



YOUR PAPER TODAY 12 PAGES

Sensitive info of state owned websites leaked?

Defence Ministry takes preventive action following intel

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE

Sensitive information of two state websites have been leaked to a hacker forum, a cyber threat intelligence platform claimed last week. On March 2, the FalconFeeds.io announced on Twitter that the administrator access of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence website has been released to a Hacker's Forum for sale.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SL debt restructuring China sees the 'necessity of fair burden-sharing'

BY SUNIL JAYASIRI

While confirming that the Export-Import Bank of China, as the official bilateral creditor, provided a financing support document to Sri Lanka, China on Wednesday reiterated that it sees the 'necessity of fair burden-sharing' when it comes to Sri Lanka's debt restructuring. "I would like to reiterate that China supports relevant financial institutions in having active consultations with Sri Lanka on debt treatment.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

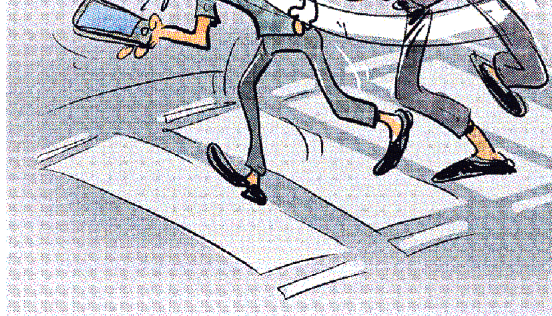
Police action on dispersing protests outside Colombo, Kelaniya Universities

HRCSL summons Public Security Minister for inquiry

BY KURULU KOJANA KARIYAKARAWANA

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has commenced an inquiry over the nature of how police had acted in dispersing the recent protests outside the universities of Colombo and Kelaniya, thus the subject minister has been summoned to the commission next Monday (13).

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Ear lobe cut off for using cellular phone while walking on road

BY NISHANTHA KUMARA

A young man whose ear lobe was cut off by another individual accusing him of using the cellular phone while walking along the road, was admitted to Metigahathenna District hospital in Madolsima on Wednesday night (08).

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Report presented at seminar in Dubai

59% FAMILIES IN SL UNABLE TO MEET FOOD REQUIREMENT

Fifty-nine (59) percent of families of the total population in Sri Lanka have not been able to meet the required level of food due to the declining food production and inflation in 2022, it was revealed at an international seminar, held in Dubai recently. "28 percent or 6.3 million people were facing a serious scarcity of food in Sri Lanka," it was revealed. The need to boost the agricultural productivity, to reduce the crop devastation caused by blights and pests to the barest minimum, preventing the post-harvest crop devastation, and introducing innovative methods to the agricultural sector, and increasing the viability of obtaining food were highlighted as alternatives during the event.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

"Indian quake doesn't pose a huge danger to SL, but remain vigilant" - Prof. Senaratne

The Daily Mirror had an interview with Athula Senaratne, Senior Professor of the Geological Department, University of Peradeniya on the effects Sri Lanka could experience in the event the predicted earthquake - expected to reach 8 magnitudes in the Richter Scale - in North India's Himalayan region does happen. There are warnings that this natural catastrophe is expected within the first two weeks of March.



SEE FULL INTERVIEW ON A5 >>>

An Asteroid the size of leaning tower of Pisa could hit earth

Don't make plans for Valentine's Day 2046!

- NASA warns

NASA has warned a city-destroying asteroid about the size of the Leaning Tower of Pisa could hit Earth on Valentine's Day in 2046. 2023 DW, confirmed February 28, has a one in 560 chance of impact on February 14 at 4:44 pm ET - but where it will fall is not yet known.



SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Rohitha Rajapaksa's credit card lost; transactions made fraudulently

BY NIMANTHI RANASINGHE

The Narahenpita Police informed the Colombo Additional Magistrate yesterday that they had launched an investigation in connection with a fraudulent online transaction of nearly 400 US dollars from former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's son Rohitha Rajapaksa's credit card.

The police informed Additional Magistrate Pasan Amarasena that someone had made four online transactions amounting to 387 US dollars from Rohitha's credit card.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

AG's revision application

Wasantha Mudalige noticed to appear in HC on March 27

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Convener of Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF) Wasantha Mudalige was yesterday noted to appear before Colombo High Court on March 27 in connection with a revision application filed by the Attorney General.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SJB MPS WILL NOT REMAIN IN PARLIAMENT FOR LONG - DIANA

Says there will be a 'kurundu polu' culture soon

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

State Minister Diana Gamage was engaged in a showdown with SJB MP Thushara Induni Amarasena in Parliament yesterday where the former said SJB MPs will not remain in the House for long.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



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CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

CHINA SEES THE 'NECESSITY OF FAIR BURDEN-SHARING'

In the meantime, we also see the necessity of fair burden-sharing and believe that both commercial and multilateral creditors should take part in Sri Lanka's debt restructuring, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning's said during the regular Press Conference

on Wednesday.

She also said that China is ready to work with relevant countries and international financial institutions to 'jointly play a positive role in helping Sri Lanka navigate the situation, ease its debt burden and achieve sustainable development.'

WASANTHA MUDALIGE NOTICED TO APPEAR IN HC ON MARCH 27

The Attorney General had filed a revision application challenging the legality of the order issued by Colombo Chief Magistrate to release Wasantha Mudalige from a case filed for allegedly committing offences under Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

Through this revision application, the Attorney General is seeking an order to set aside the order dated January 31, 2023 delivered by Colombo Chief Magistrate to release Wasantha Mudalige from PTA charges.

The Attorney General maintained that the Magistrate's Court has no jurisdiction to release an individual who had been arrested under the provisions of PTA. The Attorney General further said the Magistrate's Court had released the suspect prior to the Attorney General's advice being received.

On January 31, Wasantha Mudalige

was ordered to be released from the case after spending five months in incarceration.

Wasantha Mudalige was arrested on 18th of August, 2022 under the PTA for 90 days under a Detention Order issued by President Ranil Wickremesinghe in his capacity as the Minister of Defence.

The Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis held that charges levelled under section 2 and 3 of the PTA are not applicable to Wasantha Mudalige. The Magistrate further observed there is no evidence to support that Wasantha Mudalige had been involved in terrorist activities as alleged by the prosecution.

The Chief Magistrate further alleged that the prosecution has created evidence to misuse the provisions of PTA with the motive of keeping the suspect behind bars for a long period of time.

DIANA GAMAGE'S CITIZENSHIP CASE TO BE HEARD ON APRIL 3 BY COURT OF APPEAL

● Diana Gamage has not obtained dual citizenship or any other form of citizenship in Sri Lanka

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A writ petition filed seeking an order declaring State Minister of Tourism Diana Gamage to be disqualified as a Member of Parliament since she is a British citizen was yesterday fixed for argument by Court of Appeal.

Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne and Justice M.A.R. Marikkar fixed the petition for argument on April 3.

The parties were directed to file their written submissions regarding the preliminary objections raised by Diana Gamage before 27th of March.

Social activist Oshala Herath filed the petition seeking an order in the nature of a Writ of Quo Warranto declaring that

Diana Gamage is disqualified to be a Member of Parliament and is thus not entitled to hold office as a MP.

In this case, the petitioner claimed that State Minister Diana Gamage is a British citizen and only a British citizen can hold a British Passport. The petitioner maintained that by virtue of becoming a citizen of another country, Parliamentarian Diana Gamage ceased to be a Sri Lankan citizen. The petitioner said Diana Gamage has not obtained dual citizenship or any other form of citizenship in Sri Lanka.

The petitioner further said Diana Gamage is disqualified from election as a MP or to sit and vote in Parliament under and in terms of Article 91 read with Article 89 and Article 90 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka.

EAR LOBE CUT OFF FOR USING CELLULAR PHONE WHILE WALKING ON ROAD

The victim was a disabled young man about 29 years of age from Kuruvigolla in Madolsima.

He stated to police that he was answering a call over his phone when another pedestrian whom he

met accused him of using the phone on the road and cut off his earlobe with a knife and assaulted him.

Madolsima police are conducting further investigations.

SENSITIVE INFO OF STATE OWNED WEBSITES LEAKED?

Personally Identifiable Information (PIIs) such as names, phone numbers and emails were among the data claimed to be on sale, through a data broker named Kelvin Security. Kelvin Security, which describes itself as a hacker group has a history of claiming data breaches in several countries including Colombia, Mexico and Chile.

When contacted by the Daily Mirror, Defence Ministry media spokesperson Colonel Nalin Herath denied the report stating no data has been compromised as flagged by the intelligence platform, nor has data been made available for sale.

"There was an alert we initially got that the Ministry of Defence website was going to be hacked. But there was no such incident,"

the Ministry Spokesperson said. "We were alerted by the United States Embassy. Based on that we took some extraordinary precautions and because of that we could prevent a breach," he said. The US Embassy warning came a day prior to the incident, he said. "Nothing happened. There was no breach. We adopted certain precautions. But we did not experience an attack or anything," Herath said.

Asked of the precautionary measures taken related to this incident, Herath said the Ministry worked with the Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT) as well as the Air Force Cyber Operations Centre to look into the issue.

However sources told Daily Mirror that CERT had not been

immediately notified of the alleged breach. "We haven't got any request asking for any assistance in this regard," a spokesperson for CERT said.

Prior to the alleged Defence Ministry data breach, FalconFeeds.io on February 25 had also claimed that '32 admin information' from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka websites were leaked. The tweet also contained an image suggesting that the Central Bank's Twitter handle was compromised.

The Daily Mirror spoke to two officials at the Central Bank who said there has been no data breach reported. "I think you are referring to the tweet. There was no data breach as such," an officer who wished to remain anonymous said. Asked if there is an investigation into the incident with other parties, he said "Along with our service provider, we investigated the claim. But we didn't find any data breach."

HRCSL summons Public Security Minister for inquiry

Public Security Minister Tiran Alles had been asked to appear before the Commission at 10.00 am on Monday, to explain how the police acted in dispersing protests that took place outside University of Colombo on March 7th and 8th., as well as outside Kelaniya University on Wednesday (8) night.

The Commission has decided to hold an investigation over the conduct of the police whilst

dispersing these protests and the methods and tactics used by the latter, the HRCSL issuing a statement said yesterday.

Public concern is growing over the events that unfolded outside the University of Colombo on March 8th afternoon, where even number of students of two leading schools in the vicinity with its teachers and parents were seen affected by the tear gas attacks meant for the protesters.

RANIL FIRES TEAR GAS AT HIS ALMA MATER AND LAW FACULTY - LAWYERS QUERY

BY KURULU KOJANA KARIYAKARAWANA

Ranil has ordered to fire tear gas at his own alma mater and faculty of law of the University of Colombo where he studied law and the next target would be Sri Lanka Law College, a Lawyers collective questioned yesterday.

Like near the courtrooms and hospitals, people don't at least toot near schools out of decency that those institutions should not be disturbed at any cost, let alone firing tear gas around them, the lawyers said.

An independent Lawyers Collective said these at a press briefing

organised yesterday to condemn the undemocratic actions by the government to oppress dissent and introducing military to disperse peaceful protests.

Attorney Jayantha Dehiattage said "Ranil had ordered to fire tear gas at his own alma mater Royal College, and the Faculty of Law at the University of Colombo, where he obtained his legal knowledge.

Using brute force on peaceful protests should be condemned especially when the police fire harmful and irritating chemicals like tear gas near schools.

TOXIC GAS BEING USED TO SUPPRESS PROTESTS: AKD

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Claiming that two individuals who were exposed to a recent tear-gas attack had died, the National People's Power (NPP) said yesterday they have reasonable doubt that toxic gas was being used to suppress protests taking place in the country.

NPP Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake told a news conference that NPP member Nimal Amarasinghe died after being exposed to tear-gas attack during a protest carried out by the NPP and a security guard at the Colombo University also died after being exposed to a tear-gas attack.

"Nimal Amarasinghe, who was exposed to tear-gas, had vomited and fainted after an hour or so and died unfortunately. He did not die due to a stampede, attack or run over by a vehicle during the protest.

RHYTHM OF SASTRA MUSIC FESTIVAL TODAY

Rhythm of Sastra a showcase where school bands of Ananda Shasthralaya Kotte and a number of other schools are expected to exhibit their musical skills. The show will be held at the Maharagama Youth Centre Today. The show is to begin at 2.30 pm. Bands of Ananda College Colombo Devi Balika, Holy Cross Gampaha and few other schools will also perform at the show.

SJB MPS WILL NOT REMAIN IN PARLIAMENT FOR LONG - DIANA

Ms. Gamage said this when MP Amarasena said the former has no right to talk as she is not an elected MP.

"Ms Gamage is shouting at us today after coming into Parliament through the national list," Amarasena said.

"Yes I was not elected to Parliament. You are here today as I gave you all visa. You people who represent SJB will

not remain in Parliament today," MP Gamage said.

"Those in the opposition including SJB are staging protests today. They are trying to sabotage the reviving economy. Hotels are full in Colombo with tourists but they are afraid to come out because of protests. People will attack the protesters soon.

DON'T MAKE PLANS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY 2046! - NASA WARNS

The predicted impact zones stretch from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and the west to the east coast of the US - with Los Angeles, Hawaii and Washington DC as possibilities.

The collision of the 165-foot 2023 DW with our planet would be comparable to the Tunguska 12-megaton event that slammed into Siberia 114 years ago.

The 160-foot asteroid caused a nuclear explosion that would have destroyed a large metropolitan area - but it landed in a forest, flattening more than

80 million trees.

NASA announced the discovery of 2023 DW on Tuesday, noting that it 'takes several weeks of data to reduce the uncertainties and adequately predict their orbits years into the future.'

The probability of the asteroid hitting Earth has changed over the past week.

On March 1, an Italian astronomer shared NASA showed a one in 1,200 chance, but the odds increased a day later to one in 710 - and now there is a one in 560.

INTERIM ORDER PREVENTING COLLECTION, FURTHER EXTENDED

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday further extended its interim order preventing Justice Ministry officials from deducting the Advance Personal Income Tax (APIT) from the monthly salaries of the High Court Judges and judges of Judicial Service Association

until March 16.

The Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne and Justice M.A.R. Marikkar fixed the petition for support on March 16. The Court of Appeal issued this order pursuant to the writ petitions filed by the High Court Judges' Association and Judicial Service Association.

ROHITHA RAJAPAKSA'S CREDIT CARD LOST; TRANSACTIONS MADE FRAUDULENTLY

● Someone had made four online transactions amounting to 387 US dollars from Rohitha's credit card

They said Rohitha Rajapaksa, resident of No 117, Wijerama Mawatha in Colombo 7 had lodged a complaint with the Narahenpita Police that he had lost his credit card on March 3 while he was on his way to a Matara house from a house at No. 184, Duwa Road, Beddagana in Kotte.

The Police requested the court to issue an order to the head office manager of Sampath Bank to issue the relevant bank account reports.

Rohitha Rajapaksa has often been questioned on his source of income as there are no reports of him being employed.

Increasing productivity and resilience of rice-based ecosystems

FAO, USAID to work with Agriculture Ministry

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is working together with the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the productivity and resilience of the rice-based ecosystems in the Dry and Intermediate Zones of Sri Lanka.

Seventy-five percent of the 890,000 hectares of agricultural land used for Paddy farming in Sri Lanka is under smallholder farmers. Despite the country's potential, the productivity in major growing ecosystems in Sri Lanka (the Dry and Intermediate Zones) has been stagnant or declining over the

last 10 years. This is in contrast to the increase in productivity seen in other paddy-growing countries in Asia.

If paddy productivity is increased by just 10 percent in the Dry and Intermediate zones, Sri Lanka will produce an extra 0.5 million tonnes. If more productive and efficient farming techniques are introduced, then productivity can be increased with less water and chemical inputs, and more cost-effectively. More efficient farming can also release approximately 100,000 hectares of land for other field crops and reduce the country's reliance on imports.

59 % FAMILIES IN SL UNABLE TO MEET FOOD REQUIREMENT - REPORT

The US Soya Bean Export Council (USSEC) has organized this seminar on how the world community should adopt sustainable development. Experts and seniors in different fields from several countries participated and they discussed on requirements for sustainable development.

How the population increase, climatic changes, declining productivity, poor income levels, poverty, and socio-economic issues could be addressed within the scope of sustainable development were taken up at length.

Regional Agricultural Attaché, US Department of Agriculture, and Regional Director of South Asia and Sub Sahara of African USSEC, Sri Lanka's representative,



Professor of Agricultural Science and Food Technology of Peradeniya University, Iresha Mendis and several scholars addressed the seminar. They stressed on the use of renewable assets more efficiently, and streamlining the control of agricultural resources. They paid particular attention on the need of environmental protection in industrialization

and expanding ways and means for it all over the world. The seminar stressed on promoting the requirements of food while securing the quality the environment and intensifying the natural assets. Food security in the South Asian countries with the highest ratio of population below the poverty line, and the nutritional issues affecting them were taken up at the seminar.



Kala Suri Punyakante Malathi Wijenaiké

18 January 1933 - 8 March 2023

Gratiaen, Commonwealth Short Story and State Literary Award winning Sri Lankan novelist.

Passed away peacefully on the 8th of March 2023.

According to her wishes and that of her family, a private funeral was held.

OBITUARIES

REV. FR. W. DON ANACLETUS, of the Archdiocese of Colombo, expired on Wednesday the 8th March 2023. He is the beloved son of the late Mr. W. Don Manuel and late Mrs. A. Don Mary Aslin. His remains will lie in state at Sacred Heart Chapel, Archbishop's House, Colombo 8 from Thursday 9th March, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Thereafter his remains will be brought to the St. Sebastian's Church, Elen Egoda, Pamunugama. Requiem Mass will be held on Friday the 10th of March at 3.00 p.m. followed by burial at the Church Cemetery, Archbishop's House, Borella. 076970

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EDITORIAL

I must follow the people. Am I not their leader?
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

OUR THOUGHT

LEADERS, MEN IN RAGS AND PRESIDENTS!

These are days when we come across less affluent individuals demanding money from others who are walking on the road. Sometimes walking on the roads at present becomes annoying because a good number of the beggars that approach us are well-dressed. But they have sorry stories to relate; some of them good enough that we feel like giving a little more than what we would give a man in rags.

But the question is whether these individuals are genuine and experiencing hardships or are they just lazy and don't want to slog during these hard times where finding employment or for that matter just 'work for a day' is unthinkable?

If one studies the society closely families where both partners or husband and wife are employed are on a solid footing where living in Sri Lanka is concerned. Such families can think beyond putting three square meals on the table. But there are many families where there's only one breadwinner and he or she is feeding at least two or more other hungry mouths at home.

In this backdrop we see ministers with portfolios setting about their tasks, but sadly with nothing to show for the time they put in office. This has led to several social organizations to come to the fore and offer at least one square meal for the less affluent. These organizations have shown through their actions that it's better to be a 'leader' and slog for the people rather than warm a chair which has been reserved for a person whose designation is 'manager'.

We spoke about Sri Lankan community kitchens for some time and then forgot about them. The good news is that they are still functioning. A leading community kitchen that operates as a religious life centre in Rajagiriya and fed 100-200 hungry people many months ago is now serving close to 1800 packs a day. This is progress; and should be lauded because this progress came at a time when the island was battling the worst of the recession period. This underscores an old saying 'if there is a will, there is a way'.

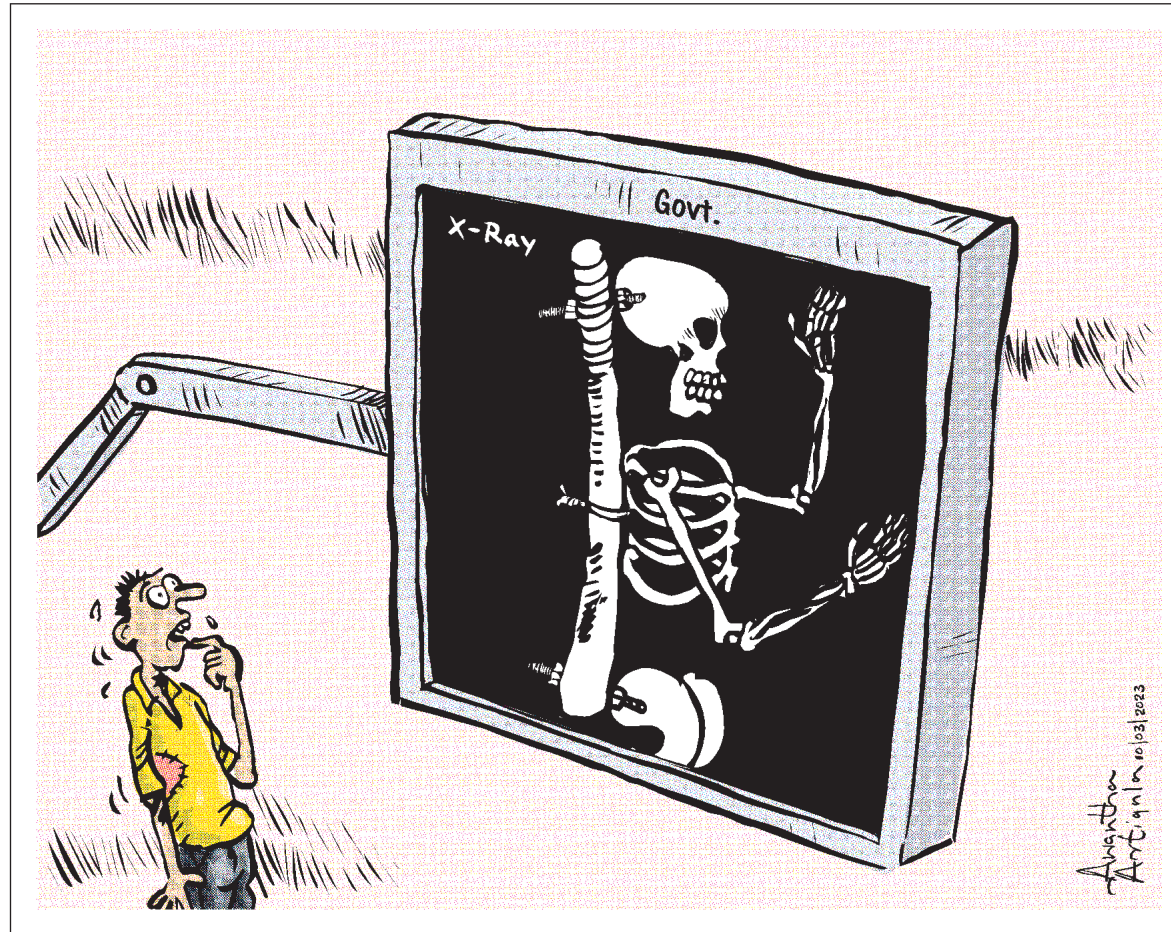
We Sri Lankans need to promote this need to have a 'will' at a time when the chips are down and people's morale is low. We need leaders who say 'you can' rather than managers who say 'I think this is not possible'.

We need to end the mentality of promoting the other extreme too. A student who has attempted just one question in a question paper that has nine other questions and got a right for what he wrote must also be commended. At least this student has one problem less out of ten!

Sri Lankans need to take baby steps towards digging itself out of the financial crisis it is in. We see so many politicians trying to offer leadership to the people who are eagerly awaiting a system change. The opposition political parties are also offering leadership and underscore the importance of this system change; this simplified means replacing the present set of lawmakers who attend parliament with educated individuals with clean track records.

But there seems to be some little catch here. Have we negotiated the fact that humans have the potential to change for the worse when given power? Some of these untested individuals who are aiming at gaining political power may never have been in the 'hot seat' in parliament. Can they handle the power the title 'politician' gives them? And the second factor is that ambitious individuals who want to enter parliament and replace as many as 225 individuals - who had some role in decision making - have still not asked the people to change. We have forgotten quite conveniently that it's we who are the people who cast our votes and sent these corrupt lawmakers to parliaments. We need to stop being selfish, over ambitious, cowards when we choose to be silent in the face of injustice and stand up for people's rights and democracy. This was a nation full of citizens, who disembarked from their own cars and public buses when protesters waved at them from agitating sites and called for additional support. Why have these good and courageous habits died out?

This is why it's important to state at this hour that we need solid community leaders and not just some people who are obsessed with a title and the power and perks such posts bring.



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CAN CHESS MASTER RUSSIA BE CHECKMATED IN GEORGIA?

By **Ameen Izzadeen**

When the revolution is hijacked, people lose it. They simply become a pawn in a foreign-powered regime-change op. It happened in Ukraine in 2014 and it is happening now in Georgia. These regime-change ops are so similar that a political scientist can produce a mathematical formula based on them.

Apart from Ukraine, regime change ops have happened in Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Kyrgyzstan, and scores of other countries in the post-Cold War era to sustain the United States' global domination. Last year, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan attributed the ouster of his government in a no-confidence move to a regime-change op by the United States.

Although the US denies allegations of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, according to one study, Washington carried out at least 81 overt and covert interventions in foreign elections from 1946 to 2000. If we were to add recent regime-change ops, the tally would top 100.

A US-led regime-change op almost succeeded in Iran recently when thousands took to the street to protest the death of a woman in police custody.

Not many analysts will rule out big power involvement in last year's Sri Lanka protests that forced the then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign.

Often regime change ops do happen in countries where the government is seen to be pro-Russia or pro-China or unyieldingly independent.

The fact that the government has been democratically elected does not matter for regime-change architects sitting in secret rooms and planning how to topple governments and installing puppet regimes by way of protests labelled as revolutions. Inciting protests is a cheaper alternative to the costly military option. Their plans also include strategies to topple Vladimir Putin's regime in Russia and Xi Jinping's in China.

Not only the West but its rivals Russia and China also have their own regime-change programmes, though they may not be as successful as the Western bloc is.

Leaders of less powerful nations do not have the luxury of deciding their foreign policy in the way they think would benefit their countries. The term 'Independent state' is a fallacy. No country is totally independent. A nation's independence is directly proportional to the power it wields in international relations. The stronger the nation, the more independent it is.

Regime-change ops are not autochthonous; there is always an outside power or a power bloc that seeks to advance its national interest goals through such ops.

A key factor that needs to be in place for regime change is a public protest against a targeted government. The protests are



Protesters wave the Georgian, Ukrainian and European flags during a demonstration called by Georgian opposition and civil society groups outside Georgia's Parliament in Tbilisi. AFP

then aided and abetted by a big power.

In Kyrgyzstan, for instance, in 2005, when protests erupted against the pro-Moscow government, the US provided aid to opposition parties, media outlets and protesters via the State Department, USAID, Radio Liberty and Freedom House. The Wall Street Journal reported that when the state cut off electricity to an opposition newspaper company, the US embassy provided emergency generators. The protest, which was glorified by the West as Tulip Revolution, led to the overthrow of President Askar Akayev.

Russia was then economically weak to intervene in the hostile developments taking place in its backyard.

But when Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014 mulled joining the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Russia, which had by then become economically stronger, sent its military forces to these countries. Russia punished Georgia by carving out two independent states - Abkhazia and South Ossetia - from its territory. It punished Ukraine by annexing Crimea.

Fifteen years after the Georgian war, the present Georgian government has turned its back on the West and is leaning toward Russia. This week, violent protests erupted in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, in scenes similar to what happened in 2014 in Ukraine against the pro-Russian president. The BBC yesterday described the Tbilisi protests as Georgia's Mайдan moment. Mайдan was the epicenter of the Ukrainian protests.

The reason for the Georgia protest is a Bill before parliament. The protesters, some of whom carry the European Union flag, believe that the Foreign Agent Bill will stifle media freedom and accuse the government of doing Russia's bidding. Under this Bill, nongovernmental groups, and media groups that receive 20 percent or more of their annual revenue - either financial support or in-kind contributions - from abroad could be classified as "foreign agents".

Georgia's ruling Dream Party members who pushed the Bill point out that such laws do exist even in the United States. The reference was to the Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA). But the protesters point out the draft law is

similar to the law in Russia. Yesterday, the government announced it would not move ahead with the bill, but the protesters vowed to continue the campaign, thus adding credence to the claim that a regime-change op is being rolled out.

When the Ukraine war began last year, it also gave rise to a media war. In this media war, the first casualty was Russia Today, a popular international TV channel that telecast news and views that people would not see on Western channels such as Fox, CNN and even BBC. The channel was branded a foreign agent.

The US double standard is exposed when it criticizes Georgia's Foreign Agent Law while it has banned Russia Today and Sputnik under similar laws. Apart from banning Russia Today and Sputnik, the US has bombed Al-Jazeera offices in Afghanistan and Iraq, passed laws such as the Patriotic Acts that restrict individual liberty, and launched a witch-hunt against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. So much for its commitment to media freedom.

It is a pity that protesters have little faith in democracy. Georgia has elections every four years. The next parliamentary elections are due in mid-2024. If the new law is seen to be stifling the freedom of expression, all that the protesters need to do is vote out the government they elected in 2020 and appoint a government of their choice.

But even if Georgian protesters have patience till then, the regime changers appear to be in a hurry to topple the government through a revolution as they did in Ukraine and then expedite Georgia's membership in the European Union and NATO. Certainly, this is a move to checkmate Russia.

If Russia invades Georgia again, it will certainly weaken its gains on the Ukrainian front as it does not have the military and economic strength to fight two wars at the same time. If, on the other hand, Russia decides not to intervene, it will see Georgia becoming pro-West and obtaining NATO membership, thus posing a threat to Russia's national security.

Can chess master Russia, which said yesterday it was concerned about what was happening in its neighbourhood, escape the checkmate?

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?

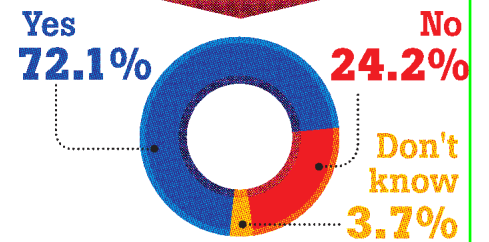
- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



Scan to Vote

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Seeni Bole confident he'll be elevated soon

I read with much amusement a news item in your much sought after newspaper that a squeaky clean man SEENI BOLE as he is known has said that many more Cabinet Ministers will be appointed by the President soon. What a great achievement for the beleaguered Pohottuwa crooks to obtain employment to rob some more if they succeed. He boldly mentioned the names of many including well-known RATTARANG Johnny and a few more. Their track record merits a job despite the financial crisis. Your readers will recall how one poor fellow was sacked by GR and went home in a tuk tuk to show the people that he had no vehicle. The records reflect the number of car permits he had obtained. He wormed his way back and hey presto was in Uncle Sam's country recently to learn about education.

Where SEENI BOLE is concerned one person who will revolt in her grave is the recognised DR Siva Chinnathambay as the Ebony furniture which she donated to the University of Colombo for a hostel for girls, together with her house is now adorning his second mansion in Mailapitiya. He was the Honourable Minister of Higher Education then. Such despicable deeds took place and no one dared to speak as many robbed in style as no one thought that the nation will rise and chase the corrupt family out of office. The first mansion was widely shown to the country by CBK using helicopters after he stabbed her in the back. It's only in paradise that such crooks thrive; which paved the way to construct another mansion. He is the son of a poor paddy cultivator respected in the village. It is widely known that a valuable commercial property in the periphery is owned by his wife.

It is evident that SB is unaware or chose to ignore what Pakistan has done. The IMF is figuring in their troubles too and they have OPTED TO GIVE UP THEIR SALARIES VEHICLES AND OTHER PERKS while the crooks in Sri Lanka are waiting for opportunities for them to live in luxury when millions are struggling after they bankrupted the country. I have no doubt the IMF will not bless the expansion of the Cabinet.

Today the President cannot be dictated to by KAPUTA to dance to his KAPUTU kak kak songs, hence the President who permitted the corrupt family to come out of the wood work will not dance to his tunes. It is common knowledge that RW with so many problems on his plate will be wise not add more by providing ladders to the corrupt to bleed the country more.

TIKIRI HERATH
WALAPANE

Three key women instrumental in helping SL during its troubled period: President

WEB COMMENTS

RATHINAVALI - This is why women have a day declared as "International Women's Day"! Women have an exceptional ability in being compassionate when the need arises that needs recognition!

work for a bare minimum wage. Thanks to the hard work of these ladies we get substantial amount of dollars and RW and rest his clan to rob this country for 75 years.

LADIES MAN - And to all our mothers, sisters who are working abroad as maids suffering, for better lives for their loved ones, to all our ladies in the garment sector, and to ladies who work as estate workers under dire conditions, all who

ERANDANI DIAS - Compassion is something the President will take, but does not even know how to give.

BUDDHIST - I am sure a Sri Lankan woman would do a better job than the President himself. She will be more human in dealing with the protesters as well.

See more web comments at 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.

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By Prageeth Sampath Karunathilaka

The DailyMirror had an interview with Athula Senaratne, Senior Professor of the Geological Department, University of Peradeniya on the effects Sri Lanka could experience in the event the predicted earthquake—expected to read 8 magnitudes in the Richter Scale— in North India’s Himalayan region does happen. There are warnings that this natural catastrophe is expected within the first two weeks of March.

EXCERPTS OF THE INTERVIEW

Q If North India experiences an 8 magnitude quake as predicted by Indian geologists within the first two weeks of March, what will be its impact on Sri Lanka?

That earthquake is predicted on the boundary of the plate where Sri Lanka is located. If there is an earthquake on the plate boundary of North India, it would be felt in Sri Lanka as well. The Himalayas are located at the edge of the Indian plate. Sri Lanka is also located on this plate boundary. There is another plate boundary below Sri Lanka and that has no importance. Earthquakes occurring on the northern plate boundary are very strong. That is why they are felt in Sri Lanka. In 2020 we felt an earthquake of the magnitude of 5 when it occurred on the northern

“ If there is an earthquake on the plate boundary of North India, it would be felt in Sri Lanka as well. The Himalayas are located at the edge of the Indian plate. Sri Lanka is also located on this plate boundary. There is another plate boundary below Sri Lanka and that has no importance. Earthquakes occurring on the northern plate boundary are very strong

“INDIAN QUAKE DOESN'T POSE A HUGE DANGER TO SL, BUT REMAIN VIGILANT” -PROF. SENARATNE

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) of India has forecast that an earthquake will occur in the first or second week of March

200 people died in an earthquake in Sri Lanka in 1615

Indian geologists have made a shocking statement

With our existing technology, we can predict earthquakes and whether there would be an impact



border of India. It was felt in Colombo and all the buildings in Colombo are built using rocks. They are built on a solid foundation. Therefore, there is no risk. But quakes will be felt. The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) of India has forecast that an earthquake will occur in the first or second week of March based on their research. Accordingly, if any quake occurs, it would be felt in Colombo and Jaffna districts.

Q According to Indian geologists, will the earthquake have a magnitude of 8 on the Richter scale?

According to the NGRI of India if an earthquake of the magnitude of 8 occurs it would be 3000 times more

powerful than an earthquake that has a reading of 5 on the Richter scale. We felt a quake of the magnitude of 5. Therefore if an earthquake of the magnitude of 8 occurs, Colombo would definitely feel it. As Jaffna is close to India, that area will also feel this quake.

Q According to Indian geologists, if this earthquake happens, would it be felt only in Colombo and Jaffna? What about the areas in the North towards Mannar and from Colombo to the South or inland?

Its impact can be felt not only in Colombo and the North, but anywhere in the land. This will be determined by

how deep the rock layer is from the ground level. If the bedrock is too deep, the energy from a shock will be absorbed by the upper soil layer. Then the people who live above it will not feel it much. But if the soil layer is very thin, the areas located very close to the bedrock are more likely to feel this vibration. So, if the quake is as powerful as predicted, it will be felt in many places in Sri Lanka. If a house is built on a rock, the earthquake will be felt more and for houses or other buildings that are built on soil, the impact will be less as the soil absorbs the shock. That is the reason why an earthquake can be felt in one place and not in another place.

Q An earthquake of 5 magnitude occurred near Colombo on 14-04-1615 killing 2000 people and damaging 200 houses. Old gazettes reveal that the wall of Colombo Fort collapsed. So, if an earthquake of the magnitude of 8 occurs, will Sri Lankans have to face much more severe consequences? If so, how can people ensure their safety?

According to Indian geologists in the case an earthquake of the magnitude of 8 were to happen Sri Lanka should feel it. It will only last for a few seconds. If you feel it while you are inside a multi-story building or another building, you should go outdoors as soon as possible. Do not use elevators when coming down from a multi-story building.

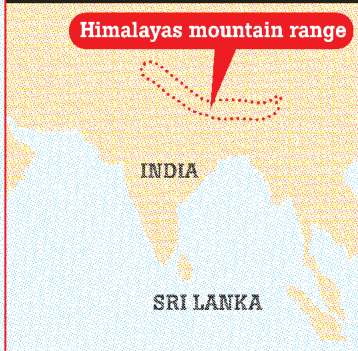
Q Are you certain that the buildings in Sri Lanka are strong enough to withstand this quake?

We cannot say for sure that the buildings in Sri Lanka are built to withstand an earthquake. It is unthinkable to ensure that our existing buildings are designed in accordance with the regulations to withstand an earthquake.

Q Are the recent earthquakes in the Wellawaya and Hambantota areas early signs of this earthquake forecast by Indian geologists?

There is a clear difference between the recent earthquakes in Wellawaya and Hambantota and the earthquakes

An earthquake of Richter Scale 8 magnitude is predicted to happen in the Himalayas



occurring in Northern India. The quakes in Northern India occurred on the plate boundary. But the earthquakes in Wellawaya and Hambantota areas are not related to any recognised border. Therefore there is no need to worry about that.

Q Sri Lanka’s reservoirs are located on a plate with a crack. In such a case, can this earthquake of 8 on the Richter scale have an impact on large reservoirs?

We are on the edge of a plate prone to earthquakes. If a tremor occurred, it would be felt in many places on the ground. As I mentioned earlier, tremors can be felt more if a building is located closer to the bedrock. There are very deep cracks on the earth’s surface where our land is located. Those deep cracks can feel these types of earthquakes. I cannot say that there will be any damage to the reservoirs.

CONTD. ON >>

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Let's tackle corruption to re-build the economy!

Proposals for anti-corruption law reforms for a corruption-free and prosperous country.

- Sri Lanka is ranked 37th among the most corrupt countries in the world, according to the Corruption Perceptions Index.
- As currently estimated, the wealth lost annually to the country due to corruption, irregularities and wastage is enormous.
- Taking action against and recovering the wealth lost due to corruption in the past, curbing corruption at present as well as ensuring that there will be no room for corruption in the future need to be given equal emphasis.

The One-Text Initiative (OTI) has proposed legal reforms to curb corruption in Sri Lanka. These proposals have been inspired by anti-corruption laws of Singapore and Hong Kong, countries that have successfully controlled corruption and waste.

These proposals for legal reforms, we hope, will help the Sri Lankan government to adopt a strategic approach to create a country free of corruption. The proposed reforms can be used to deal with both small- and large-scale corruption offences.

One-Text Initiative emphasizes that the Sri Lankan government must show its commitment to eliminate corruption by incorporating the proposed reforms into the Sri Lankan law to eliminate corruption at all levels.

Summary of the OTI proposals for anti-corruption law reform proposals:

- Often, corruption, irregularities or waste occur with close collaboration of politicians, public servant, and a private party. Therefore, the definition of the term corruption should be broadened to attribute the responsibility of corruption offenses to persons of all three sectors above.
- When an allegation of corruption is leveled against any person belonging to the above three sectors, as an additional aid to the prosecution, a legal presumption must be made that a 'corruption' has taken place. It should be the responsibility of an accused to establish their innocence.
- In dealings between businesses and government officials, the giving/accepting of hampers (gift packages/gift vouchers) should be discouraged and it is essential to include a provision that such giving or accepting is not an excuse to avoid charges of bribery or corruption.
- In addition to the fines and/or imprisonment imposed upon the conviction of a corruption offence, the court must be empowered to order the bribe receiver to pay an amount equal to the amount of the bribe that the court proves the person to have received, to discourage people from engaging in bribery or corruption.
- When public servant is proven to have accepted a bribe or committed corruption, the institution that such public servant worked for must be able to recover, through a civil suit, an amount equal to the bribe accepted or the corruption committed.
- Inclusion of provisions that Sri Lankan citizens are liable to be tried for corruption offenses committed outside Sri Lanka and that such offenses shall be treated as if they were committed within Sri Lanka.

The detailed proposals containing substantive, procedural and legal amendments can be downloaded through the following QR code.



Let's build awareness and take action to make Sri Lanka corruption-free!



011-2586106 011-2589022

28 Anderson Rd, Colombo 5

admin@onetext.org

POINT OF VIEW

CONT'D. FROM PAGE

“THOUGH THE INDIAN QUAKE DOESN'T POSE A HUGE DANGER, REMAIN VIGILANT” -PROF. SENARATNE

Q If the earthquake that is predicted in the North Indian plate somehow spreads to the coastal region, would there be a tsunami?

This quake is predicted to take place far from the sea. Therefore, a tsunami situation won't develop at all.

Q An opinion surfaced lately claiming that the recent earthquakes around the world were caused due to the influence of the stars and the moon. It was about the tremors that happened and are happening. What is your opinion?

We are at the northern boundary of the plate. That plate is about 10,000 kilometres long. It extends to the Himalayas, Nepal and Italy. The earthquake that happened in Israel is different. Around 100000 earthquakes occur in the world every day. Often there are tremors everywhere. How do they occur? We are yet to discover the manner in which they occur. We have not understood that so far. Most people learn about earthquakes only after they happen.

Q If so how can Indian geologists state the exact time and place of an earthquake?

Indian geologists have made a shocking statement. If they can predict the exact time and place of an earthquake, we should appreciate them. If it is possible to tell the exact place of an earthquake as they have, we should develop that technology for further use. If this earthquake is really going to happen, we need to see how it would affect our country. We cannot say that their statement is false because they have done their research. Therefore, we need to be careful. Although the quake doesn't pose a huge danger, we have to remain vigilant. Even if there is no major damage to our country we will still

feel this tremor. 200 people died in an earthquake in Sri Lanka in 1615. That earthquake may have happened in our country or at the Himalayas. A magnitude 5 earthquake may have shaken the ground and damaged our buildings. Those buildings may not have been properly constructed. They may not have been strong enough. But if this tremor happens we will feel it. There will be no serious danger. But we have to be careful.

Q When an earthquake occurs do we have any technology in our country to detect it or to predict its occurrence? Are you satisfied with the current technology?

There's no proper study on earthquakes in our country. We confirm our data after an earthquake. For the last 30 years we only had 4 seismometers in our country. Those four are placed in Hakmana, MahaKanadarava, Peradeniya and Pallekele. We studied earthquakes with the little data obtained from these four. Last year, when many small earthquakes occurred in the Central Province, we told the government to install seismometers to cover the entire country. Accordingly, a seismometer is being installed that can monitor earthquakes throughout 24 hours. The Bureau of Geological Survey and Mining is in charge of that. Much data is obtained from those seismometers. We are monitoring that data. As our database grows, we gain more knowledge. Based on that, we predict about earthquakes that can occur in several regions. We inform about the tremors that occur along our tectonic plates and along the cracks in the interior of our country, as well as tremors occurring somewhere in the world and its impact on us. With our existing technology, we can predict earthquakes and whether there would be an impact. But we do not have the capability to predict the magnitude. What we can say is whether we will

feel the tremor or not.

Q Around the year 1800 an earthquake of the magnitude of 6.2 occurred in Trincomalee. Does that region also belong to the northern region of India?

There is a plate boundary that runs from Trincomalee to Ussangoda. That plate boundary is considered dead. Sri Lanka was in Antarctica 150-200 million years ago. At that time, Antarctica, Africa, the Indian region, and the Australian region were one continent. That continent was called Gondwanaland. At that time, there was a fissure that went through the middle of Gondwana. It goes through the middle of our country. But those plates are inactive. This plate, which has been inactive for millions of years, indicates the line between the central hills and the eastern coastal area. That line runs from Trincomalee to Ussangoda. That plate may reactivate. We cannot say exactly how or when it will happen. Professor P. B. Dissanayake said in 1984 that this was a dead plate. The hot water wells in Sri Lanka were shown as evidence. When the mineral deposits in Sri Lanka, and the Buttala iron deposit that I discovered are marked you can see that they are on the same plate.

Q Is Hambantota also located in that region?

That line comes all the way to Hambantota. Also, if all the earthquakes in Sri Lanka are marked on a map, they would be found along the aforementioned line.

Q Through which regions does that line fall?

This line runs from Trincomalee to Manampitiya, from Minipe to Bibila, from Bibila towards Wellawaya on the west and from there, it turns to the south and goes to Ussangoda. All the earthquakes in Sri Lanka happen along that line.



Modi in Nagaland's Hornbill Festival

WHY HINDU-NATIONALIST BJP WINS IN CHRISTIAN-DOMINATED INDIAN STATES

The Bharatiya Janata Party wins in the Christian-majority States of India's North East through ideological modifications as well as the delivery of Centrally-funded welfare schemes



By P. K. Balachandran

The Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is on a winning streak in the Christian and non-Hindu heartland of North East India comprising Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

This phenomenon, seen since the 2018 State Legislature elections, is attributed to a variety of factors; chief among them are: (a) the adoption of appropriate ideological modifications with an accent on "local indigenization" rather than "all-India Hinduization"; (b) recognition of the emerging needs of the younger generation of these States; (3) better delivery of the Central government's welfare programmes. The BJP dominates the Centre like a colossus.

In the North-Eastern States, the BJP has overtaken, if not eliminated the Congress, an all-Indian secular party, which earlier had a strong appeal in this unusual socio-religious milieu. Even in a Congress stronghold like Mizoram, the BJP's vote share had gone up from 0.32 % to 8% in the 2018 State-level election.

In the just-concluded State Assembly elections in Nagaland and Meghalaya, the BJP is set to be part of the governments to be formed by local/indigenous Christian tribal parties.

Christians of Meghalaya, Nagaland and other tribes of the North East have turned a blind eye to those incidents taking place in some other parts of India. On its part, the BJP has been at pains to explain to Christians of the North East that it will not apply its Hindu dietary norms to them, as indeed it does not apply them in other States with substantial Christian populations like Goa and Kerala. It does not apply the beef ban in Muslim-majority Kashmir also. The BJP also points out that all its candidates in the North-East Christian-majority States are themselves beef-eating Christians. The BJP not only modifies its "Hindutva" ideology but ensures that the Central government's social and economic welfare schemes are implemented satisfactorily in the Christian-majority States. In fact, it seeks participation in local governments to better deliver the goods.

MEETING NEW NEEDS

On their part, the local allies of the BJP see the alliance from a developmental angle. This is because voters are aware of the benefits of voting for the BJP. Although the scheme to supply rice at reasonable rates predates BJP leader Narendra Modi's coming to power in New Delhi in 2014, voters have stated that they have been getting "Modi rice" only in the past three years. The North-Eastern States have also benefitted from Modi's all-India scheme to build toilets.

The BJP has correctly grasped the fact that the Christian tribal communities in North Eastern India have given up their decades-long demand for independence and now want to be part of economically booming India. They aspire for economic advancement like other Indians and not separation and independence anymore.

The youth are no longer enamoured of the gum. Although a Naga rebel group is still holding out, and an agreement between it and the Central government is still to be concluded, the general population is aware that successive Indian governments have taken significant steps to grant "internal self-determination." Over the years, Indian governments have facilitated the formation of new States based on ethnicity. The sprawling Hindu-majority State of Assam was divided into ethnicity-based Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya, which are also Christian-majority.

The BJP is known for its hunger for power, using every trick in the book to achieve its aim

In Nagaland, the BJP won 12 seats and is expected to be part of the government formed by the local Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP). In Meghalaya, the BJP won only two seats in the House of 60, but its leadership in New Delhi asked the Meghalaya unit to support the local Nationalist Peoples' Party (NPP) so that the NPP would be able to form the government and also deny the Congress a chance to tie up with the NPP and join the government.

On their part, the local/indigenous parties go along with the BJP because they see the advantages of being allies of a party that dominates the Central government in New Delhi. For small States like Meghalaya and Mizoram, the Central government is virtually the only source of finances because the taxes they collect locally are meagre.

The BJP is known for its hunger for power, using every trick in the book to achieve its aim. But what is remarkable is the fact that the majority Christian community in Nagaland and Meghalaya vote for the BJP and that the local 100% Christian parties have no compunction about aligning themselves with BJP, a known Hindutva or Hindu nationalist outfit. This is especially striking because these local parties are aware that the BJP's ideological affiliates are known for their anti-Christian rhetoric and attacks on churches in some other parts of India. Radical Hindu outfits suspect Christian-run institutions of carrying out "unethical conversions". The BJP's ideological affiliates have also been carrying on campaigns against cow slaughter and beef eating and have lynched Muslims suspected of taking cows for slaughter. But the beef-eating



is that it is careful to promote local, indigenous revivalism and Hindu revivalism here.

According to a 2022 article by Syeda Ambia Zahan in Outlook magazine, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated with fanfare, the "Hornbill Festival" in Nagaland, which is an inter-tribal festival considered the "Festival of Festivals" by the Nagas. Modi was dressed in the traditional Naga attire, and departing from his normal practice of speaking in Hindi, addressed the huge audience in English, which is better understood in Nagaland because of Western Christian missionary education.

In the just-concluded State Assembly elections in Nagaland and Meghalaya, the BJP is set to be part of the governments to be formed by local/indigenous Christian tribal parties

"The striking part of his speech was when he encouraged the people to chant Kuknalim which means Victory to Nagalim/Nagaland instead of Jai Hind (Victory to India)," Zahan wrote.

The writer further said that the BJP started glorifying Rani Gaidinilu, a Naga woman leader who advocated the Nagas' indigenous faiths. In 1930 she had even raised a tribal army to fight the British and establish "Naga Raj" but within India. She fought against Kevi Yalay Phizo's Naga National Council (NNC) that wanted a separate "Nagalim" outside the Indian Union.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the BJP created a Department of Indigenous Faiths and Cultural Affairs. The Department started codifying and formalizing local faiths such as Donyi-Polo, Amik Matai, Nani-Intaya and Rangfrah.

The revival of indigenous faiths will pass muster in Arunachal Pradesh because the Christian influence is weaker here than in Nagaland and Meghalaya. But if a similar thing is done in Nagaland, Meghalaya or Mizoram, where Baptist and other Christian churches are very strong, there could be a backlash. In fact, till recently, the churches had appealed to voters not to vote for the BJP. Earlier, when the pro-independence rebels were strong, they had urged the boycott of elections with a fair amount of success.

The BJP is expected to go slow with the indigenization of religious beliefs in the Christian-majority States as it is becoming more pragmatic and less doctrinaire to spread its wind all over India. It has to be adjustable because North East India is a geopolitically critical region, sharing borders with Myanmar and China. When armed separatist movements were on in Nagaland and Mizoram, the rebels had got shelter in Myanmar and Bangladesh and material support from China.

The BJP's ideological affiliates have also been carrying on campaigns against cow slaughter and beef eating and have lynched Muslims suspected of taking cows for slaughter

The Centrally Administered tribal entity called North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), with a 30% Christian and a 26% non-Christian tribal population, was made a full-fledged State called Arunachal Pradesh. This step was taken despite China's claim to Arunachal Pradesh (which it calls "South Tibet").

LOCAL INDIGENIZATION

The BJP has also been winning over the local tribal populations by reviving their indigenous religious beliefs and cultural heritages. The point to be noted

REBOOTING MANAGEMENT

REIMAGINE AND REDESIGN

10th International Management Conference

Inauguration - (9.00 am - 10.30 am)

 Chief Guest Speech Patron of CPM Sri Lanka and Former Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka	 Keynote Speech Courageous Organizations: The Role of the Leader and the Team in Creating Psychological Safety Prof. Neharika Vohra Professor of Organizational Behaviour, IIM Ahmedabad, India	 Welcome Speech Founder and President of CPM Sri Lanka	 Closing Remarks Head of Technical Sessions and Chairman of Panel of Judges, Best Management Practices Company Awards 2023
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Morning Tea Break (10.30 am to 11.00 am)

Session I - (11.00 am - 12.30 pm)

Reboot and Reimagine Government and Public Sector, Business and Strategy

 Session Chairman and Moderator Head of Marketing, Digital & Integrated Media of Wijaya Newspapers Ltd.	 Speakers Reboot and Reimagine of Government and Public Sector; Macro Economic Perspectives Director of Economic Research Department, Central Bank SL	 Reboot and Reimagine Business and Strategic Thinking Vice President/ Head of Freight Forwarding, GLT Freight, Saudi Arabia	 Panelists Chairman, Sri Lanka Standard Institution Senior Faculty of PIM, University of Sri Jyura
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 Chief Executive Officer - Designate Pan Asia Banking Corporation PLC
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Lunch (12.30 pm - 01.30 pm)

Session II (01.30 pm - 03.00 pm) (Panel Discussion)

Reboot and Redesign the SMEs, Entrepreneurship, and Corporate Thinking

 Session Chairman and Moderator Founder, S.S.M.E and Visiting Faculty of PIM, University of Jyura	 Director, Nutrinovate Australia	 Director/Chief Marketing Officer, POTENZA ANZ, New Zealand Executive Director-People & Brand at LAUGFS Holdings Pvt Ltd	 Panelists Managing Director, Ceylon Oxygen Ltd.
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 Director, Mastercard Sri Lanka

Evening Tea Break (03.00 pm to 03.15 pm)

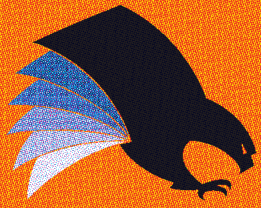
Session III (03.15 pm - 05.00 pm)

Presentations of Top Five Winners of Best Management Practices 2023

 Session Chairman and Moderator Chairman & Chief Executive of Sri Lanka Export Development Board	Venue: Galadari Hotel, Colombo 16th March 2023 CPD 10	Ticket Fee (Group discounts available) Option I: Inauguration and Technical Sessions CPM Member - Rs.8,500/- Non-Member - Rs.10,000/- Option II: Inauguration, Technical Sessions, and Best Management Practices Company Awards 2023 followed by a cocktail (9 am to 9 pm), CPM Member - Rs.15,000/- Non-Member - Rs.17,000/-	Main Sponsor: Mastercard Corporate Sponsors: IOC, Lanka IOC, etc. Exclusive Print and Digital Media Partners: DailyMirror, Daily71
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5.30 onwards
Awarding Ceremony of Best Management Practices Company Awards 2023

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US\$/LKR exchange rate likely to remain at 300-325 range in the near-term: StanChart

The US dollar-rupee exchange is likely to remain at Rs.300-325 range in the very near term, while up to US\$ 1 billion inflows are expected into the country's foreign exchange reserves over the next six-month period following the approval of the US\$ 2.9 billion bailout package by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to Standard Chartered Bank (StanChart).

"... the Central Bank has announced steps towards a more flexible exchange rate - widening the trading band initially and, more recently, allowing the LKR to be fully market-driven from this week.

We think this will lead to a further strengthening of the LKR in the near term and a pick-up in FX volatility overall.

The Central Bank will likely

continue to add to its FX reserves given the improvement

in US\$ supply, and rightly so. We see downside risk to our US\$-LKR forecast of 350 by June 2023, and see risks of the exchange rate trading in a 300-325 range in the very near term," StanChart said in its latest research report on Sri Lanka.

It noted that rupee appreciated by around 7 percent over the past

week, driven by a combination of a temporary mismatch in US\$ demand-supply onshore and policy steps aimed at a more flexible exchange rate.

When it comes to foreign exchange reserves, StanChart expects US\$ 700-US\$1 billion inflows over the next six-month period following the Executive Board approval of the US\$ 2.9 billion rescue package.

"FX reserves stood at US\$ 2.1bn as

of January (including the US\$ 1.4bn People's Bank of China

swap line, which has conditions regarding usability) and we expect around US\$ 700mn - US\$ 1bn of inflows in the next six months following IMF board approval," the report said.

Meanwhile, StanChart forecasts a further 100 basis point increase in policy rates, if inflation targets

fall short of the Central Bank's projections.

"We revise our policy rate forecasts and expect a further 100bps hike, taking the SLFR to 17.5 percent by end-2023 (versus 15.5 percent prior). The risk of further rate hikes cannot be ruled out if inflation moderates at a slower pace, given the pre-agreement between the government and the IMF," it noted.

Japan extends US\$ 6.6mn to Sri Lanka for critical food and nutrition assistance

The Government of Japan has extended an additional US\$ 6.6 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide critical food and nutrition assistance to over one million Sri Lankans.

Through this funding, WFP will provide families with food baskets comprising rice, pulses and cooking oil, to meet half their monthly food needs for a period of two months.

The donation will also be used to procure maize and soybean for the production of Thripasha, a fortified food product, for a period of four months, which will be supplied to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and young children at risk of malnutrition.

"We are pleased to announce that the Government of Japan has decided to provide additional humanitarian support to Sri Lanka in this critical moment. Food aid through WFP by the Government of Japan has reached a total of US\$ 10 million since the economic crisis began last year. This support is being used to provide essential food and nutrition to communities across the nation," Mizukoshi Hideaki, Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka said.

WFP's latest surveys indicate that food insecurity is still at a concerning high level in Sri Lanka. Seven in every 10 households are adopting negative coping strategies such as cutting back on nutritious food like protein and dairy or skipping meals altogether. **MORE ON P8**

Rupee appreciation affects Colombo Tea Auction negatively

- First sale of the month kicks off on 'hesitant' note
- Unsold quantity at live auction increases sharply to 26%
- Tea brokers expect market to achieve equilibrium once rupee settles
- Tea exporters say excessive exchange volatility difficult to cope with
- Urge authorities to better handle exchange rate volatility

By Shabiya Ali Ahlam

The Colombo Tea Auction yesterday saw a mini storm brewing as substantial quantities went unsold amid the sharp appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar.

Tea brokers said the first sale in March began on a very hesitant note due to the Sri Lankan rupee strengthening in an "unexpected manner".

"At the commencement of the sale, large volumes of tea were unsold with bids realised being significantly below the percentage appreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee," said Forbes and Walker



Lots at Colombo rubber auction go entirely unsold

For the first time in history, the lots at the Colombo rubber auction went entirely unsold this week.

Plantation companies withdrew their quantities at this week's rubber auction as prices significantly dipped, brokers said.

A total of 202,846 Kgs of rubber were on offer this week, all of which went unquoted.

"Appreciating of the Sri Lankan rupee has created an uncertainty amongst exporters. As a result several buyers kept away from bidding, whilst some offered lower prices anticipating a further strengthening of the rupee," Forbes & Walker Commodity Brokers Director Damitha Perera told Mirror Business yesterday.

Tea Brokers in its weekly tea auction report.

"As the sale progressed some degree of stability was reached although rupee prices, on average, recorded a decline of Rs. 200-300 per kg and on the higher selling grades, perhaps up to Rs. 300-400 per kg vis-à-vis the

previous week's level," it added. The unsold quantity at the live auction increased sharply to 26 percent this week.

Since last week, the Sri Lankan rupee has been appreciating on a daily basis. On Tuesday (7), the rupee soared 5.7 percent to Rs. 321 per dollar. **MORE ON P8**

Germany plans 2024 oil and gas boiler ban

AFP - Germany yesterday presented controversial plans to ban the installation of new oil and gas boilers from 2024 to speed up the switch to renewable technologies.

The planned change in household heating was "urgent", Economy Minister Robert Habeck told reporters at a press conference.

Germany had to "catch up in a short time" on the lag it had built up in the switch to renewable heating, the Green party minister said.

But the policy, which was leaked to local media last week, has added to mounting tensions within the government coalition, over issues including climate and spending.

The liberal FDP has responded angrily to the proposal prepared by the economy and housing ministries, led respectively by the Greens and Social Democrats. **MORE ON P8**

Fitch rates Seylan Bank's Basel III subordinated debt 'BBB(EXP)(lka)'; on RWN

Fitch Ratings has assigned Seylan Bank PLC's (A-(lka)/Rating Watch Negative (RWN)) proposed Sri Lankan rupee-denominated Basel III-compliant subordinated debentures of up to Rs.7 billion an expected National Long-Term Rating of 'BBB(EXP)(lka)' and placed it on RWN.

The proposed debentures will

mature in five years and will be listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange. The bank plans to use the proceeds to strengthen its Tier 2 capital base as well as to meet demand for credit.

The bank expects the proposed debentures to qualify as Basel III-compliant regulatory Tier 2 capital. **MORE ON P8**

CSE becomes second best performing stock market in the world

Due to combined effects of recent steep appreciation of the rupee and upturn in market performances, the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) has become the second-best performing stock exchange in the world just behind Laos, according to Bloomberg.

In terms of US\$ return Year-to-Date (YTD), the CSE has been ranked as the second-best performing stock exchange with a US\$ return of 30 percent, just behind Laos (55 percent).

Since last week, rupee started to appreciate

against the US dollar and became the world's best performing currency so far this year amid a temporary mismatch in US\$ demand-supply.

Meanwhile, CSE was up by 14 percent so far during the year, becoming one of the top 20 best performing stock exchanges in the world in terms local currency returns. In the Asia Pacific Region, the CSE was the fourth best performing stock exchange in terms local currency (LCY) returns.

ECB to test banks' cyber defences as risks grow

AFP - The European Central Bank will next year test eurozone lenders' defences against cyberattacks, a top official said yesterday, as the risk of hacking attempts is seen to have increased since the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The ECB will carry out its first-ever cyber "stress test" to examine "how banks are able to respond to and recover from a successful cyberattack", the ECB's supervisory chief Andrea Enria told Lithuanian newspaper Verslo Zinios.

The results are expected around the middle of next year, he added.

Half of around 115 major banks in the euro area said they were the target of a successful cyberattack in 2021, according to a survey published by the

ECB in December, compared with 57 percent in 2020.

"Both during the pandemic and after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, there have been some episodes which have made us think as supervisors," said Enria.

The rapid shift to remote working during the Covid lockdowns led to increased IT security risks, while Russia-backed hackers have been blamed for a rise in cyberattacks targeting companies and critical infrastructure.

Last November for instance, the European Parliament said its website was hit by a sophisticated cyberattack claimed by "a pro-Kremlin group". "We know that there has been a significant increase in cyberattacks," said Enria. **MORE ON P8**

Inflation could come down faster than earlier forecast, says Central Bank Governor

- Says inflation could hit the proffered 4-6% band by early 4Q as opposed to previous forecast of December
- Aims to announce debt-restructuring strategy in April and expedite talks with commercial creditors
- SL would need to restore debt sustainability over a ten-year period as per the IMF agreement

Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe says inflation

is likely to come down faster than earlier forecast, even by the Central Bank, and Sri Lanka could achieve the 4-6 percent preferred inflation band by early part of the fourth quarter of this year.

"Earlier my expectation was for 4 to 6 percent inflation somewhere in December. I would now expect it in early 4Q rather than the end, the process will move faster, from about end October," a Reuters news report quoting Dr. Weerasinghe said.

It became evident last week that there were differences of opinion between the Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over Sri Lanka's inflation outlook.

The Central Bank grudgingly hiked policy rates by 100 basis points and made sure to announce that it was carried out on IMF's insistence as Sri Lanka didn't want any hurdles on its

way to secure the US\$ 2.9 billion IMF bailout package.

Inflation, which peaked almost at 70 percent last year, has been steadily coming down and February recorded an inflation reading of 50.6 percent, according to the Colombo Consumer Price Index.

Meanwhile, Governor Weerasinghe told Reuters that Sri Lanka aims to announce a debt-restructuring strategy in April and expedite talks with commercial creditors ahead of an International Monetary Fund review of a bailout package in six months.

Sri Lanka has secured financing assurances from all its major bilateral creditors, including India and China, and so has set the stage for the IMF to give its final approval for the US\$ 2.9 billion, four-year bailout package on March 20, the multilateral lender said on Tuesday. **MORE ON P8**



March first week tourist arrivals cross 30,000 mark

- Cumulative tourist arrivals for 1 Jan to 8 March reach 241,270
- Tourist arrivals expand by 9.8% YoY in March week one
- Russia, India and Germany rank as top three tourist traffic generators
- China secures position in the list of top 10 source markets since pandemic

Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka crossed the 30,000 mark during the first eight days of March, bringing the cumulative arrivals for the year-to-date to 241,270.

Provisional data from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development

Authority (SLTDA) showed that for the 1 - 8 March period, a total of 31,086 international travellers entered the country.

When compared with the corresponding period in 2022, tourist arrivals have expanded by 9.6 percent.

The Russian Federation continues to hold the position as the largest tourist source market for Sri Lanka tourism. It accounted for 24 percent of the total tourist arrivals for the first week of March. Ranking second was India, which brought in 14 percent of the tourists.

While Germany secured the position as the third largest tourist traffic generator, the United Kingdom slipped to fourth position.

Meanwhile, China made it into Sri Lanka's top 10 tourism source market list this week after almost three years.

The once top tourist traffic generator emerged as the eighth largest contributor to the island nation's tourist arrivals in the month of March. For the March 1 to 8 period, 727 Chinese tourists visited the country.



Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe PIC BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE



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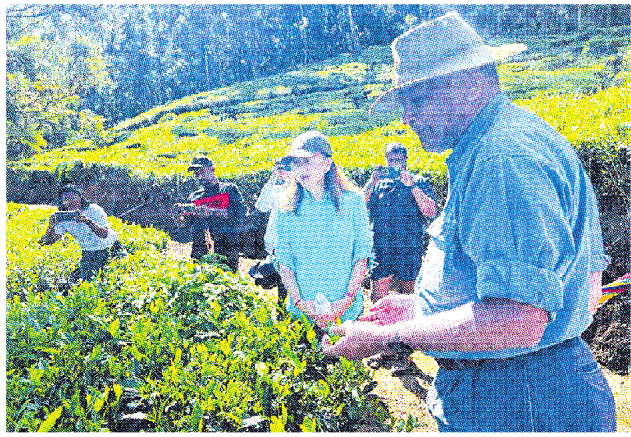


09.03.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	
MAIN BOARD								LANKA TILES	2,019,222	45.2	51	53.5	50.9	53.20	8.00	AMANA LIFE	50	34.7	39.9	39.9	37.7	34.70		
ASAPEN HOT HOLD	35,980	61.5	61.5	61.9	60.5	61.40	(0.10)	LANKA VENTURES	1	36.9	38.9	38.9	38.9	36.90		AMANA TAKAFUL	111	12	12	12	12	12.00		
ACCESS ENG SL	245,195	13.9	14	14	13.8	13.90		LANKA WALLTILE	1,959,461	53	55	60	55	59.30	6.30	AMBEON HOLDINGS	1,136	33.1	33.1	34	33.1	33.80	0.70	
ACI	1,277,834	81.8	82.5	85.5	81.1	85.10	3.30	LANKEM DEV	39,656	27.1	27.4	27.9	27	27.00	(0.10)	AMF CO LTD	46,934	8.2	7.8	8.2	7.7	7.70	(0.50)	
ACL PLASTICS	4,069	407	400.25	420	400	416.00	9.00	LAUGFS GAS	71,531	27.6	28	28.5	25.9	28.20	0.60	ARPCO INSURANCE	2,100	20.4	20.5	20.5	20.4	20.40		
ACME	274,497	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.5	6.70	(0.20)	LAUGFS GAS [LGL X0000]	53,864	18.3	18	18.7	18	18.50	0.20	ASIA SIYAKA	1,288,261	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.20		
AGALAWATTE	37,461	31.9	32	32.9	32	32.20	0.30	LAXAPANA	24,182	14.2	14.2	14.2	14	14.10	(0.10)	BANSEI RESORTS	1	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.30		
AHOT PROPERTIES	5,201	40.3	40.1	41.4	40	40.30		LB FINANCE	123,385	55.5	55	56.4	54	55.30	(0.20)	BERUWALA RESORTS	176,071	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.40		
AITKEN SPENCE	807	140	138	140	138	139.25	(0.75)	LEE HEDGES	100	78	78	78	78	78.00		BOGALA GRAPHITE	177,985	64.3	65	67.8	63	66.30	2.00	
ALLSICE	25,045	68.1	63.5	68	63.5	67.50	(0.60)	LION BREWERY	18	694.75	660.25	695	660.25	694.75		BOGAWANTALAWA	1,786	43.7	43.7	45	43.7	45.00	1.30	
AMANA BANK	838,890	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.80	0.10	LMF	4,882	145.5	143	147.5	143	145.50		BPLI HOLDINGS	1	22	22	22	22	22.00		
AMBA	1,291	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.50	0.10	LVL ENERGY	95,423	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.30	0.20	BROWNS INVESTMENTS	15,513	120.75	120	123.25	119.25	122.00	1.25	
AMBA CAPITAL	2,249	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.20	0.10	MALWATTE	55	82	73	73	73	82.00		BROWNS INVSTMNTS	5,382,992	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.30	(0.10)	
ASIRI	5,756	26.5	26.8	26.9	26.7	26.90	0.40	MALWATTE [MAL X0000]	900	45	49.9	50	49.9	50.00	5.00	C W MACKIE	8,701	79.8	79.4	83	79.4	82.10	2.30	
ASIRI SURG	5,335	12.6	12.5	12.8	12.5	12.50	(0.10)	MELSTACORP	2,337,753	60	59.7	60.1	59.1	60.00		CALT	624,573	35.9	37	37	34.1	35.20	(0.70)	
AUTODROME	6	105.5	105.5	109	105.5	105.50		MERC SHIPPING	27	200.5	200	200	200	200.50		CEYLON TEA BRKRS	47,954	4	4.1	4.1	4	4.10	0.10	
BATRAHA FARMS	74,254	147	148	155	145	150.75	3.75	MERCHANT BANK	145,037	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.70		CFI	1,232	68	68	69.8	68	69.80	1.80	
BALANGODA	26,784	64.5	65.9	67.9	60.2	64.20	(0.20)	MULLERS	42,532	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.30	0.10	CIT	1,434	112.5	107	119.75	106	107.00	(5.50)	
BUKIT DARAH	50,000	398.75	398.75	408	398.75	408.00	6.25	NAMUNUKULA	749	360	360	367.5	353	360.25	0.25	CITRUS HIKKADUWA	8,161	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.50	0.30	
C HOLDINGS	6,770	75.2	76.9	77	75	76.90	1.70	NAT DEV BANK	274,225	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.50	(2.00)	CITRUS WASKADUWA	734,200	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.60	(0.10)	
C HOLDINGS	1	178.5	178.5	178.5	178.5	178.50		NATION LANKA	41,676	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.60	0.10	COM CREDIT	18,894	28.7	27.6	29	27.5	27.90	(0.80)	
CARGILL	106	232	232	232.5	232	232.50	0.50	NATIONS TRUST	23,723	70.5	69	69	66.4	68.50	(2.00)	COMMERCIAL DEV	1	106.75	109	109	109	109.75		
CARGO BOAT	351	47.5	47.5	48.5	47	47.00	(0.50)	OVERSEAS REALTY	62,426	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.50		DILMAH CEYLON	29	1,060.00	1,060.00	1,060.00	1,060.00	1,060.00		
CARSONS	1,000	285	285	285	285	285.00		PAN ASIA	175,774	14	14	14.3	13.7	14.00		E - CHANNELLING	2,105	11.9	11.9	12	11.8	11.90		
CDB	2	196.25	196.25	201.75	196.25	196.25		PANASIAN POWER	77,317	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.60	0.10	ELPITTA	3,318	80	81	85.9	80	80.50	0.50	
CDB [CDB X0000]	1,130	71.1	71	71	70.9	70.90	(0.20)	PEOPLES INS	24,840	23.4	23.4	24.5	22.9	24.30	0.90	EQUITY TWO PLC	16	42.9	41.2	41.2	41.2	42.90		
CENTRAL FINANCE	123,858	82.1	82	82	78.5	81.50	(0.60)	PEOPLES LEASING	693,289	9	9.2	9.2	8.5	9.00		EXTERMINATORS	13,180	7.1	7.4	7.5	7.2	7.20	0.10	
CENTRAL IND	188,684	86.2	88	92.4	85	90.00	3.80	PGP GLASS	330,471	16.4	16.6	17.2	15.8	17.00	0.60	FC TREASURIES	83,436	23.7	24	24.2	23.3	23.60	(0.10)	
CEYLON GUARDIAN	1,613	73.9	74	75	72.3	73.10	(0.80)	PRINT CARE PLC	102,713	50.2	50.5	54.5	50.5	53.50	3.30	FIRST CAPITAL	452,488	36.4	37.9	38	36.9	37.00	0.60	
CEYLON INV	10,780	39.3	39.9	39.9	37.1	38.70	(0.60)	R I PROPERTY	1,369,381	5.8	5.8	6.3	5.8	6.20	0.40	FORTRESS RESORTS	417,080	21.4	21.8	22.8	20	22.20	0.80	
CEYLON TOBACCO	283	680	675	687	675	686.25	6.25	REGNIS	2,000	45.4	45	45	45	45.00	(0.40)	GALADARI	220,043	13.6	13.6	14	13.6	13.80	0.20	
CEMANEX	21,834	79.1	79.1	82.1	79.1	82.00	2.90	RENUKA AGRI	2,855,973	5.4	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.70	0.30	HAPUGASTENNE	1	43.6	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.50		
CHEVRON	172,516	95	95	96	94	97.00		RENUKA FOODS	113,571	22.3	22.1	23.6	22.1	23.00	0.70	HARISCHANDRA	2	4,000.00	4,487.75	4,487.75	4,487.75	4,000.00		
CIC	212,438	77	77.5	79	76.5	77.80	0.80	RENUKA FOODS [COCO X0000]	78	17	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.00		HATTON	24,439	22.4	22.4	23	21.5	22.50	0.10	
CIC [CIC X0000]	550,771	55.1	55.1	57.8	54.1	56.60	1.50	RENUKA HOLDINGS	42,576	13.7	13.9	13.9	13.6	13.70		HNB FINANCE	3,456,950	5.6	5.7	6.4	5.6	5.80	0.20	
CITRUS LEISURE	14,215	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.30	(0.20)	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL X0000]	250	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.60		HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-X0000]	59,213	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.30		
COLD STORES	15,939	36.5	37.4	37.5	35.5	36.80	(0.70)	RESUS ENERGY	116,929	13.7	13.9	14.1	13.4	13.80	0.10	HVA FOODS	51,080	4	4	4.2	4	4.00		
COLOMBO CITY	1,153	1,030.75	1,030.75	1,030.75	1,030.75	1,030.75		ROYAL CERAMIC	4,461,366	22.4	23.3	23.3	22.2	23.00	0.60	JANASAKTHI INS	90,460	29.6	29.4	31.5	29.4	31.00	1.40	
COLOMBO LAND	5,799	18.5	19	19.3	18.2	18.40	(0.10)	SMB LEASING	647,708	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.80		JETTING SYMPHONY	73,090	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.40		
COMMERCIAL BANK	83,858	70.1	71	71	68.8	69.10	(1.00)	SMB LEASING [SEMB X0000]	831,558	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.30		JOHN KEELLS	2,569	69.4	68	68	65.5	66.70	(2.70)	
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB X0000]	12,928	60.2	60	61.9	58.1	59.90	(0.30)	SAMPATH	1,055,454	57	57	57	55	56.40	(0.60)	KAHAWATTE	36,316	21	21	21.8	20.8	20.90	(0.10)	
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	274,363	22.6	22.7	23.5	22.7	23.00	0.40	SAMSON INTERNAT	106	250.5	250	255	250	253.75	3.25	KEELLS FOOD	1	160.5	160.5	160.5	160.5	160.50		
DFCC BANK PLC	14,425	47.7	48	48	46.2	47.30	(0.40)	SANASA DEV BANK	8,708	28.3	28.9	30.4	27.3	30.00	1.70	KEELLS HOTELS	11,892	18.1	18.5	18.5	18	18.00	(0.10)	
DIALOG	4,135,752	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.1	10.70	(0.20)	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	1,580	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.3	11.30	(0.50)	KELSEY	400	21	24.5	24.5	24.4	24.50	3.50	
DIMO	810	499.75	499.75	500	485.25	486.50	(13.25)	SEYLAN BANK	6,085	38.7	37.7	38.5	37.5	37.70	(1.00)	LANKA CERAMIC	2,753	99.3	105	105	105	105.00	5.70	
DIPPED PRODUCTS	558,598	29.5	29.8	30.9	29.6	30.70	1.10	SEYLAN BANK [SEYB X0000]	85,520	26.2	26	26.8	25.5	25.90	(0.30)	LANKEM CEYLON	1,320	85.3	85	85	82	84.80	(0.80)	
DOCKYARD	48	60.2	60.2	61.4	60	61.40	1.20	SHAW WALLACE	11,314	14.5	14.1	14.5	14	14.00	(0.50)	LAUGFS POWER	2,000	9.9	10	10	9	9.30	(0.50)	
DOLPHIN HOTELS	6,000	34.7	33	34.4	33	34.40	(0.30)	SIERRA CABL	250,81															

US ambassador visits Hayleys Plantations' Pedro tea estate

Sri Lanka's most awarded plantations company, Hayleys Plantations, recently hosted US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung on an exclusive tour of its Pedro estate in Nuwara Eliya.



US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung with Hayleys Plantations Managing Director Dr. Roshan Rajadurai and team at the estate

Commenting on the visit via Twitter, Chung said, "Tea production is key to Sri Lanka's economy and the region's success. I met with Managing Director and Regional Manager of Hayleys Plantation to explore a business owner's perspective on challenges from the economic crisis and how to meet the needs of plantation workers."

During her visit, Hayleys Plantations Managing Director Dr. Roshan Rajadurai and his team demonstrated the innovative technology and processes set in place at Kelani Valley Plantations, including its implementation of digital weighing scales linked to personalised NFC cards to reliably track and reward employees on performance.

The tour also included discussions on a range of initiatives undertaken by

Hayleys Plantations to support the health and well-being of their workforce and address the challenges presented by the current economic crisis. These initiatives were showcased in detail during the visit, with the team providing an overview of the company's exceptional welfare programmes implemented over the last two years.

One of the main highlights of the event was the recognition given to the RPC's award-winning 'Home For Every

Plantation Worker' project, which has improved the quality of life for more than 8,700 employees and their families, benefiting a total of over 58,000 people. By focusing on health and nutrition management, well-being, capacity building and the enhancement of living conditions, the project aims to provide comprehensive support to workers and their loved ones.

The visit follows that of Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka Hideaki Mizukoshi, to the Pedro estate late last year.

Anka EnergyX-Harnysss USA to introduce hydrogen energy storage technology to SL

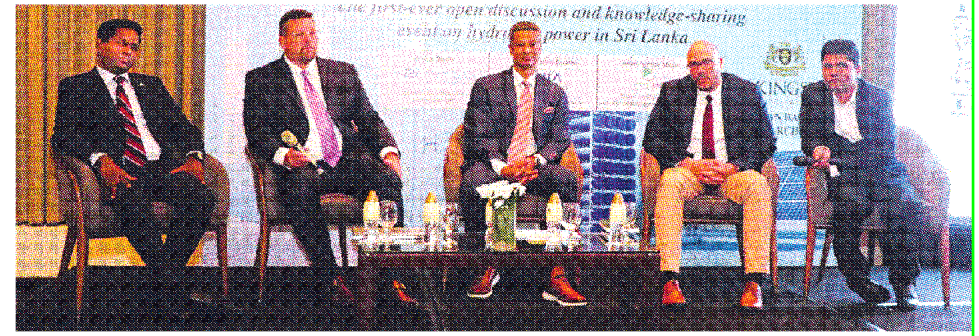
Anka EnergyX, a sustainable energy company in Sri Lanka, has teamed up with Harnysss USA, a global leader in cutting-edge hydrogen energy storage technologies, to introduce smart grids to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

Anka EnergyX recently hosted 'The Power of Hydrogen' - Sri Lanka's first-ever open discussion and knowledge-sharing event on hydrogen energy storage and smart grids, at The Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo.

The event aimed to raise awareness and promote conversations about the benefits of integrating hydrogen energy storage and smart grid technology with other, already existent renewable energy sources like solar, hydro and wind - sectors that have already been heavily invested in.

The event was attended by Secretary to Prime Minister Anura Dissanayake, authorities from the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority and Industries Ministry, along with a range of other stakeholders, including CEOs, energy company directors, corporates, SMEs, engineers and entrepreneurs.

Smart grid technology will enable Sri Lanka to better manage its existing power infrastructure, integrate new renewable energy sources and create a more resilient, reliable and sustainable energy system that benefits both the environment and economy.



From left: Anka EnergyX Director/CEO Jude Xavier, Harnysss USA CEO Kirby Smith, Harnysss USA COO Phillipp Martin, African Corporate Services President Anthony St. Claire, EcoTek Engineer Sumudu Priyantha at the event

Additionally, it will allow the private sector to better insulate itself against shocks to the country's power and energy infrastructure.

Explaining further, Harnysss USA CEO Kirby Smith, who was personally present for the event, said, "Our goal is to bring our state-of-the-art hydrogen energy storage technology, which is scalable and flexible, making it suitable for SMEs and large-scale industrial applications, in Sri Lanka. With smart grid technology, we can help balance energy supply and demand, optimise the power grid and improve overall energy security. Our solutions can help Sri Lanka's business sector and the country as a whole, overcome the challenges of intermittent renewable energy sources, together with other risks in the system and achieve energy

security." "We're excited to partner with Harnysss USA and introduce their patented technology in Sri Lanka," said Anka EnergyX Director/CEO Jude Xavier.

"We believe that this technology will play a crucial role in creating a more sustainable and reliable energy system for the country and make Sri Lanka energy independent."

'The Power of Hydrogen' event marked a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's energy sector, demonstrating the country's commitment to a sustainable and eco-friendly future. With the support of industry leaders, Sri Lanka is building a strong and stable platform towards achieving its goal of a reliable, sustainable and dependable energy grid.

Comfort World International partners with Abhaye Seychelles

Comfort World International, a science-led bedding manufacturer, announced its partnership with Abhaye Seychelles to bring its high-quality bedding solutions to the Seychellois market.

Comfort World holds the licence to manufacture and distribute Serta and Spring-air bedding to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Seychelles. The organisation offers a premium sleep experience that has been curated

through precise craftsmanship, superior quality and an exceptional understanding of the human body.

Commenting on the step taken to extend their reach further internationally, Comfort World Founder and Chairman Naushad Mohideen noted that it is the company's vision to enhance people's well-being and this is a step towards taking the innovative product offering further into overseas markets.

"This signing and partnership would most certainly pave the way for the company to take its message to a broader segment, which is sleep - the miracle of life, backed by the wealth of knowledge the company holds, which is infused into all of our products," he added.

Abhaye Seychelles, a leading provider of home furnishings in the Seychelles, is equally excited about the partnership.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Comfort World International, a company with a proven track record for delivering high-quality bedding solutions," said Abhaye Seychelles Chairman Abhaye Valabhji.

"Our partnership with Comfort World will allow us to bring the best sleep solutions to the Seychellois market and help people achieve the restful sleep they deserve," he added.



From left: Abhaye Seychelles Chairman Abhaye Valabhji and Comfort World Chairman Naushad Mohideen

Edutoys shines with Silver at WCIC awards

Fazla Meyen, Managing Directress of Edutoys (Pvt.) Ltd, a company dedicated to providing premium quality and unique educational toys, was awarded Silver under the start-up category, at the recently concluded WCIC Prathibhabhisheka award ceremony.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe and first lady Prof. Maithri Wickremesinghe graced the event that was organised by the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce (WCIC).

Edutoys manufactures and distributes high-quality educational toys that are designed for imaginative and active play. These products are distributed to Montessoris, preschools, primary sections at schools as well for households.

The company also produces educational tools for children with special needs. Among the items supplied by Edutoys are preschool



Edutoys (Pvt.) Ltd Managing Directress Fazla Meyen receives award

furniture, educational toys, Montessori material and teaching aids.

Meyen is a professional in early

childhood education and is a keen believer of learning through play. Children are greatly influenced by their environment.

Sri Lanka's most high-tech biofertilizer manufacturing facility opened

The latest high-tech manufacturing facility of Lanka Bio Fertilizers (Pvt.) Ltd, located in Millewa, Horana, was recently opened by Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera.

This modern facility is comprised of 40,000 square feet of production floor area and is capable of manufacturing over one million litres of biofertilizer per annum.

Lanka Bio Fertilizers (Pvt.) Ltd is the proud manufacturer of Sri Lanka's own patented Biofilm Biofertilizer, a 100 percent natural, organic-certified, environmentally friendly innovative concept in agriculture, which can replace up to 30 percent of chemical fertiliser usage. Biofilm Biofertilizer technology is a world's first, which has been developed by scientists at the National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS), Kandy, after more than 15 years of dedicated research. Lanka Bio Fertilizers (Pvt.) Ltd has been manufacturing Biofilm Biofertilizer under a public-private partnership with the NIFS since the year 2014.

Addressing the gathering at the opening ceremony, Lanka Bio Fertilizers (Pvt.) Ltd Managing Director Samuditha Kumarasinghe



mentioned, "Biofilm Biofertilizer is the most widely used biofertilizer in Sri Lanka, with usage in over 250,000 acres of paddy lands during the Maha 2022/23 season. We have been able to gain wide acceptance from farmers, due to the advanced technology and the quality maintained by us since the initiation of the project nine years ago."

Kumarasinghe also stated that Biofilm Biofertilizer is recommended for use in paddy cultivation by the Agriculture Department and also has products

for tea, vegetables and maize crops. Further, Agriculture State Minister Mohan De Silva, Irrigation State Minister Shasheendra Rajapaksa, Agriculture Ministry Secretary Gunadasa Samarasinghe, National Fertiliser Secretariat Director Chandana Lokuhewage, NIFS Chairman Prof. Athula Sumathipala, NIFS Director Prof. Saluka Kodituwakku and Biofilm Biofertilizer Inventor Prof. Gamini Seneviratne were also present at the opening ceremony.

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SPORTS

MENDIS BLAZES 87 AS SRI LANKA DOMINATE FIRST DAY AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

Angelo Mathews goes past Sanath Jayasuriya and becomes the 3rd Sri Lankan player to reach **7000 Test Runs**

MOST TEST RUNS FOR SRI LANKA

TOP 5

Kumar Sangakkara	Mahela Jayawardene	Angelo Mathews	Sanath Jayasuriya	Aravinda de Silva
12400	11814	7000	6973	6361

source: ICC / espncriinfo @Chaturanga_Devapriya DMSportsDesk

Kusal Mendis made a lively 87 off 83 balls to put tourists Sri Lanka in the driving seat at 305-6 after the opening day of the first Test against New Zealand yesterday.



Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne (L) congratulates teammate Kusal Mendis after scoring 50 runs during the first day of the first Test cricket match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Hagley Oval in Christchurch

At the close, Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 39 with Kasun Rajitha contributing 16 to an unbroken seventh wicket stand of 35.

New Zealand captain Tim Southee won the toss in Christchurch, where conditions were ripe for his seam attack to strike, but instead it was Sri Lanka's band of classy batsmen who dominated.

It is a must-win Test for Sri Lanka to keep their World Test Championship hopes alive but veteran batsman Angelo Mathews said Mendis attacked as if he was playing an explosive game of Twenty20.

"He just walked straight into it and it was like a Twenty20 game," Mathews said.

"In those conditions the way that he batted, it was more than a run a ball and it was quiet fantastic to watch." New Zealand captain Tim Southee believed the momentum swung when Mendis was in full flight before lunch, taking Sri Lanka to a healthy 120-1 at the interval after being 14-1 in the seventh over when Oshada Fernando (13) was dismissed.

"We were a little bit off in that second hour and credit to Sri Lanka," he said.

"The put loose deliveries away and scored at a good clip and got themselves out in front of the game at lunchtime."

It was heavily overcast and the floodlights were on, but Sri Lanka's second-wicket pair of Dimuth Karunaratne and Mendis racked a rollicking 137 off 27 overs, with Mendis belting 16 fours while Karunaratne contributed 50 off 87.

Mendis rode his luck, with some inside and top edges helping him reach a 16th Test fifty off just 40 balls.

He was looking for his eighth Test century but, with the score on 151, he was trapped in front by Southee to end a sparkling innings.

When Karunaratne followed without any addition to the total, caught at second slip for 50 by Tom Latham off Matt Henry, Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal put on 82 for the fourth wicket to lift Sri Lanka to 233-4.

Chandimal had negotiated some interruptions for rain to reach 39 when he became Southee's 362nd Test wicket, moving the New Zealand captain past Daniel Vettori to second on the all-time list of New Zealand's Test wicket-takers behind Richard Hadlee, who has 431.

It was a New Zealand record 706th international wicket for Southee across all three formats, one more than the previous mark he shared with Vettori.

Mathews drove Matt Henry to mid-on for two to reach the milestone of 7,000 Test runs, but he barely had time to acknowledge the achievement before he was dismissed next ball for 47.

Niroshan Dickwella went cheaply for seven before de Silva and Rajitha regained momentum for Sri Lanka. Southee was the pick of the New Zealand bowlers with 3-44 while Henry chipped in with 2-65.

Sri Lanka

1ST INNINGS

O. Fernando c Blundell b Southee	13
D. Karunaratne c Latham b Henry	50
K. Mendis lbw b Southee	87
A. Mathews c Mitchell b Henry	47
D. Chandimal c Latham b Southee	39
D. de Silva not out	39
N. Dickwella lbw b Bracewell	07
K. Rajitha not out	16
EXTRAS: (1w, 6lb)	07
TOTAL: (6 wickets, 75 overs)	305
FALL OF WICKETS: 14-1, 151-2, 151-3, 233-4, 260-5, 268-6	
BOWLING: T. Southee 18-8-44-3, M. Henry 20-6-65-2, B. Tickner 17-2-88-0, N. Wagner 10-1-68-0, D. Mitchell 7-3-17-0, M. Bracewell 3-0-17-1	

Official Sponsor of the National Cricket Team

(AFP)

RCGC Monthly Medal for March 2023 Sachin the champ

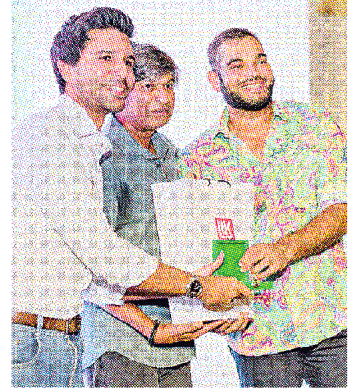
BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

Sachin de Silva bagged the Division 'A' Nett and Gross titles in the zero to nine handicap at the Royal Colombo Golf Club (RCGC) Monthly medal for March 2023 at their golf course in Borella recently.

De Silva, scored 69 in both Gross and Nett events.

In the Nett Chuluka Amarasinghe ended as the runner-up having also scored 69 but de Silva won on the count back.

The event was once again sponsored by Wurth Lanka.



Sachin De Silva receiving his award

RESULTS:

Division 'A' - Handicap 0 to 09 - Nett: Winner - Sachin De Silva (69 Nett B/B 9), Runner-Up - Chuluka Amarasinghe (69 Nett); Gross: Winner - Sachin De Silva (69 Gross)

Division B - Handicap 10 to 18 - Nett: Winner - Dehan De Silva (64 Nett), Runner-Up - Maneesh Chanmugam (66 Nett); Gross: Winner - Sonam Tendulfa La (78 Gross)

Division C - Handicap 19 to 28 - Nett: Winner - Fazel Hameed (69 Nett), Runner-Up - Shahaz Zahir (70 Nett B/B 9); Gross: Winner - Deepal Akuratiyagama (89 Gross B/B 9)

Seniors Division - Nett: Winner - Christopher Dias (62 Nett), Runner-Up - Ranjit Perera (65 Nett B/B 9); Seniors Division - Gross: Winner - Charistopher Dias (82 Gross)

Masters Division - Nett: Winner - Rohan J. Perera (63 Nett), Runner-Up - B. M. R. Preera (67 Nett); Masters Division - Gross: Winner - John Scarth (77 Gross); Ladies Division - Nett: Winner - D. Boralassa (72 Nett), Runner-Up - Yun Jeong Choi (75 Nett B/B 9); Ladies Division - Gross: Winner - Shayanika Fernando (82 Gross); Longest Most Accurate Drive at 08th Fairways - Darren Hall; Nearest to the Pin at 09th Holes - Dehan De Silva

Under 19 Quarter Final St. Joseph's, Mahinda book berth to semis

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

St. Joseph's College Colombo in the Tier 'A' segment and Mahinda College Galle in the Tier 'B' segment booked their places in the semi-finals of the Under 19 inter-school cricket tournament when they recorded first innings wins against Wesley College

and Ispathana College in the quarter-final encounters concluded at Darley Road and Colts yesterday.

Meanwhile, exchanges were even in another quarter-final of the Tier 'B' segment between Thurstan College and St. Aloysius' College Galle when play ended on day one at Thurstan ground. This match will be continued today.

RESULTS:

At Darley Road - First innings win for St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's 232 (Naren Muralitharan 67, D. Serasinghe 37, Muditha Dissanayake 33, Yenula Dewthusa 26, Rishma Amarasinghe 24, S. Ranaweera 17, Uvin Perera 3 for 26, Linal Subasinghe 2 for 47) and **199 for 3** (Sadeesh Jayawardena 117, Sahan Dabare 52, Avintha de Alwis 27, Jathon Wyman 2 for 36)

Wesley 135 (Linal Subasinghe 52, Sanithu Amarasinghe 28, Yenula Dewthusa 5 for 36, Gagan Chamodh 3 for 24)

At Colts - First innings win for Mahinda

Mahinda 300 for 8 declared (Dhanuja Induwara 84, Hareen Achintha 74m Hiruna Gallage 68, Pramesh Madubashana 23, Tharushka Ashel 3 for 47)

Ispathana 256 for 9 (Yuneth Seneviratne 54, Tharushka Ashel 38, Tharusha Nethsara 31, Yeshith Kalupahana 28, Naveen Kanishka 17, Sithuka Gunawardena 34 n.o., Tharusha Dilshan 6 for 90, Dhanuja Induwara 2 for 55)

At Thurstan - Thurstan 109/7 in reply to St. Aloysius'

St. Aloysius' Galle 147 (Vidura Lakshan 52, Charya Paranavithana 17, Dineth Nimsara 17, Oshada Devindu 16, Minuga Dulannmith 3 for 16, Thanuga Palihawadana 3 for 37, Azeem Mohamed 2 for 17, Kavinda Prabath 2 for 30)

Thurstan 109 for 7 (Shanikya Deshapriya 27, Thanuga Palihawadana 23, Ushan Imesh 23, Thenuka Dewapriya 15, Oshada Devinda 3 for 10)

Trinity rout Royal to record unprecedented wins



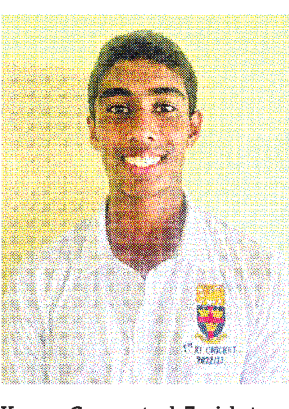
Trinity U19 beat Royal for the second time this season

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL IN KANDY

Trinity College Kandy achieved an unprecedented double win over Royal College Colombo, recording a six wicket win and qualifying for the semi-final of the Under 19 Inter-School Tier 1 school cricket tournament in Asgiriya yesterday.

Trinity had already beaten Royal once this season at Reid Avenue, for the first time in their 130-year cricketing history.

Royal were shot out for 114 in their first innings and despite doing slightly better in the second innings, scoring 229, they left the Trinitians with a target of 149, which they reached for



Kaveen Gamage took 7 wickets for Trinity

Dinuka Tennekoon (5) were the chief destroyers taking 17 wickets among them.

Dinusha Peiris (38) and Vathila Udara (38 not out) made sure of teh Trinity win.

The Trinity College under 19 outfit is coached by Naveen Ekanayake with Bryan Senaratne as the Master in Charge of the unit.

Royal 114 and 229 in 59 overs (Ovin Amabanpola 48 not out, Uvinu Weerasekera 42, Disas Savindu 25; Kaveen Gamage 4 for 81, Tharana Wimaladharm 2 for 49, Dinuka Tennekoon 2 for 71)

Trinity 195 and 150 for 4 in 26.3 overs (Dinusha Peiris 38, Vathila Udara 38 not out, Rahal Amarasinghe 26)

116th Battle of the North Vithusan, Ajay shine, Jaffna Central dominate day one

Jegatheeswaran Vithusan and Nishanthan Ajay shone with half tons for Jaffna Central College against traditional rivals St. John's College Jaffna on the first day's play of the three day 116th Battle of the North big match played at the Central ground in Jaffna.

The pair made almost contrasting knocks with Vithusan making 74 in 102 balls inclusive of six

boundaries and five sixes while Ajay hit 74 in 77 balls with eight boundaries and two sixes for Jaffna Central taking first lease of the wicket to make a formidable score of 279 runs.

Vithusan was involved in a valuable partnership of 83 runs for the second wicket with Matheeswaran Sansayan who chipped in with 42 runs. Though

RESULTS:

Jaffna Central 279 (Nishanthan Ajay 74, Jegatheeswaran Vithusan 71, Matheeswaran Sansayan 42, Sutharshan Anushanthi 27, Thakuthas Abilash 15; Yogathas Vithushan 4 for 70, Anton Abishel 3 for 67, Kirupananthan Kajakaran 2 for 38)

St. John's Jaffna 43 for 3 (Nesakumar Jezial 16 n.o.; Sudarshan Anushanth 2 for 26)

Sri Lanka all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga starts a new innings



Sri Lankan cricketer Wanindu Hasaranga tied the knot at Water's Edge Hotel, starting a new innings in his life yesterday. He wed his fiancée Vindya, with the presence of several former and present Sri Lankan cricketers.

Hillwood Club Kandy sweep awards at CMCC 'One-Whistle' Netball tournament



Club winners Hillwood Team

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The girls from Hillwood Club Kandy swept the boards at the 'One-Whistle' Invitational Netball Tournament conducted by the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC) to mark its 150th anniversary celebrations which began in March 2022.

The tournament held at the Padang on Sunday March 5 was played in a carnival atmosphere with the participation of 20 teams including two men's teams from Monaragala and Ratnapura who featured in an exhibition match.

Piyaratne MV Padukka emerged champions in the under 15 school final defeating Yasodara Balika Vidyalaya 9-7.

Hillwood Club won the club final defeating Kalutara Balika Vidyalaya 11-7.

The veterans' final was won by Track Master Sports Club who beat Police SC 7-4.



Netball Queen Kusalika Aluwihare

Hillwood carried away the special awards with Kusalika Aluwihare crowned CMCC Netball Queen, Yuthara Rajaratnam (Best Centre Court player), Lakshika Aluwihare (Best Defensive Player) and Vichali Mawilmada (Best Shooter).

DailyMirror

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DESIGNER FOR THE 'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE' MULTIVERSE

As a teenager, Shirley Kurata worked in the Aratani Theatre in the Little Tokyo section of Los Angeles. On Sunday, the venue will host an Oscars watch party for her film "Everything Everywhere All at Once", and she could be one of the winners. **AFP**

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Hunters.lk @hunters.lk Daraz

Stepping out of our usual holiday pattern, Rani and I decided to holiday in Weligama. The main attraction being the restaurants with rave reviews situated in Ahangama and Weligama. We spent five nights at W15 Weligama. W15, situated in the heart of Weligama, is a 10 room luxury hotel categorised as a Beach Club. The rooms were very comfortable. The staff friendly and obliging. W15's beachfront extends quite a length and the sea is suitable for both surfing and swimming. The beachfront was full of activity and, more importantly, no touts hanging around. The area was packed with tourists from all parts of the world. The atmosphere defined the Sri Lankan smile for which we are renown.

THE GETAWAY DOWN SOUTH

Prior reservations had to be made at many of the restaurants for our culinary journey. The restaurants are full from the time they open their doors. The

food in most restaurants was of a very high standard, the atmosphere casual and some of the locations were breathtakingly beautiful. In reality, we should have spent a month exploring

all the restaurants and cafes in these two areas. The majority of these restaurants are owned by foreigners, where the foreign chefs know how to cook extremely well and to perfection, especially using all the locally available seafood. All food was plated in a sophisticated and classy manner with no garnishing and was super delicious. In our quest to look for good food, my personal favourites were Alaia by the Sea and CITRA in Ahangama; Kaiyo Sushi Bar in Weligama was excellent too. There were other restaurants on the beach in Weligama where fresh seafood is available in the stalls to be chosen from and cooked to your preference at reasonable prices.



While all these restaurants offer great choices, most places are not cheap but well worth the price. Service levels are high and the cleanliness is obvious in most places. Ahangama and Weligama are the go to places during the season to enjoy culinary wonders. It was unclear if most of the restaurants are shut during the monsoon, though a veteran in the business said that there were plenty of foreigners who resided in the area and sustained the businesses during the off season.

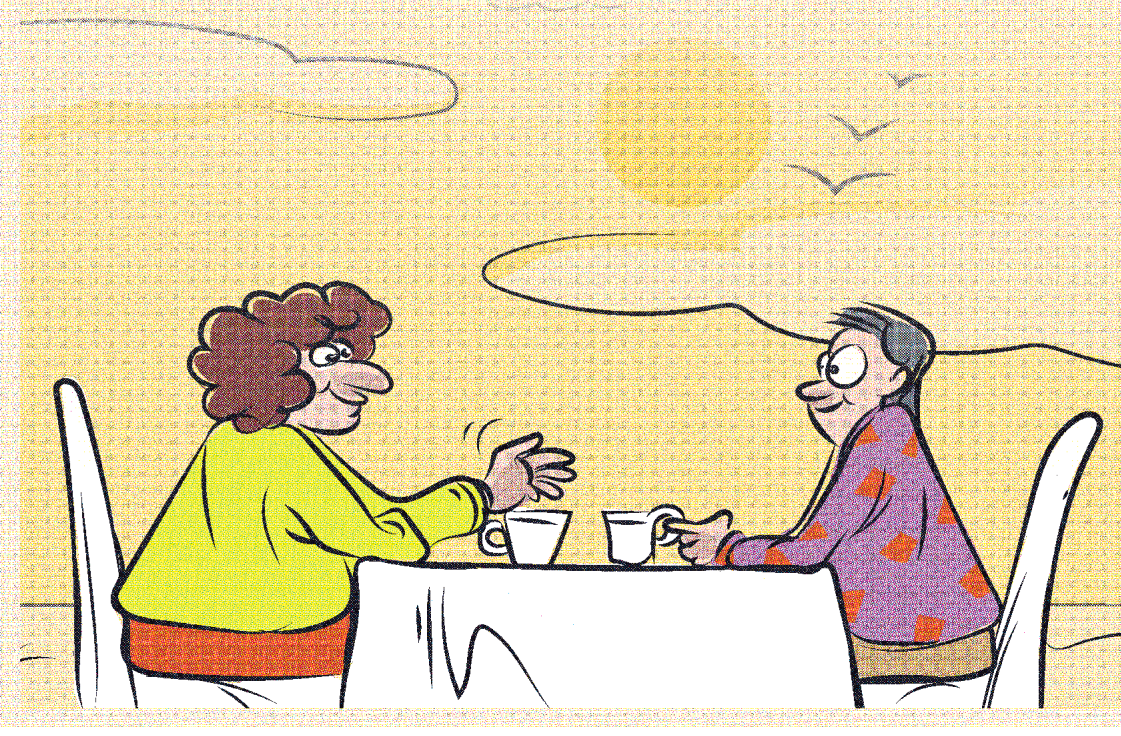
Keeping up to its reputation of being one of Asia's best bars, Smoke & Bitters is a place to visit. Its location is spectacular, especially if you get there at sunset. The ambience is perfect. The cocktails presented looked and tasted amazing. Sadly, I have stopped having alcohol and could not indulge in them. The menu is kept short and everything tasted good. This location is a must for every visitor to the area, to spend time savouring everything they have to offer.

A visit to these two areas is well worth to experience all they have to offer. The culinary levels are of a high standard and made Colombo look like it was caught in a time warp. For me, the five day sojourn was of great value.

Hype Studio & Events is excited to host their 2nd Edition Evening Pop-up Market!

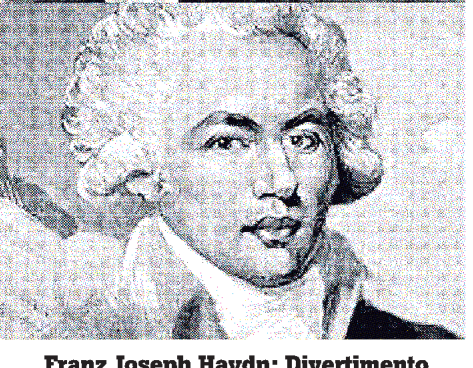
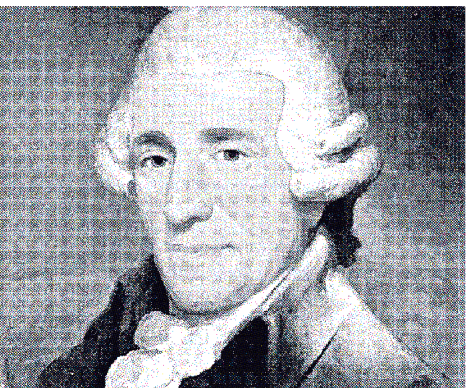
Browse through an array of locally-made clothes, jewellery, home and lifestyle, electronics and accessories, baked goods, imported goods and so much more. Hype Studio has collaborated with several local brands like Percy & Bea, Treats by Tari, Nue Body Basics, The Crafty Bae, Amsh Jewellery, The Convenience Store, B's Mist & Memories, Sugar Fairy, The Shopping Kingdom, JKOA, Link Naturals, Butterfly Belle and many more! A Mini-Fashion show which will showcase trendy women's wear sponsored by the 'forever wearable' brand - Jia Moda will be staged at 5:30 PM. While you browse and shop, there will be some great tunes performed by budding young artist, Deven Silva. Join them at the 'Pavilion Hall' at Havelock City Clubhouse located within the Havelock City premises (324, Havelock Road, Colombo 5) on Sunday, 12th of March 2023 from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Entrance is free to all visitors with parking available inside the premises on first come first serve basis.

Contact Hype Studio for more details on Facebook/Instagram @hypestudios.lk



The Chamber Music Society of Colombo (CMSC) March Diversions

Celebrating over ten years of unbroken collaboration and music making at the Goethe-Institut, Colombo, the Chamber Music Society of Colombo (CMSC) is proud to continue the series of chamber music concerts on the 25th & 26th of March at 7 pm. The Goethe Hall will be alive with the sounds of Joseph Haydn, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a rare transcription for strings of the first movement of Mahler's 4th Symphony, and selections from Peter Warlock's Elizabethan Song Book for voice and strings, sung by Harin Amirthanathan, the Society's chorus-master.



Franz Joseph Haydn: Divertimento in D. Hob. III D.3 (Erdmann).
Haydn's early divertimenti reveal roots in the Baroque world he knew so well, including beautifully eloquent slow movements for solo violin. They also offer sufficient evidence of the young composer's ability of invention and commitment to experimenting, both in terms of form (the minuets suggestive of those in much later symphonies) and instrumentation.

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges: String quartet no. 4.
A dazzling swordsman, polymath, violin virtuoso, and composer, Saint-Georges

might well lay claim to being one of the most accomplished figures in an age of remarkable individuals. The string quartet was still in its infancy in France in the 1770s, but while these works are modest in scale, they are exceptionally rewarding. Saint-Georges appreciated the intimate nature of this genre, avoiding overt soloistic virtuosity and scrutinising subtle chamber music timbres, he amply illustrates his abundant lyrical gifts and a natural ability to charm performers and audiences alike.

Peter Warlock: Elizabethan Songs. Warlock's music, more often than not, shows the influence of Elizabethan music, of Delius, and (especially in counterpoint) of Bernard van Dieren, all integrated into a distinctly personal idiom. His songs, which form the largest part of his compositions, are admired for their homogeneity of music and text, melodic value, and uncommon harmonies. Even in its original form, Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4 is his most compact symphony: the 3 or 4 wind instruments and the complete exclusion of trombones and tuba seem relatively austere in view of his other symphonic instrumentation requirements. This intriguing adaptation of the first movement was commissioned for an advanced conductors workshop in New York City and loaned to us for this concert. **Performing will be principal players of the CMSC, Lakshman Joseph-de Saram, violin, Cynthia Fernando, violin, Sulara Nanayakkara, violin, Othman Hassan Majid, viola, Rochana Ramanayaka, violoncello, Nilanthi Weerakoon, contrabass.** The programme will be moderated by the artistic director of the CMSC, Lakshman Joseph-de Saram. This concert is generously supported by premium sponsors A. Baur & Co., and Tokyo Cement Group.



Tickets at 1500/- un-reserved. Available at the Goethe-Institut Library (13 March onwards: Monday - Friday 9.30 - 18.00)

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