrontational draft. The following observation by a writer of op-ed published in Asia is quite symptomatic: "Leaders in the global south were also struck by the contrast between the West's urgency over Ukraine and its lack of similar fervour when it came to problems in their part of the world." Moreover, representatives of the Western capitals clearly overrid the arm-twisting. Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar made a point that "Europe has to grow out of the mindset that Europe's problems are the world's problems". Undoubtedly, deep down the reasons for the World Majority's unwillingness to become part of the anti-Russian coalition are not directly related to Ukraine. Russian experts are of the view that "residents of the former 'third world' believe that opposing former colonial rulers is right and historically irreversible". Russia's actions are viewed through the prism of restoring the historical justice. There is a genuine "opportunity emerging to build effective patterns of interaction and development not against the West, but in circumvention of the West and without its involvement". This is not what is known as the "non-violent resistance to evil" according to Leo Tolstoy or Mahatma Gandhi, but just the elementary disregard of the West (the embodiment of evil). As it happens, it is possible to develop successfully outside the "master and slave" paradigm imposed by the former colonial powers.

An integral aspect of any civilizational identity finds its expression in its authentic philosophy of development as well as its own "signature" vision of international politics, its authentic cultural and spiritual potential with significance for the world at large

The realization of the fact that rules of the game are changing could, in principle, in itself become an incentive for everyone to sit down and talk. **But for now, we are watching Anglo-Saxons, or rather, their ruling elites, attempt to restore the "unipolar moment" of the early 1990s by force. To get there, they are pushing to dismember civilizational commonwealths into segments, suitable to be absorbed, in line with the "divide and rule" maxim.** This is not surprising. Back in 2019, while employed in the private sector, current US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan penned a magazine article frankly arguing in it that the only way for the concept of American exceptionalism to prevail is to "defeat the emerging vision that emphasizes ethnic and cultural identity." In other words, on the ideological level they have always been ready to fight the "poles" that do not depend on the West. It is simply now that the time for action has come.

As a cover for its hegemonic aspirations, the West has been promoting the concept of "rules-based order". According to Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, it predetermines "a racist division of the world into a group of 'exceptional' countries that can getaway with anything, and other countries that must follow in the footsteps of the 'Golden Billion' and serve its interests". Some Western experts admit that the RBO is at odds with the aspirations of the developing world and the World Majority will not rush to line up in its support. As for us, we are sure that the RBO will soon be consigned to the dustbin of history, or (in the best-case scenario for its masterminds) will determine the parameters of the Western world only in its natural geographical borders.

The civilizational factor in international affairs is a hallmark of time. As we live through the transition to a new historic era, the ever ongoing struggle of ideas and notions about the future intensifies. But this collision takes place neither in an abstract world, nor, or in a power vacuum. Its frame is defined by the geopolitical and civilizational vision of a multipolar world, which is being born today.

With the worldview crisis in Russia's relations with the West entering a hot phase after the beginning of the Special military operation in February 2022, the future of the world order and principles of international relations is again among the issues making media headlines around the world and featuring widely in discussions held by political pundits. Let's take a look at it through the prism of foreign policy planning. For starters, some basic quotes.

Reflecting on the prospects for the development of international relations at a meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in October 2022, President Vladimir Putin pointed out that a common future for all will require a dialogue between the West and "new centres of a multipolar international order". More specifically, he made it clear that the basis of the world civilization consists of the "traditional societies of the East, Latin America, Africa and Eurasia".

Defining the issue in such a way sets a conceptual framework necessary to analyze current global trends.

What do we mean? In essence, the head of the state clearly laid out the civilizational aspect as a methodological basis for understanding, describing and constructing a multipolar system. Let us add that the President applied this kind of approach more than once, describing the substance of the present time in human history as "the West losing its potential, but striving to restrain and stop the development of other civilizations".

This is a long term historical process, a whole new era that we are entering whatever we like it or not. New centres of world development see multipolarity as chance to preserve their sovereignty and socio-cultural identity and to develop harmoniously – in line with their traditions and guided by their national interests and aspirations of their peoples

This overarching trend outlined by President Putin is not left unheeded by Russian political scientists. Here is one such opinion: "The worldwide meaning of the Ukraine crisis is about returning freedom, dignity and independence to the non-West – we suggest calling it the World Majority which previously used to be suppressed, robbed and culturally humiliated. Obviously, it should get back its fair share of global wealth". Once again, it's about returning to the non-Western world – those "other civilizations" in the President's logic – a fair share of global wealth. Besides the far-reaching anti-neocolonial agenda, we see, embedded in this phrase, an analytical juxtaposition between the West and the World Majority.

Strictly speaking, the civilizational approach is just one of a number of possible ways to describe the world. However, it appears that at the current crucial stage this approach provides the most precise "entry point" for the accurate interpretation of processes related to the transformation of the world order.

For many years now, we have identified both redistribution of economic and military power to benefit new centres and consolidation of positions by globally significant non-Western players as visible symptoms of the changing world structure. But what does this mean in terms of real politics? What does a new system look like in terms of geopolitics? How will countries interact in a multipolar world? These questions demand answers. Answers, that we believe, should be looked for by way of investigating large communities, such as macro regions or civilizations with distinctive socio-cultural, geo-economic and international policy features.

Now, let's take another look at the

FEATURES



LOOKING AT THE HUMAN BODY

FROM A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE

By
Dr. Justice Chandradasa Nanayakkara

Change is just a fact of life, we have to accept it and live with it. Impermanence is the cornerstone of Buddhist teachings and practice. All that exists is impermanent and nothing lasts.

Buddhists should fully appreciate this simple but profound truth. Anicca (impermanence), dukkha (suffering) and anatta (Selflessness) are the three characteristics common to all phenomenal existence.

Impermanence is inescapable and essentially a painful fact of life. Life is perpetually in a state of flux and change. The great Greek philosopher Heraclitus observing the fluid nature of things declared "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man" We must recognize this fact of impermanence and learn to see the subtle reality that the human body too undergoes an incalculable series of mutations and change every moment. The human body never remains the same for two consecutive moments, as it is subject to law of impermanence.

In Buddhism, mindful reflection on the human body is considered a fundamental tool for our overall wellbeing that helps us gain an insight into the fact of impermanence, as we move through our life.

It is said that Buddhism recognizes forty subjects of meditation which can differ according to the temperaments of persons. Contemplation of the human body is one of them. Of all the subjects of meditation, reflection on the human body as a subject is not popular among certain people particularly in the Western world. They regard it as a subject that may be somewhat unpleasant not conducive to human wellbeing. In Buddhism it is called asuba bavana or mindfulness of the impurities of the body. It is all about our physiology and individual body parts and organs internal as well as external.

In order to comprehend the true nature of the human body, we got to put aside our preconceived ideas about it and ask ourselves dispassionately, Is the body something attractive or not? What is it composed of? Is it something that is everlasting?

This subject of meditation is unique to The Buddha's teachings. Normally, people who are infatuated and intoxicated with sensual pleasures develop an aversion towards this subject of meditation.

There is also a misconception among some people that such contemplation would lead to melancholic morbid and pessimistic outlook on life.

But reflection on the human body as a subject of meditation is an essential component of The Buddha's teaching, as knowledge of the true nature of the human body would be essential to our wellbeing. In order to comprehend

the true nature of the human body, we got to put aside our preconceived ideas about it and ask ourselves dispassionately, Is the body something attractive or not? What is it composed of? Is it something that is everlasting? Most people are under delusion that the body is very attractive and that it is something desirable.

Repulsiveness of the body can be clearly seen if we do not wash our body for a few days. We got to keep washing it otherwise the body would stink before long and become unbearable. We feel certain parts of our body so abominable. For instance, if a few strands of hair found in our plate of rice, we tend to lose our appetite. There are many such aspects of the

In Buddhism, mindful reflection on the human body is considered a fundamental tool for our overall wellbeing that helps us gain an insight into fact of impermanence, as we move through our life

body that we can look at to determine whether it is a pleasant thing or not, whether beautiful or not. (Rev. Ajaan Pannavaddho)

As worldlings, our mind has been enamoured with the body. We generally look at the human body as a thing of beauty. We regard it as beautiful and spend a lot of time, energy and money to make it more beautiful and attractive. We admire beautiful eyes, teeth, face, hair and figure. We spend a lot of time to feed the body, to clothe it, to cleanse it, to wash it, to beautify it and rest it. People like to look as young as they can, as long as they can and increase their chances of having lifelong healthy body.

As Buddhists we have look at the human body from a realistic point of view. From the Buddhist perspective, the human body is a bag of impurities. Moreover, we cannot control everything that happens in our lives. For instance, we cannot change the natural ageing process of our lives. Ageing is a gradual, irreversible and inevitable process. Everyone should come to terms with his or her ageing process.

With time, we all get visible lines and wrinkles on our face. It is natural with the passage of time for our face to lose its youthfulness. We notice our skin becoming thin and drier. We lose our teeth. We tend to lose our mental faculties. A lot of people particularly women feel inadequate about their physical appearance. They always think of ways of becoming younger and attractive. People spend an enormous amount of money on cosmetic procedures, skin care and grooming products to make themselves presentable. But it must be understood that use of grooming products available in the whole world will not enable a person to recover his or her youthfulness, as the time takes its toll. When fears centre around ageing, decay and disease, we cannot overcome them by pretending they do not exist. Only facing these inevitable features of life can bring insight and relief to us.

Therefore, contemplation of the human body (kayanupassana) enables a person to gain an insight into the real nature of the human body. The Buddha dealt with thirty-two parts of the human body and spelt out its constituents. Asuba bavana in brief is the contemplation of those thirty-two impure parts of the human body in their true nature. Practice of mindfulness of the human body can

begin by contemplating on this very passage from satpattana sutta. "In this very body, from the soles of the feet up, from the crown of the head down, surrounded by skin, full of these various mean impurities, he reviews thus". (Satipathans Sutta, trans, Ven, Nanamoli).

Head hair (*Kesa*), Body hair (*Loma*), Nails (*Nakha*), Teeth (*Danta*), Skin (*Taco*), Flesh (*Mamsam*), Sinews (*Naharu*), Bones (*Atthi*), Bone-marrow (*Atthimijam*), Kidneys (*Yakkam*), Heart (*Hadayam*), Liver (*Yakanam*), Membranes (*Kilomakam*), Spleen (*Pihakam*), Lungs (*Papphasam*), Gut (*Antam*), Gut (*Antagunam*), Gorge (*Udariyam*), Dung (*Karisam*), Bile (*Pittam*), Phlegm (*Semham*), Pus (*Pubbo*), Blood (*Lohitam*), Sweat (*Sedo*), Fat (*Medo*), Tears (*Assu*), Grease (*Vasa*), Spit (*Khelo*), Snot (*Sinhanika*), Joints (*Lasika*), Urine (*Muttam*), lastly Brain Skull making up thirty two parts. Observation of repulsive nature of our body constantly and rapidly leads a person to gain a realistic perspective of the human body.

In the world today, for many people most enduring desire is sexual desire, so to deal with this phenomenon contemplation on the impure side of the human body would be important. At a time, people are subjected to bombardment of sensuality by way of the mass media resulting in defilement of the mind notably lust, greed and attachment reflection on this aspect of human body enables a person to gain tranquility. When the emphasis is so much on sensuality such as youthfulness, beauty, we find the darker sides of life get pushed away and swept under the carpet.

Contemplation on dead body, is another appropriate subject recognized in Buddhism, in which the Buddha identified nine stages of decomposition of the dead body. The Buddha showed us how to realize this truth through contemplation on the human body. He drew attention to the activities of the body, how it is formed and inevitably passes away. Intelligent contemplation on the dead body will strengthen ones mind sufficiently to develop Samadhi, which can be achieved by anyone.

All beings that born must die eventually. All creatures that inhabit the earth, whatever their status undergo the common fate of death. Consequent to the death of a person, the body undergoes a series of biological changes and the decomposed body is returned to the earth as an organic matter. It is part of this earth. When we look at a dead body properly, we realize that body does not belong to us nor is it really ourselves or a part of ourselves.

One who has not realized this truth will be forever seeking other existence in different form prolonging the journey through samsara. Only a developed mind can see an end to this samsaric journey.

When you attend a funeral, looking at a dead body, one can reflect for a few moments in this manner. What has happened to you will also happen to me one day sooner or later. The body which I thought was mine will one day become food for the worms and other creatures. The attractive form will inevitably disintegrate into pieces of bones and become a mass of rotting flesh. In a few days, the whole body will assume a disgusting and repulsive shape and form exuding foul-smelling odour. My attractive body which I nurtured throughout will also undergo the same fate. In this manner, by comparing body with a dead body, one can develop tranquility (Rev. K. Wipulanisiri).

It also helps immensely in recognizing and understanding the Tri-lakana as well as in controlling lust and attachment towards the human body.



National Law Conference held last year

The National Law Conference of 2023 is set to take place on the 12th and 13th of March at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo. This esteemed event will be chaired by Mr. Janaprieth Fernando, Attorney-at-Law, and inaugurated/opened by a number of distinguished speakers including the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, the Honourable Jayantha Jayasuriya and US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Julie Chung.

The primary goal of this conference is to provide a platform for discourse with numerous experts in their respective fields on how the legal system in Sri Lanka can be used to navigate our country and its people through the current crises, while also facilitating an opportunity to explore safeguarding our futures having learnt from the experience. The conference itself will be divided into multiple plenary sessions as well as two parallel sessions over the course of two days in order to effectively communicate its message, with each session focusing on a specific aspect of the law's role in navigating through crises.

Each session will also entail a panel discussion/question and answer period between the panel of experts and members of the audience and provide excellent networking opportunities for all participants.

The first plenary session, titled "The Crisis, the Legal Framework and its Role in Economic Recovery" will examine the implementation of law in meeting the challenges of the present economic situation while examining how to best exploit the available framework to its potential to support the necessary economic reforms and strengthen accountability of government and individuals in such situations. Also explore future necessary legal reform.

This session will feature a range of experts, including Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, President's Counsel Dr. K. Kanagaiswaran, Mr. Sirikumara Kudagama, Assistant Governor, CBSL, Dr. Aritha Wikramanayake, Precedent Partner at Heritage Partners, Mr. Murtaza Jafferjee, CEO, JB Securities Ltd., and Dr. Dinesha Samararatne, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

The second plenary session deals with "Investment in Times of Crisis, the Legal Framework and New Developments And Opportunities" and will be elucidated by acclaimed professionals such as Additional Solicitor General Mr. Sumathi Dharmawardena, PC, Mrs. Renuka Weerakone, Attorney-at-Law, Director General, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Mr. Naomal Goonewardena, Precedent Partner at Nithya Partners, Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike, CEO, Colombo Stock Exchange, and from the Banking Sector the NDB Bank.

This session encompasses subjects including the importance of investment now, the supporting legal framework such as the Strategic Development Project Act and the structure of the Port City law covering investment opportunities; as well as new opportunities enabled in the energy sector; as well as impediments such as not reaching required standards in accepted 'ease of doing business' standards and necessary safeguards in the areas of corruption.

"Addressing Violence and Social Exclusion in Times of Crisis" makes up the third and final plenary session of day one and will canvass more socio-economic issues like the regulations required in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children in times of crisis. This session will be presented by renowned professionals including Dr. Ramani Jayasundera, AAL, Mr. Harshana Nanayakkara, AAL, Mr. Prashanthlal de Alwis, PC, and the Honourable Murdhu Fernando.

The second day of the conference will see two plenary sessions followed by two parallel sessions. The first plenary session will take up the pressing issue of Taxation in the Context of Recent

National Law Conference 2023

"NAVIGATING THROUGH CRISIS THE LAW'S ROLE"



The first plenary session will take up the pressing issue of Taxation in the Context of Recent Reforms

The primary goal of this conference is to provide a platform for discourse with numerous experts in their respective fields on how the legal system in Sri Lanka can be used to navigate our country and its people through the current crises, while also facilitating an opportunity to explore safeguarding our futures having learnt from the experience

Reforms, covering areas such as the implementation of the new tax regime and the impact of the recent amendments and proposed further reforms on the economy.

Specialists in these areas such as Mr. Suresh Perera, Principal, Tax and Regulatory, KPMG Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranjith Hapuarachchi, Commissioner General of Inland Revenue, Ms. Thanuja Perera – Tax Policy Advisor – Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Duminda Hulangamuwa, Senior Partner and Head of Tax, E & Y will effectively expound on these topics.

The second plenary session of day two, titled New Developments in Civil Law and the Notarial Practice will provide insight into recent amendments to several Acts related to notarial practice, civil procedure on the much needed 'Recovery of possession of Premises Given on Lease Act No. 1 of 2023' being brought in, and also the 'Small Claims Court Procedure Act No. 33 of 2022. The experts in the likes of Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, Ms. Melody Wickramanayake, Attorney-at-Law, Vice President – Legal, NDB PLC, Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC, and Hon. Ruwan Fernando, Judge of the Court of Appeal will speak.

The first of the two parallel sessions will cover (A) "Recent Developments and Amendments in Employment Law and Challenges in the face of crisis times", and (B) "Criminal Law in the context of IT Related offences and its forensic investigation". The former will be presented by well known authorities in the

field, namely Jivan Goonetilleke, Attorney-at-Law, Mr. Ditha de Alwis, Senior Assistant Director General, Employers' Federation of Ceylon, Dr. Pradeep Uluwardene, Group Chief HR Officer, LOLC Holdings PLC, and Hon. Sudantha Ranasinghe, President, Labour Tribunal, and will cover among other things recent amendments to Labour Laws and challenges and remote/hybrid working environment and implementation from the point of view of corporate structures. The latter will be detailed by Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC, Mr. Janaka Bandara, Deputy Solicitor General, Senior DIG Dr. Ajith Rohana, and Dr. Thusitha Abeysekera, Senior Lecturer in Law, all of whom are experienced professionals in their respective fields. This session will cover subjects such as IT related offences, defenses, reforms, and challenges, as well as the investigation and prosecution of IT related offenses.

The second parallel session takes on the areas of (A) "The Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), the progress of digitalization in Sri Lanka and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Is Sri Lanka ready to implement AI in delivering services in the Public Sector?" and (B) "Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Context of the Present Economic Situation". The former will delve into the implementation of the PDPA Act and related challenges as well as the recent Cyber Security Bill while also discussing the question of whether the lack of digitalization in Sri Lanka is an impediment to an efficient economic environment and will be presented by Mr. Jayantha Fernando, Chief Legal Officer, ICTA, Dr. Ruwan Weerasinghe, School of Computing, University of Colombo, and Dr. Romesh Ranawana, Group Chief Analytics and AI Officer – Chairman, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence (AICx). The latter topic will be expatiated by Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC, Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere, Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Chanaka de Silva PC, Partner, Nithya Partners, and Ms. Dilani Alagaratnam AAL, Director of the CCC-ICLP International ADR Centre. This will feature discussions on mechanisms for making ADR more accessible to the public during tough economic times, ADR as a primary mode of dispute resolution in contract-based employment, and exploring the potential benefits of promoting ADR for economic growth.

This annual conference is an important platform for legal professionals, policymakers, and academics to share their insights on the law's role in navigating through crises, working within the existing legal and social framework, and identifying the necessary improvements to be made for the advancement of society as a whole.

Registrations for the Conference are now open, and interested parties are encouraged to sign up to attend

43rd Battle of the Brothers Limited Over Thurstan in easy win over rivals Isipathana

Thurstan recorded an easy four wicket win over Isipathana in the 43rd Battle of the Brothers limited over cricket encounter played at R. Premadasa Stadium yesterday. Isipathana taking first lease of the wicket helped by identical knocks of 44 by Tharusha Ashel and Themiya Nethmika made a modest score of 203 for 9. Thurstan in the run chase made a steady progress helped by a valuable 63 runs for the fourth wicket between Vihes Thewmika and Navindu Fernando enabling them to race to the target in the 44th over and to record their 22nd win of the series to Isipathana's 16.

(MSA)

RESULT

Isipathana: 203 for 9 in 50 overs (Tharusha Ashel 44, Themiya Nethmika 44 n.o.: Azeem Mohamed 2 for 27, Thanuga Palihawadana 2 for 38)
Thurstan: 204 for 6 in 43.5 overs (Vihes Thewmika 44, Thanuga Rajapakse 34, Shanikya Deshapriya 34, Thenuka Devapriya 32, Navindu Fernando 28 n.o.: Sahar Viraj 2 for 37, Yeshith Kalupahana 2 for 41)

Beach Volleyball Selection trials on March 11-12

The National Beach Volleyball Selection Trials will be held on March 11-12 at the Negombo Beach Park. The Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation announced that the men's selection trial will be held on March 11 and the women's selection trial on March 12. Selections to pick the National Youth Boys Team for the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games will be held this year. Players born after January 1, 2005, and before December 31, 2009, can participate. All female players must bring their National Identity Card or Passport, and youth players must bring an original copy of their birth certificate along with their identity card.



ARMY'S RAJAPAKSA WINS TOUR DE AIR FORCE CYCLING RACE

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
 Thushan Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka Army Cycling Club emerged the overall champion of the 24th Tour de Air Force (Sri Lanka) Cycling Race held from Colombo to Anuradhapura via Kandy. Rajapaksa pocketed the winner's prize of LKR 400,000, finishing the total distance of 408 km with a timing of 9:43.31. This event was conducted for the 24th consecutive year and coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force. 2022 champion Avishka Madonza of Sri Lanka Army had to settle for second overall, finishing the race in 9:43.33 hours. Suranga Ranaweera of the Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council Cycling Club finished third overall (9:43:40). Over 165 riders participated in the Tour de Air Force Cycling Race. The Team Championship was won by the Sri Lanka Army Cycling Clubs. Sri Lanka Air Force Cycling Club was placed second, and Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council Cycling Club clinched the third position. Meanwhile, the Colombo to Kandy Stage 1 was won by Rajapaksa (2:59:58), the Pallekele to Polonnaruwa Stage 2 by Saranga Perera of Army (3:43:06) and the Polonnaruwa to Anuradhapura Stage 3 by Pasindu Thisera of Army (2:59:25). Five riders from the Indian Air Force participated in the race, with Krishana Nayakodi finishing fourth overall in a time of 9:46:14. Nippon Paint Lanka Pvt. Ltd. was the Principal Sponsor.



DailyMirror SPORTS EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL

- Cricket: ENGLAND IN BANGLADESH ODI SERIES 3rd ODI (d/m) - (Chattogram)
- Football: PREMIER LEAGUE Brentford vs Fulham (Gtech Community Stadium)

CM Sports Desk

Senuja selected for Sri Lanka National Swimming Pool

BY SHAMSEER JALLEEL
 Trinity Swimming skipper Senuja Samarasinghe was recently selected for the Sri Lanka National Swimming Pool 2023. Senuja started his swimming career at the age of eight and moved to England four years later, in 2012. After three years overseas, Senuja returned to Sri Lanka in 2015 and represented Trinity in swimming under Coach UH Pemplath. Senuja, in his first meet in 2020, placed 7th overall in the Pentathlon Short Course Swimming Championship, and placed 3rd in the backstroke event.



Donald Steel Trophy 2023 Dhanushan lights up Rajawella

BY SHAMSEER JALLEEL
 Seventeen-year-old K. Dhanushan (Men's) won the prestigious Donald Steel Trophy 2023, while the experienced Anouk Chitty (Ladies) won the Pam Fernando trophy at the Victoria Golf Resort recently. Dhanushan, one of the best youngsters, was in peak form at the Digana course. He scored 24 gross, while the runner-up, Suhayb Sangani, scored 31 gross. Meanwhile, in the Ladies' event for the Pam Fernando trophy, Anouk Chitty had a gross score of 26, while



Ahalya Rajan ended as the runner-up with a score of 22. More than 120 golfers teed off in the annual event at their golf course in Rajawella.

RESULTS

Seniors Best Nett Score Ladies: Marie Kristofferson (44 points)	Nett (Victoria Bowl) Runner-up: Manori Jayakoddy (37 points) Winner: Vivienne Fowler Watt (37 points C/B)	Ladies Gross (Pam Fernando Trophy) Runner-up: Ahalya Rajan (Gross 22) (Gross 26) Winner: Anouk Chitty (Gross 34)
Seniors Best Nett Score Gents: Mats Andersson (39 points)	Gent's Nett (Ebert Pot) Runner-up: Yuki Asakawa (36 Points) Winner: Suhayb Sangani (36 points C/B)	Gent's Gross (Donald Steel Trophy) Runner-up: Suhayb Sangani (Gross 31) Winner: K. Dhanushan (Gross 34)
GM's Trophy - Gents Runner-up: Nisith Gunawardena (33 points) Winner: Krishna Kumar (34 points)		

Ministry approves 12-member Kabaddi squad for Bangladesh tourney

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
 The Sri Lanka Kabaddi Federation (SLKF) has announced a 12-member squad approved by the Ministry of Sports for the 3rd Bangabandhu International Invitation Men's Kabaddi Tournament. The Sri Lanka Kabaddi squad will leave on March 11 for Bangladesh, said SLKF Secretary R. Seheevan. The tournament is organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and is scheduled to be held from March 11 to 21 in Dhaka. A total of 12 countries, comprising Asian (8), European (2), African (1), and South African (1), have received invitations for this tournament. The participating countries are Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, England, Poland, Kenya, and Argentina. The Bangabandhu Invitation



Kabaddi Tournament was first held in 2013, and the second one was held in 2022. Bangladesh won the last edition, while Sri Lanka were runners-up. M.T. Aslam Saja has been appointed captain of the Sri Lanka Kabaddi team. Air tickets and accommodations for the players and officials of the teams participating in this tournament will be provided by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation. Sri Lanka squad: M.T.A. Saja (captain), Ashan Mihiranga, A. Mohanaraj, Dulan Maduwantha, Mohammed Sabihan, Mohammed Nafrees, Uditha Sanjaya Kumara, M.P.S. Jayawickrama, Wasantha Perera, Lakshan Wickramarachchi, R. Venci, Niroodha Pathirana. Officials: N.H. Selvaheva (Coach), Indratissa Dedunupitiya (Manager), B. Mukunthan (Technical Officer), Kapila Ruwan (Masseur)

David Pieris Group takes Go-Karting to North & East

An event centred around Go-karting was organised recently by the David Pieris Group (DPG) in the Northern and Eastern Provinces providing an opportunity for the community, mainly for the youth, to witness and experience motorsports. This event was also intended to support the tourism industry in these two regions. A mini go-karting track was set up and managed in each region for two days in Marine Square, Kattankudy & Pannai Road, Jaffna by David Pieris Racing and Leisure (Pvt) Ltd. The event in each region included

demonstration races, instructional videos and opportunity for riders to share their experience with those present at the location. More than 400 people participated in both Kattankudy and Jaffna. A limited over Cricket Tournament between DPG and Kattankudy Community titled, "DPG Eastern Province Cricket Fiesta" too was held at Shivananda Grounds in Kallady parallel to the Go-karting event. Trophies were awarded for the Champions, Man of the Match, Best Bowler, Best Batsman, etc. The cricket tournament which resulted in community engagement and teamwork concluded on a high note with the participation of Senior Management of the David Pieris Group. In 2022, DPG launched a special programme to widen the Group's footprint in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The trade associations in the two provinces came forward to support these efforts and to facilitate the DPG offerings to the existing and potential customers. Further, 20 members from the Batticaloa and Kattankudy Trade Associations recently visited the DPG offices

in Colombo and their Facilities Complexes, the newly opened Pearl Bay at Bandaragama and the SpeedBay at Port City Colombo. This two-day tour provided the team with in-depth exposure to the Group's portfolio of business and road map for the coming years. A year ago, DPMC Workshop Jaffna, a vehicle service and maintenance facility as well as a Bajaj Genuine Spare Parts Outlet were setup in Kokuvil, Jaffna. A programme was conducted to educate and create awareness about road safety and discipline with the support of Traffic Police Officers in the Jaffna Region by Assetline Finance Ltd; the financial services arm of the David Pieris Group. The Group also conducted a women empowerment programme under which technical training in Bajaj three-wheeler and motorcycle repairs and a NVO4 (National Vocational Qualification) level certificate were offered. Some of the participating women are already working in vehicle service centres. The Group, as their next step, plans to conduct an entrepreneurship training workshop coupled with an

environmental conservation programme under their Northern and Eastern Province Development Programme. The Group will continue to contribute towards the enhancement of the economy in these two regions.



SPORTS

CR BAG CLIFFORD CUP AFTER 16 YEARS

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT
CR and FC emerged victors of the Nippon Paint Clifford Cup 2023 by defeating Navy SC 24 - 18 in the final played at the Racecourse ground yesterday.

The win ended a 16 year wait for the oldest club rugby trophy in the country for the Longden Place club who are celebrating their centenary year.

The game was evenly contested and could have gone either way. However, a calm and composed CR kept their nerve to lay hands on the trophy that had eluded them for over one and a half decades.

CR took a wafer thin 10-9 lead at the breather. In the end CR scored a goal, a try and four penalties to the six penalties of Navy SC.

In fact the winners were trailing 0-9 for most part of the first half with the Sailors making up their points from two penalties booted over by Thilina Weerasinghe and one by Samuel Maduwantha.

CR undeterred got their act together and made up their first scoring from an under the posts try by Chathura Seneviratne which gave Thenuka Nanayakkara an easy kick at goal which was followed by a penalty by Chathura Seneviratne for CR to take the lead 10-9 at the short whistle.

On resumption it was a penalty battle between the two teams with the Sailors



Winners CR and FC with the Nippon Paint Clifford Cup. Picture by Kushan Pathiraja

meaning business as they went into attack mode right away which resulted in them being offered a penalty and Samuel Maduwantha had no difficulty with the task which saw them taking back the lead 12-10.

However the lead was short-lived as a Chathura Seneviratne penalty helped CR take over the lead.

Maduwantha was in good form and booted over a trade mark 55 metre penalty for the Sailors to surge ahead but again they could not hold on to the lead for long as Thenuka Nanayakkara helped the red shirts to take over the lead with a penalty. CR 16 to Navy 15.

NIPPON PAINT CLIFFORD CUP KNOCKOUTS 2023

SRI LANKA RUGBY SINCE 1979

NIPPON PAINT THE COATINGS EXPERT

WEBPAY PAIN RELIEF SPRAY

National Super League Final

Wanindu, Lahiru guide Dambulla to title victory

The spin and pace combination of Wanindu Hasaranga and Lahiru Samarakoon, who together shared nine wickets, paved the way for Dambulla to coast to a comfortable 85-run win over Galle in the National Super League final concluded at the Galle International Stadium yesterday to emerge champions.

Since the final began on Thursday, it turned out to be a bowler's paradise, and the final day's proceedings too turned out to be the same, which ensured a comfortable win for Dambulla.

It was sweet revenge for Dambulla, having earlier suffered a defeat to the same opponents in the league segment of the tournament.

Galle came into the field resuming from their overnight score of 93/5 on the final day, needing 165 runs in the chase of 258 runs.

Overnight pair Pathum Kumara, the top scorer in the first innings, and Dunieth Wellalage were making smooth progress before spinner

Hasaranga made the breakthrough with the wicket of Kumara, with the pair having added 37 runs for the sixth wicket and Galle on 125/6.

Lahiru put Galle in further trouble when he got rid of Suminda Lakshan one run later. Wellalage, who made an unbeaten 52 despite associating in a 42-run stand for the eighth wicket with Kavishka Anjula, only delayed an early win for Dambulla as Hasaranga cleaned off the tail and in the process bagged five scalps to bowl Galle out for 182 runs and to guide Dambulla to the title victory.

The champions received a trophy and a cash award of LKR Five million bad runners up Galle received a trophy and a cash award of LKR 2.5 million.

Ramesh Mendis, representing Dambulla, was adjudged the player of the tournament and received a cash award of LKR 500,000, while the best batsman, Ahan Wickramasinghe of Kandy, and the best bowler, Shashika Dulshan of Jaffna, each received cash awards of LKR 250,000.



(MSA) Wanindu Hasaranga of Dambulla in action

RESULT

At Galle - Dambulla won by 75 runs
Dambulla 248 (Abishek Liyanarachchi 54, Minod Bhanuka 50, Sanoj Dharshika 37, Pavan Ratnayake 31, Chamindu Wijesinghe 15, Dushan Hemantha 27 n.o., Dunieth Wellalage 5/58, Kavishka Anjula 2/38) **and 196** (Sonal Dinusha 59, Ranitha Liyanarachchi 45, Ashan Priyanjan 36, Mohamed Shiraz 5/52, Asanka Manoj 2/40)

Galle 187 (Pathum Kumara 78, Suminda Lakshan 41, Kavishka Anjula 26; Wanindu Hasaranga 4/64, Lahiru Samarakoon 3/42, Sonal Dinusha 2/32) **and (93/5 overnight) 182** (Pathum Kumara 56, Kavishka Anjula 27, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 19, Sohan de Livera 17, Dunieth Wellalage 52 n.o.; Wanindu Hasaranga 5/44, Lahiru Samarakoon 4/60)

93rd Battle of the Maroons

Sithmal shines for Ananda as match ends in stalemate

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Kithma Sithmal shone with a top knock of 90 with ten boundaries for Ananda on day two against traditional rivals Nalanda in the 93rd Battle of the Maroons, which ended in a stalemate at the SSC ground yesterday.

The outcome of the match was visible when the match ended on day one with Nalanda making 280/5, which came on the back of half-tens made by Eranga Jayakody and Kushmitha Silva and useful contributions from Chanul Athukorala and Senesh Wijesinghe, while Ananda ended the day on 65 for 1.

Ananda resuming from their overnight score saw the overnight pair Kanchana de Livera and Ashinsa Nainayake being able to add only another three runs before being separated.

Ananda underwent a setback when they lost two wickets with the score on 79, and though they accumulated runs from there on, they lost wickets at regular intervals and were badly placed at 128 for 6.

Sithmal, along with Ayesh Shashimal, came to the rescue of the side, and the pair shared a valuable partnership of 64 runs for the seventh wicket before being bowled out for 235 runs.

The match from here on was of academic interest, and Nalanda batting the second time made 121 for 5 before declaring, and Ananda set an impossible target of 177 runs and ended the day on 22 for 2.

Nalanda

1ST INNINGS

R. Vilochana c Wijebandara b Gunasinghe	32
Y. Samarakoon lbw b Mendis	00
S. Samarasinghe c Gunasinghe b Mendis	11
K. Silva c Nainayake b Shashimal	57
E. Jayakody c Gimshan b Shashimal	83
C. Athukorala not out	44
S. Wijesinghe not out	40
EXTRAS: (b4, lb1, nb6, wd2)	13
TOTAL: (Five wickets, 61 overs)	280

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-43, 3-57, 4-181, 5-206
BOWLING: N. Samaraweera 9-3-35-0, K. Mendis 15-1-61-2, Isuru Weerasooriya 5-0-17-0, Yehan Gunasinghe 8-0-32-1, K. Sithmal 5-0-36-0, Ashinsa Nainayake 7-1-39-0, A. Shashimal 12-1-55-2

Ananda

1ST INNINGS

V. Wijebandara c Samarakoon b Indusara	13
K. de Livera run out	43
A. Nainayake c Athukorala b Jayakody	16
K. de Zoysa b Indusara	03
K. Sithmal c Wijesinghe b Indusara	90
I. Gimshan c Samarakoon b Caldera	19
K. Mendis c Dewdunu b Athukorala	08
A. Shashimal lbw b Athukorala	19
N. Samaraweera c Silva b Caldera	17
I. Weerasooriya c Dewdunu b Caldera	00
Y. Gunasinghe not out	02
EXTRAS: (lb3, nb1, wd1)	05
TOTAL: (All out, 87.4 overs)	235

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-68, 3-79, 4-79, 5-108, 6-128, 7-192, 8-221, 9-222, 10-235
BOWLING: C. Athukorala 15-7-29-2, T. Dewdunu 6-0-27-0, J. Indusara 24-8-44-3, S. Vithanage 12-0-49-0, Y. Samarakoon 3-0-5-0, E. Jayakody 5-1-9-1, Minod Caldera 14.4-2-53-3, S. Samarasinghe 8-1-16-0

Nalanda

2ND INNINGS

Y. Samarakoon run out	29
R. Vilochana c de Livera b Mendis	38
C. Athukorala c de Zoysa b Weerasooriya	12
E. Jayakody not out	21
S. Wijesinghe b Mendis	00
S. Vithanage c de Livera b Mendis	03
S. Samarasinghe not out	12
EXTRAS: (b4, lb1, nb1)	06
TOTAL: (Five wickets declared, 25 overs)	121

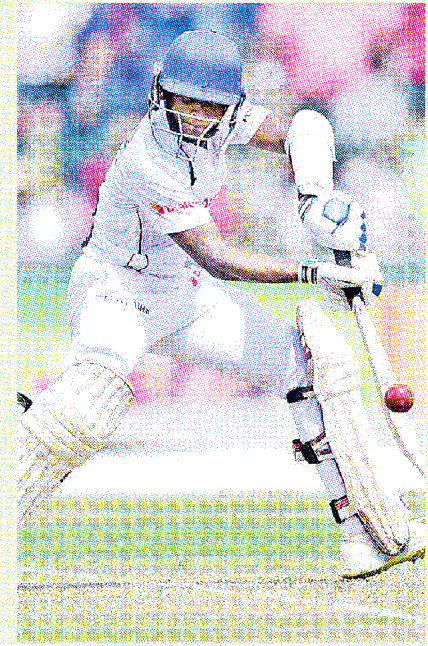
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-79, 3-85, 4-85, 5-101
BOWLING: N. Samaraweera 3-0-18-0, K. Mendis 6-0-34-3, I. Weerasooriya 9-0-32-1, A. Shashimal 2-0-17-0, Y. Gunasinghe 3-0-10-0, A. Nainayake 2-0-5-0

Ananda

2ND INNINGS

V. Wijebandara c Jayakody b Caldera	03
K. de Livera not out	13
I. Gimshan b Caldera	06
A. Nainayake not out	00
TOTAL: (Two wickets, nine overs)	22

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-20
BOWLING: M. Caldera 5-1-11-2, J. Indusara 3-0-10-0, C. Athukorala 1-0-1-0



Kithma Sithmal made a top score of 90 for Ananda. PIC BY KUSHAN PATHIRAJA

All Island Under-18 Sevens 2023

Isipathana beat Royal to clinch championship

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL IN KANDY

Isipathana College won the All Island Under-18 Sevens rugby tournament when they handed Royal College a 21-0 loss in the Cup final yesterday at the Bogambara Stadium. This event was organised by the Sri Lanka Schools Rugby Football Association (SLSRFA).

At the short breather, the winners led 7-0. Isipathana produced their usual three-quarter running rugby, where they were unstoppable. Royal only got an opportunity to defend for most of the 14 minutes of the two halves.

Isipathana beat St. Peter's 19-12, while Royal beat Vidyarthi 10-5 after the game

went into extra time. Isipathana's outfit was led by Shaheed Zumri, coached by Dinusha Chathuranga and assisted by Shenal Deelaka.

The lads from Bambalapitiya won the last edition in 2019, with no tournament being held from 2020-2022.

Mahanama handed off Ananda 27-0 to win the Shield trophy, while the Kandy boys' encounter between Kingswood and St. Anthony's ended in a 7-all draw after full-time. Going into extra time, Kingswood bagged the Bowl, winning 12-7. Meanwhile, D.S. edged out St. Joseph's 19-17 to lift the Plate trophy.

SHIELD SEGMENT

Quarterfinals: Lalith Athulathmudali beat Prince of Wales 29-7, Mahanama beat Sylvester's 26-5, Ananda beat CWV Kannangara 12-7, Piliyandala Central beat Rahula 9-0

Semifinals: Ananda beat Lalith Athulathmudali 26-17, Mahanama beat Piliyandala Central 17-12

Final: Mahanama beat Ananda 27-0

BOWL SEGMENT

Quarterfinals: St. Anthony's beat Carey 33-0, Kingswood beat Zahira 26-10, Wesley beat Trinity 22-5, Dharmaraja beat Thurstan 10-0

Semifinals: Kingswood beat Dharmaraja

15-14, St. Anthony's beat Wesley 12-5

Final: Kingswood beat St. Anthony's 12-7 after extra time

CUP SEGMENT

Quarterfinals: Isipathana beat Science 26-12, Vidyarthi beat St. Joseph's 19-15, St. Peter's beat D.S. 29-7, Royal beat S. Thomas' 12-10

PLATE

Semifinals: D.S. beat Science 21-7, St. Joseph's beat S. Thomas' 24-0

Final: D.S. beat St. Joseph's 19-17

CUP

Semifinals: Isipathana beat St. Peter's 19-12, Royal beat Vidyarthi 12-5

Final: Isipathana beat Royal 21-0

Under-19 Cricket

Thirty-two teams advance to quarterfinals

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Thirty-two teams in Divisions One and Two of the Under 19 inter-school Tier 'A' and 'B' cricket tournament have advanced to the quarterfinals after the league matches ended last week. The 32 teams comprise eight teams in each group.

The teams to qualify for the quarterfinals in the respective categories are as follows:

Division One - Tier 'A'

Trinity College (X1), St. Sebastian's Moratuwa (Y1), Richmond College Galle (Z1), Wesley (X2), St. Joseph's Colombo (Y2), Maliyadeva Kurunegala (Z2), St. Benedict's Kotahena (BT1), and Royal Colombo (BT2).

Quarterfinal Fixtures

Trinity vs. Royal at Asgiriya, St. Sebastian's vs. Maliyadeva Kurunegala (Z2) at Moratuwa, St. Joseph's vs. Wesley at Darley Road, and Richmond Galle vs. St. Benedict's at Kotahena.

Division One - Tier 'B'

St. Aloysius' Galle (X1), Maris Stella Negombo (Y1), St. Servatius' Mataara (Z1), Mahinda Galle (X2), Isipathana Colombo (Y2), St. Sylvester's Kandy (Z2), Ananda Colombo (BT1), and Thurstan Colombo (BT2).

Quarterfinal Fixtures

St. Aloysius' Galle vs. Thurstan at Galle, Maris Stella Negombo vs. St. Sylvester's Kandy at Negombo,

Isipathana vs. Mahinda Galle at Colts, St. Servatius' Mataara vs. Ananda.

Division Two - Tier 'A'

Sri Sumangala Panadura (X1), St. Sebastian's Katuneriya (Y1), Vidyarthi Kandy (Z1), Piliyandala Central (X2), Sri Devananda MV Ambalangoda (Y2), St. John's Jaffna (Z2), Holy Cross College Kalutara (BT1) and Kalutara MV (BT2).

Quarterfinal Fixtures

Sri Sumangala Panadura vs. Kalutara MV at Panadura, St. Sebastian's Katuneriya vs. St. John's Jaffna at Katuneriya, Piliyandala Central vs. Sri Devananda Ambalangoda at Piliyandala and Vidyarthi Kandy vs. Holy Cross Kalutara at Kandy

Division Two - Tier 'B'

Bandaranayake College Gampaha (X1), Henegama Central (Y1), Taxila Central Horana (Z1), President's College Kotte (X2), Royal College Panadura (Y2), Christ King College Ja Ela (Z2), St. Thomas' Matale (BT1), and Sri Jayawardenapura MV Kotte (BT2).

Quarterfinal Fixtures

Bandaranayake College Gampaha vs. Sri Jayawardenapura MV Kotte at Gampaha, Henegama Central vs. Christ King College Ja Ela at Kirindiwela, Royal College Panadura vs. President's College Kotte at Panadura, Taxila Central Horana vs. St. Thomas' Matale at Horana

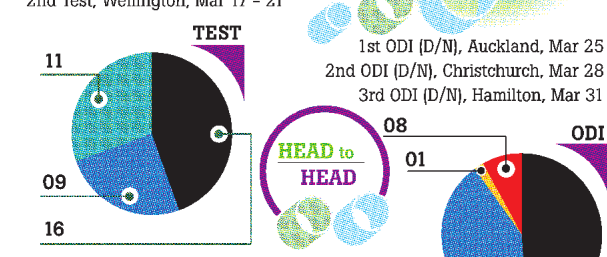
Graphic of the day

SRI LANKA TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

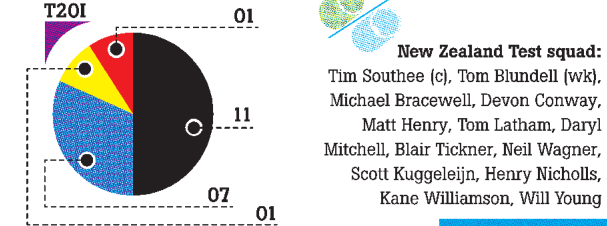
Sri Lanka Test squad: Dimuth Karunaratne (c), Oshada Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Niroshan Dickwell, Nishan Madushka, Ramesh Mendis, Prabath Jayasuriya, Chamika Karunaratne, Kasun Rajitha, Lahiru Kumara, Asitha Fernando, Vishwa Fernando, Milan Rathnayake

While defending champions New Zealand are already out of the running to secure a spot in the WTC Final, Sri Lanka can still eye-off a crucial top-two finish in the WTC Standings.

1st Test, Christchurch, Mar 09 - 13
 2nd Test, Wellington, Mar 17 - 21



1st ODI (D/N), Auckland, Mar 25
 2nd ODI (D/N), Christchurch, Mar 28
 3rd ODI (D/N), Hamilton, Mar 31



New Zealand Test squad: Tim Southee (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Blair Tickner, Neil Wagner, Scott Kuggeleijn, Henry Nicholls, Kane Williamson, Will Young

ICC World Test Championship 2021 - 2023

POS	TEAM	(%)	PTS	W	L	D	
1	AUSTRALIA	68.52	148	11	3	4	6
2	INDIA	60.29	123	10	5	2	6
3	SRI LANKA	53.33	64	5	4	1	5



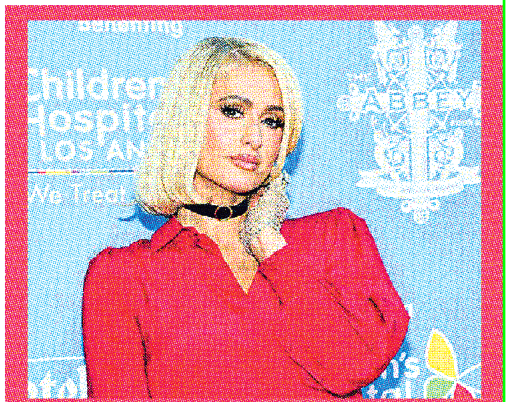


CHRIS ROCK HITS BACK AT WILL SMITH

Chris Rock finally hit back at Will Smith on Saturday in a brutal stand-up routine, a year after the actor slapped him in front of a global TV audience for the Oscars. The comedian came out swinging, accusing the Hollywood star of "selective outrage" when he reacted to a jibe about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head, and saying Smith lashed out at a shorter man because he was annoyed his wife had cheated on him. **AFP**

'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE' DOMINATES SPIRIT AWARDS

"Everything Everywhere All At Once" swept up yet more film prizes Saturday, as it was named best feature at the Spirit Awards — one of the last major Hollywood ceremonies before next weekend's Oscars. The trippy sci-fi won in every category it was nominated, at a ceremony held in a giant tent at Los Angeles' Santa Monica beach to celebrate low- and mid-budget movies. Its voters granted a whopping seven awards to the film, which was made for around \$25 million and became independent studio A24's biggest-ever hit, with a global box office gross above \$100 million. **AFP**



PARIS HILTON MEMOIR

Heiress to the Hilton hotel empire, Paris Hilton launched a memoir recently where she says she was a victim of sex abuse during her time at a boarding school. The schools were for troubled youth and her parents were unaware of the incidents at the time, the Daily Mail reports.

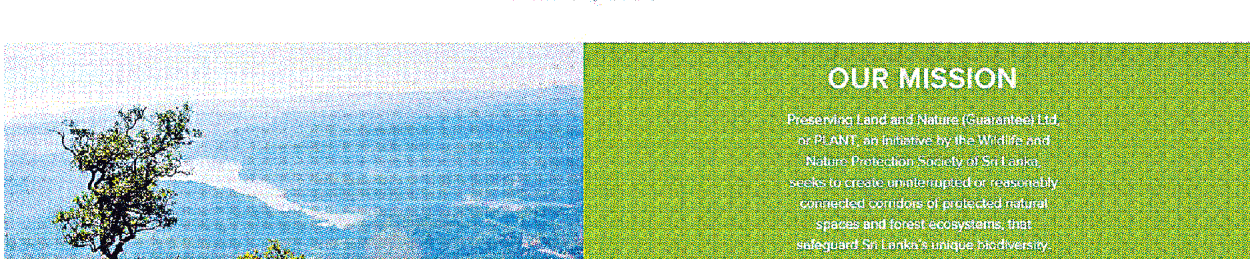
WNPS PARTNERS

WHARTON BUSINESS SCHOOL ON PLANT WEBSITE

Senior Consultants from Wharton Business School, through the Penn International Impact Consulting (PIIC), and the President of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), participated to recently launch the new website, www.plants.org. Preserving Land and Nature (Guarantee) Ltd (PLANT), is a game changing initiative that WNPS launched to bring private conservation to the fore in Sri Lanka.



ABOUT US
In 2020, Sri Lanka's largest and most active conservation entity, the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), set up a not-for-profit, Preserving Land and Nature (Guarantee) Ltd, referred to under the acronym of PLANT.



The site also features the Partners who have provided many forms of support and engagement on this, and she directed the audience to the interactive map which features all the locations that PLANT has operating presence in.

President Jehan CanagaRetna kicked off the launch process during the WNPS February monthly lectures held at BMICH. He highlighted the need for initiatives such as PLANT in partnering with private landowners, DWC and government partners, and corporations, to create meaningful change. In 2020, WNPS established a Not-for-Profit company called PLANT, to raise funds, to acquire and/or set aside privately owned lands, directly or through Partners, for the purpose of conservation and holding land in Trust on behalf of future generations. Emerald Trails is the main PLANT

initiative, which seeks to build linking foliage corridors to connect key protected forested areas in the South-Western part of Sri Lanka, which is where our nation's highest biodiversity exists. Jehan emphasized the importance of protecting what we have as the primary priority. He disclosed that so far, PLANT has acquired some lands and also created land partnerships to cover over 2500 acres under a conservation footprint, which is well beyond the initial aspirations. PLANT is directly able to own some lands thanks largely to support from International Donors and some of these locations are home to as many as 150 endemic species. He shared an impressive list of Partners whom he thanked while also appreciating PLANT chairman Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne for his passion and commitment towards spearheading the initiative, along with the PLANT and WNPS teams.

Thanking the PIIC team for the exciting strategic WNPS partnership, he welcomed them to the event.

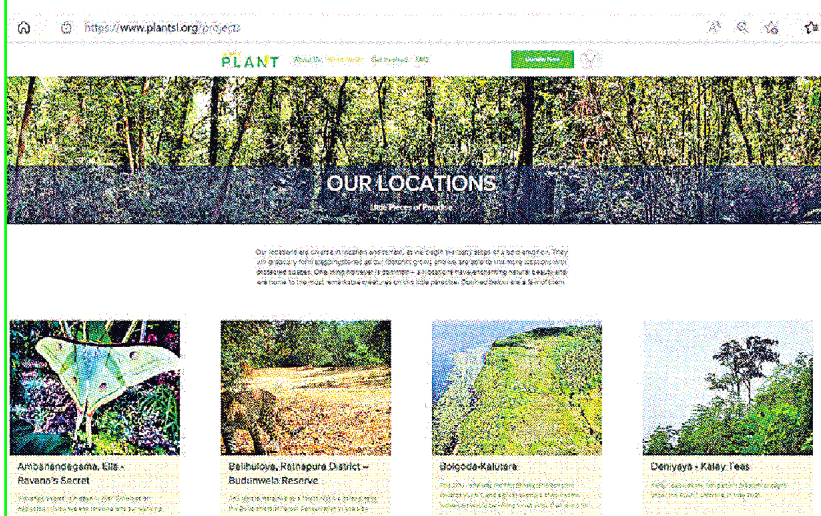
WNPS PLANT aspires to continue to bring likeminded parties together to form more connected spaces for all our endemic and other species, while also leveraging the new website to raise funds for Emerald Trails while bringing awareness to the cause.

The PLANT website was developed in partnership with PIIC (Penn International Impact Consulting), a student led consultancy group at the University of Pennsylvania. Suhitha Kotala, who led the project from PIIC, along with her colleague Aarthi Katakam, joined the launch through zoom and spoke with the audience. PIIC, since its inception in 2005, has partnered with over 70 NGOs across the world to provide solutions to global problems in local communities. Most recently, PIIC had worked in countries such as Peru in South

America, Morocco in the Middle East and Thailand and Philippines in Asia. Recruiting students with diverse backgrounds, PIIC has been able to provide solutions in several industries themed around sustainable development. PIIC will work with PLANT across all its digital assets and strategy and will also support WNPS.

Speaking at the launch Aarthi outlined the background of their consultancy, and how they were thrilled to be working with WNPS and PLANT over the past few months and were impressed with the speed of growth. She walked people through the website which provides an overview of the mission of PLANT and showcases some of their incredible properties with some amazing biodiversity.

The site also features the Partners who have provided many forms of support and engagement on this, and she directed the audience to the interactive map which features all the locations that PLANT has operating presence in. Rich and striking images and videos enhance the quality of the site which is easily navigable and full of stories of each place and of many species. WNPS PLANT aspires to continue to bring likeminded parties together to form more connected spaces for all our endemic and other species, while also leveraging the new website to raise funds for Emerald Trails while bringing awareness to the cause. As the most active and largest Conservation entity in Sri Lanka, the WNPS team was extremely proud to see this journey gathering great momentum, and the efforts were well appreciated by the audience and partners.



PAW PULSE

BY TIRANYA YALINDEE RANASINGHE

The subject of animal welfare has evolved to be an integral point of discussion in current society. With many protests taking place to curb the issue of animal abuse, there is still a long journey to reach the destination of animal rights in Sri Lanka. Amidst archaic laws and normalised animal abuse in Sri Lanka, Paw Pulse is an organisation that strives to be a voice for animal welfare. A representative of the organisation, Ramiya Ramanan speaks to us about the status of Sri Lankan law on animal abuse and what we can do to strive towards achieving an ideal status of animal welfare.

Q HOW CAN WE ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION TOWARDS THE DISCOURSE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS IN THE CURRENT LEGAL SYSTEM?

Currently, many animal welfare pages are raising awareness on social media platforms regarding the ill treatment of animals, spay and neutering programmes, feeding campaigns and donation campaigns. Rally for Animal Rights (RARE) mainly advocate for elephant rights. Many politicians and celebrities including Cher have noticed their platforms as these individuals continuously raise awareness on animal cruelty in Sri Lanka and have a dedicated team of animal lovers to uphold the vision of animal rights.

Therefore, I believe more attention towards the discourse of animal rights in the current legal system lies in having a dedicated group of activists who believe in the same vision as you and are fearless in voicing out their opinions in social media platforms and public to generate animal cruelty awareness to get the relevant authorities attention.

Q TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE INCEPTION OF PAW PULSE?

Paw Pulse was founded in 2022. My friend Sash knew that my lifelong dream was to have my own animal foundation one day and he came up with the idea of starting an animal foundation early and made me the team lead.

Q TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE PROJECT'S PAW PULSE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN?

Paw Pulse's first project was a food drive campaign. The team and I went around the streets in Colombo feeding many stray dogs and cats. We visited houses that could not afford to feed their pets on a daily basis and provided their pets with a hearty meal with loads of hugs and kisses. However, due to the current crisis we had to temporarily halt our projects, but we will be getting back on track soon.

Q WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF ANIMAL ADOPTION?

Animal adoption in Sri Lanka is problematic for many reasons. There are many people I know who have adopted purebreds for the sake of minting money out of them by forcefully mating their dogs. Some have adopted dogs through backyard breeding. But the most persistent problem in Sri Lanka is adopting the dog and dumping them back in the streets. If you follow pages such as @guardiansofvoicelesscitizens @pursandwoofss @rescuepirates, @advocates_for_animals and @justiceforanimals.lk on Instagram, you'll see countless posts on the number of animals who were once pets being dumped on the roads as their families simply don't love them anymore or cannot afford to look after them. In @tailsoffreedomst, deals with purebred dogs who are dumped on the streets. Therefore, my advice is that if none of you cannot afford to look after a pet or do not have the time to provide

Q HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE STATUS OF ANIMAL WELFARE IN SRI LANKA?

The status of animal welfare in this country is unfortunately lacking the amount of justice that it deserves. Although there are many animal rights activists around the island, their voices for the voiceless is not heard enough by the relevant authorities. Little is being done to enact the Animal Welfare Bill which was drafted in 2006. By the time the Bill becomes law, many innocent animals would have been mercilessly killed or abused by then.

them with the basic love, food, shelter and care that they deserve, please don't adopt them and make their lives miserable.

Q WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL WELFARE IN SRI LANKA AS OF RIGHT NOW?

I would say many of the biggest challenges associated with animal welfare originates from its century old law, which is the Cruelty to Animals Ordinance 1907. The current fine for any type of animal cruelty in Sri Lanka is a mere Rs.100 or 3 months' imprisonment. Imagine how many murderers, poachers or animal abusers can easily get away with their crime with a mere 100/- fine and a small sentence.

Q WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE?

Firstly, the Animal Welfare Bill needs to be passed as law to bring in the desired changes in animal welfare. This bill has proposed a fine of Rs.150,000 as fine and 4 years sentence for animal cruelty. Apart from that, sterilization and neutering needs to be done to avoid unwanted litter, the youth today should volunteer as much as they can in their local animal shelters. We can temporarily foster a dog or a cat until an animal rescuer finds them a permanent home, we can donate dry rations, bath products or money to animal shelters and most importantly, ADOPT AND DON'T SHOP — which means adopt a furry pal from animal shelters instead of buying them from pet stores or through unethical means! Also, whenever you're free, do help animal rescues out in their weekly feeding rounds.

Another major challenge is faced by animal foundations. There are many animal foundations such as Animal SOS, Underdogs Sri Lanka, The Dog Care Clinic e.V and Animal Welfare and Protection Association (AWPA) among many others who are working extremely hard to provide a better life and caring environment for thousands of strays under their care. These foundations face common challenges such as raising sufficient funds for their daily operations, providing a safe environment for the animals considering there are cruel people poisoning these animals at the shelter as well as many animals being dumped at these foundations' gates. backyard breeding and puppy mills are a prevalent challenge in Sri Lanka.

Q WHAT KIND OF A FUTURE DO YOU ENVISION FOR PAW PULSE?

I'm hoping that Paw Pulse would grow into a physical animal foundation one day. There is so much that I would love to do for the animals in Sri Lanka and that is by getting the justice that they deserve. With my team, we'll make sure that Paw Pulse upholds its promise in developing animal welfare in the country. It'll take time to get there but what is life without a challenge isn't it?

SHERATON KOSGODA TURTLE BEACH RESORT CELEBRATES 3 SUCCESSFUL YEARS

Managed by the hospitality group Marriott International, the renowned Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort, is the first Sheraton property to open in Sri Lanka. The resort has been in operation since February 2020 and has welcomed many local and international travellers from all over the world. Located only 90 minutes away from Colombo, the resort is nestled in picturesque Kosgoda Sri Lanka, known for its sea turtle conservation project and pristine beach with dreamy sunsets. From the guest rooms to public spaces, spa to the fitness center, to restaurants every space of Sheraton hotels is designed to create a space with a sense of belonging. Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort offers unparalleled experiences, superior



"Bringing people together is what we've done since opening our first Sheraton in 1937. And here in Sri Lanka, we have successfully completed three years of Sheraton hospitality and bringing communities together." "We are proud to act as a point of connection for millions of travellers, many just like you". Marking 3 years in operation,

Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort has put together a number of deals that will benefit travellers who especially enjoy experiencing holidays as a couple or family. The offers include staycations, dining experiences and spa treatments that holidaymakers can take advantage of, during this time. There's an exclusive deal offered on accommodation on full-board basis to mark the anniversary celebrations with its loved patrons. Moreover, guests also can take advantage of the Day Outing Package which will include a Welcome drink, the Lunch Buffet, Pool Access, Beach Access and Afternoon Tea at just LKR 8,888/- per person. In addition to the promotional offers and deals, the resort also has plans to engage with the local community through some fascinating CSR projects.

service, iconic dining and sophisticated spaces to the astute global travel enthusiast. The special highlight of the resort is the swanky rooftop bar catering for the creative and the curious traveler. The celebrated food offerings at Sheraton Kosgoda are undiluted pleasures, where global cuisines sit alongside original recipes, united by mindful practices and the highest quality ingredients of the island. Paul Sun, General Manager of Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort noted that the continued partnership and support from all stakeholders, including the contribution from his team and associates have been an integral part of the success the resort has experienced in the past three years. Inviting holidaymakers to indulge in the renowned Sheraton hospitality, he noted



Romeo Orlandi, Minister Vidura Wickramanayake, Italian Ambassador Rita Mannella, Minister Susil Premajayantha and Lorenzo Bimbi



Italian Deputy Ambassador Francesco Perale and Gaetano



Italian Ambassador Rita with Shyamalee and Angeline

Editor-in-chief
Shyamalee Tudawe
Hi!!! COLOMBO IS TALKING ABOUT

THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN COLOMBO

HERITAGE FORUM

The Italian Embassy in Colombo organised a Heritage Forum with a high ranking delegation from Italy for stakeholders in Sri Lanka to improve visibility given to Sri Lanka through cultural heritage, improve conversation and management of heritage sites and museums and establish linkages between institutions and professionals.



Minister Susil Premajayantha and Italian Ambassador Rita Mannella



Special Ambassador for World Expo 2030 Roma, Romeo Orlandi



Professor Paolo Carafa from the University of Sapienza Rome



Minister Vidura Wickramanayake



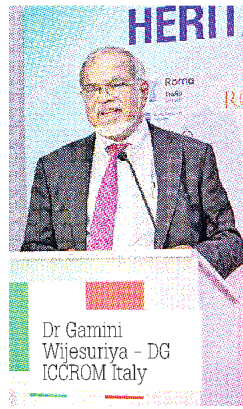
The forum was held at Villa Roma



Sanuja Kasthuriarachchi Director General of Museum Sri Lanka with Geethani



Kiki, Omica, Savithri and Meenu



Dr Gamini Wijesuriya - DG ICCROM Italy



Alessandro Mancini of Mancini Worldwide

Dr B D Nandaveva



Gamini and Nandaveva



Prof. Srimali



Ashley



Rohan and Kemal



Azara



Hi!!!
WWW.HI.LK
CONTACT US
editorialhi@gmail.com
011-2303776

GAMES & CARTOONS

4749

Sudoku

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

SOLUTION NO. 4749

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

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

DailyMirror CROSSWORD

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD NO. 1519

Solution for No. 1518

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

Across

- The chair of state for a monarch. Bishop, etc. (6)
- Open (6)
- Anti-social behaviour order Abbr.O (4)
- Bioscience (8)
- Adopt (7)
- Quintessence (5)
- Freshwater mammal (5)
- Internet site (7)
- Sense of right and wrong (8)
- What babies are fed with (4)
- Certify (6)
- Sluttish (6)

Down

- Hence (4)
- (poetry) painful grief (6)
- Protection from harm (7)
- Sudden forceful flow (5)
- System of newsgroups on the Internet (6)
- A fund accumulated to finance a war (or a political campaign) (3,5)
- The appropriate word or expression (3,5)
- Sconce (7)
- Loop (6)
- Stand for (6)
- Built in bed (5)
- Misplace (4)

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD NO. 1519

1		2		3		4		5		6	
7						8					
9				10							
11	12							13			
15		16				17			18		
20											
23											

Due to the prevailing situation in the country there will be no crossword competition. The publication of the crossword is purely for your enjoyment.