



# Daily Mirror



YOUR PAPER TODAY 12 PAGES

## TRADE UNION PROTESTS TO CONTINUE UNTIL TOMORROW

Trade unions warned that they would engage in trade union activity to paralyse the country tomorrow (15) if the president does not listen to them

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

Several trade unions, including port workers, state bankers, and doctors, had engaged in their trade union action against the government's move to impose a massive PAYE tax, increase electricity bills, increase bank interest rates, and urge the government to honour the working people's freedom to exercise their democratic rights.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Examination paper evaluation payment increased

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The daily payment assigned for examiners to evaluate 2022 GCE Advanced Level (A/L) examination scripts has been increased to Rs 2,000, the Education Ministry's Secretary, M. Nihal Ranasinghe said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Why was Mahindananda prevented from leaving the country?

Controller General of Immigration and Emigration says there was a travel ban on the MP due to wrong data

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

MP Mahindananda Aluthgamage was prevented from leaving the country at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake citing a travel ban because the passport data of Aluthgamage at the Immigration and Emigration Department's data system included information of another person.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Colombo Chief Magistrate issues warrant for arrest of Weerawansa

Further magisterial inquiry was fixed for June 19



BY FAROOK THAJUDEEN

The Colombo Chief Magistrate yesterday issued a warrant for the arrest of MP Wimal Weerawansa for not being present in court in connection with the case filed against him by Cinnamon Gardens Police.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

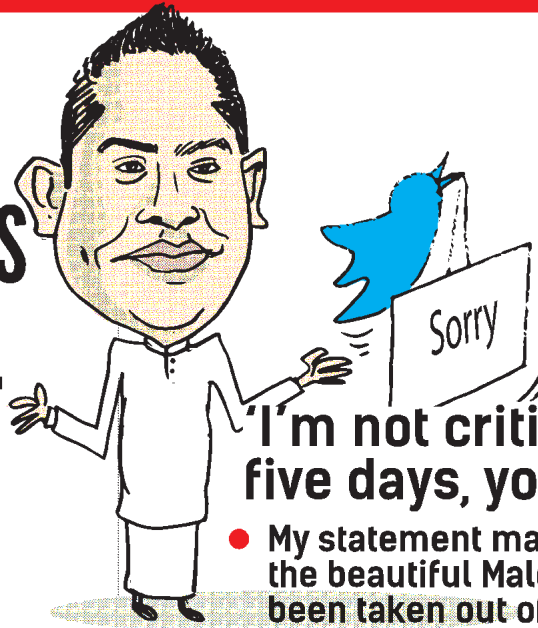
Police action on protesters:

## Public Security Minister fails to appear before HRCSL

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Public Security Minister Tiran Alles, who was asked to appear before the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission (HRCSL) yesterday, over the actions of the Police and Security Forces to control the recent protests, failed to appear before the Commission.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Harin apologizes to the Maldives

## CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT IN BERLIN LANDS TOURISM MINISTER IN HOT WATER

'I'm not criticizing - but you stay there (Maldives) for five days, you get fed up of it' Minister Fernando said

My statement made in Berlin regarding the beautiful Maldivian islands has been taken out of context and been misrepresented on social media

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE

Minister of Tourism Harin Fernando issued an apology to the Maldives for a controversial statement made at an international travel and trade fair, claiming his comments were "taken out of context and misrepresented."

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>> SEE FULL STORY ON A9 >>>

Minister Harin Fernando Tweets

Harin Fernando @fermandoharin

My statement made in Berlin regarding the beautiful Maldivian islands has been taken out of context and been misrepresented on social media. I wish to clarify that we work together with our neighbor on tourism and would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused

Abdulla Mausoom @Mausoom

11th Winner of the World's Leading Destination @WTFTravelAwards in 2020, 2021 & 2022 #Maldives is the Global #Tourism #Benchmark. Thanks to developers & service providers for making Maldives simply the best and #addictive!! If jealous & in doubt please ask the #Mirror again & again.

## DELAY IN A/L RESULTS AFFECTS O/L EXAMS: MINISTER

SAYS ORDINARY LEVEL EXAM IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MAY

WILL BE DELAYED DUE TO NUMBER OF DAYS TAKEN TO RELEASE A/L RESULTS

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

Delay in releasing the results of the 2022 GCE Advanced Level (A/L) examination, will lead to a delay in holding the GCE Ordinary Level (O/L) examination, Education Minister Susil Premajayantha said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya presents the plaque of honour to President Ranil Wickremesinghe

## BASL FELICITATES PREZ ON COMPLETION OF 50 YEARS AT BAR

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka organized a felicitation dinner at the Oak Room, Cinnamon Grand Hotel Colombo last evening (12), to honour those who have completed fifty years at the Bar. At the dinner, President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has also completed fifty years at the Bar, was honoured and presented with a plaque by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya PC.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Australia warns illegal migrants

No boats from Sri Lanka have made it to Australia. No illegal entrants from Sri Lanka have made it to Australia

BY EASWARAN RUTNAM

Australia has warned illegal migrants from Sri Lanka saying they will have "zero chance" of illegal entry. Several people have attempted to migrate to Australia by boat despite the dangers it poses.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Govt. should resign and hold snap general elections: Cardinal

BY YOHAN PERERA

Government MPs should resign and create an opportunity for the people to elect a new government, Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith said yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## EX-LOVER EXTORTS MILLIONS FROM FEMALE OVER NUDE PHOTOS

Victim says since 2019, she had been forced to deposit more than Rs. 2.6 million into the bank account of the suspect

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

A female government officer in Padavi, Sri Lanka was allegedly threatened by her ex-lover, that he would release her nude photos to her husband if she did not pay him the ransom he demanded, police said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



## More than 800,000 mines removed since 2022, says demining organisation

In the Muhamalai area alone, there were 369,015 live land mines, including those targeting vehicles

BY DAYARATNE EMBOGAMA

More than 878,700 land mines and live ammunition buried by the LTTE have been removed by the SHARP organisation since 2022, the Managing Director of the organisation Army Captain Prabhath Narampanawa (Rtd) told the media yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Psychoanalysis examination for Varsity students

New entrants would be subject to a psychoanalysis test to identify their mental disorders, if any, in addition to the usual medical examination

BY SHANE SENEVIRATNE

Peradeniya University Administration has decided to subject all new entrants to a Psychoanalysis medical test.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Pro. Terrance Madujith told the media on Sunday evening (12) at the Senate House that the students admitted to the Medical Faculty and the Management Faculty were medically tested and found that five percent of them were in a condition requiring psychiatric treatment.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## FR filed against PUCSL for approving electricity tariff for domestic consumption

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Electricity and Renewable Energy Consumers Association and five others yesterday filed a Fundamental Rights petition in Supreme Court seeking an order staying the operation of the portion of the Electricity Tariff Revision 2023 approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) for the category of domestic consumption.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

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(A.E.R. 14.37%)

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CONT'D.  
FROM PAGE 1

## TRADE UNION PROTESTS TO CONTINUE UNTIL TOMORROW

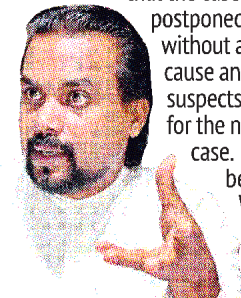
While protesting, the trade unions said that they would engage in trade union activity to paralyse the country tomorrow (15) if the president does not listen to them. Meanwhile, the president of the Sri Lanka Free Workers' Association of the Port Workers, Prasanna Kalutara said the current issues must be solved through discussions; if not, they will join the massive protest tomorrow to shut the port until the president steps down. Therefore, the port workers had engaged in a 48-hour work-to-rule campaign. The protest was held near the port's main entrance against unfair tax revisions at noon during lunch hour. According to the workers, all port trade unions participated. The unions claimed that the government would suffer a huge loss and they should take responsibility for that. Several state bank employees today reported to work clad in black. They believe that a positive response will be

received today; if not, trade union action will continue to pursue professional avenues. "A series of protests will be implemented across the country tomorrow. The strike will continue on Wednesday (15) if we do not find a solution," the bank employees union said. However, the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) and the Specialist Medical Experts today launched their token strike across the Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern provinces. Due to the protest, the clinical functionalities and the activities of the outpatient department (OPD) of several hospitals in the Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern provinces were on mute. GMOA Secretary Dr. Haritha Aluthge said they have decided to engage in continuous trade union action from tomorrow, if the government does not listen to them.

## Colombo Chief Magistrate issues warrant for arrest of Weerawansa

The Cinnamon Gardens Police had filed a case against MP Wimal Weerawansa and five others for providing leadership to a protest at Baudhaloka Mawatha in 2016 causing disturbance to the public. MP Weerawansa was not present before court when the case came up before Colombo Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis. Further magisterial inquiry was fixed for June 19. Six suspects including Wimal Weerawansa, Jayantha Samaraweera, Weerakumara Dissanayake, Piyasiri Wijenayake, Roger

Seneviratne, Mohammed Muzamil and Don Losian were named as suspects in this case. The seventh suspect Chaminda Jayalal is evading courts from the inception. However the Magistrate observed that the case has been postponed from time to time without any reasonable cause and warned the suspects to be present for the next date of the case. During the inquiry before court Weerawansa was not represented by any Counsel.



## Public Security Minister fails to appear before HRCSL

Earlier, the HRCSL decided to conduct an investigation into the actions of the Police and Security Forces to control the protests held in Colombo and Kelaniya universities on March 7 and 8. Accordingly, the HRCSL said it had informed the minister to appear before the commission on Monday (March 13). However, a spokesman of the ministry said that the minister had decided not to appear before the

commission as the relevant summon was not done according to the proper procedure. The spokesman said that the decision to summon the minister before the commission was taken by its chairman and the other four members of the commission were not aware of the summons. The spokesman said that the minister would inform the HRCSL in writing about the decision.

## Why was Mahindananda prevented from leaving the country?

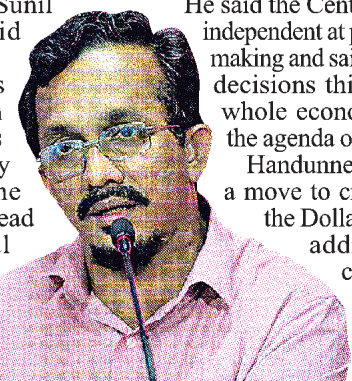
The MP arrived at the BIA on Friday night to leave the country on a personal visit, but was stopped from proceeding through immigration stating there is a foreign travel ban imposed by the Mathugama court. Controller General of Immigration and Emigration Harsha Ilukpitiya said that a travel ban was enacted against the MP because wrong data was included.

Accordingly, the duties of the female officer who entered the relevant information into the system has already been suspended, he said. Also, the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) had launched an investigation into the incident, the Controller General said.

## Appreciation of rupee is artificial: Handunnetti

The appreciation of the rupee against the US Dollar was an artificial situation that has been created with a political agenda, former JVP MP Sunil Handunnetti said yesterday. He told a news conference the myth that the rupee has appreciated thereby strengthening the economy was spread with a political motive. "The myth that the rupee has

appreciated is being spread so as to decide whether to hold the election or not, manage possible people's uproar in the future and to hoodwink the people," he said. He said the Central Bank was not independent at present in decision making and said it was not taking decisions thinking about the whole economy but to fulfil the agenda of the government. Handunnetti said there was a move to create a myth that the Dollar crisis was being addressed and the country would be developed now and there was no need to change the government.



## CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT IN BERLIN LANDS TOURISM MINISTER IN HOT WATER

"My statement made in Berlin regarding the beautiful Maldivian islands has been taken out of context and been misrepresented on social media. I wish to clarify that we work together with our neighbour on tourism and would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused," Fernando tweeted following the backlash he received for his comments made about the Maldives

at the ITB Berlin in Germany. Fernando addressing the forum in Germany said that Sri Lanka had much more to offer tourists in comparison to the Maldives. "I know lots of people go to the Maldives. Maldives just has the beach - I'm not criticizing -- but you stay there for five days, you get fed up of it. That's it. You're just an island, you are caught up in one place," he said. The

Minister's comment attracted anger from Maldivians including politicians and influential figures. "Sure if you cannot swim, dive or know what biodiversity is or have no interest in a civilization that has remained at peace for at least 4 millennia, yes, you will get bored in 5 days! Zero sum marketing is an own goal!" Ahmed Shaheed, a former UN Special Rapporteur responded

on Twitter. Meanwhile, Maldives Parliamentarian Mohamed Shifau invited the Sri Lankan Tourism Minister to visit his country and experience world class hospitality. "I invite Sri Lankan tourism minister to Maldives and experience the world class hospitality and enjoy the white sand and rich blue sea with colorful coral gardens. Make sure you have enough

time," Shifau tweeted. Interestingly, during the three-day programme in Germany, Minister Fernando was photographed with the President of the Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives. The Minister did not respond to several attempts by the Daily Mirror to further clarify his apology.

## DELAY IN A/L RESULTS AFFECTS O/L EXAMS: MINISTER

• The ministry is looking forward to seeing if the exams can be held according to the scheduled dates

Addressing the media, he said the evaluation of the answer scripts for the A/L examination had been delayed and due to this releasing the results would also delay. "The number of days taken to release the A/L exam results will cause a delay in holding the O/L exam. The O/L exam is scheduled to be held in May, but it will

get delayed due to the number of days taken to release the results," he said. The Examinations Department needs at least a three-month gap between two examinations. Therefore, the ministry is looking forward to seeing if the exams can be held according to the scheduled dates, the minister said.

## Ex-lover extorts millions from female over nude photos

The suspect had also threatened that he would publish the pictures online to disgrace the government officer if the monies were not transferred to him. The Sripura police said the woman had filed a complaint in this regard. In her complaint, the victim said that

since 2019, the woman had been forced to deposit more than Rs. 2.6 million into the bank account of the suspect. The woman had an affair with a suspect who is a resident of Kuliypitiya a few years ago, and he had clicked on her nude photos during their relationship.

Since the affair ended, she said the suspect had been blackmailing her by demanding money to avoid leaking her nude photos to her husband and publish it online. Investigations are underway to arrest the suspect who is believed to have gone into hiding, police said.

## BASL FELICITATES PREZ ON COMPLETION OF 50 YEARS AT BAR

The felicitation dinner was organized by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) to honour 26 individuals who have served at the Bar for 50 years or more. The event coincided with the two-day National Law Conference 2023, also organized by the BASL, which was held on the 12th and

13th of March. Juliana Margaret Coswatte, Walter Leslie de Silva, Ratnasabapathy Arumugam Jegatheson, Upali A. Gooneratne PC, Kanaagaratnam Kaneshayogam, M M Zuhair PC, Vijaya Niranjana Perera PC, Vernon Manilal Fernando, Justice J. Asoka Nihal de Silva, W.D.J. Seneviratne, Justice D.J. De S.

Balapatabendi also were felicitated at the ceremony. Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, Attorney General Sanjaya Rajaratnam PC, BASL President Saliya Peiris, Chairman of the Felicitation Committee Janapriya Fernando and Convener of the Felicitation Committee Chamath Fernando addressed the gathering.

## Examination paper evaluation payment increased

He said the decision was taken after Cabinet approval. Accordingly, allowances are given to university lecturers and lecturers who participate in the evaluation of the answer scripts. "The evaluation of the answer scripts should be completed immediately, as the Examinations Department is lagging to hold two Ordinary Level (O/L) examinations and one A/L examination," he said. Meanwhile, Examinations Commissioner General H.J.M.C. Amith Jayasundara told the media that the payment made for examiners to evaluate answer scripts was Rs. 500 in 2019.

"Later, the payment was increased during the COVID period, and now it is increased to Rs. 2,000 as daily payment," he said. "In 2020, a Chief Examiner, who was not in a science subject was paid Rs. 62,050 for the whole evaluation process (for 12 days), but that has been increased to Rs. 101,600. Additional Chief Examiners (Senior Teachers) were paid Rs. 52,250, but it was increased to Rs. 90,270. Assistant Examiners were paid Rs. 36,725 and it is now increased to Rs. 60,475. "Chief Examiners for science subjects were paid Rs. 64,550 in 2020, and it is increased to Rs. 106,506. The charges for

the Additional Chief Examiners have been increased to Rs. 95,946 from Rs. 59,900. "The allowance of an assistant examiner was Rs. 44,199, and was increased to Rs. 64,460. "There are 1,200 University academics who engage in the answer script evaluation, and their allowances have been increased by 100%," he said. The 2022 GCE A/L examinations ended on February 17. "The evaluation process of the answer scripts should be completed within six weeks. But the process got delayed as teachers and lecturers raised the payment issue," he said.

## Psychoanalysis examination for Varsity students

The media conference was chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. M.D. Lamawansa. Prof. Madujith said that the new entrants would be subject to a psychoanalysis test to identify their mental disorders, if any, in addition to the usual medical examination. He pointed out that this decision was taken in view of the suicide of several students. Vice Chancellor Prof. Lamawansa said after the psychoanalytical test, the students concerned would be provided treatment and open avenues for them to engage in extracurricular activities including sports and aesthetic activities.

## More than 800,000 mines removed since 2022, says demining organisation

"In the Muhamalai area alone, there were 369,015 live land mines, including those targeting vehicles. 111,193,280 live ammunition rounds had been removed according to statistics of the National Demining Centre of the Urban Development, Housing and Construction Ministry," he said. He said the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) had planned the de-mining project which is to

continue till 2027. He said the LTTE had buried landmines targeting mainly the Security Forces in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Ampara, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Districts and that the de-mining programme had been undertaken by the Sri Lankan Army and the SHARP organization with the help of several international organisations.

## FR filed against PUCSL for approving electricity tariff

• The Petitioners further state that the PUCSL and authorities have failed to provide any reasons or justifications for their decision to impose an unjust tariff hike

The Petitioners state that as per the proposed CEB Tariff Revision for 2023, with respect to domestic consumption,

the CEB in effect proposed that the low consumption users of electricity, who are typically from low-income households, ought to subsidize the high consumption users of electricity, who are typically from higher income households. The Petitioners state that to their utmost surprise the PUCSL had decided to accept and approve the CEB proposed Tariff Revision 2023 without any changes whatsoever, resulting in an overall tariff increase of over 66%. The Petitioners further state that

the PUCSL and authorities have failed to provide any reasons or justifications for their decision to impose an unjust tariff hike on low consumption users of electricity in the blocks of 0-30kWh, 31-60kWh and 61-90kWh. The Petitioners state that the right to access electricity is a basic and important human right which is interlinked with the fundamental right to life as recognized under our Constitution. This petition had been filed through Attorney-at-Law Manjula Balasuriya.

## AUSTRALIA WARNS ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

• Envoy asserts zero chance of illegal entry

Australia's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Paul Stephens, told Daily Mirror that both Sri Lanka and Australia continue to work together to curb people smuggling. A number of failed attempts were reported during the economic crisis with the Sri Lanka Navy managing to nab most of them. Stephens said that people smuggling has been an issue which has lasted for several years and is not new. He said that Australia is helping Sri Lanka in capacity building to deal with people smuggling. The Ambassador also noted that a strong campaign is being carried out in Sri Lanka where anyone attempting to migrate illegally to Australia are informed that they have "zero chance" of reaching Australia. "No boats from Sri Lanka have made it to Australia. No illegal entrants from Sri Lanka have made it to Australia," he said. Stephens also said that there is a system in place for anyone seeking refugee status in Australia through its humanitarian settlement programme and such applications will be assessed by the UN refugee agency.

## Govt. should resign and hold snap general elections: Cardinal

"Those who rule the country today have created a sorry state of affairs where the nation is concerned and therefore the MPs and the ministers representing the government should resign from their posts if they have a backbone and pave the way for the people to elect a new administration," Cardinal Ranjith said at a press conference. Further, Cardinal Ranjith called for action against MPs whom he alleged are engaged in belittling the Judicial authority. "Since no one has the authority to interfere in the decision of the Supreme Court, it is clear that the judgement given on March 3 2023 by the Supreme Court binds on the President, Government and Parliament in equal measure. So they need to follow the decision faithfully. Else they would be belittling the authority of the Supreme Court and undermine the basis of democracy," the Cardinal said. "It was reported that two Members of Parliament have spoken concerning the judgement given by the Supreme Court enforcing on the secretary, Ministry of Finance and Attorney General the allocation of funds that has been approved by Parliament for conducting local elections. The MPs have called this decision, a violation of their parliamentary privileges by Courts. This matter is to be viewed with great concern.

## OBITUARIES

**KADIRGAMAR - ALAGAN S.** (Retired Gen. Secretary of National Council and Colombo Y.M.C.A.). Beloved husband of late Aputharane (nee Abraham), dearest father of Damayanthi, Priyanthi and Shiranthi, dear father-in-law of late Rajan Selvadurai, Shantha Kulasingham and Ronnie Yogarajah, adored grandfather of Jehan, Rachel, Nisha, Sarah and Yuddheesh, was called to eternal glory on 12 March 2023. **Remains will lie at A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour on 14th March 2023 at 2.00 p.m. onwards. Funeral service will be held at the parlour on 15th March at 3.00 p.m. followed by cremation at 5.00 p.m. at the General Cemetery, Borella (Old Crematorium), 081269**

**WIKRAMANAYAKE - DR. NOEL INNOCENT (N.I.).** Beloved husband of late Rosemarie, loving father of Nedra, Nikita and Sidat, father-in-law of Veranja, Deepa and Thaxila, grandfather of Anuk and Tiffanic, Natasha, Noel, Michelle, Dinali and Ramona, great grandfather of Max and Maya. **Remains will lie for viewing from 8.00 a.m. on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour. Burial after Service at 4.00 p.m. at the General Cemetery, Borella (Anglican Section) on same day. 081184**

ONLINE OBITUARIES  
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries





# The UK celebrates Commonwealth Day To fashion fresh visions for uncertain future

The UK celebrated the Commonwealth Day yesterday, March 13, with an event being held at the Westminster Abbey in London with the largest annual multi-faith gathering. The UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office issued the following statement in view of the Commonwealth Day.



Commonwealth Day 2023 celebrations

Occasions like these afford us the unique opportunity to meet and speak in the extended company of old and valued friends. But they are much more than that. Commonwealth Day is a chance to address our most pressing issues. To consider new cures for common concerns. For us to fashion a fresh vision for an uncertain future.

2023 is a particularly special year for our Commonwealth. It is the 10th anniversary of the Commonwealth Charter. It sets out the values and aspirations of our close partnership. Values like peace, security, rule of law, good governance and sustainability. These principles must always be our priorities. They are more relevant now than ever before.

It is also the Commonwealth Year of Youth. Home to 1.4 billion young people, we should never forget that the destiny of the Commonwealth is dependent on the next generation. Let us think about what we want to bequeath them.

We have inherited a rich and significant legacy from the previous generation of leaders, including Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Our challenge today is to engage and empower future leaders. To inspire the young people who will one day sit in the seats we currently occupy. To provide them with an example of compassionate government and sensible administration. We are proud of our Commonwealth membership and committed to doing what we can to ensure that this formidable fellowship of friendly nations delivers real benefits to the 2.5 billion people living in its 56 member states.

The foundation of our friendship might be based on a complex history, but it is also based on a shared understanding – that we can help one another; that we can meaningfully improve the lives of people around the world, that sovereignty, democracy and freedom should and must be defended no matter the price.

## We recognise the particular challenges that climate change poses for small and vulnerable states, particularly islands close to sea level

We should never forget the incomparable makeup of this progressive organisation. It includes some of the world's largest and most prosperous economies, as well as some of the smallest and most aspirational. Our diversity of scale poses an excellent opportunity to address lingering economic imbalances; to protect our planet and enhance our chances for a sustainable future.

In an increasingly geopolitical world, where sovereignty is being challenged, the Commonwealth is a vital network of prospering free nations.

While there is a lot the Commonwealth, or any other multilateral organisation, can do to make a real difference, we believe we are at our most effective when we focus our efforts on a few essential aims.

Firstly, the Commonwealth has the potential to deliver more on democracy, good governance and the rule of law. We saw this last year when Commonwealth Law Ministers endorsed the first-ever set of Commonwealth Media Freedom Principles.

Secondly, we should use the chorus of our combined voices to advocate for urgent action on climate change and the protection of biodiversity and the natural environment. Commonwealth leaders highlighted this urgent need for action on climate change when they met in Kigali in 2022. Let us take it forward.

At COP27, the global community agreed to new measures that build on the Glasgow Climate Pact. And, in Montreal, we saw the historic agreement of a new global biodiversity

It is also the Commonwealth Year of Youth. Home to 1.4 billion young people, we should never forget that the destiny of the Commonwealth is dependent on the next generation

believes that the Commonwealth can play a larger role by supporting developing members in attracting more investment during this economically turbulent time.

Achieving progress in these priority areas of values, climate, trade and investment won't be easy. It will require member states to ensure the institutions of the Commonwealth are driving the agenda forward, and focussing on actions and programmes that deliver real impact and positive change.

We look forward to discussing these issues with our fellow Commonwealth Foreign Ministers this week when we all meet in London.

By the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office

framework. We now need to fully implement those commitments and to go further and faster in this critical decade. We believe the Commonwealth can and should be at the epicentre of this unfolding agenda.

We recognise the particular challenges that climate change poses for small and vulnerable states, particularly islands close to sea level. We continue to advocate in multilateral forums and International Financial Institutions for enhanced access to finance and support.

Lastly, we must boost trade and investment between Commonwealth countries. The UK



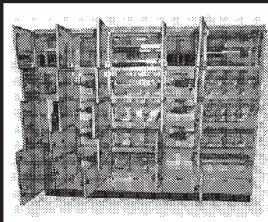
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### TENDER NOTICE

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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

**Tender for obtaining Human Resources for the Contact Center of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka**

Tender Number	05/03/003/0034/002	
Tender Description	Tender for obtaining human resources for the Contact Center of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on outsourced basis	
Virtual Pre-bid Meeting	Date : 20.03.2023	Time : 1030 hrs.
Bid Closing and Opening	Date : 27.03.2023	Time : 1400 hrs.
For further Information	Please refer <a href="https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders">https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders</a>	
	Senior Assistant Director Financial Consumer Relations Department 0112-477913 or 0112-477917	Senior Assistant Director Human Resources Department 011-2477232

Director, Human Resources Department,  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

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# EDITORIAL

*"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."*  
-WARREN BENNIS

OUR THOUGHT

## WHITHER GOEST OUR TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Major trade unions, student unions and a number of political parties are up in arms over the recently revised income tax structure of the country. Under the proposed tax revision, persons drawing up to Rs.100,000 do not pay taxes. Those receiving up to Rs. 141,667 pay approximately Rs. 2,500 (6%) per month. Persons receiving an income up to 266,667 are subject to a 24% tax amounting to Rs. 25,000/- per month and only those receiving over Rs. 750,000/- per month are subject to a 36% or Rs. 196,500/- monthly income tax.

Government receives revenue for its expenditure, via income tax, which forms the backbone of government income, which keep the wheels of the economy turning over smoothly.

Subsidies which the people of our country have enjoyed since independence such as 'free education', 'free medication' via state hospitals, clinics etc, subsidies on fertilizer etc will no longer be possible if revenue drops. In the aftermath of the collapse of our economy and default on international debt repayment, increased taxes are inevitable via IMF demands. The alternative will be to raise taxes via indirect taxation, which will mean the ordinary man and women in the country will have to bear this burden.

A long time ago there lived in Germany a man named Karl Marx who wrote a book titled 'Das Kapital' - a critique of the political economy. Marx believed that strikes unified the working class, that they were a manifestation of class struggle and directly undermined elite members of society.

By a strange quirk of fate, in this country we are now seeing a twist in working class struggles. Today, the average income earner in a family of four (which comprises over 50% of the population) does not exceed Rs. 70,000/- per month. This bracket therefore is untouched by the revised income tax policy.

The groups leading the struggle against the tax revision are the university students, professional groups such as doctors, engineers plus port workers, electricity board workers and school teachers.

Other than professional groups such as doctors who are holding helpless patients to ransom, and engineers, the other groups who are demanding a lowering of the new income tax regime are not touched by the revised tax plan.

The most vociferous group demand an income tax revision however, are students of the state universities, who reap the benefits of our 'free education'. Yet this 'free education' is paid for by the state via taxes paid by ordinary citizens of this country.

Figures published by the University Grants Commission, show, government expenditure on University Education in 2021 stood at a whopping Rs. 25,000,000,000 or Rs. 25 billion! Government expenditure on education as a whole stands at Rs.154.9 billion plus (University Grants Commission SL 2021).

Our 'free health service' too comes at a cost. According to the World Health Organization's Global Health Expenditure database 4.8% of our GDP was spent on our health sector. These services which we take as 'free' are in fact paid by the state mainly from revenues gained from taxes both direct and indirect.

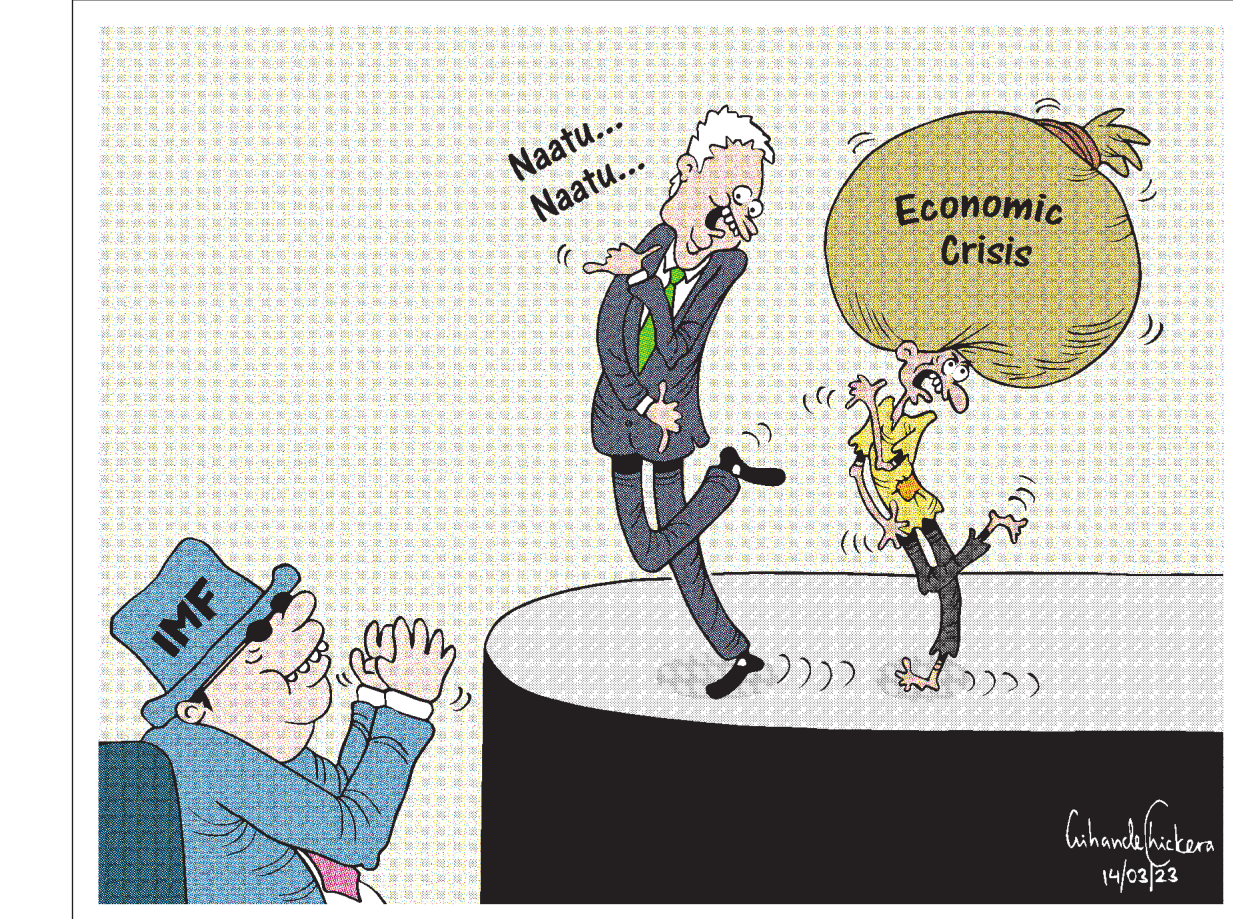
The question which arises is why university students who are direct beneficiaries of 'free education' demand taxes be lowered? Are they in fact demanding government cut back in services to higher education? Are they calling for a scrapping of state-funded university education system? Would the now prominent university student leader be able to continue his seemingly endless period of higher education had he or his family had to pay for it?

At college level, if a student fails his 'A' level exam thrice, he has to leave school. Yet a present university student leader - now nearing his forties, and who probably has more cases pending than many a briefless lawyer - is still milking the system which continues to provide him a 'free education'. He too is demanding a lowering of taxes for the super-rich of this country, whose taxes play a role in his continued 'free education'.

Lanka has many firsts worldwide. We elected the world's first prime minister and now we have another first. Our trade unions are calling for a strike on March 15 to protect the rights of the capitalist class.

In the UK and in the US, the Labour Party and the Democratic Party campaign to raise taxes. It is the Conservatives and Republicans who call for a reduction in taxes.

Its time our trade unions recognise with whom their loyalties lie - with workers or capitalists?



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

# WHEN STRIKERS TAKE GOVT. HOSTAGE, THE STATE UNRAVELS

The President should not let that happen

By **Ranga Jayasuriya**

Sri Lankans often draw the comparison to Singapore or South Korea and lament why their country could not replicate the economic success of the other. That is a misplaced comparison, for they generally pick and choose a few Asian Tiger economies, which were rather an exception, not the norm in the recent history of international political economy. However, there is no argument that independent Sri Lanka has seen needless chaos and bloodshed. That is not to say other states did not; Chiang Kai-shek's white terror to subdue communism killed easily half a million. Suharto turned Bali into a prison camp and was responsible for two million deaths. But in retrospect, considering the long period of political stability that followed, such use of terror, no matter how monstrous, could even be termed utilitarian.

Whereas Sri Lanka has seen repeated outbursts of insurgency and terrorism, which were then pacified, often too late, at a tremendous cost of lives. Why was that? What were those particular grievances that the Southern youth had to wage an abortive leftist revolution to oust the most socialist government of the country in 1971?

Why so strong a sense of despondency in a country that has provided universal health care, free education and, until 1977, a ration of subsidized rice? The lack of land ownership was identified in the post-mortem of 1971 as a main grievance. That led the government at the time to one of the most far-reaching land reforms in the world, under a prime minister from one of the largest land-owning families in the country, who lost most due to the reforms. Such selfless dedication is also a rarity in politics. Feudalism in Pakistani politics and entrenched inequality in society, and, in part, the state's inability to reform is largely routed in its land-owning families.

However, land reforms did not prevent another nihilistic uprising in the South a decade or so later.

Also, what were those specific grievances that the Sri Lankan Tamils had, that their Malaysian counterpart did not? That was despite the fact that the first commander of the Navy was a Tamil, and in 1983, when the Tamil political leadership was backing a nascent separatist insurgency, the Attorney General, IGP and one-third of the bureaucracy were Tamil. Neither Malaysia nor Singapore ever had a non-Malay or non-Chinese service chief and are unlikely to have one, given how ethnic roles are defined.

It was not about grievances per se. Sri Lanka plunged into repeated chaos, not because it wronged any community. It was because, from the very outset of independence, it has always been a weak state.

From **Dudley Senanayake**, who resigned



Several trade unions threaten to paralyse the country if the government does not heed to their demand to abolish new taxation, lower the spiralling CoL, privatisation etc.

**President Ranil Wickremesinghe should not let that happen. He should use powers in his office and all available measures of state power to nip the nihilistic and self-seeking strike in its bud**

heartbroken when a handful of rioters were killed in a police shooting during the 1953 Hartal, and SWRD Bandaranaike who tore a modest resolution to the ethnic demands, under threat of marauding Buddhist monks, Sri Lanka had been governed by a set of politicians who were manifestly lacking political will. They might have been incorruptible gentlemen, but they lacked that 'iron' in them to rule a new state. They were mere passengers who rode in the gravy chain, not the statesmen Sri Lanka deserved at the time. Again, the idea of a statesman is country and time specific. Probably, Augusto Pinochet is a greater statesman than his benign but incompetent peers.

Weak and indecisive political leaders at the helm worsened another particular ailment that was not unique to Sri Lanka. As Samuel Huntington aptly observed then, the extent of political and social empowerment of these new states overwhelmed their stillborn institutions because institutional empowerment was lagging behind mass empowerment. This, in effect, created a vacuum filled by charlatans who promised the sun and the moon and demagogues who harped on inflated and concocted grievances.

A strong political leadership should have provided a stabilizing effect by using the institutions to navigate these contradictions. That did not happen in Sri Lanka until it was too late. Both northern Tamil political elites and Southern Marxists of the JVP exploited this vacuum. The rest is history.

Today, Sri Lanka is facing a no less nihilistic attack at its weakest moment. A host of government trade unions have threatened an indefinite strike from March 15 unless the government revokes the income tax reforms. This is a catch-22 situation. Should it walk back on the tax reforms, it would seriously undermine the confidence of the creditors, and the IMF, which earlier demanded that the tax threshold be lowered to Rs.45,000 a month.

The Rupee has soared against the US Dollar in the hope of an impending IMF

extended funding facility, which will be presented for board approval on March 20. An abrupt change to the tax policy by the government would not only negatively reflect its commitment to stick to the agreed reform agenda but also lead to further delay on a financial lifeline.

Should that happen, the country's economic freefall, stabilized during the last few months, would resume again.

On the other hand, the government's refusal to cave into the trade union demands would plunge the country into a full-blown strike in the coming weeks, if not days. That would bring the government hospitals, ports, electricity and water supply, transport, postal, and schools, among others, to a grinding halt. The public would be greatly inconvenienced, and hospital services would be crippled, threatening many lives. The entire country would come to a standstill, delivering a fatal blow to the economy in a life-support system.

This still would not be the end, but the beginning of an end. The collapse of the public service would be the prelude to the return of anarchy.

A government devoid of decisive action would condemn the nation to a period of heightened uncertainty, instability and an economic free fall. Public discontent and a vacuum of decisive political leadership would be exploited by the fringe groups, including some of the fellow travellers of Aragalaya, Peratugamis, and everyday charlatans. At worst, this could lead to state capture. Though that is a long shot, and Sri Lanka's coercive organs are effective enough to spoil any such attempt, the disruption and chaos this bout of anarchy would unleash would damage Sri Lanka beyond repair.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe should not let that happen. He should use powers in his office and all available measures of state power to nip the nihilistic and self-seeking strike in its bud.

In the first place, an industrious government should be able to divert the public anger of the mass inconvenience to the perpetrators themselves. That should be the prelude to other measures that should follow. However, this government has proved incompetent in messaging the public; its opponents have also exploited the failure. Any disruption of essential services, which have already been gazetted, should be dealt with under the law, including asset seizures and prison sentences. The military should be mobilized to run the operations at the ports and other essential services and, where needed to maintain public order.

If it comes to the crunch, and the government's deficit of political legitimacy is holding it back, appoint the chief of defence staff as the competent authority to run the essential services. Sri Lanka does not have a history of military takeovers. Instead, it has been ravaged by terrorists and extremists in the North and South three times. This should not be opening for another such eventuality.

Sri Lanka needs a political leadership that can act decisively. If the President fails, he does not deserve to be in office.

Follow @RangaJayasuriya on Twitter

## 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?

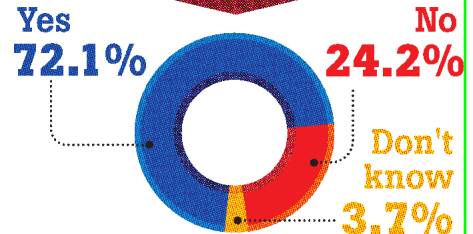
- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



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## LAST POLL

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



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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FM under pressure for appointing politicians' relatives?

Your above captioned, bold lettered in RED, news item gives a very poor image of our foreign service, which once was considered the best as no interferences were brought to bear on the selection after holding examinations and viva voces. Some of these officers and others appointed by the State, were held in high esteem and recognized by United Nations Organization. With political interferences and appointing friends, relatives of politicians the standard fell far short to a point of ridicule and one such case was reported in the Sunday Times recently under the heading INGOs KEEP MOHAN PEIRIS OUT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSIONS where it says 'The international Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) led by Yasmin Sooka led the campaign against Ambassador Peiris detailing his previous track record as an Attorney General and Chief Justice, saying he should not be framing international law at the UN. The outfit alleged Mr. Peiris is compromised by his failure to hold accountable the perpetrators of enforced disappearance, execution, torture and rape during his tenure as the country's chief law officer'

Our country which was once internationally recognized has today, fallen into impoverished state that we have to go on bent knees before other countries and international organizations for help. Will the Aragalaya remedy this malady and bring about a System Change which is their main slogan. Hope for the best and prepare for the worst!

GARDIAS

## New trend in protests

We saw on TV how a few dozen people of the area staged a very quiet peaceful and effective protest in their village when a Minister and a state minister came for an opening ceremony of a building which has been already opened and even given on rent to another party to conduct operations.

Why do we need huge rallies of multitude of protesters coming to Colombo to be confronted by police and army causing injury to both side including deaths sometimes? We think that protest rallies at the village level will be the latest trend in rallies which look more powerful as we saw on TV screen few days ago where peoples representatives had to retrieve in shame while protesters sent a strong message to the government through the video footages with proof of failures of government.

No disturbance to the peace, no disturbance to routine travel of public, no expenditure to the government on water bowsers and tear gas, no expenditure to political parties on transport, rice packets and home made brews. Very peaceful and highly effective action. Every village has issues so best is local way of handling.

-SUMITH DE SILVA

## Allow liquor sales for foreigners on Poya days- Diana

### WEB COMMENTS

- AN EDUCATED PERSON** - One cannot force one's religious, cultural beliefs on another. Whether it's poya day, or any other day, liquor should be available. Those who don't want to buy, need not buy. Be educative enough to run your life.
- VJ** - Why not? If the country is dependent on tourism, we cannot impose restrictions on our visitors which are applicable to locals. Even the locals buy and stock the day before the poya day.

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

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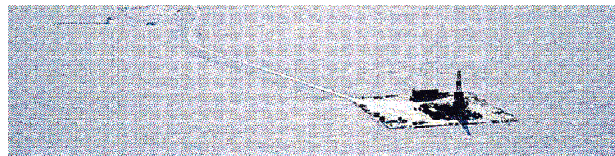


## BIDEN ADMINISTRATION GREENLIGHTS CONTROVERSIAL WILLOW OIL PROJECT IN ALASKA

The Biden administration is approving a scaled-back version of ConocoPhillips' COPN \$7 billion oil and gas drilling project in Alaska, the US Department of Interior said on Monday.

The decision comes despite an aggressive eleventh-hour campaign from opponents who say the development of the three drill sites in northwestern Alaska conflicts with Biden's highly publicized efforts to fight climate change and rapidly shift to cleaner sources of energy.

The fate of the project has been closely watched by Alaska officials, the oil and gas industry and green groups as President Joe Biden seeks to balance his goals of decarbonizing the US economy with calls



This 2019 aerial photo provided by ConocoPhillips shows an exploratory drilling camp at the proposed site of the Willow oil project on Alaska's North Slope.

to increase domestic fuel supplies to keep prices low. ConocoPhillips had sought to build up to five drill sites, dozens of miles of roads, seven bridges and pipelines.

The Interior Department approved the project with three drill pads after saying last month that it was concerned about the greenhouse gas impacts of Willow.

Its Bureau of Land Management last month recommended a "preferred alternative" that includes three drill sites and less surface infrastructure than originally proposed.

The department on Monday said it reduced the size of ConocoPhillips' proposal by 40% by denying two requested drill pads that would reduce the project's freshwater use and prevent the development of 11 miles of roads, 20 miles of pipelines, and 133 acres of gravel.

ConocoPhillips and Alaska elected officials endorsed that version of the project, which the agency has said would reduce the impact on habitats for species like polar bears and yellow-billed loons.

AFP.COM, 13 MARCH, 2023-

## Xi Jinping to speak with Zelensky: WSJ

RT.COM, 13 MARCH, 2023- Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to speak with his Ukrainian counterpart, Vladimir Zelensky, for the first time since the beginning of the ongoing conflict between Moscow and Kiev, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

The "virtual meeting" with Zelensky will likely happen after Xi's visit to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which is expected to take place as early as next week,

the outlet noted. His upcoming visit to Russia, which was also confirmed by Reuters earlier in the day, is set to become Xi's first foreign trip since he secured an unprecedented third term as China's leader.

The potential negotiations are expected to further advance Beijing's efforts to become a mediator in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has been dragging on for over a year.

In late February, China unveiled its own 12-point roadmap to pave the way towards peace in Ukraine. Beijing has called on

**The potential negotiations are expected to further advance Beijing's efforts to become a mediator in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine**

the international community to encourage efforts to resolve the situation peacefully and urged both sides of the conflict to "stay rational and exercise restraint."

## Hundreds of troops killed in battle for Bakhmut city

AFP.COM, 13 MARCH, 2023- Ukraine and Russia have claimed that hundreds of enemy troops were killed over the previous 24 hours in the fight for Bakhmut, with Kyiv fending off unabating attacks and a small river that bisects the city now marking the new front line.

Serhiy Cherevatyi, a Ukrainian military spokesperson, said that 221 pro-Moscow troops were killed and more than 300 wounded in Bakhmut. Russia's defence ministry said that up to 210 Ukrainian soldiers were killed



Soldiers of the Ukrainian Volunteer Army hold their positions at the front line near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, on March 11, 2023, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine (AFP)

in the broader Donetsk part of the frontline.

While Moscow did not specify Bakhmut casualties, the eastern Donetsk town, now

nearly deserted, has been the site of one of the bloodiest and longest battles of the year-long war.

## TENDER NOTICE



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CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

### Tender for obtaining the service of seven (07) Software Developers to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

<b>Tender Number</b>	05/03/003/0030/002	
<b>Tender Description</b>	Tender for obtaining the service of seven (07) Software Developers to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on outsourced basis	
<b>Virtual Pre-bid Meeting</b>	<b>Date :</b> 27.03.2023	<b>Time :</b> 1030 hrs.
<b>Bid Closing and Opening</b>	<b>Date :</b> 03.04.2023	<b>Time :</b> 1430 hrs.
<b>For further Information</b>	Senior Assistant Director Information Technology Department 011-239 8617	Senior Assistant Director Human Resources Department 011-2477232

Director, Human Resources Department,  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

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CONVENING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KANDY SOCIETY OF MEDICINE (GUARANTEE) LIMITED (KSM)

Dear Valued Members,

Notice is hereby giving that the Annual General Meeting of the Kandy Society of Medicine (Guarantee) Limited will be held at the "Hotel Grand Kandy", 89/10, Lady Gordon's Drive, Kandy, Sri Lanka on Saturday 08th day of April 2023 at 05.00 PM onwards mainly for the following purposes;

- To receive, examine and discuss of the Financial Statement for the Last year
- Conducting routine business of the company
- Appointment on new Board of Directors
- Presidential Induction
- Appointment of Auditors
- Proposals to the changes to the following paragraphs of the Articles of Associations

a) Section IV (Membership and Classification of Members) Articles 5 through to 8  
b) Section IX (Council) Article 37

The full list of items tabled for discussion has been emailed to all members on 09th March 2023

Please note:

Only members of the KSM will be allowed to attend the meeting except for specially invited guest of the Board. Members must be of good standing to register and participate in the meeting.

By order of the Board Joint Secretaries,  
Kandy Society of Medicine (Guarantee) Limited

Kindly RSVP before April 02nd, 2023 for catering purpose via:

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## CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) | EXTENDED WITH REVISION TEST - BACK OF THE JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS FOR IRELAND MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023 AND PAKISTAN MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023



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

- Ireland Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - Two (2) Test Matches  
Scheduled to be played during 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2023  
and
- Pakistan Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - Two (2) Test Matches  
Scheduled to be played during 13<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023

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

### GRANT OF RIGHTS:

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

- Game Day Jersey | Back of the Jersey Position - Size not exceeding 32 SQ Inches (206.45 cm<sup>2</sup>)

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

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

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

### EOI SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

The EOI along with **financial offer and brand name/logo** qualifying the above mentioned criteria, which will be depicted in the game day clothing must be submitted to the Sri Lanka Cricket Headquarters at No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka **on or before 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 - 3PM (Sri Lankan Time)** ['Deadline'] and should be in a sealed envelope addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket.

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

### THE EOI NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

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

### FINANCIAL PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT TERMS:

- Financial proposal should state the figure of the Net Rights Fee offered in Sri Lankan Rupees and/or US Dollars (in words and numbers) excluding of VAT/Tax/any other deductions depending on local or foreign EOI Participant.
- The following payment structure will apply in respect of the rights to be granted and rights fee thereto shall be payable by the successful EOI participant to SLC in the following manner:
  - The total Rights Fee (i.e. the Offered Value) should be paid in full on or before **30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
  - The Mode of Payment: Bank transfer to the SLC Designated Account / Bank Draft issued in favor of SLC.

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

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET



# FEATURES

By **Dinuli Francisco**

# A DOCTOR WHO WENT BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

**She couldn't swallow due to the narrowing of the gullet following an attempt at suicide by swallowing Acetic acid**

In the Book of Psalms, lines 107:14 says, "He brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds asunder," which reminds this writer of Dr. Gamini Goonetilleke. The Daily Mirror met this person - a surgeon - and there was much he had to say during his interview with us. Dr. Goonetilleke is a person who values his patients more than anything else. He sat with us during one evening and he walked us through one of his thought-provoking and nerve-racking experiences as a surgeon. Lalitha, his patient, was in a desperate situation where she had swallowed food with difficulty for eight years. If not for this doctor she might have suffered her entire life.

Lalitha is a 29-year-old spinster, the only child in the family living with her mother Somawathie, who is a rubber tapper earning a daily wage. Following an argument, Lalitha attempted suicide by swallowing Acetic acid (referred to as rubber acid by those in that occupation and usually kept in their homes. It is used to coagulate latex). This life-threatening incident took place in May 1990 at their home in Ingiriya. She collapsed with acute chest pains and was rushed to the nearby District Hospital.

Following initial treatment she was sent to a hospital with better facilities; located farther away. There she spent the next two months with her mother by her side. She couldn't swallow at that point, therefore, a general hospital's thoracic

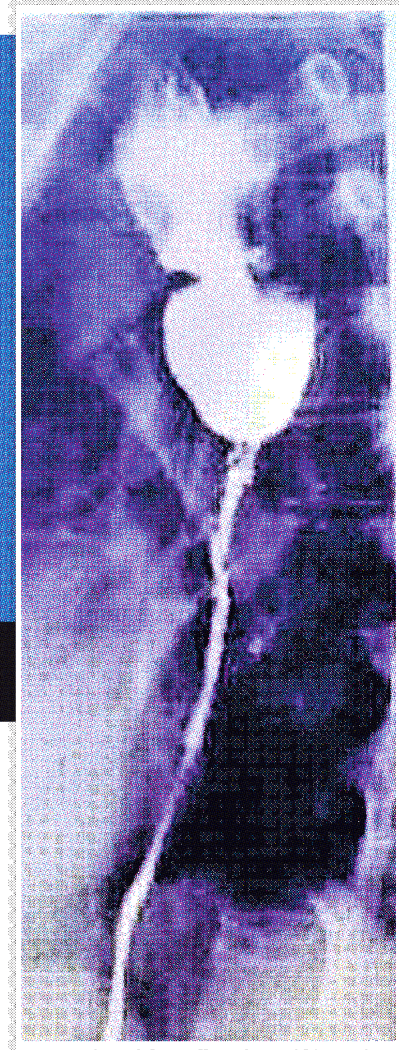
unit was recommended to her. Her gullet had narrowed and strictured, according to the diagnosis. Lalitha said that efforts had been made on 48 occasions to widen the constricted gullet, so that she could swallow during meals. Talking about surgery, this operation is known as oesophagoscopy and oesophageal dilatation (gullet), according to Dr Gamini. "I remember that she had to endure general anesthesia each time, and the treatment took place over the course of eight years. Every time she had some symptom alleviation it never amounted to a full resolution of her issue. When she was sent to my Unit

at the Sri Jayewardenapura General Hospital (SJGH) from that hospital and I first saw her it was October 1998. The patient was 37 years old then. When she was admitted to the ward her physique was withering and she appeared sick. The biggest issue Lalitha faced was that she had trouble in swallowing and could only consume liquids, and even then, just a trickle at a time. She was slowly, but steadily losing body mass, which was a very pitiful scenario," he recalled.

This writer questioned Dr. Goonetilleke in order to get him to explore and explain the scenario in much simpler terms. Acetic acid burns the gullet when it is swallowed (the passage that takes food from the throat to the stomach). The immediate aftermath includes shock and severe chest discomfort. The gullet eventually narrows after the initial burn lesion heals as a result of the scar tissue contracting. It becomes challenging to swallow food and liquids due to the constriction of the gullet. If extensive reconstructive surgery is not performed to remove the burned gullet and replace it with another section of the gullet that wouldn't allow her to take food in a satisfying manner. This condition may eventually bring death to the patient due to dehydration, anemia, and starvation," he explained.

"The typical path was entirely obstructed, making it unthinkable to control Lalitha by feeding her with healthy food. Even when attempting to insert a tube (a nasogastric tube) through her nose and into her stomach the procedure proved to be too much of a challenge. As a result, we needed to find another solution. A short surgical operation was performed on her, during which a tube was placed into a small intestinal loop. It's known as a Jejunostomy.

**The typical path was entirely obstructed, making it unthinkable to control Lalitha by feeding her with healthy food. Even when attempting to insert a tube (a nasogastric tube) through her nose and into her stomach the procedure proved to be too much of a challenge. As a result, we needed to find another solution," - Dr. Goonetilleke**



Narrowing of the 'gullet' after acid ingestion

It was following that episode that Dr. Goonetilleke reappears in her life. Dr. Goonetilleke with a radiant smile said, "To my surprise she appeared at the clinic one-day carrying baby Kumuditha. "She was well, but the reason for her visiting the clinic was to obtain some financial assistance from me to buy milk for her baby boy and some vitamins for her. Lalitha used to visit my clinic whenever she was in a desperate financial need. Chatupala had no permanent job and used to earn Rs 300 a day on and off. That was barely sufficient for their sustenance; especially with the couple having to nurture a small child," he said.

Dr. Goonetilleke retired from service in October 2014 and afterwards she couldn't find him at the clinic anymore. Lalitha had lost all hopes in life although she managed to survive in order to bring up her son.

"Three years later Lalitha returned to the SJGH ward where she had received treatment in a desperate attempt to seek help. The workers knew Lalitha well, and she got my phone number from one of them. Lalitha was able to get in touch with me once again as a result. I realised that those calls were coming to me from the Almighty up there and could not be ignored," the doctor said humbly.

Dr. Goonetilleke said that he had visited her residence in Handapangoda on the Meepe- Ingiriya road; which is about 40 km from the heart of Colombo. "It was a sad plight at first sight. In fact, the construction of the house was incomplete, and the inside was so dark resembling a dungeon. They were certainly living in darkness. I spoke with them regarding their problems. They were faced with plenty of problems and all of them were connected to poverty and the lack of a regular income," the doctor said.

Dr. Goonetilleke with the help of his friends and other donors has done a tremendous meritorious job to improve the lives of Lalitha's family.

Lalitha, with tears in her eyes, said that all the requirements for her son are fulfilled by Dr. Goonetilleke. She said that the doctor had bought all the equipment that was needed by Kumuditha to pursue online education during the COVID pandemic.

Lalitha and her son used to walk two Km daily to reach the main road to get a bus to school. A school van was arranged to take the boy to school. Additional classes in English, Mathematics and Information Technology were also arranged so that Kumuditha would receive a sound education. Every month Lalitha receives Rs 15,000 and on some months sometimes more to cover their daily expenses, including the purchasing of medicines.

Dr. Goonetilleke, being pensive for a moment, said "After each telephone conversation the parting words are "Sir we are happy now, May God Bless you and your family. When are you coming to see us again".



Dr Gamini Goonetilleke (Right) with Lalitha (Left) and her family



## REBOOTING MANAGEMENT

REIMAGINE AND REDESIGN

10<sup>th</sup> International Management Conference

Inauguration - (9.00 am - 10.30 am)

 <b>Chief Guest Speech</b> Patron of CPM Sri Lanka and Former Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka	 <b>Keynote Speech</b> Courageous Organizations: The Role of the Leader and the Team in Creating Psychological Safety Prof. Neharika Vohra Professor of Organizational Behaviour, IIM Ahmedabad, India	 <b>Welcome Speech</b> Founder and President of CPM Sri Lanka	 <b>Closing Remarks</b> 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

 <b>Session Chairman and Moderator</b> Head of Marketing, Digital & Integrated Media of Wijaya Newspapers Ltd.	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Speakers</p>  Director of Economic Research Department, Central Bank SL	 Vice President/ Head of Freight Forwarding, GLT Freight, Saudi Arabia	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Panelists</p>  Chairman, Sri Lanka Standard Institution Senior Faculty of PIM, University of Sri Japura	 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

 <b>Session Chairman and Moderator</b> Founder, SL SME and Visiting Faculty of PIM, University of Japura	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Panelists</p>  Director, Nutrinovate Australia	 Director/Chief Marketing Officer, POTENZA NZ, New Zealand Executive Director- People & Brand at LAUGPS Holdings Pvt Ltd	 Managing Director, Ceylon Oxygen Ltd.	 Director Mastercard Sri Lanka
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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

  
 Chairman & Chief Executive of Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Venue: Galadari Hotel, Colombo

16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

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/-

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## WHY HASN'T ANY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED EHELEPOLA KUMARIHAMY?

By **L.B.Senarathne**

**It is said that Ehelepolo Kumarihamy took the pounder in her hand and laid it on the mortar to avoid the shame of being handed over to a 'Gahalaya'**

Having waited two weeks for anyone to give life to Ehelepolo Kumarihamy, the Menike of Ehelepolo Maha Adikaram who sacrificed her life, her children and above all the Charter of womanhood, for the sake of her husband and the country, has been forgotten by our women's organizations and also by the political authorities.

Ehelepolo Kumarihamy is a Martyr and undoubtedly the icon of Sri Lankan womanhood.

Is it because, she knew no English nor hobnobbed with people with foreign influence and that's why our women's organizations have forgotten Ehelepolo Kumarihamy. She was the wife of Ehelepolo, the First Adigar of the 6th Century Kandyana Kingdom.

Ehelepolo Kumarihamy was considered the most beautiful woman in the Court of Kandy, surpassing Subamma, the mother of Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe. She was the sister of Maha Adikaram Keppetipola and wife of Disava Ehelepolo. Subamma arrived in the Kandyana Kingdom with the nine-year-old Kannaswamy, the usurper to the Kandyana Throne, who became Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe. She was considered as the most beautiful woman in the Kandyana territory. This would have been the reason for Piliमतatawa fostering her and bringing up Kannaswamy, later to be elevated to the throne against the wishes of the Court.

Ehelepolo Kumarihamy, rejected the advances of King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe and in fact 'slapped' the King for entering her residence one night, after the King sent Maha Adikaram as the Dissava of Sabaragamuwa out on an official assignment. This was done by purpose so that he could visit the Kumarihamy. It so happens that the front door of



Ehelepolo Kumarihamy

the Palace offers a view to the house of Ehelepolo; down Raja Veediya (even presently). It is said that in the mornings Ehelepolo Kumarihamy - after a bath wearing Jasmine flowers around her neck - used to sit on the upstairs of the house. The King could see her from his palace doorway. This is how the King desired for here and got slapped when she visited the home of Ehelepolo Kumarihamy in the night.

One could opine that King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe 'bent the law' (bending the law has its disastrous consequences) for his own ends against the advice of one of his confidantes in Court; Tennakoon Rajapakse Mudiyansele Punchi Banda. He said that the law didn't permit children to be pounded. But Molligoda, who had an axe to grind with Ehelepolo, read out the order of the King. It is a known fact that the King by this time was a drunkard and whether he really understood Molligoda is questionable.

It was said by British observers at the time that Ehelepolo Kumarihamy only took the pounder in her hand and laid it on the mortar. She did this in order to avoid the shame that she

would be handed over to a 'Gahalaya' (a low-caste person).

Charles Pridham in his book 'A historical, political and statistical account of Ceylon and its dependencies' (Volumes London 1849, pp. 185 - 186) states "Palipane Disawa witnessing the drowning of Ehelepolo Kumarihamy and her female relative in the Bogambara Tank was so affected that he fainted and was deprived of his office for showing such tender sensibility".

He further records, during the two days, the whole of Kandy, with the exception of the court of Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe, was one of mourning. So deep was his grief that not a fire was kindled, nor food dressed and a general fast was held. "This is a clear manifestation to the popularity of Ehelepolo Maha Adikaram and Kandyans never reckoned Ehelepolo as a traitor. By placing Kannaswamy on the throne, he had other motives and thought young Kannaswamy, who was 18-years-old, could be used as a pawn in his hands. However he was beheaded due to a flimsy suspicion. It is in this background that events took a turn in the Kandyana Court.

Punchi Banda the man who advised the King as his confidante was banished from the inner city. He lived outside in the outer city. The correct place where Ehelepolo's children were beheaded and where the severed heads of her children were to be pounded were in the centre of the area between the Maha Vahalkada of Natha Devale and the flight of steps leading to the Maha Devala or popularly known as Vishnu Devale. This is known as "Deva Sanihinda". The King sat at the doorway of the Palace and witnessed the barbaric massacre of innocent women and children. The incident did not take place at the Maha Maluwa as many writers portray.



## Under 19 Cricket

## ANJALA, RASHMIKA, KAVINDU SLAM TONS

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

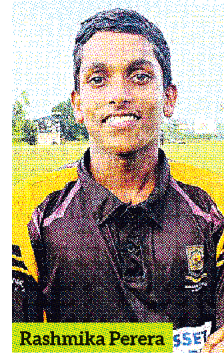
The Mahanama College Colombo trio of Anjala Bandara, Rashmika Perera and Kavindu Amameth slammed tons in their first innings win against Prince of Wales College in the Under 19 inter-school cricket encounter played at Mattegoda.

Bandara hit a run-a-ball knock of 138 inclusive of 11 boundaries and two sixes

while Perera made 117 with 15 boundaries and the pair shared a massive stand of 206 runs for the seventh wicket in Mahanama's first innings.

Amameth cracked a quick fire 96 balls knock of 129 which had four boundaries and nine sixes in Mahanama's second innings.

Meanwhile, an all-round performance by Deneth Prasanga who made 175 in only 140 balls which had 20 boundaries



Rashmika Perera



Anjala Bandara

and eight sixes and ended with a match bag of nine wickets helped St. John's College Panadura to record an easy first innings win over P. de S. Kularatne MV Ambalangoda.

Tissa Central Kalutara along with Maris Stella Thimbrigaskatuwa and Henegama Central recorded comfortable first innings wins over Piliyandala Central, Sandalankawa Central and Christ King College Ja-ela.

## RESULTS

**At Mattegoda - First innings win for Mahanama Mahanama Colombo** 457 (Anjala Bandara 138, Rashmika Perera 117, Kavindu Amameth 62, Koojana Perera 59, Banula Algawatte 36, Omesh Udara 32, Inuka Karannagoda 17; Prince Fernando 7 for 113, Tharindu Amarasinghe 2 for 68) **and 284 for 7** (Kavindu Amameth 129, Sachira Weluwatta 75, Anjala Bandara 50; Achala Perera 3 for 29, Nethul Anuhas 2 for 32)

**Prince of Wales** 186 (Uneth Peiris 50, Sumalka Fernando 50, Omesh Mendis 29, Rivith Jayasuriya 20, Achala Perera 17; Inuka Karannagoda 4 for 40, Viranga Yeshan 2 for 9, Koojana Perera 2 for 30)

**At Panadura - First inning win for St. John's St. John's Panadura** 318 (Deneth Prasanga 175, Shehan Medis 71, Gimhan Wijesekera 19; Lasheen Vanidu 3 for 80, Shakila Hansika 2 for 51, Hirusha Dewmika 2 for 73) **and 221 for 8 declared** (Deneth Prasanga 70, Yasiru Sandeepa 36, Geethma Himasara 29, Sudarshana Fernando 27, Mansara de Silva 34 n.o.; Shakila Hansika 5 for 88, Dhanushka Madusanka 2 for 55)

**P. de S. Kularatne MV Ambalangoda** 122 (Hirusha Dewmika 22, Matheesha Dulanjana 18, Shavindu Akash 16; Deneth Prasanga 6 for

31, Gimhan Wijesekera 3 for 33) **and 175 for 6** (Sasindu Kaushan 29, Dhanushka Madusanka 28, Hirusha Dewmika 18, Matheesha Dulanjana 16, Janidu Chamika 25 n.o., Akila Chaturanga 18 n.o.; Deneth Prasanga 3 for 69, Charinu Javith 2 for 17)

**At Kalutara - First innings win for Tissa Central**

**Piliyandala Central** 248 (Sethika Dilmith 105, Ashen Rodrigo 52, Ashan Thatthara 28, Thiwanka Sandaras 27, Kavindu Thatthara 3 for 60, Malinda Dilshan 2 for 21, Chanketh Mihisara 2 for 42) **and 161 for 5** (Sethika Dilmith 92, Tharusha Dilhara 29; Malindu Dilshan 2 for 36)

**Tissa Central Kalutara** 327 (Thenushka Ashen 122, Hirusha Nethsara 89, Nadun Adela 37, Malsa Kavishan 21, Minusha Malith 19; Ashan Thatthara 6 for 78, Shamal Vibashana 2 for 39)

**At Thimbrigaskatuwa - First innings win for Maris Stella**

**Maris Stella Thimbrigaskatuwa** 365 for 9 declared (Heshan Perera 101, Eshan Fernando 89, Nethula Yapa 86, Sandeesh Perera 33, Sathsara Agalla 29; Yohan Aloka 6 for 132, Uvindu Punsara 2 for 104) **and 356 for 8 declared** (Heshan Perera 103, Eshan Fernando 80, Nimsara Appuhamy 60,

Chamodh Santhisa 23, Sandeesh Perera 51 n.o.; Yohan Aloka 5 for 133)

**Sandalankawa Central** 175 (Yohan Aloka 93, Uvindu Punsara 23, Dasun Nethsara 16; Sandeesh Perera 4 for 41, Vishwa Peiris 4 for 78) **and 79 for 7** (Yohan Aloka 34; Vishwa Peiris 43 for 24, W. Panchama 2 for 48)

**At Henegama - First innings win for Henegama Central**

**Henegama Central** 189 (Mandeepa Nimsara 43, Vidun Nethsilu 29, Pasindu Theekshana 26, Daham Nirmal 21, Mithila Vishwajith 16, Kasun Madubashana 18 n.o.; Sharith Sudeena 3 for 37, Shehan Randika 2 for 43) **and 296** (Thamindu Pramod 98, Kusal Jayasanka 87, Pasindu Theekshana 21, Mithila Vishwajith 17, Mandeepa Nimsara 15, Kasun Madubashana 15 n.o.; Anosh Akarshana 3 for 50, Krishan Rajkumara 3 for 65, Sharith Sudeena 2 for 53)

**Christ King College Ja-ela** 161 (Sharith Sudeena 51, Supun Chaturanga 34, Shashan Rashmika 26, Samidu Maduranga 16; Mithila Vishwajith 4 for 50, Kavindu Ishara 2 for 37, Kasun Madubashana 2 for 39) **and 60 for 4** (Chamath Dilshan 25)

## Commercial Bank "B" end GS Health winning streak

Commercial Bank "B" ended the winning streak of debutant, George Steuart Health in the on going 20th David Pieris Group of Companies sponsored, "DPGC Challenge Trophy" - MCA "F" division 25 Over League Tournament 2023.

GS Health after three wins on the trot, lost to Commercial Bank "B" by 36 runs; the match winners for the bankers were Manjula Liyanage (33 not out in 47 balls, inclusive of a six and 4 fours) and Janith Ranasinghe (4.5 - 20 - 04)

- BM

## RESULTS

## Match Results in brief

**SLT** - 139/9 (25) lost to **Emercheme NB** - 140/4 (21.1) by 6 wickets; **Ansel Lanka** - 130 (22.5) lost to **SAGT** - 133/4 (23.4) by 6 wickets; **CTC** - 211/4 (25) beat **Asiri Hospitals** - 190 (24.2) by 21 runs; **Synergen Health** - 105 (25) lost to **Dialog Axiata** - 106/2 (11.4) by 8 wickets; **MAS Active** - 195/5 (25) lost to **Union Bank** - 196/5 (24.5) by 5 wickets; **Commercial Bank "B"** - 131/9 (25) beat **George Steuart Health**

- 95 (18.5) by 36 runs; **MAS Silueta** - 149/9 (25) beat **Std. Chartered Bank** - 122 (22.4) by 27 runs; **HNB "B"** - 184/9 (25) beat **Commercial Credit** - 142/6 (25) by 42 runs; **Slim Pharma** - 122 (24.4) lost to **NTB** - 125/2 (12.3) by 8 wickets; **Softlogic Life** - 174 (24) beat **Asiri Hospitals** - 142 (24.4) by 32 runs; **CTC** - 182/9 (25) beat **Linea Aqua** - 164/8 (25) by 18 runs; **Hirdaramani Group** - 189/8 (25) tied with **Ansel Lanka** - 189/6 (25)



## VACANCY

## Confidential Secretary to Head of Marketing (Female)

Here's an excellent opportunity for you to be a part of Sri Lanka Cricket

## Key Accountabilities:

- » Standard secretarial duties
- » Management of projects
- » Other administrative work related to the Marketing department

## Competencies:

- » Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in English and Sinhala both orally and in writing
- » Ability to work independently
- » Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- » Ability to maintain confidential and sensitive information
- » Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite
- » Ability to handle work under pressure with minimum supervision

## The ideal candidate should:

- » Have a minimum of 10 years of experience in a similar capacity
- » Should be professionally qualified in secretarial practice (Diploma/Certificate in secretarial work etc.)
- » Age below 40 years with a pleasing personality
- » A degree or a professional qualification related to Marketing would be a definite advantage

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\*Please mention the post applied for on the subject line of the email

Candidates who applied previously are not required to re-submit applications  
Please ensure all employment criteria is met prior to applying

Human Resources Department  
Sri Lanka Cricket

## Tender Notices

Calling for sealed tenders for sale of the following vehicles.

S/N	Vehicle NO.	Make & Model	Year	Yard Place
<b>DUAL PURPOSE</b>				
01	EP PW-0XXX	TATA ACE EX2	2013	Ampara
02	SP DAH 1XXX	Mahindra BMT PLUS MDI	2019	Matara
03	SP-DAH 1XXX	Mahindra BMT PUUE MDI	2019	Matara
04	NW PY 7XXX	Mahindra Maxximo Plus-VX	2014	Narammala
05	SP-LB-6XXX	SUZUKI GD DA52T	2000	Matara
06	NW PT 3XXX	Mahendra Maxximo	2012	Narammala
07	SP-PX-2XXX	Mahindra MAXXIMO PLUS	2013	Matara
08	WP-DAF-1XXX	Mahindra JEETOX716	2016	Matara
<b>Hawestor Machine</b>				
09		LOVOL AF88GHarvester	2019	Narammala
10		Yanmmar YH 850	2019	Ampara
11		Agrotech Kool 4,	2020	Narammala
<b>Land Vehicle</b>				
12	UP RF 1XXX	Massey Ferguson MF 1540	2016	Ampara
13	EP RH-3XXX	Mahindra 595 DI	2021	Ampara
14	NC RG 3XXX	TAFE 45DI	2018	Polonnaruwa
15	EP RG 5XXX	SWARAJ 855	2019	Ampara
16	UP RG 5XXX	SWARAJ 855 855	2017	Ampara
17	NC RG-5XXX	Mahindra Yuvo 575 DI	2019	Polonnaruwa
18	NC RH-0XXX	YANMARY M357A	2021	Narammala
19	WP RF-9XXX	KubotaLI-20	2007	Kirulapone
20	SP RG-6XXX	Massey Ferguson MF1552	2019	Kirulapone
21	EP-RH-4XXX	Mahindra Yuvo -575-DI	2021	Polonnaruwa
22	EP RG -3XXX	Tafe 45DI	2019	Polonnaruwa
23	EP RG-3XXX	TAFE 45 DI	2019	Ampara
24	SG RH-0XXX	Massey Ferguson MF1551	2019	Kirulapone
25	NW RF 7XXX	Yanmmar FX 26 D	2016	Narammala
26	SG-RG-7XXX	Massey Ferguson MF1551	2018	Kirulapone
27	UP RG-0XXX	TAFE 8515	2018	Ampara
28	UP RH-0XXX	Mahindra 595 DI	2021	Ampara
29	CP RH-0XXX	MAHINDRA YUVO 575 DI	2021	Ampara
30	UP RG-2XXX	Mahindra YUVO 575 DI SPS	2018	Ampara
31	NW RG 4XXX	TAFE 45 DI	2019	Narammala
32	EP RH-3XXX	SWARAJ 855	2021	Ampara
33	UP RH-3XXX	SWARAJ 744 FE	2020	Polonnaruwa
34	UP-RH-4XXX	SWARAJ 855FE	2021	Ampara
35	NP-RG-1XXX	Massey Ferguson MF 1553	2018	Kirulapone
36	WP RG-6XXX	Massey Ferguson MF1551	2019	Narammala
37	NC-RG-8XXX	Massey Ferguson MF1552	2018	Polonnaruwa
38	NW RG-6XXX	KubotaL4508	2020	Polonnaruwa
39	NW RG-7XXX	Mahendra YUVO 575 DI	2022	Narammala
<b>Motor Bicycle</b>				
40	EP BAP 4XXX	HOND ACBR	2012	Ampara
<b>MOTOR COACH</b>				
41	EP NB-6XXX	TATA LPO 1512 STARBUS	2010	Ampara
<b>Motor Lorry</b>				
42	NP LH-5XXX	TATA LPT407	2011	Polonnaruwa
43	NC LH 8XXX	TATA TIPPING	2010	Narammala
44	WP LA-2XXX	TATAL PT2515	2005	Narammala
45	SP LA-1XXX	ISUZU FREEZER TRUCK	2001	Matara
46	SG-LI-6XXX	TATA LPT1618	2011	Kirulapone
47	CP LI- 7XXX	TATA LPT1618	2011	Narammala
48	NW-LB-0XXX	ISUZU DUMP TRUCK	1999	Narammala
<b>Motor Tricycle</b>				
49	SP-YN-2XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	Kirulapone
50	EP-AAK-4XXX	PIAGGIO APE-CITY	2013	Ampara
51	WP YL-7XXX	BAJAJ RE205	2011	Kirulapone
52	NW AAY-8XXX	TVS KING	2015	Narammala
53	NW QJ 9XXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S	2007	Narammala
54	WP YX-0XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012	Kirulapone
55	WP YE-9XXX	TVS KING	2011	Kirulapone
56	SG YU-3XXX	BAJAJ RE205	2011	Kirulapone
57	SG YG-7XXX	TVS KING	2010	Kirulapone
58	EP AAQ 1XXX	BAJAJ RE	2014	Polonnaruwa

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SPORTS

# WILLIAMSON LEADS NEW ZEALAND TO LAST-BALL WIN OVER SRI LANKA

**K**ane Williamson was hailed as "world class" after New Zealand's record Test run-scorer orchestrated a dramatic last-ball win over Sri Lanka on a rain-disrupted final day in Christchurch on Monday.

The thrilling triumph at the Hagley Oval scuppered Sri Lanka's chances of making the World Test Championship final, handing the spot to India.

In a helter-skelter finish, the only Sri Lankans not guarding the boundary for most of the closing 10 overs were the bowler and wicketkeeper as New Zealand chased down their target of 285.

Having lost eight wickets and on a day limited to 53 overs, skipper Tim Southee paid tribute to his star batsman Williamson.

The former captain finished 121 not out and ran a bye off the final delivery of the match in a remarkable conclusion, to go with New Zealand's one-run victory over England a fortnight ago.

"Seeing how calm he is out in the middle keeps us calm as well," Southee said as New Zealand celebrated another famous, nail-biting win.

"The guys were very trusting in what he was going to do and alongside Daryl (Mitchell) for most of the day it was a great partnership that got us in that great position."

"He's a world-class player and world-class players are able to perform in different conditions." Visiting captain Dimuth Karunaratne said that fielding errors let his side down, particularly dropping the talisman Williamson on 33.

"We had a good chance to win, unfortunately we are the losing side," he said.

"We had misfields a few times that cost us the game. We have to minimise those mistakes."

When rain wiped out the first two



A MATTER OF INCHES - New Zealand's Kane Williamson (L) dives to make his ground and seal a thrilling two-wicket win

ICC World Test Championship 2021 - 2023

TOP 04						
TEAM	(%)	PTS	W	L	D	SER
Australia	68.52	148	11	3	4	6
India	60.29	123	10	5	2	6
South Africa	55.56	100	8	6	1	6
Sri Lanka	48.48	64	5	5	1	6

CDMSportsDesk

sessions on the fifth day, the umpires ruled there would be a minimum of 53 overs played in the evening, which meant New Zealand would have to average 4.85 an over.

After a steady but slow start which saw the hosts at 90-3, Williamson and Mitchell picked up the pace. They put on 142 in 26 overs for the fourth wicket with the precision of a one-day partnership as Sri Lanka paid a heavy price for Niroshan Dickwella dropping Williamson.

"If we had grabbed that catch it would have been a different story," said skipper Karunaratne. The 31-year-old Mitchell, a late arrival on the international stage, contributed 81 to lift his average to a phenomenal 59.04 from 26 innings. In a match of see-sawing fortunes, Sri Lanka

had the upper hand on the opening two days before a first-innings century from Mitchell and a swashbuckling 72 from Matt Henry -- the last 60 from only 35 deliveries -- swung the game in New Zealand's favour.

Sri Lanka fought their way back into contention on the fourth day with a defiant 115 from Angelo Mathews, who built partnerships of 105 for the fifth wicket with Dinesh Chandimal and then 60 with Dhananjaya de Silva.

When the Sri Lanka second innings folded at 302 it left New Zealand needing 285 to win on a ground where the highest fourth-innings score was 256-8 by New Zealand in a 2018 draw against England. Devon Conway was removed for five, leaving the outcome on a knife edge going into the final day. When play resumed on Monday, Prabath Jayasuriya made early in-roads with the wickets of Tom Latham for 25 and Henry Nicholls for 20.

Asitha Fernando bowled Mitchell and Tom Blundell (three) and had Michael Bracewell caught for 10 to leave New

## Sri Lanka

**1ST INNINGS** 355 in 92.4 overs (D. Karunaratne 50, K. Mendis 87, A. Mathews 47, D. Chandimal 39, D. De Silva 46, T. Southee 5 for 64, M. Henry 4 for 80)  
**2ND INNINGS** 302 in 105.3 overs (O.Fernando 28, A. Mathews 115, D. Chandimal 42, D De Silva 47 not out, T. Southee 2 for 57, M. Henry 3 for 71, B. Tickner 4 for 100)

## New Zealand

**1ST INNINGS** 373 in 107.3 overs (T. Latham 87, D. Conway 30, D. Mitchell 102, M. Bracewell 25, T. Southee 25, M. Henry 72, N. Wagner 27, K. Rajitha 2 for 104, A. Fernando 4 for 85, L. Kumara 3 for 76)  
**2ND INNINGS** (Overnight 28 for 1 contd.)  
 T. Latham b Jayasuriya 24  
 D. Conway c and b Rajitha 05  
 K. Williamson not out 121  
 H. Nicholls c Mendis b Jayasuriya 20  
 D. Mitchell b A. Fernando 81  
 T. Blundell b A. Fernando 03  
 M. Bracewell c sub b A. Fernando 10  
 T. Southee c de Silva b Kumara 01  
 M. Henry run out (Rajitha/A.Fernando) 04  
 N. Wagner not out 00  
**EXTRAS:** (b 5, lb 4, nb 1, w 6) 16  
**TOTAL:** (8 wickets, 70 Overs) 285  
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-9, 2-50, 3-90, 4-232, 5-238, 6-266, 7-273, 8-280  
**BOWLING:** K. Rajitha 17-5-60-1, A. Fernando 19-4-63-3, P. Jayasuriya 19-1-92-2, L. Kumara 15-3-61-1

Zealand 266-6 and needing a further 19 runs with 16 balls left.

Williamson kept going to take the game to the final ball as Southee (one) and Matt Henry (four) came and went, with Neil Wagner not out nought.

For Sri Lanka, Fernando took 3-63 and Jayasuriya 2-92.

The second Test starts in Wellington on Friday. (AFP)

# Sri Lanka Open to tee off on May 28

The Professional Golf Tournament organized by Sri Lanka Golf (SLG) featuring some top-class overseas golfers will take place from May 28 to June 2 at the Royal Colombo Golf Course (RCGC) in Borella.

This was first played in 1972, providing an opportunity to non-member Golfers with talent to vie for the Open Golf Champion title, which was won by H.L. Premadasa a Caddy beating top Amateur Golfers too in 1972 which was recognized by the RCGC Committee by appointing H.L. Premadasa as Assistant Golf Professional.

After H.L. Premadasa's death there were a host of Caddies from RCGC and the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club (NEGC) namely K.M. Wemboo, A.A. Sumathipala, P. Sigamany. Out of the lot Nandasena Perera was seven times winner of the Sri Lanka Open and Anura Rohana also tied with Nandasena on seven wins. Thangaraja is a past winner Ranked 21st whilst K. Prabakaran from Nuwara-Eliya won the last playing of the Open in 2017, for the 3rd time.

Mithun Perera son of Nandasena Perera is yet to win the Sri Lanka Open though he is ranked in 35th in the PGTI 2022 Tour. Mithun, Thangaraja, Anura Rohana (Ranked), Prabakaran and Vijitha Bandara are regular players in the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). Sri Lanka Open is expected to offer substantial prize money attracting top

professional golfers from the PGTI as well as from other South-East Asian Region and the Middle East countries. Golfers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Qatar, Oman, Dubai and the UAE are expected to tee off in this event.

Practice round will take place on May 28 followed by the qualifying round and the 4 round Stroke play Open championship to follow from May 30 to June 2.

Golf Gymkhana - mini-Golf games and Fun events like Pitching into a Bucket, Obstacle Chipping, Crazy Putting, Ladder Putting, Plastic Ball longest drive, etcetera promoting the fun aspect of golf to children towards the development of golf in Sri Lanka will also take place during these 4 days which is assured to attract a large crowd.

The Title Sponsorship, Principal and Co-Sponsorship is up for grabs with much interest shown locally and Multi-National Brands already in the Golf Tour industry. (SJ)



Sri Lanka Open Challenge Cup on offer

CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) | EXTENDED WITH REVISION

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



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

- **Ireland Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - Two (2) Test Matches Scheduled to be played during 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 and
- **Pakistan Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023** (Home Series) - Two (2) Test Matches Scheduled to be played during 13<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023

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

**GRANT OF RIGHTS:**

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

- Game Day Jersey | Middle Chest Position - Size not exceeding 32 SQ Inches (206.45 cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Game Day Jersey | Non - Leading Arm Position - Size not exceeding 10 SQ Inches (64.5 cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Practice Jersey | Middle Chest Position - Size not exceeding 32 SQ Inches (206.45 cm<sup>2</sup>)

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

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

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

**EOI SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:**

The EOI along with **financial offer and brand name/logo** qualifying the above mentioned criteria, which will be depicted in the game day clothing/practice clothing must be submitted to the Sri Lanka Cricket Headquarters at No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka **on or before 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 - 3PM (Sri Lankan Time)** ['Deadline'] and should be in a sealed envelope addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket.

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

**THE EOI NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

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

**FINANCIAL PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT TERMS:**

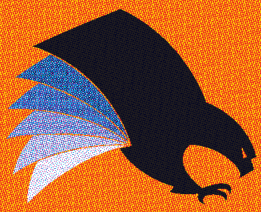
- Financial proposal should state the figure of the Net Rights Fee offered in Sri Lankan Rupees and/or US Dollars (in words and numbers) excluding of VAT/Tax/any other deductions depending on local or foreign EOI Participant.
- The following payment structure will apply in respect of the rights to be granted and rights fee thereto shall be payable by the successful EOI participant to SLC in the following manner:
  - The total Rights Fee (i.e. the Offered Value) should be paid in full on or before **30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
  - The Mode of Payment: Bank transfer to the SLC Designated Account / Bank Draft issued in favor of SLC.

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

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET





# Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market P10

## Banks lift overseas spending limits imposed on credit cards as dollar liquidity improves

Several credit card issuers have lifted the limits that hitherto had on overseas use, as they saw their foreign currency conditions improving substantially in the recent times, providing them a lot more room to allow their cardholders with higher spending thresholds when they travel overseas.

When the country's foreign currency conditions were getting tightened last year, the banks that issued credit cards imposed daily limits on card usage on payments made overseas, to preserve the limited foreign currency within the country.

However, the recent excess foreign currency liquidity conditions in the local banking sector has prompted them to do away with such limits and allow freedom to the cardholders to spend on things up to their credit card limits.

Despite the removal of the limits, the card users must adhere to the other regulatory guidelines when using their cards, such as abstaining from using their credit and debit cards for dealings in foreign exchange, payments related to virtual currency transactions such as Bitcoin, payments related to betting, gaming and gambling activities outside Sri Lanka and payments for import of goods to Sri Lanka for commercial purpose.

## Shipping industry seeks presidential intervention on regulation changes

- Says recent removal of regulations on freight charges likely to hurt SL's export competitiveness
- Cautions it could also result in higher import costs and thereby fuel inflation
- Says removal of regulations suggests that govt. has endorsed anti-competitive market practices
- Says it also sends mixed signals to foreign trading partners who are sensitive to policy inconsistencies



While seeking presidential intervention, the Sri Lanka Shippers' Council (SLSC) warned that the recent decision by Ports, Shipping and Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva to remove the regulations on freight charges is likely to hurt the competitiveness of Sri Lanka's exports and result in higher import costs, fuelling inflation.

In a gazette notification issued on March 3, 2023, De Silva rescinded the regulations issued under Section 10 of the Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators Act, No. 10 of 1972, which made the service providers to subject to

many parts, which ultimately ends up being charged from non-contracting parties. The result is the rise in inflation and cost of living in the country," the SLSC cautioned.

With the removal of the "pro-market" regulations, the SLSC also cautioned on possible illegal foreign exchange outflows from the country.

"With the rescinding of Gazette No. 2041/10, therein lies the question of whether foreign exchange will flow out of the country illegally, due to the possible introduction of zero freight again and surcharges levied on non-contractual parties, simply because there is no coverage of same, through the law of the land," it said.

By removing these regulations, the SLSC lamented that the government has endorsed anti-competitive market practices while sending mixed signals to foreign trading partners, who are sensitive to policy inconsistencies.

"The recent frequent changes made to shipping regulations in Sri Lanka through a few gazettes have also raised ambiguity and concern among foreign trading partners, who are sensitive to policy inconsistencies."

## China's Sinopec pledges to invest in H'tota; to build refinery

China's Sinopec, which is also known as China Petrochemical Corporation, has pledged to invest in Hambantota, the President's Media Division (PMD) said.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday met with the representatives from Sinopec, at the President's Office and conveyed to them that his government had identified Hambantota as a primary energy hub.

During the discussions, Sinopec conveyed its readiness to fully finance the construction of the refinery in



Hambantota, the PMD said. The representatives also stated that their company is prepared to respond to

Sri Lanka's future energy sector needs, in line with the aspirations of the country. They also presented their

proposal to the president, who spoke about the import, storage and distribution of petroleum products. **MOREON P10**

## NDBIB debuts in Africa with Hela-Norfund deal

NDB Investment Bank (NDBIB) made inroads into the African region by acting as the exclusive financial advisor and manager to the recently concluded transaction of Hela Apparel Holdings PLC.

NDBIB arranged a US \$ 14 million fundraising, via Norfund, directly to Hela's investment holding company earmarked for its operations in the African region. The funds raised will be used to strengthen Hela's supply chain partnerships in East Africa, particularly in Kenya and Tanzania.

"The NDB group has been an important partner to Hela for a number of years and has been a reliable source of support throughout our journey. This



transaction with Norfund marks another crucial milestone for both parties and lays a strong foundation for the future of our African operations. I take this opportunity to thank NDBIB for their work and congratulate them on their successful debut into the African region," said Hela Apparel Holdings PLC Chairman A.R. Rasiyah.

NDBIB CEO Darshan Perera stated, "NDBIB is no stranger to working with the DFI

community and has built strong bonds with such institutions over the last 25 plus years. Norfund is a key shareholder of our ultimate parent, NDB Bank and we were able to leverage on our relationship with them to ensure the fundraising for Hela was a resounding success. We are extremely grateful to Norfund for coming forward during these challenging times, both locally and from a global standpoint and hope to work with them closely going forward."

As a pioneer in investment banking, NDBIB has been at the forefront in entering new markets and geographies and placing Sri Lanka on a global scale. **MOREON P10**

### An alternative to Savings Accounts

### NDB | WEALTH MONEY FUND

\* Current Yield as at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

# 25.00%

WITHDRAW ANYTIME

### It's time for more than banking!

Disclaimer: \* Current yield is variable and subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) before investing. Among others, investors should consider the fees and charges involved.

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## Tourism Min's remarks on Maldives in his poor attempt to promote SL anger netizens

- Carelessly compares SL's tourism product to that of Maldives at ITB press briefing
- Tries to promote SL by putting down Maldives, a success story in global tourism
- Criticism against minister's remarks pours in across social media platforms



Harin Fernando

Sri Lanka came under the spotlight yet again for wrong reasons at the recently held ITB, the world's leading

travel and trade show held in Berlin, Germany, as the country's Tourism Minister Harin Fernando's remarks on the Maldives, in his attempt to promote Sri Lanka as a better tourist destination, left a bad taste.

With his little to none marketing skills, Fernando made matters only worse for Sri Lanka. **MOREON P10**

### Harin responds saying his comments taken out of context

After coming under fire for the controversial remarks made at ITB, Tourism Minister Harin Fernando attempted to clear the air in this regard last evening.

Fernando took to Twitter to respond to the comments that followed a video clip of the press briefing, stating his statement was "taken out of context". **MOREON P10**

## Prime lending rate falls sharply

The prime rate fell sharply, despite the Central Bank half-heartedly raising the key policy rates by 100 basis points, reflecting that the most recent policy move is entirely symbolic and has no real impact on the markets.

The prime lending rate, the benchmark rate used to price loans to top-tier borrowers and also provides direction for the rest of the markets from home mortgages, small business loans to

consumer loans, fell by 71 basis points to 22.74 percent last week, adding to the 76-basis-point decline in the week before.

The behaviour in the weekly prime rate reflects the sentiments in the financial markets and provides for the future trajectory in rates. With last week's sharp decline, the prime rate has given up 450 basis points since the end of last year, when the rate was at 27.24 percent. **MOREON P10**

## HSBC swoops in to rescue UK arm of Silicon Valley Bank

HSBC has swooped in to buy the UK arm of collapsed US Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), bringing relief to the UK tech firms, who warned they could go bust without help.

Customers and businesses, who had been unable to withdraw their money, will now be able to access it as normal.

The Treasury said the deal, which was thrashed out with HSBC through the night to be done before trading resumed yesterday, involved no taxpayer money.

HSBC said it paid just £1 for the SVB's UK arm after it failed on Friday. Silicon Valley Bank - which specialised in lending to technology

companies - was shut down by the US regulators on Friday in what was the largest failure of a US bank since 2008. Its collapse sent shockwaves across the tech industry over the possible impact it could have on businesses, with some firms telling the BBC they could go bust if deposits were not secured. **MOREON P10**

## Signature Bank becomes next casualty of banking turmoil after SVB

REUTERS: State regulators closed New York-based Signature Bank on Sunday, the third largest failure in the U.S. banking history, two days after authorities shuttered Silicon Valley Bank in a collapse that stranded billions in deposits.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) took control of Signature, which had US \$ 110.36 billion in assets and US \$ 88.59 billion in deposits at the end of last year, according to the New York state's Department of Financial Services.

All of the depositors of Signature Bank and Silicon Valley Bank will be made whole and "no losses will be borne by the taxpayer," the U.S. Treasury Department and other bank regulators said in a joint statement. Employees appeared to gather



at the company's Manhattan headquarters for meetings on Sunday, ordering catering from Carmine's, an Italian restaurant and Starbucks coffee, according to a Reuters reporter on the scene. People trickled out of the building after the news of the closure was announced. **MOREON P10**





SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC



Table with 4 columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, VWA, and OPEN, HIGH, LOW, CHANGE. It lists various stocks and their market performance.

Exchange Rates table with columns for CURRENCY, BUYING RATE, and SELLING RATE. Lists rates for various international currencies.

Crossings account for 54% of the turnover

The ASPI closed in red as a result of price losses in counters such as Vallibel One, Hatton National Bank and Lanka IOC with the turnover crossing Rs 2.0 Bn. A similar behaviour was witnessed in the S&P SL20. Crossings were witnessed in Vidullanka, Melstacorp, and John Keells Holdings accounting for 54.0% of the turnover.



nonvoting, Industrial Asphalts and Softlogic Capital. Furthermore, foreigners remained active

closing as net buyers. Utilities sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Vidullanka) whilst the sector index gained 0.33%. The share price of Vidullanka increased by Rs 0.10 (1.69%) to close at Rs 6.00. Food, Beverage & Tobacco sector was the second highest contributor to the market turnover (due to Melstacorp) whilst the sector index decreased by 0.75%.

Contd. from Page 09

Shipping industry...

With exports being promoted as a solution to the current economic crisis, this is detrimental to attract potential buyers and to maintain current clients," it said.

HSBC swoops...

The deal came after all night talks involving Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, the prime minister, Bank of England governor, HSBC bosses and civil servants to try to find a solution before firms began trading again yesterday morning.

NDBIB debuts...

NDBIB, through its group company in Bangladesh, NDB Capital Limited, established its footprint in the Asian region a decade ago and has offered its expertise to corporates in Bangladesh as well as advisory services to Sri Lankan corporates established in Bangladesh.

"Sri Lanka is no longer only the beach. I know lots of people go to the Maldives. The Maldives just has the beach; I am not criticising. But you stay there for five days and you get fed up with it. That's it; you are in an island and caught up in one place. But Sri Lanka is not like that. What you want, you can get."

The poorly thought-out comments were not well-received by both the Maldivians and Sri Lankans alike. Many took to Twitter, to share their opinion on the unprofessional and careless statement made by a minister about a country that is well ahead in its tourism game and also a longstanding friend of Sri Lanka.

country's major contributor to its economy.

The tourism authorities of the Maldives have also won many accolades for successfully promoting the destination to international travellers and staying true to its brand promise. In 2022, the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation fetched for the island nation the World's Leading Destination at the World Travel Awards, a title it has won for three consecutive years.

offices in New York, Connecticut, California, Nevada and North Carolina and had nine national business lines, including commercial real estate and digital asset banking.

As of September, almost a quarter of its deposits came from the cryptocurrency sector but the bank announced in December that it would shrink its crypto-related deposits by US \$8 billion. Signature Bank announced in February that its Chief Executive Officer Joseph DePaolo would transition into a senior adviser role in 2023 and would be succeeded by the bank's Chief Operating Officer Eric Howell. DePaolo has served as President and CEO since Signature's inception in 2001.

Tourism Min's...

which had attracted negative media publicity, particularly due to the socioeconomic and political turmoil last year, by comparing Sri Lanka's tourism product to that of the Maldives, claiming that the Maldives has only beaches to offer.

China's Sinopec...

The Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka tweeted that the delegates are in the country to enhance cooperation and further investment on petroleum and chemicals, trade and port and industrial park operation. Sinopec is the largest oil refining company and the third largest chemical company in the world. It is the largest oil and petrochemical products supplier and the second largest oil and gas producer in China.



# Sampath Bank to boost economy with IFC's US\$ 400mn cross-currency swap

In an effort to support Sri Lanka by stabilising the nation's economy amid an ongoing economic crisis, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has stepped forward to provide a cross-currency swap facility to Sampath Bank PLC, along with two other private banks.

Accordingly, the IFC notes that US\$ 400 million will be a cross-currency swap over a period of one year to Sampath Bank and two other private banks. After recognising that Sampath Bank is among the three of the country's leading national banks which facilitate over 30 percent of Sri Lanka's remittances and exports, the move is expected to enhance the dollar denominated import of essential goods, while also strengthening the two decade-long relationship between Sampath Bank and IFC.

In addition to supporting Sampath Bank's financing of exports of goods and services for their clients it also allows the country to make



From left: Rukshila Gooneratne - Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation, Abishek Sinha - Senior Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation, Manjula Ekanayake - Senior Manager Treasury, Sampath Bank PLC, Nanda Fernando - Managing Director, Sampath Bank PLC, Joon Young Park - International Finance Corporation Portfolio Manager, Financial Institutions Group for South Asia, Aloka Ekanayake - Chief Manager Investor Relations, Sampath Bank PLC, and Rajindra Tillekeratne - Senior Manager Treasury, Sampath Bank PLC

US\$-denominated debt repayments. Sampath Bank notes that through this facility, it will now be able to improve access to medium and long-term finance for its clients, helping local businesses sustain their valued operations.

Speaking on this development, Nanda Fernando, Managing Director of Sampath Bank PLC said, "The

facility provided by IFC comes at a juncture where the Sri Lankan economy is facing a challenging time. The transaction will enable Sampath Bank to better manage our foreign currency holding by borrowing at lower rates and manage our foreign currency exposure, while facilitating foreign currency lending to our customers across the whole economy.

The transaction will also renew the longstanding relationship with IFC, which was spread across many business areas such as trade, foreign exchange, and financial services. Sampath Bank is also grateful for the trust placed by IFC by continuing to engage as a major business partner in Sri Lanka and is confident that this will lead to a long and fruitful relationship."

## Pan Asia Bank posts compelling performance in FY22

Pan Asia Banking Corporation PLC reflected resilience amidst a multitude of adversities emerging from challenging macro-economic conditions, as the bank reported its financial performance for the year 2022, which showed judicious portfolio management and prudence exercised in managing asset quality.

The interest income for the year rose by 42 percent due to increase in market lending rates and re-pricing effect of facilities in response to the market conditions. Significant volume growth in pawning advances and term loans also led to the increase in interest income.

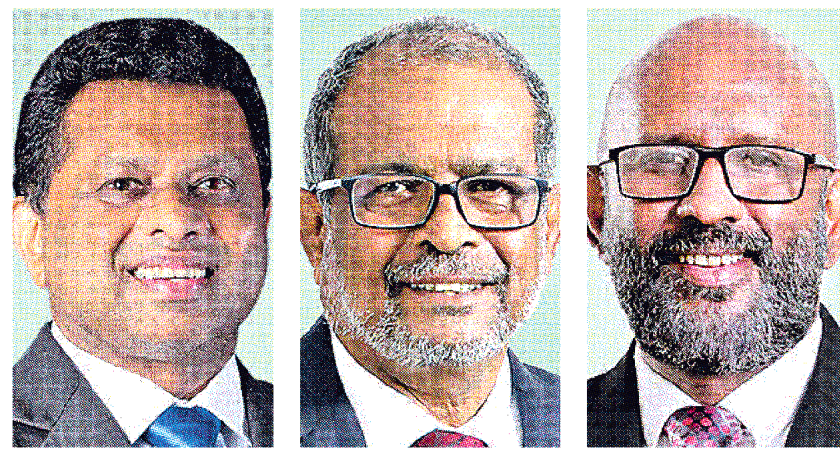
The total assets of the bank stood at Rs. 208 billion as of 31st December 2022 after posting a growth of 10 percent during the year, supported mainly by the expansion in Rupee Treasury Bills and loan book. The Gross Loans and Advances book recorded a growth of 2 percent to reach Rs. 154 billion with major contributions from the retail segment. The bank's profit was weighed down by higher credit loss expenses and exchange losses on loans and advances and foreign currency denominated financial instruments of the Government of Sri Lanka. The bank increased its provision buffers for loan losses during the year under review sensibly, through introducing

changes to its impairment models taking into consideration of increased level of risks and uncertainties emerged due to the turbulent economic conditions prevailed in the country.

The bank increased the impairment provision buffers on its investments in Sri Lanka International Sovereign Bonds (SLISBs) up to 35 percent, due to the increased level of credit risk as a result of prevailing external public debt service standstill of the Government of Sri Lanka, and the possible adverse outcomes of the ongoing comprehensive debt restructuring programme. The amounts charged to the income statement during the year 2022 include provisions made on foreign currency exposures to the Government of Sri Lanka amounting to Rs. 3.80 billion. However, when presenting the figures, the management has presented the impact of the currency depreciation on the impairment charges of loans and advances and investments under Other Operating Income/Losses, where the exchange gains from the corresponding assets have been recognized.

Pan Asia Bank strived for earnings maximization through portfolio re-alignment and cost management despite sector vulnerabilities that prevailed since last year.

The bank reported a Net Interest



Chairman - Jayantha Rangamuwa

MD/CEO - Nimal Tillekeratne

CEO Designate - Naleen Edirisinghe

Margin of 4.70 percent during the year 2022. Meanwhile, the bank reported a Return on Equity (ROE %) of 10.58 percent and a Post-Tax Return on Assets of 1.00 percent despite unprecedented macro-economic conditions during the year under review.

Earnings Per Share (EPS) for the year dropped to Rs. 4.52 from Rs. 6.95 mainly due to increased inflated funding costs, exchange losses and impairment charges. Meanwhile, the bank's Net Asset Value Per Share as of 31st December 2022 stood at Rs. 46.58 after an appreciation of 11 percent.

Pan Asia Bank maintains all its

Capital and Liquidity Ratios well above the regulatory minimum standards. Its Tier 1 Capital Ratio and Total Capital Ratio as of 31st December 2022 stood at 14.09 percent and 16.07 percent respectively. Further, its leverage ratio stood at 8.21 percent at the year end.

The bank's Bank Level Statutory Liquid Assets Ratio (SLAR) as of 31st December 2022 stood at 21.60 percent. Meanwhile, the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) under BASEL III stood well above the statutory minimums. The bank maintained an LCR of 226.09 percent and 253.11 percent for all currencies and LKR respectively.

## HNB reiterates importance of developing a national savings culture

As more Sri Lankans face concerns over their personal financial security, and that of the country, HNB is working to help raise awareness on the opportunities that every Sri Lankan can access, in order to develop their savings habits, and help drive an effective savings culture nationwide.

A useful historic indicator in measuring the depth of Sri Lanka's savings culture can be found in the level of domestic savings as a percentage of GDP. Historically, Sri Lanka has tended towards a relatively low national savings rate, which currently stands at approximately 26.1%. By way of comparison, Singapore stands at 44.2% while India stands at 29.3% and Bangladesh at 25.3%.

Given that a higher level of domestic savings links directly to the development of a nation, the closing of this savings gap may be one of the most important contributions that every Sri Lankan can make to the nation, and their own financial independence.

Accordingly, HNB is working to help reverse the national savings rate and foster a culture of financial responsibility from the ground-up, both by incentivizing savings, and raising awareness about the importance of a vibrant savings culture.

"Creating a culture of savings at every level of society, and age, is integral to securing Sri Lanka's economic revival, which is why we are working to educate the public on responsible financial practices and the importance of investing in your future, all while streamlining and optimizing our total product portfolio in order to channel maximum value into the hands of our customers," HNB DGM Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne said.

As a testament to their efforts, HNB offers one of the widest range of savings accounts that Sri Lanka has to offer, as they remain focused on providing the most optimal service possible to their wide range of clients.

For instance, you can plan for your child's future by opening a Singithi Kirikatiyo account. The Singithi Kirikatiyo account

offers a range of benefits, including attractive interest rates and zero account maintenance fees. Additionally, account holders will receive a free gift on account opening, and a special gift on their birthday every year. Once your child has reached five years old, your child's account will be automatically transferred to a HNB Singithi account, wherein they are eligible for all the benefits tailored for their age group.

The Singithi savings account is available to children from new-borns to 12 years of age.

It offers a range of benefits, including attractive gifts, cash rewards of up to Rs. 10,000 for children who excel in the grade 05 scholarship examination (Diri Daru - Scholarship Scheme), and free standing order guarantee insurance cover.

The Singithi savings account will then be automatically converted to a HNB Teen Account on the child's 12th birthday, providing a smooth transition for parents and guardians to continue cultivating a savings habit for their children.

With the goal of providing a secure and reliable savings account for children whose parents earn in foreign currency, Singithi Surakum allows immediate family members or guardians to make deposits on behalf of the child.

The account can be opened with an inward remittance or fund transfer from a Personal Foreign Currency account, and aims to encourage parents and guardians to save in the aforementioned currency, which can be beneficial in the long run. As the Sri Lankan economy becomes more integrated with the global economy, this savings account can serve as an ideal way to ensure that children have a secure financial future.

"We understand the importance of financial literacy and the role it plays in shaping a child's future," Wijemanne continued. "The Singithi and Kirikatiyo accounts are designed to make savings fun and engaging for children while also providing a secure and reliable platform for parents to save for their child's future, also facilitating a frictionless transition



HNB Deputy General Manager - Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne

to our accounts designed for young adult customers."

HNB's minor savings account comes with a range of exciting benefits, including cash rewards for academic excellence in GCE O/L, London O/L, GCE A/L, and London A/L exams, where the top 100 best-performing HNB Teen account holders in the GCE O/L and London O/L exams will receive a cash prize of Rs. 25,000, while the top 50 best-performing account holders in the GCE A/L and London A/L exams will receive a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 as part of the HNB Diri Daru Scholarship Scheme.

Meanwhile, the HNB TEEN+ Account, offers next-generation savings accounts designed specifically for teenagers between 12 and 18 years. The account comes with a range of exciting features, including a high-interest savings rates, a branded HNB TEEN+ Tap & Go Debit Card, and free digital banking facilities.

HNB TEEN+ also offers personalization of debit cards, special seasonal discounts and offers on debit card transactions, SMS alerts for transactions, and an e-statement facility.

"The HNB Teen and Teen+ Accounts are part of HNB's ongoing commitment to supporting the next generation of leaders in Sri Lanka. The bank has partnered with

several schools and universities to provide financial literacy workshops, mentorship programs, and career guidance," Wijemanne elaborated.

Upon reaching adulthood, customers will be transferred to a HNB Youth account. Tailored for customers between the ages of 18-30, the HNB Youth Savings Account offers higher interest rates, free internet and mobile banking through the HNB Digital Banking App, an HNB Credit Card with no joining fee and first-year annual fee waived off, and special benefits including educational, home, vehicle, and entrepreneurial loans at lower interest rates. The HNB Youth Salary Smart Account also offers 3 times the salary as an overdraft facility or personal loan, while HNB Credit Cardholders can enjoy up to 12 months of 0% instalment payments at selected educational institutes.

For those focused on more immediate returns, the bank offers the HNB Savings+ Account, which is designed to help customers achieve their short-term savings goals while benefiting from the highest interest rates.

These rates, coupled with a range of unparalleled benefits, make this account the perfect choice for anyone looking to take their savings to the next level. HNB Savings+ offers a free shopping debit card, unlimited withdrawals, and cash-backed facilities of up to 90% of the deposit, as well as free internet banking and mobile banking facilities.

In recognition of the paramount importance that savings play from adulthood into old age, the bank also offers the HNB Senior Citizen's Scheme, packed with special benefits and privileges tailored for senior citizens.

Benefits for the above include a premium interest rate on savings and fixed deposits, priority service, HNB International Debit Cards, and a 25% discount on annual credit card fees. Additionally, there are no service charges on current accounts, and depending on the minimum balance maintained in the Senior Savings Account, may be eligible to

## LOLC Finance wins 'Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award' for economic contribution

LOLC Finance PLC was presented with the category honour "Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards 2022 for Economic Contribution" as a joint award with a leading bank.

The appreciation was bestowed on LOLC Finance, for its sustainable innovative efforts and best performance displayed for the undeniable contribution made towards the upliftment of the local households and the economy at large.

The Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award 2022 (BCCS Awards) is an application-based award conducted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce for the last 19 years. The award highlights the need to mainstream business emergency preparedness, resilience and stakeholder management of a business to face unforeseen challenges.

Backing its way through enduring synergies, LOLC Finance is now the largest Financier to the Agricultural Sector, the largest Islamic Finance Operator, the number one Development Financier



and the largest SME/MSME Sector Financier in the country, while maintaining many other market leadership positions.

Commenting on the achievement, Montini Warnakula, Chief Operating Officer of LOLC Finance PLC said, "Despite the local and global challenges, we put sustainability at the heart of our business practices, while driving digital experiences exponentially and taking many innovative measures to enhance the overall stakeholder experience."

We clearly understand our role at this critical juncture of the Sri Lankan economy;

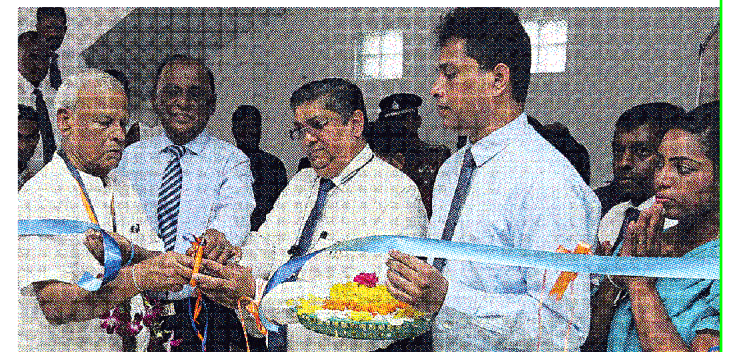
we need to create more investor confidence while providing necessary financing to the crucial sectors.

We are truly humbled to win this award, which is a reflection of our efforts to preserve sustainable financing at every step of our value chain. LOLC Finance will keep working in alignment with the governing and statutory bodies, towards the economic revival of our nation".



Montini Warnakula

## Sanasa Life opens 96th branch in Kuliypitiya



Sanasa Life PLC recently inaugurated its 96th branch, adding the hub of Kuliypitiya, to its growing Island wide network.

Located in Madampe Road, Kuliypitiya, the new branch opening was attended by senior members of the company's management team and the founder of Sanasa Life Insurance, Dr. P.A. Kirirawandiya, who is also the founder of the Sanasa

Movement. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Kirirawandiya said, "Sanasa Life has captured the hearts of every Sri Lankan because it always thinks about the people's problems and focuses on solving those problems. Kuliypitiya is a major hub for rural communities in the Kurunegala district and is home to a vibrant community, which we look forward to serving."

receive gift vouchers worth up to Rs. 10,000.

For those who require hospitalization cover, the Senior Citizens Health Plus scheme provides peace of mind, leveraging a scheme which reimburses surgical and hospitalization expenses up to Rs. 70,000 for 7 days per year, against actual bills.

HNB also offers a range of other savings accounts for customers, each tailored to specific needs. For HNB's customers who are overseas or planning to migrate, the Adhishtana Package for Migrants offers a range of financial products and services tailored to the specific requirements of Sri Lankan migrant workers, including remittance services, savings and investment options, and affordable loan facilities for their families in Sri Lanka.

Another Savings option is the HNB Salary Smart account, a one-of-a-kind banking product that empowers customers to get 3 times their salary as a loan directly from the bank. The HNB Salary Smart account is a comprehensive solution that offers a range of benefits, and HNB Salary Smart customers are also eligible for special interest rates for leasing, personal and home loans, loan buyback options at special rates, and a 50% net salary advance with no guarantors required.

With 256 customer centres, HNB is one of Sri Lanka's largest, most technologically innovative private banks. Consolidating its legacy in sustainability, good governance and corporate excellence, HNB was crowned the Best Corporate Citizen for 2022 at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Best Corporate Citizen Awards. The bank further secured four additional accolades, including being among the Top 10 Best Corporate Citizens and taking home the Governance category and Sustainability Champion for the Finance sector titles.

Similarly, HNB was ranked among the World Top 1,000 Banks list compiled by the prestigious UK-based Banker Magazine for the sixth consecutive year in 2022, in addition to being crowned the Best Retail Bank in Sri Lanka for the 12th occasion at the prestigious International Excellence in Retail Financial Services Awards 2022 hosted by the Asian Banker Magazine.



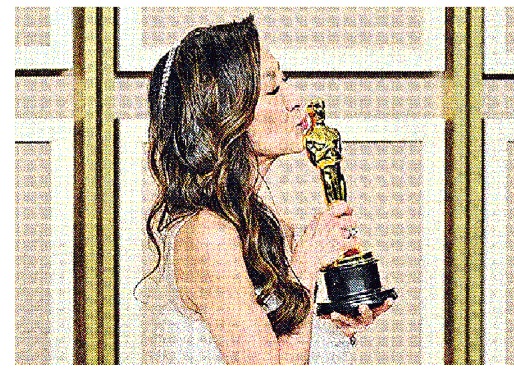


**BIZARRE, BELOVED 'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE' WINS BEST PICTURE OSCAR**

In the end, its victory was utterly predictable and yet still totally implausible. "Everything Everywhere All at Once" — a wacky sci-fi featuring hot dog fingers, sex toys, bagels and talking rocks — on Sunday became surely the most absurd film ever to win the Oscar for best picture. **AFP**

**MUM & MALAYSIA CELEBRATE YEOH'S OSCAR WIN**

"Malaysia boleh!" cried Michelle Yeoh's mother in a video chat with her daughter minutes after her historic Oscars win was announced, citing a popular slogan that loosely translates into "Malaysia can do it!" "I'm very happy... I'm proud of my daughter," Janet Yeoh told reporters after her daughter became the first Asian woman to win the Academy Award for best actress. **AFP**



**'NAATU NAATU,' GAGA AND RIRI: OSCARS NIGHT IN MUSIC**

The viral dance song "Naatu Naatu" made Oscars history Sunday as the first song from an Indian film to win the Academy Award for best original song — besting heavyweights Lady Gaga and Rihanna to snag the prize. With music by composer M.M. Keeravani and lyrics by Chandrabose, the win for the Telugu-language song followed an exuberant performance, including the famed "hook dance" steps from the crowd-pleasing film "RRR" rejigged for the Dolby Theatre stage. **AFP**



**WITH MY FEET DANCE EPICURE**

A captivating evening of dinner and dance - Dance Epicure by With My Feet brings UK champion dancers and the best of Sri Lankan talent to the same stage. Dance Epicure, Sri Lanka's very first Dinner Dance Theatre concept produced by With My Feet is all set to entertain and delight on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April at the Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo. The vision and brainchild of the legendary Naomi Rajaratnam, the uniquely curated evening of dance and gastronomy produced by the Colombo Dance Theatre will feature a roster of extraordinary international and local dancers paired with a night of culinary delight.

The latest initiative by Naomi, the Colombo Dance Theatre comprises of a company of elite international and local dancers woven firmly together by masterful choreography and a great love for dance. Dance Epicure will not only be the Theatre's inaugural performance, but also the first of its kind in Sri Lanka; where artfully choreographed dance segments will be performed between a four-course sit-down menu. The highly anticipated event will feature the likes of world-renowned dancers - namely five-time undefeated UK National Latin American Champions Gunnar Gunnarsson and Marika Doshoris, as well as the formidable Nauris Kalva and Manuja Hughes, Blackpool Open Smooth Champions - sharing the stage with the best Sri Lankan dancers from Naomi's own dance company With My Feet.

Naomi's desire to uplift dancers from far-flung rural areas in Sri Lanka by providing them with the opportunities and spotlight they deserve has always been encapsulated in her dance showcases. It is with this vision in mind that Dance Epicure will also feature a heart-warming performance by the children of the Warehouse Project, an urban community solution in partnership with the Sri Narada Foundation. Additionally, as with all of Naomi's shows, part of the proceeds from the event's ticket sales will go towards the Dev Siri Sevana Elders Home in Welisara. Commenting on the upcoming event, Naomi Rajaratnam said, "I am so honoured that some of the UK's leading dancers have chosen to collaborate with us, and I am equally thrilled to be able to showcase the best of our Sri Lankan talent on the same platform."

"The concept of a Dinner Dance Theatre has been on my mind for the longest time and I couldn't think of a better moment to finally turn this dream into a reality," she added. "The calibre of these world-renowned dancers paired with the best of With My Feet dancers is the perfect opportunity to offer something truly unique to our Sri Lankan audience."



Tickets for Dance Epicure went on sale on Saturday the 11th of March 2023 and can be purchased online at <https://withmyfeet.com/>. With My Feet social media pages will soon be updated with where tickets can be purchased offline.

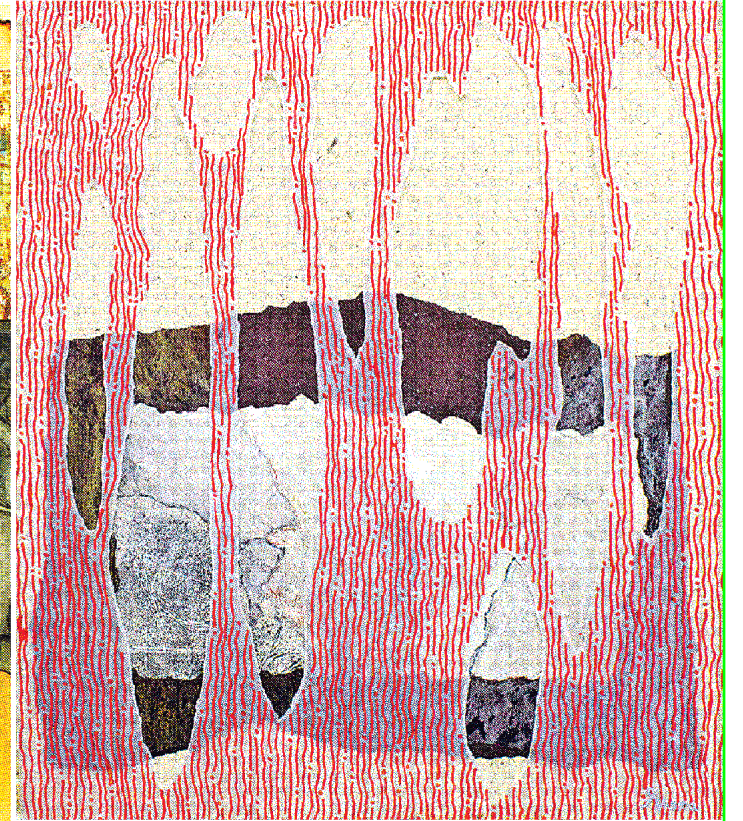
Saskia Fernando Gallery is pleased to present an upcoming group exhibition 'With My Back to the World' in celebration of International Women's Day 2023, curated by Mariyam Begum and Ashini Nanayakkara. The exhibition features work by Fabienne Francotte, Hansika Herath, Chathurika Jayani, Shaanea Mendis, Ashini Nanayakkara, Sabeen Omar, Anoli Perera, Sumi Perera, Saskia Pintelon, Anoma Rajakaruna, Hema Shironi and Anoma Wijewardene.

Borrowing its title from the 1997 work by Agnes Martin, With My Back to the World asks the viewer to observe, feel and respond to the subtleties in art-making without seeking a cause or reason. It is an attempt to grasp what remains in the liminal spaces where materials are moulded, arranged, reshaped, and deconstructed. This is an invitation to actively engage with process and the tactile conversations that emerge across different disciplines. Whether it be embroidery, beadwork, woodblock printing, painting, sculpture, assemblage, or photography, there is much that transpires within the silent interstices of subtle gestures.

Inspired by the geometric elements and grids of Islamic architecture, Sabeen Omar uses embroidery and beading to transform objects from her childhood such as handkerchiefs and cardboard boxes, exploring the ephemerality of memories and the places we inhabit. Hema Shironi manipulates the mutable qualities of textiles in her work by allowing them to be folded, hung, stored away and then reassembled to contemplate the impermanence of home. She experiments with paper and stitching—reworking her materials to the point of disintegration to meditate on concepts of migration, displacement, and instability.

Fabienne Francotte's hand is evident in her clay sculptures, drawings, and paintings of lips, which she impetuously stitches and reworks to reflect on sisterhood, loss, and trauma. Anoma Rajakaruna approaches documentary photography with an acute sensitivity that leaves us deeply aware of the issues of conflict, displacement, and sexual harassment. Saskia Pintelon's patchwork of collages, found photographs, appropriated artworks, and cardboard contemplate a society and its citizens that are constantly being 'remade' by political, social, or technological shifts in their environment.

Anoma Wijewardene tears and cuts up her paintings and reconstructs them into vivid and layered works to communicate ideas of inclusivity, sustainability, and harmony. Shaanea Mendis' contemplative pen and ink drawings result from her keen observation of textural patterns and mark-making in nature. Hansika Herath engages with the laborious process of woodcut printing to conflate representations of



**WITH MY BACK TO THE WORLD**

Group show of Contemporary Female Artists - With My Back to the World opens at Saskia Fernando Gallery



Mariyam Begum



Ashini Nanayakkara

the female form with nature to meditate on humanity and the environment. There is repetition in the manner in which she slowly chisels out the wood, and in the rolling and rubbing movements with which she transfers ink onto paper.

Embroidery, thick-set colours, and pieces of cardboard become the tools of Chathurika Jayani's play. She dreams up fantastical urban landscapes of the future while inquiring into issues of industrialization and rapidly rising cities. Inspired by perspective in urban architectural spaces,

Sumi Perera uses hybrid printmaking techniques to explore the interplay of geometric forms, shapes, and lines. Ashini Nanayakkara uses a combination of analog and digital photographic techniques to construct geometric compositions of urban architecture that disorient traditional perceptions of space, place, and scale. The original process of painting is lost as Anoli Perera digitally superimposes century-old cosmological maps with present-day watercolours as she reflects on ideas of 'pilgrimage', and the sacred routes and landscapes people construct.

With My Back to the World foregrounds the myriad ways in which these artists actively engage with material and process to communicate the ideas they are concerned with. Here the act of making takes precedence over the finished product—every action or gesture is oriented towards a purpose and serves towards creating the overall meaning of the work. As opposed to decoding the meaning of a work, the exhibition is an invitation to slow down and engage with the process of art making, even when it isn't discernible in the final work.

With My Back to the World will run until Sunday 02.04.23.

The exhibition programme will include a series of online talks, workshops, and curated walk-throughs spread throughout the month.

**WORKSHOP DETAILS**

**FABIENNE FRANCOTTE**

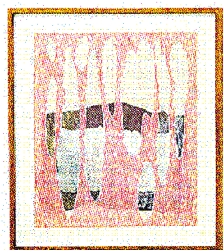
- The Drawing Lab
- Friday 17 March, 5.30–7.30pm
- Tuesday 28 March, 5.30–7.30pm

Fabienne Francotte will guide participants in the process of drawing - engraving oil to draw bodies, using ink to experiment with line drawing, and painting with oil to draw lips. Suitable for any age. All materials will be provided.

**HEMA SHIRONI**

- Let's Bundle Your Joy
- Friday 24 March, 5.30–7pm

Artist Hema Shironi will guide participants in using textiles and embroidery to create a personal heirloom, and in the process explore the relationship between memories & personal belongings. Participants are requested to bring 8–10 small items that they treasure.



**03<sup>rd</sup> March - 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**

**Blocking Negative Chi**

Feng Shui in simple terms means that what strengthens you protects you. This is true no matter you believe in Feng Shui or not, because obviously when your energy is strong you are much better equipped to deal with negative or low energies.

Quite often, one suddenly develop a feeling of insecurity, unknown fear and feel depressed. In the Feng Shui parlance it could be excess negative energy, bad vibes or harmful energies focused on the home or the individual.

Such feelings normally make the person search for a solution, protection or something to shield from the attack of negative forces. The desire for protection should not come from fear, but rather from the understanding that there is a wide variety of energies around us, and some of those energies are best left outside your own energy field.

Say if its due to bad Feng Shui from an adjacent house, focus on creating a very strong, protective energy around your own house. Create a protective environment around the home by placing



tall evergreens plants in the landscape, create a Feng Shui rock garden and maybe suspend a metal wind chime.

After all, Feng Shui is about creating harmony with our environment, and it starts with understanding the energy around us and how it flows hence by adapting small remedies and protections one can tide

over the negative influences smoothly.

- To make use of their protective powers, you can place a couple of elephants at your main entrance. This does not have to be dramatic arrangement; just an elephant couple on your side table can work very well.
- The carnelian tumbled stone is a kind of a Feng Shui crystal ideal for providing protection against enemies and making bad decisions. It also improves memory and one's ability to speak publicly.
- Feng Shui coin sword is an extremely powerful protection against negative Chi or killing breath that threaten the loss of wealth and health.
- Burn cinnamon sticks or incense with cinnamon fragrance to dispel negative energies.



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Got a Feng Shui Query? Send in your questions to S.B.S. Surendran at [fengshui@fengshuiserver.com](mailto:fengshui@fengshuiserver.com) with "LIFE FAQs" in the subject line.