



YOUR PAPER TODAY

MAIN 10

SUPPLEMENT 4

TOTAL 14

Three women were instrumental in helping SL during its troubled period: Prez



Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman, the US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

President Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday said that three women were instrumental in helping Sri Lanka during its troubled period.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

PUCSL Chairman to be sworn in as National List MP: Kanchana

The main reason for the CEB to suffer losses is the action of certain groups who are engaged in terror tactics

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Chairman of Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) Janaka Ratnayake is to be sworn in as a national list MP from a certain political party.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Will not accept any MP post: PUCSL Chairman

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

"I will not accept any post as a national list MP from any political party," Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) Chairman Janaka Ratnayake said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Writ petition filed by Nagananda Kodituwakku:

CA HOLDS PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PREZ CANNOT BE MAINTAINED

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday decided not to continue case proceedings against President Ranil Wickremesinghe in a writ petition filed by General Secretary Vinivada Foundation Nagananda Kodituwakku.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Loss incurred at port of Colombo 17 VESSELS DIVERTED DUE TO TU PROTEST: NIMAL SIRIPALA DE SILVA

Port employees, unlike other state employees, earn a monthly salary of over Rs. 171,000, three meals free of charge, a huge bonus and other benefits

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA AND YOHAN PERERA

Seventeen ships which had arrived at Colombo Port turned back due to the recent protest by the port trade unions, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said yesterday.

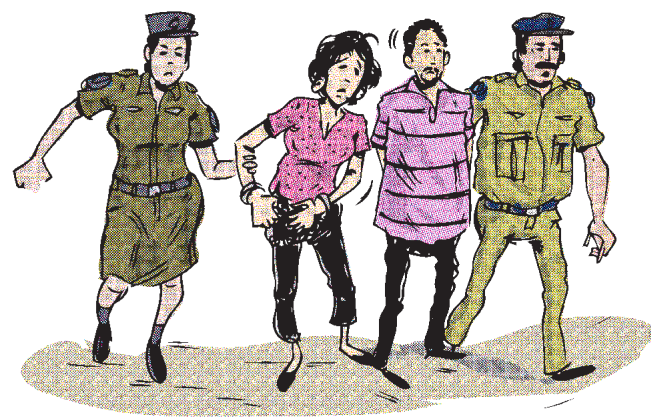
SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Woman and her lover arrested over 6-year old girl's death

The hearing and speech-impaired girl was the daughter of the female suspect

The Hirana Police launched an investigation after the hearing and speech-impaired girl had died under suspicious circumstances.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Fuel QR quota WEEKLY TOP-UP DAY SET TO TUESDAY

Not necessary to re-register; use existing code

Decision was taken to reduce the cost of distribution

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The weekly top-up day for the National Fuel Pass QR Quota had been revised, and the consumers were requested not to re-register for their allocated weekly fuel quota but to use the existing code.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Price of bread reduced by Rs. 10: Bakery Owners

No price reduction for other bakery items

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The price of a 450-gram loaf of bread was to be reduced by Rs.10 from last night, the All Island Bakery Owners' Association announced.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



IUSF PROTEST IN COLOMBO

Police used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the Inter-University Students' Federation (IUSF) attached to the Colombo University near the Colombo Museum last afternoon.

PIX BY NISAL BADUGE

SL Core Group expresses concern over 'heavy-handed' responses to protesters

Underlines the need for good governance, which together with sound economic policies, should better support the prosperity of all Sri Lankans

BY SUNIL JAYASIRI

The Core Group on Sri Lanka on Tuesday expressed concern over 'heavy-handed' responses to peaceful protests in Sri Lanka and also reiterated the Sri Lankan government must safeguard rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Infographic: In 2019, there were 1.5 million income tax files in total... when we abolished the PAYE tax, in December 2021, we [only] had 400,000 income tax files. It reduced from 1.5 million to 400,000. Source and date: President's Media Division, 28 January 2023. RANIL WICKREMESINGHE, PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA.

FactCheck: President right on reduction in registered tax files. The president claims that there were 1.5 million income tax files by the end of 2019 and that the income tax files dropped to 400,000 by the end of 2021. The president makes these claims in the context of attributing the reduction in tax files from 2019 to 2021 to the tax revisions made in 2020. To evaluate this claim, FactCheck.lk consulted the Annual Performance Reports of the Inland Revenue Department (APRIRD). The APRIRD shows that there was a total of 1,505,552, and 409,814 income tax files, by the end of December 2019 and 2021 respectively, when adding the number of both corporate and personal income taxpayers (see Exhibit 1). The numbers given by the president are aligned with the reports, which indicate a reduction of tax files by 73%, as claimed by the president. Therefore, we classify the president's statement as TRUE.

Income tax	2019	2020	2021
Corporate			
Resident Companies / Non-Resident Companies / Bodies of Persons	57,264	60,721	68,009
Non-Corporate			
Individuals	281,105	292,712	292,305
Partnership and bodies of persons	17,300	16,949	16,798
Employees paying Income Tax under Advanced Personal Income Tax (APIT) Scheme	1,149,883	209,800	32,702
Total Income tax files	1,505,552	580,182	409,814
Personal income tax files as a % of Registered Vehicles	17%	6%	4%
Personal income tax files as a % of No. of Registered Vehicles	18%	6%	4%

FactCheck is a platform run by Verité Research. For comments, suggestions and feedback, please visit www.factcheck.lk.

Privilege issue on SC's interim order referred to Parliament committee

The interim order issued by the Supreme Court violates principles of natural justice

BY YOHAN PERERA & AJITH SIRIWARDANA

A resolution to refer the privilege issue raised by MP Premnath C. Dolawatte on the interim order issued by the Supreme Court asking the finance minister to allocate funds for the local government elections was approved by Parliament yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

CA orders authorities to look into Myan Kumara's well-being

The elephant calf is suffering while being chained tightly to a tree and a video has recently surfaced of the hapless creature being beaten by the mahout in a cruel manner

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal has directed the Director General of Wildlife Conservation Department to visit the place where the elephant 'Myan Kumara' is kept and submit a report to Court with regard to the prevailing state and the well-being of the elephant. The baby elephant Myan Kumara (Myan Prince) was donated to the Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya by the Myanmar government in 2013.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

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# Daily Mirror

CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

## OBITUARIES

**HALLIDAY - RACHEL PATRICIA.** Beloved wife of late Sydney John Halliday, loving mother of late Majorie Fernandez, late Patrick Joseph, late Rodney Joseph, Barney Joseph, late Robert Joseph, Elmo, Roger, Valentine, Tyrone, Michael, Marlon and Jennifer. Cortege leaves residence on Thursday the 9th March from 11/8, Tewatte Road, Ragama at 10.00 a.m. **Burial and funeral service at 12.00 noon at the General Cemetery, Borella. (Roman Catholic Section). 073725**

ONLINE OBITUARIES  
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries

## CLASSIFIEDS

**I, Wijesundera Patige Sameera Nuwan** Kumara holder of NIC No. 852951176V and residing at No. 147/16, Sodi Street, Nochimune, Batticaloa, hereby inform the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that henceforth my name is changed as **Wijesundera Mudiyansele Sameera Nuwan Wijesundera. DMR 073627**

## 17 VESSELS DIVERTED DUE TO TU PROTEST: NIMAL SIRIPALA DE SILVA

"I discussed with shipping agencies to bring the ships back to the port. But, only managed to bring a few of them back," he said.

The Minister said the protests by port employees will only result in the deviation of business from Colombo port to nearby ports such as India, Dubai and Singapore.

"If port employees continue to protest, our port will collapse while ports in countries close to us will flourish," he said.

The Minister said port employees, unlike other state employees, earn a monthly salary of over Rs. 171,000, three meals free of charge, a huge bonus and other benefits.

## PUCSL Chairman to be sworn in as National List MP: Kanchana

"One must not take the PUCSL Chairman as he actually engaged in politics," he said in response to a question raised by Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa.

"We have got proper approval from the PUCSL for the recent power tariff hike as only the PUCSL chairman was against the electricity tariff hike while other members of the commission approved the move," he added.

He said the electricity tariff was increased in line with the IMF advice that treasury should not fund any additional spending for any state institution. "We have nothing to hide," he said in this regard. He also said the government will bring in a Bill to restructure the Ceylon Electricity

Board (CEB) to Parliament within a month, Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera informed the House yesterday.

"We expect the opposition to support this Bill which will stop malpractices carried out within CEB by certain groups. The main reason for the CEB to suffer losses is the action of certain groups who are engaged in terror tactics. These persons put the CEB administrators against the wall and get things done and these actions actually lead to CEB losses," the Minister added.

He revealed that CEB has incurred a total loss of Rs 167 billion in 2022 but will be able to avoid losses with the power tariff hike.

## Woman and her lover arrested over 6-year old girl's death

Investigations revealed that the girl had been staying with her mother and her mother's 29-year-old lover and the child was not provided with the necessary treatment although she had been ill for a few days. It had been revealed that the mother's lover had often assaulted the child. Police said there were several swellings and bruise marks on the girl's body. Accordingly, the mother and her lover were arrested over the girl's death and her body had been sent to the Colombo South Teaching Hospital for a post-mortem after a Magisterial inquest was conducted.

## WEEKLY TOP-UP DAY SET TO TUESDAY

According to Minister Kanchana Wijesekera, the weekly top-up day for the National Fuel Pass QR Quota has been changed to Tuesdays instead of Sundays. He said all accounts had been topped up last morning. The decision was taken to reduce the cost of distribution by operating Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) and Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL) on weekends. However, the fuel quotas will remain unchanged, he said.

## COURT ALLOWS MR TO TRAVEL ABROAD

**BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA**

The Colombo Fort Magistrate's court yesterday permitted former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to travel abroad from April 20 to April 30. Counsel appeared on behalf of the former Prime Minister made a request that his client be permitted to travel abroad between April 20 and April 30 to attend a summit in South Korea. The Court had earlier issued an order preventing former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, MP Namal Rajapaksa and 15 others from leaving the country in connection with the magisterial inquiry over the mob attack which took place at Temple Trees and Galle Face on May 9, 2022.

Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage had ordered the imposition of a travel ban against former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Parliamentarians Namal Rajapaksa, Johnston Fernando, Sanath Nishantha, Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Sanjeeva Edirimanna, Rohitha Abeysunwardena, C.B. Ratnayake, Sampath Athukorala, Kanchana Jayaratne, Senior DIG Deshabandu Tennakoon, Mahinda Kahandagama, Renuka Perera, Amitha Abeywickrama, Dilith Fernando and Pushpalal.

## President right on reduction in registered tax files

Additional note: The numbers in Exhibit 1 shows that Sri Lanka's individual tax files including PAYE registrations, which had 1,430,988 tax files in 2019, captured only a limited subset of those likely to be liable for income tax. Two indications of this are that in 2019, the individual tax files accounted for only about 17% of the employed population and just 18% of the total number of registered vehicles as of that year.

"FactCheck.lk's verdict is based on the most recent information that is publicly accessible. As with every fact check, if new information becomes available, FactCheck.lk will revisit the assessment."

## Privilege issue on SC's interim order referred to Parliament committee

MP Dolawatte said the interim order issued by the Supreme Court violates principles of natural justice. "The bench of judges who issued the interim order had disregarded the affidavit submitted by the Finance Secretary through which he claimed the impossibility of releasing funds for the local poll and this breaches the privileges of Parliament," the MP said.

"Under article 43(1) of the constitution, the Minister of Finance is responsible to Parliament which controls public finances. The interim order attempts to prevent the implementation of laws which give financial powers to the legislature. The order gives legal validity to activity budget estimates overruling the Act of Parliament. This matter was brought to the notice of the court by the Attorney General," he added.

He also highlighted that the interim order was given despite a case pertaining to a similar petition on local government being pending. "One judge who was at the bench which issued the interim order on the first case was a relative of the petitioner of the second case," he also alleged.

## Price of bread reduced by Rs.10: Bakery Owners

Addressing the media, ACBOA President N.K. Jayawardena said that the decision was taken considering the price reduction of flour from the main wheat flour importing companies (Prima Ceylon (Pvt) Limited and Serendib Flour Mills (Pvt) Ltd). "The price of a kilo of wheat had reduced by Rs.15," he said.

Accordingly, the price of a 450g loaf of bread will be reduced by Rs.10 according to the current selling price. However, there will be no price reduction for other bakery items, Jayawardena said.

## SL Core Group expresses concern over 'heavy-handed' responses to protesters

While welcoming the recent commitments with respect to the protection of human rights in Sri Lanka, including those of persons from all religious and ethnic groups, the Core Group stated "together with recent efforts at constitutional reform, and initiatives aimed at fostering political inclusion, these provide a basis upon which to build". We also welcome Sri Lanka's positive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process in January. We are keen to assist Sri Lanka in implementing its UPR recommendations. We stress the crucial importance of upholding the rule of law and safeguarding representative democracy, including by ensuring the independence of institutions and governance systems. This includes the electoral system, in which maintaining the confidence of Sri Lankans is crucial.

We urge the Sri Lankan authorities to address long-standing impunity and corruption. We also underline the need for good governance, which together with sound economic policies, should better support the prosperity of all Sri Lankans.

We also emphasize the importance of replacing the Prevention of Terrorism Act with legislation that aligns with Sri Lanka's international obligations.

The Core Group calls on Sri Lanka to work with the High Commissioner and his Office. We remain ready to support Sri Lanka in addressing HRC resolution 51/1, it added.

## CA HOLDS PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PREZ CANNOT BE MAINTAINED

Kodituwakku had filed this writ petition challenging Litro Gas Company's decision to purchase domestic LP Gas for a higher bid. Litro Gas Lanka Ltd, its Chairman, President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Advisor to the President Sagala Ratnayake, Siam Gas Trading Pvt Ltd and several others had been named as respondents of this petition.

Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justices Mayadunne Corea and C.P. Kirtisinghe held that the proceedings against the President cannot be maintained in this Court while he holds the post of the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

It is abundantly clear that while President Wickremesinghe holds the high office of the Executive Head of State, there is an absolute immunity conferred on him by the constitution and the same has been established by legal precedence, Justice Corea observed.

The Attorney General had raised preliminary objections challenging the maintainability of the petition in terms of Article 35 (1) of the Constitution - immunity to the President from any proceedings.

## CA orders authorities to look into Myan Kumara's well-being

Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justices Sobhitha Rajakaruna and Dhammika Ganepola made this order consequent to a writ petition filed by Attorney-at-law Nagananda Kodituwakku seeking an order directing the authorities to release the baby elephant named "Myan Kumara" to Ridiyagama Safari Park from the Bellanwila Temple, until he is released back to the wild. The petitioner said the elephant calf is suffering while being chained tightly to a tree and a video has recently surfaced of him being beaten by his mahout in a cruel manner. The Court of Appeal observed that the Director General of Wildlife Conservation Department when reporting to Court can get the assistance of a suitable veterinary surgeon of a Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences affiliated to a local university or a government institution to confirm the prevailing health condition of the Elephant. Accordingly, the Director General of Wildlife Conservation Department was directed to submit a report through the Attorney General within five weeks. Meanwhile, the Court decided to issue formal notice on the Respondents. However, the Court refused to issue an interim relief at this stage. This petition had been filed by Attorney-at-law Nagananda Kodituwakku naming Director General of Wildlife Conservation Department, the IGP and the Chief Incumbent of the Bellanwila Temple as respondents. The petitioner further sought a writ of Prohibition preventing the Director General of Wildlife Conservation Department from issuing licenses enabling the Chief Incumbent of the Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya to possess elephants.

## Will not accept any MP post: PUCSL Chairman

Ratnayake condemned the statement made by Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera today in parliament, claiming that he is to be sworn in as a national list MP from a certain political party. "They only work for people because they have a hidden agenda. But I work for the people with a genuine intention, which they cannot even believe," he said. He explained that politicians work for people for their benefit whereas he did not.

## SINGITHI RENGUM BY VISAKHA PRIMARY

Singithi Rengum, a concert organized by the Visakha Primary School will be held on March 19 and 11 at the Jeremias Dias Hall of the school.



**Fighting for women's rights**  
Frontline Socialist Party Leader Kumar Gunaratnam was seen outdoors after many weeks, attending a demonstration organized by the Free Women to mark the International Women's Day at Lipton Circus yesterday.  
PIC BY SAMANTHA PERERA

## Three women were instrumental in helping SL during its troubled period: Prez

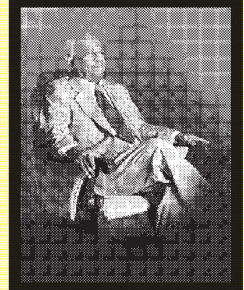
He said that the three women - the Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman, the US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva - were instrumental in helping Sri Lanka during its troubled period.

"I would like to acknowledge Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister of India, who played a vital role in providing a \$3 billion loan to Sri Lanka after the country was declared bankrupt last April. Without the availability of those funds during those three to four months, the current situation in the country would be far more challenging, and for that, we must express our gratitude to her.

Additionally, a crucial role was played by several key countries in supporting us during this challenging time. Notably, our talks with the United States, led by Janet Yellen, the Treasury Secretary, were instrumental in helping Sri Lanka during its troubled period. I extend my sincere gratitude to her for her efforts in this matter. I must also mention that Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, made a personal sacrifice for Sri Lanka by taking the lead to negotiate with the countries, the Paris Club, the World Bank and others. If these three women had not supported us, we would have been in a dire situation, the President added.

## In Loving Memory

Mr. John Roche



Born - 11.03.1925  
Died - 28.07.2005

Mrs. Lourdes Roche

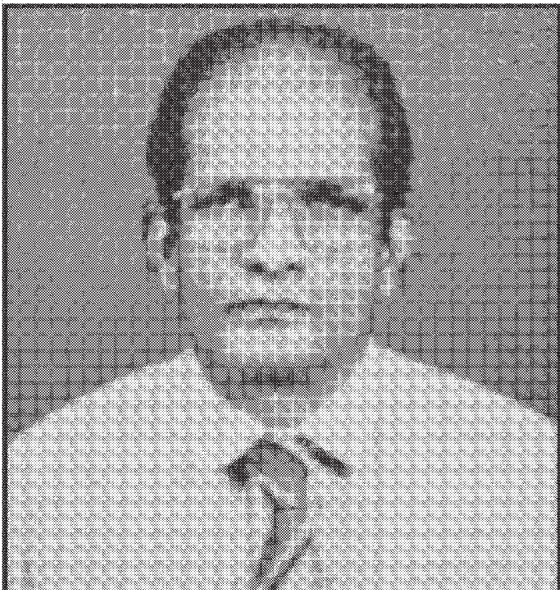


Born - 9.03.1934  
Died - 7.03.1998

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Remembered with abiding fondness, affection and constantly missed with deep sadness by: Manjula, Joe and Premila, Marina and Oswin, Nilanthi and Darshan together with their children

## OBITUARY NOTICE

<b>BORN</b>		<b>DEMISE</b>
14		08
12		03
1933		2023

## Mr. Sangarapillai Sellathurai

It is with deep regret that we announce the demise of Mr. Sangarapillai Sellathurai the former Hartley College teacher and Director of Education Vadamarachchi Division. He leaves behind his wife Selvanayageamma, daughters Dr Nalini (Kalubowila) Prof Mathini (Dean, University of Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh) Sons, Dr. Muhunthan (Pulmonologist, TH Karapitiya) and Vaihunthan ( Engineer Huawei Technologies). Son in Laws Dr. Umapathy (Orthopedic Surgeon, NHSL). Prof Ratnarajah (University of Edinburgh), Daughter in Laws, Dr Selvarajani (ENT Surgeon, Panadura), Selvanthini, Grand Children Keethana, Kirthihan, Maira lakshmi, Shivani and Tharun

His remains will lie at "The Respect" by Jayaratna funeral parlour from 8.00 am, 9th March 2023 and cremation will take place at 1.00 p.m., at the Borella General Cemetery.

Contact : Nalini 0772920282 Vaihunthan 0714535969  
Umapathy 0777607223 Muhunthan 0772619515

# POINT OF VIEW

## BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME TOO, NOT JUST MONEY

By **Gamini Akmeemana**

**People would rather give a few rupees than spend a few precious minutes listening to others' bad luck stories**

**D**o we have time to talk to people? Above all, do we have time to listen to others?  
Yes – for productive time, seminars, lectures, professionals with loads of experience packaging their knowledge and selling it. I remember overhearing an advertising agency executive at a café, telling his friends over lunch how he managed to talk to one of the big names in the field for a few minutes.  
"Worth more than two or three lakhs," he exulted, and that was at the 1990s currency rate for a few minutes of pro advice.  
This is about professional advancement, and getting ahead in life. What about giving a few minutes of your time to a stranger who wants to tell his life story to you?  
Most people wouldn't have the time for that. We have always been so busy – education, job pressure, kids, pets, vehicle(s),

garages, movies and entertainment, weddings, funerals, eating out, and that precious holiday somewhere.  
And now, living in a ruined country, people are too anxiety-ridden, whether they have jobs or not, to avail themselves of that one essential quality necessary to spend one's time doing something which won't provide a return – which is what listening to a stranger's life story is – and that quality of empathy and compassion. It's in short supply.  
I have always been pretty busy myself. Family, job, car or bike, garage, house repairs, pets, eating out, that occasional holiday, social engagements (though no seminars on getting ahead in life), reading, studying music and creative writing. It's hard to believe I squeezed in so much into 24-hour days, and still got enough sleep.  
But I like to talk to people, and listen to them – unless they are boring. It may be because I am a novelist. Novels are made

of conversations, and real-life experiences re-shaped in the imagination. No matter how busy I am, I like talking and listening to people.  
These days are somehow different. I am tired of endless days of dark despair in a bankrupt country. People are wary of strangers. They avoid eye contact in the streets for fear the other person might ask for a little help.  
That was a busy day and I was very tired. I was sweeping the front yard when a very small, old man in a white shirt and sarong stopped by the gate.  
These days, you have people asking for food or handouts. This man said he had never begged before but was forced to do so that day.  
They come with all kinds of stories. You can believe them or not. You can give a few rupees or you can turn away. I was unlocking my parked bicycle near a supermarket when a

middle-aged woman, obviously not a beggar from her clothes and appearance, stood by hopefully with a few children's storybooks. She was looking through the window of a parked car. But the occupant avoided looking at her.  
I bought a book because I felt sorry for her, not because I happened to have surplus money. The occupant of the car, obviously embarrassed by what I did (after all, I was riding a bicycle), rolled down the window and told her he didn't have change.  
Few people would have money to help the needy after buying petrol or servicing and repairing their vehicles.  
I gave the man at the gate a few rupees because he looked cadaverous, and a victim of circumstances beyond his control. He thanked me but, instead of going away, stood there telling me a story.  
I turned my back and began sweeping but something made me stop and listen to him.

He spoke in a low tone, with his head lowered, but his soft voice was compelling.  
He was talking about a daughter.  
"I told them not to go. It was late at night and raining badly. But my son-in-law wouldn't listen. My daughter didn't want to go but he scolded her. When I told him riding in that rain was dangerous, he shouted at me, too. An hour after they left, someone called me and said both had died in an accident with a lorry."  
"I was a lorry driver. I'm 75 now but had to give up driving ten years ago due to bad eyesight. Both our daughters were small when my wife died. I had some paddy land and sent them both to university. My elder daughter had three children when she died. My younger daughter couldn't control her grief over her sister's death and had serious mental health problems. I had some paddy land and sold it to treat her. Once she got better, she quit her job and stayed home to look after her sister's children."  
This man, once a hard-working working-class professional, is reduced by circumstances to begging. But, more than money, he wanted to tell his story. He wanted a sympathetic listener, and that's harder to



Helping someone in need

find than money. People would rather give a few rupees than spend a few precious minutes listening to others' bad luck stories.  
People tell me many such stories are made up, that those down and out would go to any lengths to get money. But that's professional begging. What that old lorry driver told me rang true, and it's still ringing.  
Many old people begging at traffic lights and the like are now not hardened professional beggars. I met an old farmer from Badulla who had given his land to his sons and migrated to Colombo to beg. These are people totally ignored by our power-hungry and greedy politicians and the self-serving professional classes who worked so hard to bring them to power.





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Valid on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

# EDITORIAL

*"Leaders must be close enough to relate to others, but far enough ahead to motivate them."*  
-JOHN C. MAXWELL

OUR THOUGHT

## IF WE SAVE FRESH WATER, WE ARE GOOD CITIZENS

Freely what we receive, we often tend to misuse or waste. This is the case with water, which is essential for life. We have heard the saying that little drops of water make the mighty ocean. Experts have found out that just as the superpowers like the United States have gone to war for oil, in the coming decades they may go to war to gain control of fresh water resources.

Sri Lanka as a paradise isle is surrounded by water. We have been blessed with 12 major rivers—the Mahaweli, the Malvathu river, Kelani River, Yan Oya, Deduru Oya, Maduru Oya, Maha Oya, Kalu Ganga River, Gin Ganga, Kumbukkan Oya, Attanagalu Oya and Nilwala River. In addition we have many fresh water canals and water ways. At one time, the world soft-drink giant made a huge investment in Sri Lanka not so much for our country's benefit, but to make a huge profit because water was freely available. The company made its popular soft drink here and sold it worldwide.

Climate change experts warn that the world may soon face a water crisis. So as responsible citizens, it is our duty to save fresh water. When we wash our hands or utensils, we need to open the taps only halfway, so that we could save a few litres of water. If a million people do this, it would mean saving millions of litres of water and it could be like a river. In addition, when we wash rice, vegetables and other items before cooking, we need to save the water used for such purposes to water trees and plants in our home gardens. In addition, if we cut down our shower bath time by five minutes a day, we could save gallons of water a month. We need to learn to think in such a responsible and creative way. For instance, some good citizens use equipment to divert the shower bath water to the cisterns in our toilets and washrooms. We also need to stop using fresh water to wash vehicles and find alternatives such as well water while some people also use water from tube wells for various purposes so that the fresh water supply system could be maintained for a longer period.

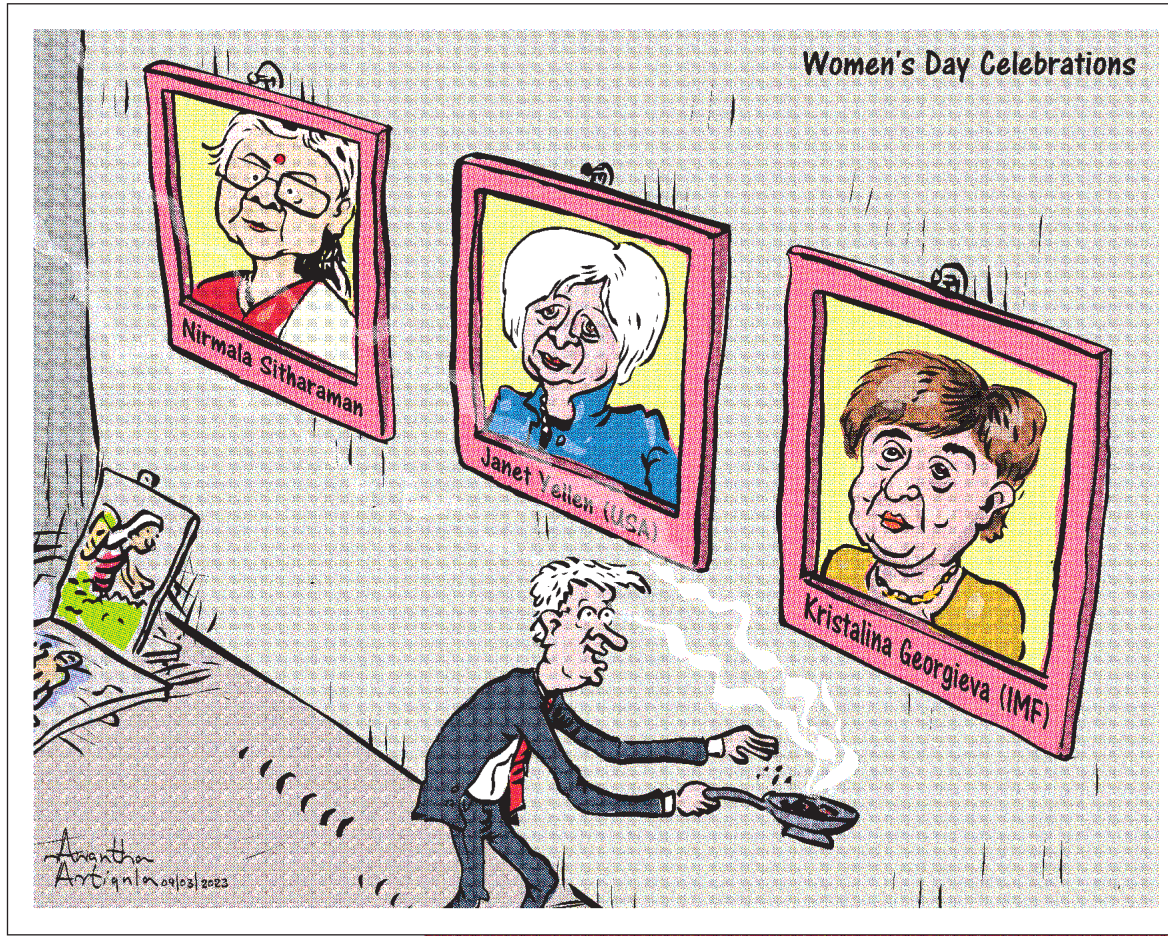
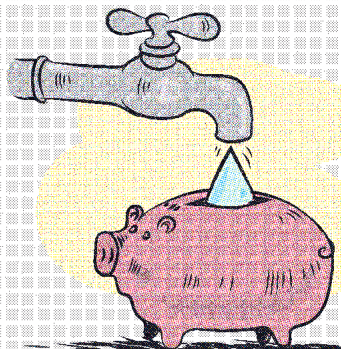
On March 22, the United Nations marks 'World Water Day' with the focus on accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. Dysfunction throughout the water cycle undermines progress on major global issues, from health to hunger, gender equality to jobs, education to industry, and disasters to peace. In 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 Agenda – the promise that everyone would have safely managed water and sanitation by 2030. Right now, we are seriously off-track.

Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centers, farms, and factories are being held back because their human rights to water and sanitation still need to be fulfilled. There is an urgent need to accelerate change – to go beyond 'business as usual.' The latest data show that governments must work on average four times faster to meet SDG 6 on time, but this is not a situation that any single actor or group can solve. Water affects everyone, so we need everyone to take action.

The UN says undoubtedly, 2023 is a particular year for commitments regarding the use of water and its sanitation. The celebration of this World Water Day coincides with the start of the UN 2023 Water Conference to be held from March 22 to 24 in New York. The conference is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unite the world around solving the water and sanitation crisis. National governments and stakeholders from all levels of society will collaborate to make voluntary commitments to accelerating progress on SDG 6 and other internationally-agreed water-related goals and targets. These voluntary commitments will form the Water Action Agenda, designed to deliver rapid, transformative change in the remainder of this decade.

According to the UN, 1.4 million people die annually and 74 million will have their lives shortened by diseases related to poor water, sanitation and hygiene. Today, 1 in 4 people – 2 billion people worldwide – lack safe drinking water. Almost half of the global population – 3.6 billion people – lack safe sanitation. Globally, 44% of household wastewater is not safely treated. Global water demand (in water withdrawals) is projected to increase by 55% by 2050.

Indian spiritual guru and proponent Vedanta Swami Sivananda says, a mountain is composed of tiny grains of earth. The ocean is made up of tiny drops of water. Even so, life is but, an endless series of little details, actions, speeches, and thoughts. And the consequences whether good or bad of even the least of them are far-reaching.



FOR MORE CARTOONS LOG ON [www.dailymirror.lk/cartoon](http://www.dailymirror.lk/cartoon)

## WHITE ELEPHANTS IN KANCHANA'S ROOM

By **Malinda Seneviratne**

**K**anchana Wijesekera was all, but salivating in a tweet following trade union action launched by Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) employees. Pointing out that despite the strike, operations continued, he did obtain some traction for the government's plan to restructure the CEB.

Arguments for restructuring are typically underscored by references to revenue. The recently implemented tariff revision was accompanied by heavy rhetoric on the need to increase the CEB's revenue. Let's deal with that first. The unfairness and intellectual dishonesty has been widely discussed. In fact it has generated protests all over the country with low-end consumers taking to the streets insisting that they cannot afford to pay their bills and moreover will collectively resist any attempts to sever their connections. If it was about increasing revenue to meet (inflated, mind you) costs, the 'mila sutraya (pricing formula) adopted could easily be amended.

Kanchana takes refuge in averages. A simple example would easily refute the lunacy: per capita income. It averages out incomes so that the newborn baby and the nonagenarian are both assumed to be earning approximately US\$4,000 per annum. That's around Rs.1.3 million at the current exchange rate or roughly a little over Rs.100,000 a month. The truth is that the average household income is around US\$1,500 a year, which translates into less than Rs. 40,000 a month. That's the average, which means that your typical low-end electricity consuming household would be earning much less. Kanchana has hit them hard. He cushioned the 'average-raiser' who, let us not forget, play an important role in forcing Sri Lanka to import coal, diesel etc.

So, if X is the amount of revenue envisaged, that X could be made in many different ways and any CEB engineer ought to have the math skills required to come up with a more just tariff structure. Wasn't done. What was done, in essence, was to punish the low-end categories of consumers for the 'crime' of those who for whatever reason escape the long arms Inland Revenue Department. Your typical vegetable vendor, the three-wheeler driver, the domestic aides, masons, carpenters and other day-wage earners, none of whom are wallowing in wealth and have the knowledge or wherewithal to get away with delayed payments or waiving of relevant interest charges.

Yes, the bulk consumers in Colombo alone, thousands who never pay on time. They include government institutions, hospitals, the police, embassies, thriving businesses in the commercial part of the city and super luxury hotels. The last is an interesting category. They enjoyed Covid-19 breaks even though they didn't lack business thanks to being equipped to provide quarantine facilities. Many

didn't pay the bills even after the grace period ended. Some paid only after the interest charges were waived. That's hundreds of millions of rupee income that the CEB lost. Kanchana and his restructuring committee can commission a full audit and thereafter name and shame the shameless.

Let's take a look at the CEB itself. Doesn't Kanchana know that all grades of employees from engineers upwards, with full complicity and endorsement of those who sat and sit on the CEB's Board of Directors, have wrangled all manner of perks which, as allowances, amount to well over double their salaries? These include an engineering allowance (so, doctors should get a healing allowance, masons a bricklaying allowance etc?), an allowance for not leaving the country (!), vehicles with drivers and in practical terms unlimited fuel (they are required to pay for fuel consumed in personal use, but that's only if someone points it out, and self-driving officials maintain their own running charts!), plush 'quarters' not too far from their own homes for which the CEB pays rent (sometimes Rs. 100,000 per month or more!), a generation allowance, a 'disturbance allowance (essentially a payment for being on-call; an audit might reveal how 'essential' this 'service' is!), 'other perks that come under 'project allowances,' and probably other such money-making mechanisms, carefully designed and jealously guarded.

Projects. Interesting word there. Even a rural electrification assignment is labelled 'a project' so that the relevant allocations can be channeled to personal bank accounts.

Why an allowance for not leaving the country, though? Is it that the General Manager, Additional General Managers (AGMs), Deputy General Managers (DGMs) and engineers under them will quit the CEB en masse if this allowance was withheld? Is it that there are no competent and qualified personnel in the 'non-engineering' categories below them who are willing to replace them or that engineers currently not employed by the CEB are not interested in taking up such positions? If the CEB is over-staffed (and it certainly seems to be), then pruning should start, logically, at the top. A VRS to deal with redundancy might be cost-effective, really. If there were just 400 instead of 950 engineers, for example, the savings on salary alone would be close to Rs.300 million per month. Maybe they do need the 900 plus engineers. If so, the onus is on the CEB to explain why, supporting arguments with tasks, responsibilities, KPIs and relevant performance assessments.

Quarters. There's more to it. The CEB has not been too interested in refurbishing quarters it owns or building new ones. It's the same with vehicles. Arguments are made to the effect that renting vehicles is cost-effective considering payments to be made to drivers, routine repairs etc. Most of these officials don't make use of drivers though. There have been instances where renovations and repairs to quarters and vehicles respectively have proved to be the more cost-effective option.

Procurement. That's a cash cow. Only,

purchased above a certain value require Board approval. Remedy: break it down to 'pieces' lower than this value. Bingo! Sure, the receipts will all be there. All the necessary approval. It's called legal theft, robbing the tax-payer (and we are all taxed directly or indirectly, low-end consumers as well, who, as things stand, are being punished for the damage caused by CEB's wildlife).

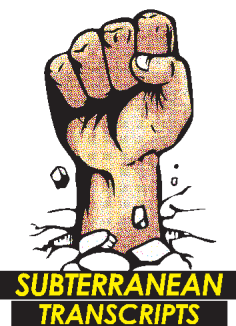
Then there's sheer incompetence and mismanagement, best exemplified by the scandal associated with the 165 MW naphtha-fuelled combined cycle unit commissioned in August 2002, consisting of a 110 MW gas turbine and a 55 MW steam turbine, and one exhaust heat recovery boiler. Naphtha was obtained from the Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery at Rs. 75 per litre (at a time when diesel was Rs. 115 per litre), making it the cheapest fuel. The plant was idle for three years due to poor maintenance. India moved in to buy naphtha from Sapugaskanda at just Rs. 30 per litre. The loss? Multiply Rs. 45 by 36 by 80 million (the monthly output): almost Rs.130 billion!

A defective component was sent to India for repairs and, when it was returned, was erroneously installed. Meanwhile other components, ill-maintained, had to be replaced. Some 80 odd technical staff remained idle. Things that could have been attended to simultaneously were neglected. It cost the CEB. It cost the country. No inquiry. No punishment. Business as usual in the CEB. And now, Kanchana passes the buck to the low-end consumer.

The CEB is notorious for creating positions, manufacturing additional divisions so that those who get promoted can get placements and the perks that go with these. Kanchana and his committee could review the CEB's organisational structure and how it has evolved, exacerbating redundancy, eating into profits and so on. Why so many AGMs? Why so many DGMs? Why are they doubling up as project managers? Is the work so 'extra' that they deserve massive compensation of such massive proportions?

Kanchana has (deliberately?) latched on to the wrong end of the stick. The CEB is not a white elephant. No. It is a massive kraal full of white elephants. Kanchana has the eyes to see all this. Why then is he looking the other way? Why then is he disproportionately burdening the low-end consumer? Is his restructuring exercise going to do something about the rampaging white elephants in the CEB? Is he deliberately pushing the 'low-end' employees of CEB into union action with termination and privatisation in mind?

All this, ladies and gentlemen, is iceberg-tip. Space stops a consideration of the power generation-structure, renewables etc. Suffice to say that the white elephants have created an excellent business model, not for the CEB, the country or the consumers but themselves. Maybe, and one hopes, it is just a few white elephants for I am sure there are many engineers in the CEB, perhaps even hundreds, who are competent and have integrity. If that's the case, then these rogues are not white elephants, they are white mammoths! Is Kanchana going to ensure the 'sustained development' of this model and are the most dispossessed of Sri Lanka's citizenry being forced to pay for it? Questions. Questions. Questions. [malindadocs@gmail.com](mailto:malindadocs@gmail.com). [www.malindawords.blogspot.com](http://www.malindawords.blogspot.com)



## DM Poll

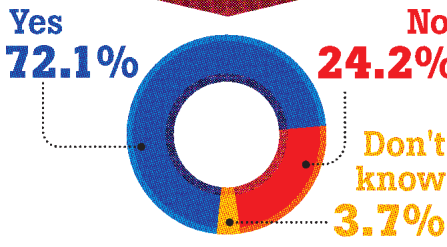
Which political party leader has the vision and the capability to put Sri Lanka on a recovery path and lead to sustainable development?

- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



## LAST POLL

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



See web poll at [www.DailyMirror.lk](http://www.DailyMirror.lk)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### DEMOCRACY AND PEOPLE

Democracy is also construed as government of the people by the people for the people.

However, one wonders whether Democracy by itself has ever been so in our blessed island, considering specially the present perilous economic abyss to which the people have been pushed into by the so-called governments of the people that were elected by the people during the last few decades or so!

It is common knowledge that most political leaders and party politicians are selfless and promise milk and honey during elections.

Times without number, majority of people have fallen prey to this political ploy which also include freebies distributed among gullible voters. Moreover, elaborate party manifestos do include plans and strategies to make Sri Lanka a heaven on earth, no less!

It is also well known that once elected and in power, politicians who are supposed to look into the welfare and well-being of the people, instead become mostly selfish, avaricious, power-hungry and are only interested in gaining for themselves and their families economic prosperity! Worse seems to be the crisscrossing over to other parties and groups by many politicians at will, letting down their trustful voters, without any shame or sham. Our parliament history reveals such cross-overs ever since our independence!

Put shortly, majority of Sri Lankan voters have little or no idea of the value of their vote nor do they vote intelligently. They prefer voting for their traditionally aligned political parties, come what may.

Further, in certain parts of the country consideration of absolutely nonsensical class, caste and creed still prevails, tilting the scales in favour of some politicians!

That said, it is evidently clear that we have been only recycling major political parties - like in the case of garbage - into power and now having ended up with an economic disaster sinking both Sri Lanka and Sri Lankans, blame the garbage that we have been recycling all these years!! It is also a case study for other democratic countries as to how rotten politics and policies combined with utter corruption could ruin a nation and an island paradise beyond redemption for a long, long time indeed.

M. R. PATHIRAGE  
KOLONNAWA

## More men turning to sex industry

### WEB COMMENTS

- PUNCHI** - Our mothers, sisters and daughters are providing 'dharma' services in the Middle East and Singapore and our fathers, brothers and sons are doing it in our country.
- VIKY SUBERLINGAM** - Where can I register? site name please!!
- VIVE JAMES** - 'Sinhala only' with reasonable use of English is enough
- SHUNMUGAM** - Are we ending up like Thailand or Philippines, where most women are involved in sex work?
- PETER** - It is a crying shame that Sri Lankans have to turn to this way of life to survive all because of sleazy politicians who are corrupt to the core.

See more web comments at [www.DailyMirror.lk](http://www.DailyMirror.lk)

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

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# "EMPOWERING FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY"

SDG Outreach Project by the FAO, UNFPA and UNV Sri Lanka

By Vinuki Medagama



PIC BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE

Under the theme "Empowering for a sustainable community", the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Sri Lanka collaborated with the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) to uplift 600 urban poor households in the Colombo municipality as part of the Urban Agri and Women's Empowerment Project.

The trilingual closing event for the programme was held recently and featured speeches by representatives of the FAO, UNFPA and UNV Sri Lanka in addition to a question and answer session with some of the project's beneficiaries. The event was concluded by a community visitation where attendees were able to see the outcomes of the programme firsthand.

The Urban Agri and Women's Empowerment Project, which was done as a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Outreach Project, was aimed at improving the community's food security as well as access to health and hygiene.

"This was a unique initiative where the UNFPA, UNV and FAO all came together and addressed women, agriculture, nutrition, food security, sexual and reproductive health in one project", said Sarah Soysa, UNFPA Programme Analyst.

The programme provided agriculture kits containing fertiliser, seeds and other inputs for urban gardens, comprehensive training on urban gardening plus nutrition packs with essential rations to 600 urban poor households in the Colombo municipality. 1,000 dignity kits, 1,000 maternity kits and comprehensive counselling on food, sexual and reproductive health (including maternal health) were also provided as part of the initiative. The initiative was done using a community-driven approach and involved training peer leaders from within the community on topics like nutrition, health and hygiene, gender-based violence, and home gardening to support the 600 households.

## URBAN POVERTY: A RISING CONCERN IN COLOMBO

With the highest urban flight in Sri Lanka, Colombo's population is growing at a considerable pace. Resultants of this fact are the emerging pockets of slum settlements which have minimal facilities and exemplify urban poverty. The SDG Outreach Project's recipient families were selected from populations most affected by Sri Lanka's ongoing economic crisis within the Colombo municipality and included households with pregnant and lactating mothers, children under five years, older persons and disabled persons.

## FOOD INSECURITY

The four elements of food security can be characterised as food availability, food access, food utilisation, and stability. The joint FAO-WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment conducted in June 2022 revealed that 6.3 million of Sri Lanka's population were food insecure. A 2021 study by N. L. Gunawardhana and Sanjeewanie Ginigaddara further revealed that 72% of urban households within the Colombo municipality were food insecure.

This has only worsened with the ongoing economic crisis.

Using the support provided as part of the SDG Outreach Project, the 600 families have been able to take a more sustainable approach to food by reducing their food and nutrition-related costs while accessing more diverse and nutritious foods.

"By promoting healthy eating habits, we have contributed to a healthier population in these wards while reducing food and nutrition-related costs in their households. These efforts were not only beneficial for the households that received support, but also for the community as a whole", said Dihan Hettige, FAO Assistant Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Despite the removal of the general customs duty on female sanitary products on May 31, 2022, the Sri Lankan economic crisis has led to the price of these products exceeding their already steep amount. The result is that these necessities have become a luxury for many. To address this issue as well as gender equality and access to sexual, reproductive

and maternal health, the SDG Outreach Project included the provision of 1,000 dignity kits and 1,000 maternity kits containing essential items for the health and hygiene of women and girls.

## THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERISM

"Sri Lanka has a long history and a rich culture of volunteerism. It is a part of the social fabric of our nation", said Shyamalee Jayasinghe, Country Coordinator for UN Volunteers Sri Lanka.

The SDG Outreach Project was run by 15 UN Volunteers and 70 V-Force volunteers.

"In a crisis, vulnerabilities do not come to an end immediately. What really excites me about this project is that, even as we responded to immediate needs, we also taught people skills they can use to support themselves", said Kunle Adeniyi, UNFPA Representative for Sri Lanka and Country Director for the Maldives.

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NOTICE	
NOTICE is hereby given under Section 9(2) of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 of the incorporation of the following Company.	
Former Name	: SAKURAI AVIATION LIMITED
Company Number	: P9 5315
Registered Office	: No. 121/G, Kirilapane Avenue, Colombo 05
Date of Incorporation	: 14-01-2016

## HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: WENNAPUWA

**WARNAKULASURIYA CHARLES MOHAN KAPILA FERNANDO AND WARNAKULASURIYA MAHAMALAGE MERIYAN INOKA DUSHYANTHI**

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

Whereas WARNAKULASURIYA CHARLES MOHAN KAPILA FERNANDO AND WARNAKULASURIYA MAHAMALAGE MERIYAN INOKA DUSHYANTHI as the Obligors mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 23651 dated 13.11.2015 and 23987 dated 10.05.2016 both attested by H J M D Jayasinghe Notary Public of Marawila in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Permanent Overdraft facility of Rs.10,000,000.00 granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to WARNAKULASURIYA CHARLES MOHAN KAPILA FERNANDO AND WARNAKULASURIYA MAHAMALAGE MERIYAN INOKA DUSHYANTHI.

And whereas the said WARNAKULASURIYA CHARLES MOHAN KAPILA FERNANDO AND WARNAKULASURIYA MAHAMALAGE MERIYAN INOKA DUSHYANTHI have made default in payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Permanent Overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000,000.00 extended to him among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 30th September 2022 a sum of Rupees Eleven Million Seven Hundred and Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Seven and Cents Seventy Eight Only (Rs. 11,799,167.78) on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged property as described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 23651 & 23987 be sold by Public Auction by P K E Senapathi Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 11,799,167.78 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR+3.25% p.a from 01st October 2022 to date sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

### THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land depicted as Lot 01 in Plan No. 10314 dated 08th of September 2011 made by W Lukshman H Fernando - LS of the called "KONGAHAWATTA" situated at Pahala Katuneriya in Pahala Katuneriya Grama Seva Niladhari Division in Nattandiya Divisional Secretariat Office in Nattandiya Pradeshiya Sabha Limits in Kammalipattu of Pitigal Korale South in the Land Registry Division of Marawila in the District of Puttalam in North Western Province and which said Lot 01 in aforesaid Plan No. 10314 is bounded on the NORTH by Land of W P Lal Fernando and others on the EAST by Land of K Sagarika Vijitha Darshani on the SOUTH by 12 feet wide Road Reservation Leading to Colombo Chilaw R D A Road and on the WEST by Land of M M M Wickramarachchi and others containing in extent One Rood and Twenty One Decimal Five Zero Perches (A0-R1-P21.50) together with the soil trees plantation buildings and everything standing thereon.

Together with the Right of Way for both foot vehicular traffic laden or unladen and right to lay electric and telecommunication cables drainage sewerage and water pipes and overhead wires and other contrivance and contrivances in and over under above along 12 feet wide Road Way marked Lot 21 aforesaid Plan No. 144/1984.

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Amalgamation of Resterick (Pvt) Ltd with Nextventures Limited.**

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 242 (3) (b) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 ("the Companies Act") that the Boards of Resterick (Pvt) Ltd (PV 110225) and Nextventures Limited (PB 1472) have resolved that Resterick (Pvt) Ltd be amalgamated with Nextventures Limited in terms of Section 242(1) of the Companies Act and shall continue as Nextventures Limited.

The amalgamation will take effect on such date as may be approved by the Registrar General of Companies.

The Registered Office of the amalgamated company, Nextventures Limited, will be No. 02, Deal Place, Colombo 03.

**Janashakthi Corporate Services Limited**  
Secretaries, NEXTVENTURES LIMITED & RESTERICK (PVT) LTD

## HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: BATTICALOA

**SAREERAM SRI LANKA NATIONAL FOUNDATION (INCORPORATION)**

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 25th August 2022 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas SAREERAM SRI LANKA NATIONAL FOUNDATION (INCORPORATION) as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 1026 dated 21.06.2017 attested by R Gayathri, Notary Public of Batticaloa in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan facility of Rs.17,788,230.00 granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to SAREERAM SRI LANKA NATIONAL FOUNDATION (INCORPORATION).

And whereas the said SAREERAM SRI LANKA NATIONAL FOUNDATION (INCORPORATION) has made default in Payment of the sums due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Term Loan of Rs. 17,788,230.00 extended to you among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 23rd May 2022 a sum of Rupees Twenty Two Million Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand Thirty Seven and Cents Seventy Three Only (Rs. 22,778,037.73) on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged property as described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No. 1026 be sold by Public Auction by L B Senayake Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 22,778,037.73 together with further interest at the rate 14% p.a from 24th May 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs.17,788,230.00 to date sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

### THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land depicted in Plan No. 1059/2010 dated 01.12.2010 made by A E K Tissawerasinghe - LS of the called "Kudiyiruppu Poomi" depicted as Lot No. 1 in Plan No. KK/BT/2016/1569R dated 01/02-12-2016 made by K Kamalanathan LS bearing Assessment No. 16 situated at Srimathurapuram Road in the Village of Thalankudah 01 within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Manmunai in the Grama Niladhari Division of 153A, Thalankudah in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Manmunai Arayampathy in the District of Batticaloa Eastern Province, bounded on the NORTH by Inner Road on the EAST by Road on the SOUTH by Road on the WEST by Road and Srimathurapuram Road and containing in extent 0.1560 Hectares or One Rood and Twenty One Decimal Six Five Perches (A00:R01:P21.65) This together with the Buildings wells and all rights therein contained.

According to the more recent survey above land described as follows:

All that divided and defined allotment of land called "Kudiyiruppu Poomi" depicted as Lot No. 1 in Plan No. KK/BT/2016/1569R dated 01/02-12-2016 made by K Kamalanathan LS bearing Assessment No. 16 situated at Srimathurapuram Road in the Village of Thalankudah 01 within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Manmunai in the Grama Niladhari Division of 153A, Thalankudah in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Manmunai Arayampathy in the District of Batticaloa Eastern Province, bounded on the NORTH by Inner Road on the EAST by Road on the SOUTH by Road on the WEST by Road and Srimathurapuram Road and containing in extent 0.1560 Hectares or One Rood and Twenty One Decimal Six Five Perches (A00:R01:P21.65) This together with the Buildings wells and all rights therein contained.

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

## HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: BATAPOLA

**BERUWALAGE KAMAL NISHANTHA SOLE PROPRIETOR - B B HARDWARE**

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 27th October 2022 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas BERUWALAGE KAMAL NISHANTHA Sole proprietor of B B HARDWARE as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 2809 dated 22.07.2019 attested by N P Wickramaratne, Notary Public, in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of a Term Loan facility of Rs. 15,000,000.00 (Rupees Fifteen Million Only) granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to BERUWALAGE KAMAL NISHANTHA Sole proprietor of B B HARDWARE.

And whereas the said BERUWALAGE KAMAL NISHANTHA Sole proprietor of B B HARDWARE has made default in Payment of the sums due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Term Loan Facility and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 21.08.2022 a sum of Rs.13,672,253.70 (Rupees Thirteen Million Six Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Three and Cents Seventy Only) on the said Bond and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Bank (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, as amended do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged Property as described in the schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No 2809 be sold by Public Auction by J W E Jayawardena Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 13,672,253.70 together with further interest at the rate 12% p.a from 22.08.2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs.13,125,000 to date sale together with costs of advertising and other charges to be incurred less payments (if any) since received.

### THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land Marked "Lot No 6B of Mahawatta alias Magawatta" depicted in Plan No. 2173 dated 30.05.1987 made by D G Mendis - LS situated at Batapola within the Grama Niladhari Division No. 75B Batapola Central Within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda and Divisional Secretariat Division of Ambalangoda in the Wellaboda Pattu of Galle District Southern Province and which said Lot No. 6B is bounded on the

North by : Lot No. 6A of the same land North-East by : Lot No. 7 of the same Land  
East by : Lot No. 7 of the same land South by : Road and  
South-West by : Lot No. 5 of the same land and West by : Lot No. 5 of the same land

Containing in extent Fifteen Perches (0A:0R:15.0P) according to the aforesaid Plan No. 2173 together with soil Plantations and everything else standing thereon.

The aforesaid land according to a recent Plan of Survey is described as follows:

All that divided and defined allotment of land Marked "Lot No. 1 depicted in Plan No. GA/9036 dated 31.12.2017 made by T B S Sangarandeniya - LS of the land Called Mahawatta alias Magawatta situated at Batapola within the Grama Niladhari Division No 75B Batapola Central Within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Ambalangoda and Divisional Secretariat Division of Ambalangoda in the Wellaboda Pattu of Galle District Southern Province and which said Lot No. 1 is bounded on the

North by : Lot No. 6A of the same land  
East by : Lot No. 7 of the same Land  
South by : Road High Ways from Kahawa to Uduwila and  
West by : Lot No. 5 of the same land

Containing in extent Fifteen Decimal Five Perches (0A:0R:15.50P) or Zero Decimal Zero Three Nine Two Hectares (0.0392 Ha) together with soil Plantations and everything else standing thereon.

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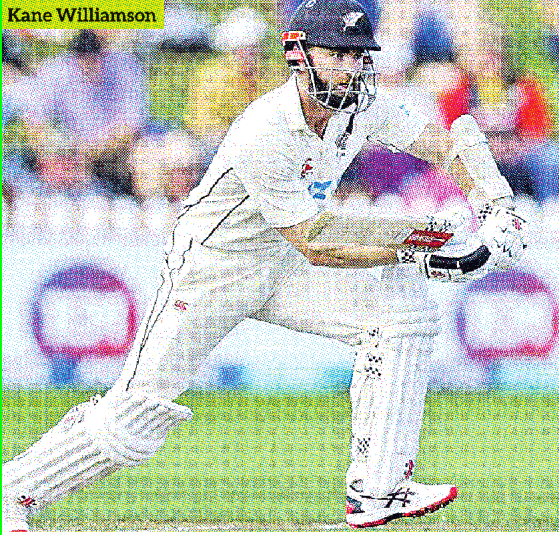
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SPORTS

# NEW ZEALAND HOPE WILLIAMSON READY FOR SRI LANKA DESPITE BEREAVEMENT



Kane Williamson

New Zealand expect record-breaking batsman Kane Williamson will be "ready to go" when their Test series starts against Sri Lanka today, despite his late arrival because of a bereavement.

Williamson has remained at home in the build-up to attend a memorial service on Wednesday for his grandmother.

Ahead of the opening Test in Christchurch, captain Tim Southee said the Black Caps were "feeling for Kane at the moment."

Southee said that while Williamson had not been part of the team's preparations he had trained with his domestic side "so I am sure he will be hitting plenty of balls and making sure he is ready to go come today."

The 32-year-old Williamson is key to

New Zealand's chances in the two-Test series.

He overtook Ross Taylor to become their highest run-scorer in history in last month's second Test against England, when the hosts won by just one run in Wellington to draw the series.

Williamson's grandmother made headlines recently in New Zealand when she rang a radio talkshow to criticise a caller who complained the cricketer's undemonstrative style made him look "disinterested" at times.

"We're not a family that goes yahooping around," she said.

Speaking on the eve of the first Test, Southee said his players had moved on from the extraordinary England triumph.

"It is a match that will be talked about for a long time, but they are a very humble

group, now our focus will shift to Sri Lanka," he said.

Visitors Sri Lanka have plenty to play for -- they need to sweep the series to keep alive their hopes of making the World Test Championship final.

New Zealand are the reigning champions but out of contention for the current competition.

Sri Lanka need to win the two Tests and hope India lose their upcoming fourth Test against Australia to make the final.

"I don't want to put pressure on the boys, but everyone knows this is a must-win," said Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne.

"We're in the top-three right now, so we have one hurdle and everyone knows where we are now." Sri Lanka have only won two of 19 Tests in New Zealand, most recently in 2006.

## Under 19 Quarter-Final Sharujan guides St. Benedict's to semis

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

A knock of 70 by Sharujan Shanmuganathan helped St. Benedict's College to record a first innings win over Richmond College in the Under 19 Tier 'A' Division One inter-school quarter-final encounter played at the Army ground in Dombagoda which paved the way for them to book the berth to semi-final. Sharujan's knock saw St. Benedict's taking first lease of the wicket make a score of 175 and Richmond in their turn was restricted for a score of 96.



Sharujan Shanmuganathan

RESULT

**At Dombagoda - First innings win for St. Benedict's**

**St. Benedict's** 175 (Sharujan Shanmuganathan 70, Chamath Chathurya 38, Viduneth Wilson 20, Kojitha Himsara 18, Aarshan Joseph 19 n.o.; Tharinda Nirmal 4 for 51, Sharon Abishek 3 for 42) **and** **120** (Shenal Samarathunga 44, Viduneth Wilson 26, Sheron Kannangara 16; Tharinda Nirmal 5 for 23, Kaveesha Induwara 3 for 40)

**Richmond** 96 for 9 declared (Bhanuka Manohara 49; Vihara Attanayake 2 for 8, Mevan Dissanayake 2 for 21, Omesh Michael 2 for 26) **and** 142 for 5 (Maheesha de Silva 54, Bhanuka Manohara 46; Vihara Attanayake 3 for 42)

## School over country?

Three junior cricketers allowed to join U19 national team late in order to play big matches

Three junior cricketers, who are part of the national Under 19 squad scheduled to travel to the United Arab Emirates for a tri-nation tournament next week, have been given permission to join the team late owing to their involvement in their respective school big matches.

The three players, Sineth Jayawardena from Royal College Colombo, Malsha Tharupathi of Richmond College Galle and Mahinda College's Dinura Kalupahana have been given special dispensation to travel separately, three days after the tournament, which also involves the Afghanistan and Bangladesh junior

teams, begins.

"We have allowed them to travel on a later date because of their big matches and it is important for them to play those games," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) CEO Ashley de Silva told the Daily Mirror.

When asked why they were allowed to potentially compromise on their national duty in the name of playing a school match, de Silva argued that they were only given permission since Sri Lanka Under 19 does not play its first match in the tournament until after the three players reach the UAE.

"Sri Lanka's first match is on March 20 and that's the only reason

we allowed them to arrive late. If they would have missed any of the matches, we wouldn't have given them permission," de Silva said.

The 144th Battle of the Blues Royal-Thomian encounter will take place from March 16 to 18 while the 118th Battle of the Lovers, between Mahinda College and Richmond College, is scheduled for March 17 and 18.

Interestingly, in 1999, Jehan Mubarak, now the Sri Lanka Under 19 coach, and the late Thomian batsman Upekha Fernando missed the Royal-Thomian encounter that year, to represent Sri Lanka's junior team.

## HSBC Future Lions attracts over 500 children in two legs



Participants at Digana



Girls waiting for their go at golf at NEGC



NEGC Participants

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

The HSBC Future Lions golf grassroots programme launched by Sri Lanka Golf's Junior Golf development sub-committee, completed its first two legs with participation that exceeded expectations in Nuwara Eliya and Kandy.

At Nuwara Eliya Golf Club, the partner club, over 350 children tried out Golf on 24 Feb. At Victoria Golf Resort (VGR), the partner club in Kandy over 180 children underwent an introductory session. The key highlights of this year is the "Girls on Par" initiative which encourages more girls to take on the sport so Golf as a sport will

be more inclusive in future and judging by the selections this is on track.

Thirty prospects were selected from each location and they will undergo a six months advance coaching programme at the respective location. The next four legs will be held in Trincomalee (Mar 24) at the Eagles Golf Links and at the Heritage Golf course Anuradhpura (Mar 25). The sessions in Colombo (Royal Colombo Golf Club) and Hambantota (Shangrila Golf resort) will follow in April and its open for children between 9-12 years of age.

The initiative is also supported by Olu Water, Alerics and MAS Kreedaa.

## Prabuddhika first Sri Lankan in Asian Women's Boxing Commission

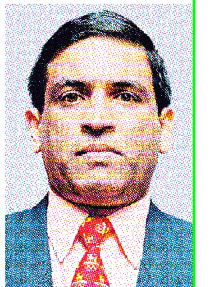
BY SUSIL PREMALAL

For the first time in history, three Sri Lankan boxing officials have been elected to serve on the various commissions of the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC).

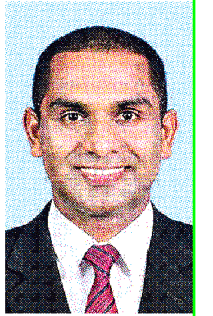
Hemantha Weerasinghe (Referee & Judge), Syamalee Prabuddhika Lokuyaddehige (Women) and Dr. Tharanga Aruggoda (Medical) were elected to serve on the respective ASBC Commissions from 2023 to 2027 during the Board meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand.



Syamalee Prabuddhika



Hemantha Weerasinghe



Dr. Tharanga Aruggoda

In fact, Prabuddhika is the first Sri Lankan to be appointed to the ASBC Women's Commission. A Layton Cup winner and bronze medalist at the National Championship, she has a Black Belt and 1st Dan in karate. A national referee and judge since 2014, she has been the Chairperson of the BASL Women's Commission since 2021.

A 2-Star IBA referee, she has officiated at Les Ceintures Boxing Cup in Paris 2022, Eindhoven Boxing Cup in Eindhoven twice, and the 23rd President's Boxing Cup Indonesia 2019 in addition to tournaments in Hungary and China.

Dr. Aruggoda has served as Chairman of the BASL Medical Commission since 2018 and also Secretary of the Navy Boxing Disciplinary Committee. He completed the Ringside Doctor and Team Cut Technician course of IBA in Budapest, Hungary. He officiated as a ringside doctor at the AIBA Youth Men and Women World Championship in Kielce, Poland in April 2021.

Weerasinghe, a Vice President of the Boxing Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), has been a member of the ASBC R&J (Referee & Judge) Commission since 2015. He was twice appointed as Secretary of the ASBC R&J Commission from 2015-2018 and 2020-2023.

A distinguished boxing product of St. Sylvester's College, Kandy was awarded the boxing Lion in 1986 after representing Sri Lanka as a schoolboy. Weerasinghe has many accomplishments as a boxer, referee, and administrator at the national and international levels.

A two-time National Flyweight boxing champion, he qualified as an AIBA 1-Star referee in 2010 and as an International Technical Official (ITO) of AIBA in 2014. An Executive Committee member of BASL since 2004, Hemantha served in various capacities as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, and Vice President.



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## Inter - School Under 19 Tier 1 quarter - finals Royal shot out for 114

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

Royal College were shot out for a low 114 in their first innings against Trinity College in their Under 19 Inter Schools Tier 1 Quarter-final cricket encounter which commenced at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

In reply Trinity too were in a spot of

both losing half of the side for only 53 runs but recovered well with the help of Lakvin Abeysinghe (44), Vathila Udara (26) and Jayavi Liyanagama (29) taking Trinity to safety to end their first innings on 195. The Reid Avenue School's pacie Ranuka Malaviarachchi took 5 wickets with some good medium fast bowling.

**Royal** 114 in 46 overs (Bulan Weeratinga 21 not out, Tharana Wimaladharma 3 for 21, Kaveen Gamage 3 for 22, Dinuka Tennekoon 3 for 29)

**Trinity** 195 in 52.5 overs (Lakvin Abeysinghe 44, Jayavi Liyanagama 29, Vathila Udara 26, Rahal Amarasinghe 21, Ranuka Malaviarachchi 5 for 21, Ramiru Perera 2 for 49)



## New anti-corruption law in Parliament soon as IMF considers Sri Lanka's loan

- Cabinet Spokesperson Bandula Gunawardana says new anti-corruption bill will be presented to Parliament soon
- Says Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse has already drafted bill
- Reducing corruption vulnerabilities remains a key objective of IMF-backed programme
- A stolen asset recovery initiative likely to be included in new law

The government will bring in an anti-corruption bill to Parliament shortly, as agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when entering a staff-level agreement last September, Cabinet Spokesperson Minister Bandula Gunawardana said.

Introducing new anti-corruption laws to reduce corruption vulnerabilities to unlock Sri Lanka's growth potential was among the key objectives of the IMF-supported programme agreed with, last September.

Gunawardana said Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse has already drafted a bill in this regard and it would be shortly presented to Parliament for approval.

After fulfilling all 'prior actions', Sri Lanka has now received financing assurances from all its major bilateral creditors to seek the approval of the IMF's Executive Board for the US \$ 2.9 billion loan facility, via the Extended Fund Facility agreed under the staff-level pact.



Bandula Gunawardana

China's Exim Bank this Monday gave fresh written financing assurances, expressing its support for Sri Lanka's debt restructuring efforts. Upon receiving the financing assurance, on the same day, President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe signed the Letter of Intent and had sent it to the IMF.

**MORE ON P8**

## Thailand's monkey labour issue could pave way for SL to boost coconut milk exports

- Germany's HelloFresh says seeking new suppliers by this summer
- Sri Lanka could get the opportunity to increase the export of its coconut-based products in the near future, as international companies are moving away from procuring from Thailand—a key supplier—due to the usage of monkey labour.
- Following investigations carried out by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) major retailers, including Walmart, Costco, Target and Kroger, have already stopped carrying coconut milk from certain Thai suppliers accused of using monkeys for forced labour.
- However, taking it a step further by saying it won't source any coconut milk from Thailand is HelloFresh, a publicly traded meal kit company based in Berlin, Germany.
- The results of PETA's third investigation in this regard had found that use of monkeys is "rampant". "Now the push is to just stop sourcing from Thailand entirely and source from other places that produce coconut milk without the use of monkeys, like the Dominican Republic, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Philippines," PETA Director of Corporate Responsibility Laura Shields told the US-based online news platform Axios, during an interview.

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**MORE ON P8**

## SL to set up finance sector crisis mgt committee

The Cabinet nod has been granted to set up an expert committee to avert a crisis in the financial sector, stemming from the ongoing economic crisis.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, in his capacity as the Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies Minister, on Tuesday sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to establish a finance sector crisis management committee, to coordinate

between the Central Bank and Finance Ministry. Along with that, a finance sector crisis management technical committee will also be appointed. "It is important to prevent any impact of the financial crisis that takes place in the finance sector, due to public finance, credit and payment balance difficulties and minimise the cost of a financial crisis, if occurred as such."

**MORE ON P8**



## UL celebrates Women's Day with all-female crew flight

Sri Lankan Airlines celebrated the power of women in the airline with a flight operated by an all-female crew on International Women's Day 2023, which fell yesterday.

Morning flight UL131 departed to Trichy on March 8, 2023 and was staffed by Captain Chamika Rupasinghe, First Officer Bimalee Jeewanara, Purser Roshani Dissanayake, Cabin Supervisor Upuli Warnakula and Flight Attendants Lakmini Dissanayake, Jayakalini Kinson and Harshi Walpola Kanakanmalage.

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## Sri Lanka banks on IMF deal to tap frozen billions

Sri Lanka voiced hope yesterday that a long-awaited International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout would be finalised soon and help unfreeze billions of dollars in foreign aid for projects suspended since last year.

Government Spokesman Bandula Gunawardana told reporters that the IMF was expected to give its board approval for a US \$ 2.9 billion bailout agreed at a staff level in September.

"We are confident that the IMF board will give its approval," the minister said a day after the Washington-based lender confirmed Sri Lanka would be taken up at its March 20 board meeting. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a statement that she welcomed the progress by Sri Lankan authorities in grappling with an unprecedented economic crisis.

"I look forward to presenting for approval Sri Lanka's IMF-supported programme to our Executive Board on March 20," she

added. Gunawardana said that after the approval was secured, Colombo expected the immediate release of billions of dollars in bilateral aid and loans that have been frozen since the South Asian nation defaulted on its US \$ 46 billion external debt in April.

"Our problems can't be solved with this US \$ 2.9 billion but what is really important for us is the endorsement of the IMF that our economy is now on the right path," he said.

"An amount more than the IMF bailout can be unlocked after we get the IMF certificate." Japan suspended funding a US \$ 540 million airport expansion, while millions of dollars' worth of foreign-funded road construction was also halted after Colombo declared bankruptcy in April.

Sri Lanka's largest single bilateral creditor, China, announced that it had on Monday provided financial assurances required by the IMF to ensure the island's foreign debt was sustainable.

**MORE ON P8**

## Top listed firms pledge to increase women representation in corporate leadership



From left: CSE CRO Renuka Wijayawardhane, CEO Rajeeva Bandaranaike, MAS Holdings/Board Member UNGC SL Dinali Peiris, IFC Women in Work SL Programme Manager Sarah Twigg, Australian Deputy High Commissioner Lalitha Kapur, NSB Chairperson Audit Committee Manohari Abeysekera, JKH President Legal, Secretarial and CSR and SLID Council Member Nadija Tambiah, CSE Chairman Dilshan Wirasekera, SEC DG Chinthaka Mendis and CSE CIO Chandrakanth Jayasinghe

Thirteen of the leading companies listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) have pledged their support to increase women's representation at both their management and board levels.

The move comes as the

International Finance Corporation (IFC) partnered with the CSE for the eighth consecutive year for the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality', celebrated in line with the International Women's Day.

**MORE ON P8**

## Prez. pays tribute to three women instrumental in helping SL during crisis

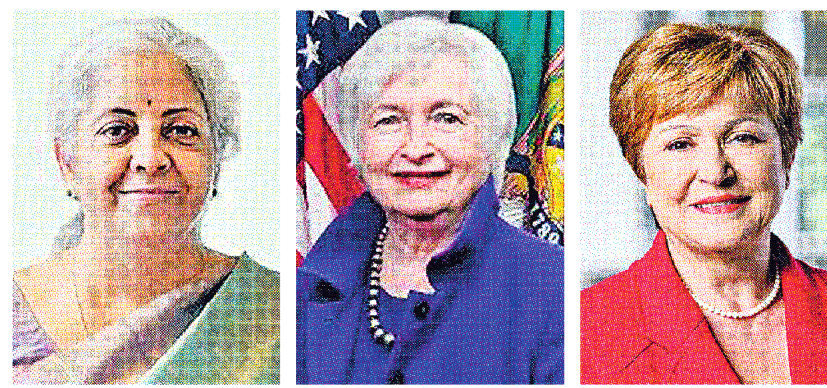
President Ranil Wickremesinghe addressing the International Women's Day national celebration held yesterday said three women were instrumental in helping Sri Lanka during its troubled period.

According to him, those three women were India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

"When reflecting upon those who contributed to freeing the people from the sufferings experienced during the past, I think it is important to mention the names of three women who played

a significant role. I would like to acknowledge Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister of India, who played a vital role in providing a US \$ 3 billion loan to Sri Lanka, after the country was declared bankrupt last April. Her decision to discuss the matter with the prime minister and Cabinet and to provide the loan to a country in such a dire financial state was a remarkably courageous act. Without the availability of those funds during those three to four months, the current situation in the country would be far more challenging and for that, we must express our gratitude to her," Wickremesinghe said.

"Additionally, a crucial role was



Nirmala Sitharaman Janet Yellen Kristalina Georgieva

played by several key countries in supporting us during this challenging time. Notably, our talks with the United States, led by Janet Yellen, the Treasury

Secretary, were instrumental in securing aid for our country. I extend my sincere gratitude to her for her efforts in this matter," he added.

**MORE ON P8**

## SL to identify boundaries of its continental shelf

The Cabinet nod has been granted to reconstitute the National Oceanic Affairs Committee, with the aim to identify the boundaries of Sri Lanka's continental shelf, backed by evidences.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Sabry on Tuesday sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to call for expressions of intent for the reconstitution of the National Oceanic Affairs Committee, to identify

its outer limits, with supporting evidence, for the establishment of Sri Lanka's continental shelf.

In 2009, Sri Lanka submitted technical and scientific data and other information to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf, beyond Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Subsequently, the CLCS appointed a sub-commission to consider Sri Lanka's entitlements.

The National Oceanic Affairs Committee, under the Foreign Affairs Ministry, has been established with the Cabinet approval to work with this sub-committee to identify the limits of the continental shelf claimed by Sri Lanka.

**MORE ON P8**

## Rupee likely to lose fifth of its value by end of this year, says Fitch

- Fitch maintains its forecast for rupee to weaken to a record low of 390 per dollar by year-end
- Expresses optimism in SL bagging IMF bailout package by 2Q23

The Sri Lankan rupee, which gained briskly in the last couple of weeks over the hopes of the island nation securing a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), may resume declines by the end of 2023 and is likely to lose a fifth of its value, according to Fitch Solutions.

The rupee appreciated 3 percent to 317.7 against the US dollar yesterday, taking its annual gains to 15 percent and becoming the world's best-performing currency so far this year.

Fitch maintained its forecast for the rupee to weaken to a record low of 390 per dollar by year-end.

However, Fitch expressed optimism in the island nation bagging the IMF bailout package by 2Q23 but cautioned about possible hiccups going forward.

"... there is potential for disruptions after the initial board approval as authorities may find it challenging to stay on track with the IMF programme amid a weakening economy and a

local election likely on the horizon," Bloomberg quoted Fitch Solutions Country Risk Analyst Seah Wang Ting as saying.

"Sri Lanka still has significant external debt repayment needs and will need to build up its foreign reserve buffer over the coming months, which would put downside pressure on the exchange rate," said Fitch in its new report.

The agency further said the rupee may also be pressured by tightening global monetary conditions.

Earlier this week, President Ranil Wickremesinghe reiterated that the country needs to repay about US \$ 6-7 billion foreign loans on average each year until 2029.



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Table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, VWA, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, and SECURITY. It lists various stocks and their market performance data.

Exchange Rates

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies like Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Euro, etc., with columns for BUYING RATE and SELLING RATE.

Indices close on a mixed note

The ASPI edged up as a result of price gains in counters such as Hatton National Bank, Dialog Axiata and Diesel & Motor Engineering with the turnover crossing Rs 3.2 Bn.



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

Contd. from Page 7

New anti-corruption...

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday said she would be taking Sri Lanka's staff-level agreement to the IMF Executive Board on March 20, for approval.

made a personal sacrifice for Sri Lanka by taking the lead to negotiate with the countries, the Paris Club, the World Bank and others.

Sri Lanka...

Gunawardana said it was still unclear how official creditors, including China, Japan and India, would restructure their loans but it would be in line with the IMF's debt sustainability analysis.

our society.' Fuel is still rationed and essential medicines are in short supply, as the country maintains strict controls on imports to save foreign exchange.

Thailand's monkey...

In a statement, HelloFresh, which is also the largest in the US, asserted that it would not tolerate any form of animal abuse in its supply chain.

million. In January 2023, 4,421 MT of coconut milk were exported, fetching Rs.2,491 million.

SL to set...

Accordingly, it is vital to execute decisive crisis management and take timely decisions,' the Government Information Department said.

leveraging relationships with financial institutions to expand access to finance for female entrepreneurs and increase the number of women in leadership roles.

Top listed...

As part of the IFC's moves to promote gender equality, the 13 companies have signed onto a commitment to boost female representation at board level and in management to a minimum of 20 percent by 2025.

Sri Lanka to...

Subsequently, the CLCS appointed a sub-commission to consider Sri Lanka's entitlements.



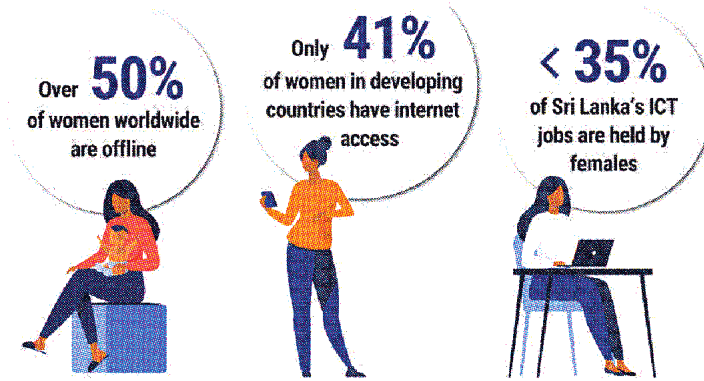
# ARE SRI LANKAN WOMEN ABANDONED IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION?

**SRI LANKA'S RURAL AND ESTATE SECTORS LAG IN DIGITAL AND COMPUTER LITERACY IN COMPARISON TO THE URBAN SECTOR**



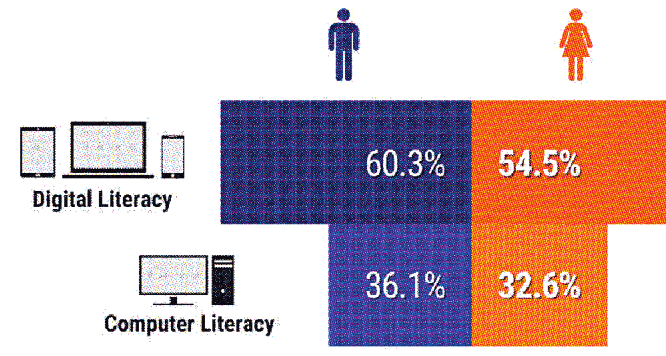
BY LAKSHILA WANIGASINGHE

## Digital Gender Divide Women Lagging Behind in Technology



Sources: UNICEF East Asia & Pacific, (2021) and National IT-BPM Workforce Survey, (2019).

## Gender Gap in Sri Lanka's Digital and Computer Literacy Rates, 2021



Source: Labour Force Survey - Annual Report, (2021)

Technology plays an important role in modern society. It connects, innovates, and transforms economies and societies at large. Yet, women and girls continue to have limited access to technology. This gender bias is also present in Sri Lanka, where women comprise of over 50 percent of the population.

This year, the United Nations marks International Women's Day with the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", focusing on the digital gender gap's impact on widening socio-economic inequalities. This article explores the factors hindering Sri Lankan women's access to technology and discusses some ways to overcome them.

### Digital Gender Divide

The term digital gender divide refers to the gap in digital adoption and use across genders. Findings suggest that more than half of all women worldwide are offline. The gender gap in digital access is wider across developing countries, where the internet penetration rate is 53 percent and 41 percent for adult men and women respectively.

COVID-19 emphasised the importance of technology as many government services, education, business, and financial services were performed online during this time. It also confirmed that many groups not only lack access to the digital economy but also resources, technology, and knowledge. In Sri Lanka, only one out of five households owned a desktop or laptop computer in 2021.

Less than half of the population used the internet, and email users were even fewer. While Sri Lanka reported a digital literacy rate of 57.2 percent in 2021, the computer literacy rate was only 34.3 percent, with females falling behind in both aspects (see figure).

Although Sri Lanka's higher rate of digital literacy comes across as a positive indicator,

### DIGITAL GENDER DIVIDE ADVERSELY IMPACTS WOMEN'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

it is important to note that the measure for digital literacy is an individual's ability to 'use a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone on his/her own.' However, this measure may not fully reflect true digital literacy as it can also include those who only use smartphones for voice calls. Even against this measure, it is evident that women are underrepresented.

The digital gender divide adversely impacts women's access to education, health, and financial inclusion. Women and girls face various obstacles, including the limited availability, knowledge, and socio-cultural barriers, which prevent them from fully utilising digital resources.

Another deterrent is the high costs associated with digital devices and internet services, especially for rural households. Sri Lanka's rural and estate sectors lag in digital and computer literacy in comparison to the urban sector.

This is likely to have a more significant impact

on girls and women in these regions. Further, digital safety concerns relating to cybercrimes, online harassment, greater potential for hate speech, and the overall lack of accountability for such actions discourage some women from using technology entirely.

### Closing the Gap

**Enhancing Employability Prospects** - In today's growing digital era, the absence of digital literacy and usage will reduce women's employability prospects further widening gender inequalities. Hence addressing it is crucial to narrowing economic and social inequalities. As the job market shifts towards highly skilled positions, women must adapt and prepare to remain competitive. It can be expected that these jobs will increase more formal employment opportunities and secure forms of income generation.

Currently, only 34 percent of ICT jobs in Sri Lanka are held by females. Increasing female representation in the sector will also contribute towards having more role models for girls interested in pursuing similar fields in the future. Thus, shattering the glass ceiling requires immediate action to close the digital gender divide in the long run.

**Gender Equality at Work** - To address the existing gender bias, policymakers and organisations must work together to establish 'female-friendly' policies and programmes. Making women feel welcome and empowered is a good starting point.

While addressing gender stereotype is important, they also need to be coupled with other facilities such as safe transport and flexible work schedules to encourage more women to apply for positions in male dominated fields. This would not only increase the number of women in the field but also help women receive family support to pursue careers in technology.

**Empowering Rural Women** - It is necessary to provide equal opportunities for women in tech and allow them to grow so that their success can inspire other women to follow suit. This also includes bridging the urban-rural divide in technology access. Hence introducing rural women to digital technology, formal banking and digital financial solutions is important. This could also include specialised training and loan schemes for females interested in entering the technology field.

Improving women's access opens up opportunities for secure financing and a path out of poverty - by engaging in various businesses,

especially at a time when e-commerce is popular. These positive economic outcomes can be a game changer for rural female-headed households and Sri Lanka as a whole. Moreover, they can provide small businesses access to international markets if done correctly.

**Skill improvements** - Survey findings link higher educational attainment and knowledge in English to greater computer literacy in Sri Lanka. Thus, promoting higher education and English literacy among girls from a young age will prove mutually beneficial in improving computer literacy rates. While ICT is included in the current school curriculum, what is taught at the mandatory level is inadequate.

Therefore, it is essential that policymakers update the subject matter to meet the growing digital demand. In line with this, disparities in resource allocations at the school level must also be addressed (such as inadequate availability of computers in smaller schools, absence of computer labs etc.). Encouraging girls to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is critical because 'there won't be any women in tech without girls in STEM.'

Given Sri Lanka's current economic standing, it is also important to consider resource allocations. This is especially concerning allocating funds towards distributing computers to less-developed schools, organising training programmes for rural women etc. While these are essential measures in bridging the digital gender gap, implementing any initiatives in stages is best. This will provide a better mechanism to monitor the impact of actions on closing the gap and help adjust course as necessary, without unnecessary waste of scarce resources.

**(Lakshila Wanigasinghe is a Research Officer at the IPS with research interests in poverty, social welfare, development, education, and health. She holds an MSc in Economics with a concentration in Development Economics and a BA in Economics with concentrations in International, Financial and Law and Economics from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), US. She can be contacted via: lakshila@ips.lk)**

## Adfactors Sri Lanka joins PROI Worldwide

Adfactors Sri Lanka, based in Colombo, has been elected to partner PROI Worldwide, a leading global consortium of entrepreneurial communications agencies with 85 partners in 60 countries.

"We've managed through a very challenging year in Sri Lanka in 2022," said Rezani Aziz, CEO. "Now in looking to the future for our business and our country we will benefit from the experience and resources of other agency leaders around the world."

Jeff Lambert, Global Chair of PROI Worldwide and Chair of U.S.-based Lambert Global stated, "Indian agency Adfactors PR has been a long-time and valued partner for our organization, and we are pleased to extend that reach into Sri Lanka, and to Rezani Aziz and her colleagues in that country."

Adfactors Sri Lanka was founded in 2014 as a subsidiary of Adfactors PR, the leading firm in the Indian market. Adfactors Sri Lanka provides a range of public affairs,



Jeff Altheide



Jeff Lambert



Rezani Aziz

corporate reputation and crisis counsel services to clients. Their strategic counsel has been particularly valuable to clients during the economic and political crisis in Sri Lanka in the past year.

PROI Worldwide encompasses 85 PR and communications businesses in 165 cities and 60 countries. Lambert says, individually,

they are proven leaders in their home markets.

Collectively, the PROI partners represent more than US\$1.075 billion in revenue and 7,500 employees. Thousands of clients, including dozens of Fortune 500 companies, trust PROI partners in one or more countries and regions around the world.

## New Media Solutions wins big at SLIM DIGIS 2.2

Reiterating its creative capabilities and progressive nature, leading homegrown media, brand communications and public relations expert New Media Solutions took home four esteemed awards at the recently held SLIM DIGIS 2.2, for the production of 'Ledak Giya Durak', a branded mini-series on YouTube, as well as for its contributions towards executing 'Unlocking Access To Miraculous Healing' campaign.

Produced and executed as an extension of Softlogic Life's 2021 'Leda Leda' campaign, New Media Solutions' efforts were recognized and bestowed with a Silver award for Cross Digital Platform Integration, a Silver award for Best use of Branded Content, a Merit award for Best use of Branded

Content, and the company received the Bronze award in the Insurance category for the 'Unlocking Access To Miraculous Healing' campaign.

"Today we extend our thanks to the management at Softlogic Life for the opportunity to contribute to these iconic campaigns and SLIM for hosting this esteemed awards program. We are grateful to accept these awards which mark a milestone in New Media Solutions' journey which ensures excellence in public relations and communications.

Despite a challenging few years with the advent of the pandemic and our country's economic turbulence, I am humble and optimistic, and believe that we are well equipped to continue this streak of touching people's hearts

through creative and innovative ideas for leading brands such as Softlogic Life," commented New Media Solutions Co-Founder and CEO Nilupa Sanjaya Liyanage.

New Media Solutions is a collection of seasoned veterans from the fields of media relations, brand communications and public relations, mastering their service offerings including Media Strategies, Lobbying, Mass Communications, Content Creation, Digital Media, Advertising and Crisis Management. The company is led by Co-Founder and current Chief Executive Officer Nilupa Sanjaya Liyanage, who is a communications expert with over 15 years of experience in advertising, journalism, broadcasting and digital media.

## Thajudeen elected to PRCA's PR and Communications Council 2023



Thanzy Thajudeen

The Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA), the world's largest professional PR body, has elected Thanzy Thajudeen to its PR and Communications Council 2023.

Thajudeen will be part of an impressive class of practitioners from across the world. Claire Williamson, Managing Director of Resonance is the new Chair with Jonny Curtis, Managing Director of

Grayling UK, as Vice Chair.

Thajudeen also serves in the PRCA Asia Pacific Regional Board and is a member of its 'Educating about Asia Pacific' profession workstream, working alongside some of the most senior practitioners in the industry and region. He has over 10 years of experience and is the founder of Colombo-based Mark and Comm Ltd, a reputation and pr consultancy. He is a Member of

PRCA and CIPR and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

The PR and Communications Council provides a formal mechanism to consult with the industry's most senior practitioners on the issues PR and communications faces; to act as a think-tank for the industry; to inform the PRCA's strategic priorities; and to produce helpful commentary, advice and best-practice guidance

for PR and communications professionals.

The Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA) is the world's largest professional PR body. Representing 35,000 PR professionals in 82 countries worldwide, PRCA is a global advocate for excellence in public relations with a mission to create a more professional, ethical, and prosperous PR industry.

## Rayush Wijeyaratne takes over as Event Productions' MD



Roshan Wijeyaratne (left) with Rayush

Rayush Wijeyaratne who has been at Event Management Pvt Limited (EPPL) for over a decade, takes over the reins as Managing Director of this thirty-year old company.

Having joined EPPL in 2011 post his degree in Business from London School of Economics, while overlooking operations of the company founded by his father Roshan in the early 1990s, Rayush took the lead in adding tech-innovations into the complete look and feel of event production.

"I am excited to be handing over the company I founded to the second generation, which is truly a proud moment for me," says Roshan Wijeyaratne who will continue as Director of the company, to extend support and share his wealth of experience.

Having navigated the company through some of the most difficult times in Sri Lanka's history but never veering from his commitment to ultra-professionalism not just

in the events he produces but also in his attitude, discipline, detail orientation and creativity, Rayush has added the vital component of the next-gen tech feel into the EPPL portfolio.

Renowned for producing events to international standards which has also seen its client portfolio gain the addition of a leading global and local corporate to achieve sustained growth, EPPL has produced over five thousand events ranging from corporate events, award ceremonies, conferences, product launches, fashion shows and gala events to innovative hybrid events, visual experiences, concerts and festivals.

"This is a big step for the company but I know my team is ready to take the next leap. I look forward to leading the company as we continue to raise the bar to provide our clients innovative, purposeful and engaging productions that will support their business goals."

## Holmes Pollard strikes Gold for BOC corporate television commercial

Holmes Pollard & Stott (HP&S) has won the Sumathi Award for Best Television Commercial. It received this accolade at the Sumathi Awards 2023 for its corporate TV commercial for Bank of Ceylon. This is the latest in a string of creative awards won by the agency.

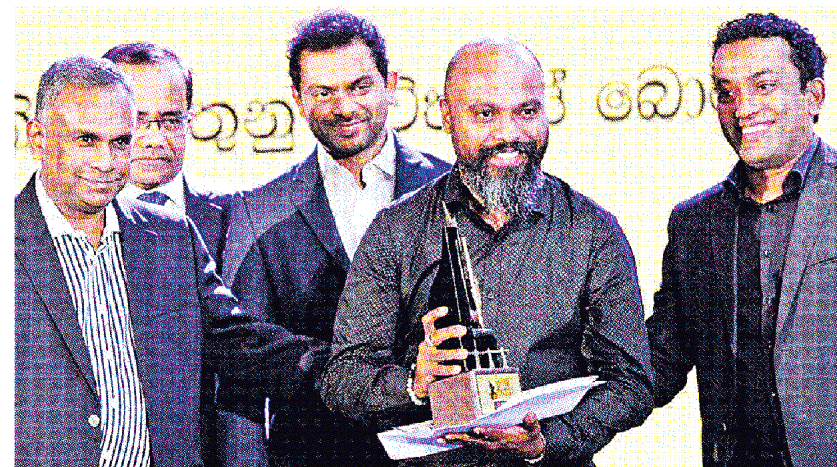
The award-winning commercial revolves around the theme, 'Moving Forward with Modernization.' Through a family setting, it depicts Bank of Ceylon as a caring parental figure that meets the aspirations of future generations. It also conveys the warmth and closeness between the bank and the people of Sri Lanka.

"The secret of our success is being relevant and focused," noted the Chairman of HP&S, Pradeep Amirthanayagam. He said the accolades are a fitting tribute to all the clients who

have entrusted their brands to them. "They placed their trust in us, and we turned their businesses into success stories," he added

The agency has managed brands from across the corporate spectrum. These range from banking & finance, healthcare, energy and insurance to FMCG, personal care, automobiles, aviation and construction. Among its enviable portfolio of clients are listed blue chip companies.

Over the years, HP&S has launched, nurtured and repositioned a number of breakthrough brands. They were propelled to the top through creative and effective campaigns. HP&S was the first agency to pitch in Sinhala. It also created the first animated TV ad, which was part of an award-winning campaign of the year.



In addition, it helped launch several start-ups that went on to make it big. Among them were Union Bank,

CBNsat (known today as Dialog TV), Newdale Yoghurt and Maliban Full Cream Milk.

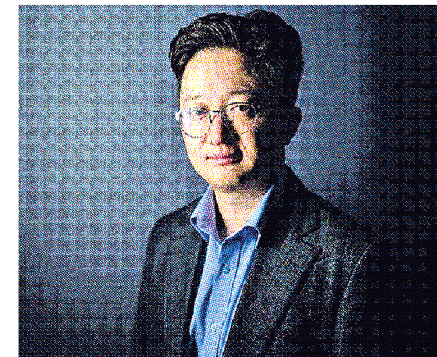


**NETFLIX F1 SHOW SLAMMED OVER TOBACCO ADVERTISING**

Netflix's popular Formula One show is providing tobacco giants with a fast and effective marketing vehicle to swerve past bans on advertising their product, industry monitors said Wednesday. The behind-the-scenes Formula One streaming series "Drive to Survive" has been hugely popular on Netflix, which recently released the fifth season. **AFP**

**REAL-LIFE K-POP INDUSTRY DRAMA**

It is the kind of K-drama that rivets millions of viewers, bitter boardroom battles, expensive lawyers, hostile takeover claims and high-stakes shareholder meetings. Except this is playing out in real life as the godfather of K-pop fights his nephew for control of the music company he founded. **AFP**



**PICTURE FRAMING WITH A DIFFERENCE**



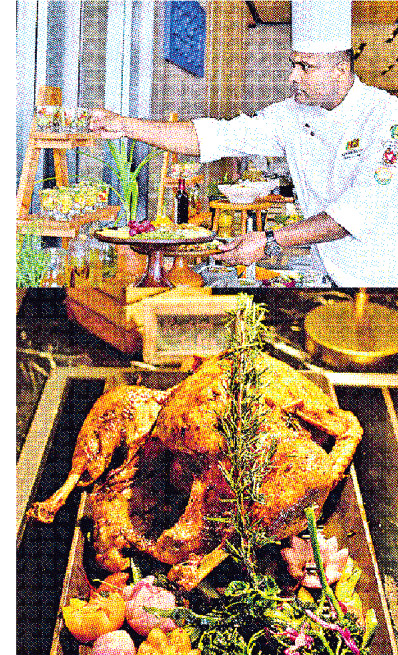
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**Sunday Brunch**  
At Courtyard By Marriott

Our experience at the Sunday Brunch starts at the **salad and appetiser bar** with an extensive spread of cold cuts, cured meats, cheeses and appetisers the likes of mixed seafood, roasted pepper and cheese, apple and walnut salad and more. They also have a **fresh seafood corner** with sea crabs, lagoon prawns and cuttlefish as well as a **live action salad bar** which we made full use of. One of the highlights of the brunch was their **Japanese corner** which housed a good selection of hand rolled maki sushi such as smoked salmon, chicken teriyaki, crabstick maki, BBQ chicken maki and California roll.



For mains, they offer **Sri Lankan, Indian, Western, Chinese and Thai** cuisine dishes. Our eyes were drawn to their impressive **selection of roast meats**, so we opted to skip on the traditional Sri Lankan and Indian dishes for the chance to enjoy the carvery on display.

The buffet boasted **Roasted Turkey, Lamb and Chicken, Pork Chops and Beef Crown Rib Roast** - all beautifully prepped, marinated and roasted that even at first glance, you know it's going to be delicious (and it was!). The **Roasted Turkey and Lamb** were perfectly cooked, with a **crispy crackling on the outside** and succulent, juicy meat on the inside and the **Beef Crown Rib Roast** was simply phenomenal.

The Chinese corner at the buffet equally carried favour from us with **Singaporean Chillie Crab, Fried Okra in Sweet Chillie Sauce, Chillie Pork and Hot Butter Mushroom**.

Though we were too stuffed to try the local and Indian corner, the flaky parata and naan and the spicy Sri Lankan curries were also popular among guests. **Dessert** was a simple affair with a few cakes, puddings, mousse and nibbles. While we loved the savoury aspect of the Sunday Brunch, we do hope that the sweet options expand in the future.

All in all, we enjoyed our lazy Sunday Brunch experience at the Beira Kitchen, enjoying the panoramic views of Colombo city with live music entertaining us through it all. While the spread was in no way lacking in terms of quantity, we appreciated that they opted to prioritize quality above all, something most buffet spreads often fail to deliver.



**Text Panchali Illankoon**

We love a good Sunday Brunch and Colombo's newest city hotel; Courtyard by Marriott is promising a Sunday Brunch you simply can't say 'No' to. **Beira Kitchen** is Courtyard by Marriott Colombo's signature all-day dining restaurant that serves a range of local and international cuisine and every Sunday, the space comes alive with families and friends settling in for a lazy Sunday Brunch at the city hotel. From 12.00-3.00pm, the Sunday Brunch is priced at Rs. 7,500 per head.

**PHOTOS NISAL BADUGE**

The Sunday Brunch buffet spread is considerably vast with a large variety to choose from. At the helm of the **Beira Kitchen** is **Executive Chef Nuwan Silva**, a medal winner in Culinary Olympics (Germany), Culinary World Cup (Luxembourg) and Culinary Art

Sri Lanka possessing over 18 years of working experience in the hotel industry. Having soft launched the Sunday Brunch at Beira Kitchen quite recently, Chef Nuwan shared that 'this is just the beginning, we've got bigger plans to improve and expand'.

Every Sunday 12.00 pm-03.00 pm Beira Kitchen, Courtyard by Marriott Colombo From Rs. 7,500 - 9,500 per person

**Text Panchali Illankoon**

Sri Lankan Michelin starred Chef Lahiru Jayasekera collaborates with Shangri La Colombo for a gastronomically delightful culinary affair. It's a Friday evening and the Capital Bar and Grill at Shangri-La Colombo is buzzing with a full house, tables of guests all eagerly awaiting to enjoy a night of gastronomical delight curated by Sri Lanka's very own Michelin starred chef - Lahiru Jayasekera. The Hikkaduwa native who migrated to London as a teenager, Chef Lahiru (now more fondly known as 'Chef Larry') is Sri Lanka's very first chef to be awarded the Michelin star recognition and is one of only two Sri Lankan chefs to hold the distinction. Chef Larry has worked at some of the most celebrated restaurants in the UK, including Marcus Wareing's The Berkeley, Raymond Blanc's Le Manoir and Michel Bras and most notably as the former head chef of Gordon Ramsay's famed Michelin Starred restaurant - Pétrus. He is also the recipient of several highly acclaimed accolades such as National Chef of the Year 2016 (UK) and Young Chef of the Year 2007 (UK).

Though the young chef has returned to his island home on several occasions over the years to conduct trainings and workshops for culinary professionals, Chef Larry joined Shangri La Colombo in hosting his first ever dining event in Sri Lanka as a part of the hotel's Culinary Collaborations series, an initiative aimed at showcasing star personalities in the culinary and gastronomy field and offering guests the opportunity to explore novel culinary delights through curated pop-up experiences.

At the dinner, a 5-course menu card was laid ahead of us. It promised us appetisers of combinations we've never tried, traditional mains that left us curious about its execution and dessert, simple and unimposing at first read.

**An Evening With Michelin Starred Chef Larry**

The menu for the evening finds its strength in Sri Lanka, put together by Chef Larry just two days ahead of the event, inspired by his visits to the local markets after landing in the country. "I think when we have such fantastic ingredients right here in the local market, it would be a shame to try to do something with imported products. Sri Lanka is a beautiful tropical country with amazing seafood and some of the best ingredients around. I knew when I collaborated with Shangri La that I wanted to highlight how well we can use the concept of farm to table dining here in Sri Lanka." The curated

menu is coloured by Chef Larry's inspiration at the local markets - kokis, pickled pathola and calamansi glee stood out to us as we prepared for our meal, curious to see how these underrated ingredients married with the rest.

Our dinner started off with a snack platter, Coronation Prawns, Kokis with Apple Gel, Local Otoro with Soy and Keta Caviar and Tart of Grilled Octopus with Spiced Coconut and Tamarind. At first, it was odd to see our Avurudu kokis as a part of a fine dining menu, but Chef Larry was quick to correct our train of thought immediately, clarifying that "fine dining is not about eating fancy." "It's about balancing the menu. 'Fine' refers to the quality ingredients you dine on as opposed

to a reference to opulence. Ultimately, fine dining is eating good food with quality ingredients." A few bites into our crispy kokis, filled with a creamy prawn mousse in its hollowed crates, we concurred on the philosophy of balance. The Local Otoro with Keta Caviar was refreshing while the Tart of Grilled Octopus with Spiced Coconut and Tamarind stole the show for its contrasting flavours and textures.

Our appetiser Cuttlefish, Pickled Pathola and Cardamom Dashi was one of the dishes that deserved the limelight - a dish Chef Larry himself was particularly excited about,

"I was walking in the market when I saw pathola and I knew I wanted to do something with it. We usually eat pathola as a curry, but I wanted to combine this often-underrated local ingredient with our amazing seafood



and put an unexpected twist to it". The pickled pathola was served with fresh calamari and a cardamom dashi made with fish stock and red wine. Appetisers were soon followed by Andrea's Brioche (fondly titled after chef's manager Andrea) with a Roasted Chicken Butter and Caramelised Onion (divine!) and an entrée of freshwater Lagoon Prawns, Calamansi Glee, Yoghurt, Horseradish and Lemon Zest. Our main was Pork Wellington with pickled apple and Shellfish Crème - a twist on the classic beef wellington with a succulent fillet of pork and a rich crème sauce that was creamier than the usual bisque topped off with the juxtaposing flavours of pickled apple and mushroom. For dessert, an elevated take on a snickers bar inspired by a conversation between Manager Andrea and sous chef David on route to Galle. The snicker bar made with Malt Ice Cream, Caramel, Peanut and dark chocolate was decadently sweet and paired with a Whisky Alexander (whiskey, crème de cacao, milk) it was a rich end to a delightful dinner.



PIX COURTESY - SASSANDA LIYANAARACHCHI (PULSE)  
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