



YOUR PAPER TODAY

MAIN 10

FIT'S EXCELLANCE DIGITAL AWARDS SUPPLEMENT 04

TOTAL 14

### Dinesh Schaffter's autopsy inquiry postponed

- The case was postponed due to the unavailability of the permanent Magistrate who inquired into the post mortem inquiry yesterday

BY T. FAROOK THAJUDEEN

The Magisterial inquiry into the suspicious death of Businessman Dinesh Schaffter was postponed for March 22, 2023 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

### Harin on Maldives comment

## I SPEAK FROM THE GUT

- The Maldivians, my friends have got a bit annoyed with me for that comment, but I apologize if there's any inconvenience caused to them"

Tourism Minister Harin Fernando said that he is a person who speaks from the gut, a quality which he said may not bode well with everyone. "I speak from the gut. That doesn't bode well with everyone," he said.



SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

### WIMAL CALLS NAMAL A PREMATURE BROILER CHICKEN

- Says nepotism has been the downfall of the country

Former Minister Wimal Weerawansa thrashed SLPP MP Namal Rajapaksa, calling him a broiler chicken who was pumped up without any experience or political knowledge.

Weerawansa speaking at a rally in Hambantota said Namal was playing cricket with a group of SLPP MPs while the people were suffering. "He is just like Ranil. He still has not learned anything. It is reasonable that people get angry. He never learns. He is a premature broiler chicken," he said. Furthermore, he said that nepotism has been the downfall of the country and the Rajapaksa family. "They were planning to field Yoshitha Rajapaksa in Badulla District at the last General Election. It was Dullas Alahapperuma who requested Gotabaya Rajapaksa to stop it," he said.

### Seeking to hold a free and fair LG polls NPP goes before Supreme Court

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The National People's Power (NPP) yesterday filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the Supreme Court seeking an order directing the authorities to hold a free and fair Local Government Election.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## UNIONS DIVIDED OVER STRIKE

- Railway TUs uncertain over joining strike
- Bus services to operate as usual
- GMOA, CEB, teachers, banks, postal, ports, water board to withdraw from services

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

While some of the trade unions including GMOA, Ports, CEB, customs, banks, water board and postal services announced yesterday that they would go ahead with their planned trade union action against the new tax policy, increased electricity tariffs and bank interest rates another section of the unions in the government sector including railways and bus services said they would not support the strike.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## WP term tests postponed to March 21, 22

- Today's trade union action could affect the transport system where most of the children use public transport to travel to school

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Western Provincial Education Zone had taken steps to postpone the third-term tests, which were scheduled to be held today (15).

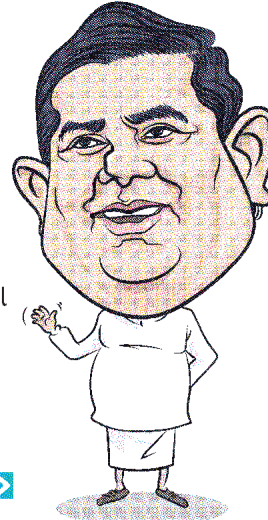
SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Lankantha has understood reality- Vajira

- "This is why he said he is opposed to continuous strikes"
- He alleged that those who want to stage a strike and political parties who back them are used by some international forces

K.D.Lankantha has understood the reality and is correct in opposing continuous strikes, Presidential Advisor and UNP MP Vajira Abeywardene said yesterday. "Lankantha seemed to understand the reality and the disruption caused by strikes and protests. This is why he said he is opposed to continuous strikes," Abeywardene told a press conference.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Police officers standing guard around a VIP chair kept on a red carpet with wooden poles within reach, to symbolize the powers of the Executive suppressing dissent as part of the 'creative protest', held yesterday at the Independence Square under the theme 'Aithiye handata uttare rasayanika avi praharada'. Pic by Pradeep Pathirana

### Violence against peaceful protestors is unacceptable - UK

- Britain has called for a peaceful, democratic and inclusive approach to resolving the current political and economic issues

BY SUNIL JAYASIRI

While emphasizing that violence against peaceful protestors is unacceptable, Britain has called for a peaceful, democratic and inclusive approach to resolving the current political and economic issues.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

### Assaulting and causing grievous hurt to a group of students

## Principal and three teachers taken into custody

- Five male students had secretly entered the girls' hostel to meet five female students with their consent

BY SHANE SENEVIRATNE

The principal and three teachers of a private school at Morankanda in Bokkawala in Kandy, arrested on suspicion of assaulting and causing grievous hurt to a group of students, were taken into custody by Women and Children's Bureau of the Kandy police yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

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### False insurance brokers COPE raps CID and Sri Lanka Insurance

BY YOHAN PERERA

Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) has requested Sri Lanka Insurance to inquire into the fate of a complaint made to CID on fake insurance brokers in 2009 after it was revealed that nothing has been done about it, Parliament media unit said yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

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# Daily Mirror

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CONT'D.  
FROM PAGE 1

## NPP goes before Supreme Court

NPP Parliamentarian Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, former MP Sunil Handunnetthi and Dr. Nihal Jayasinghe filed this petition naming Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardena, Attorney General, Election Commission and several others as respondents.

The petitioners stated that the budget circular issued by the Treasury Secretary based on a Cabinet decision is unconstitutional and contrary to the laws. The petitioners are seeking a declaration that their Fundamental Rights guaranteed to them under article 12(1) and 14(1) (a) of the constitution have been infringed by the respondents.

## Maithripala's writ petition to be heard before five-judge-bench

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday decided to hear former President Maithripala Sirisena's writ petition before a fuller bench comprising five judges of the Court of Appeal.

In his writ application former President Sirisena had challenged the magisterial inquiry and issuance of summonses against him in connection with the Easter Sunday attack incidents.

Court of Appeal (President) Justice Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne announced that the five-judge-bench comprising most senior judges of the Court of Appeal are to be appointed to hear this petition. Meanwhile, the Court of Appeal further ordered to lay by the magisterial inquiry against former President Maithripala Sirisena at Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court.

Filing a motion before the Court of Appeal, Rev. Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando had earlier sought a fuller or a divisional bench to hear the writ petition filed by former President Maithripala Sirisena.

Faiszer Musthapha PC with Counsel Keerthi Tillegaratne and Pulasthi Rupasinghe appeared for the former President. Rienze Arsekularatne PC with Counsel Udara Muhandiramge appeared for Fr. Cyril Gamini Fernando.

On October 14, 2022 the Court of Appeal two-judge-bench issued an order postponing the magisterial inquiry against former President Maithripala Sirisena and the writ petition was accordingly fixed for argument. The Court of Appeal further decided to postpone the magisterial inquiry at Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court for a period of 10 weeks.

# UNIONS DIVIDED OVER STRIKE

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) said they would participate in the trade union action today. GMOA Spokesperson Dr. Chamil Wijesinghe said that they engaged in their trade union action yesterday, but no response was received from any responsible authority and therefore the association's central committee decided to continue the TU action until they receive any response.

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) engineers and other employees have decided to go on sick leave today in protest against the government's tax policy.

However, the specialized hospitals in provinces, including maternity and children's hospitals, the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Mental Health, Nephrology treatment units, military hospitals, and emergency services in all hospitals, will not be affected by the trade union action.

The Water Board workers yesterday withdrew from their duties and engaged in their four-hour trade union action until 2 p.m. claiming that the President has not paid heed to their demands as yet. Therefore, the workers have decided to engage in 24-hour trade union action today. No office or customer service will be entertained. However, there will be no disruptions to the water supply, but we will not

engage in any breakdown activities.

The Customs Trade Unions have also decided to join hands with the joint-trade-union action to protest against the new tax policy.

They said in a statement that they were ready to pay taxes under a reasonable tax policy, but the new tax policy introduced by the government was unreasonable.

Ceylon Teachers Union (CTU) Secretary Joseph Stalin said all teachers and principals in schools around the country have decided to participate in the trade union action today.

However, the Lanka Private Bus Owners' Association (LPBOA), the Inter Provincial Private Bus Owners' Association (IPPBOA), the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB), the Sri Lanka Railways Station Masters' Union (SLRSMU), the Railway Controllers, and the Railway Superintendents have decided not to engage in the trade union action today. Meanwhile, the Locomotive Engineers' Association said that the train drivers will go on a one-day strike from midnight yesterday, but said their decision is uncertain.

SLRSMU President Sumedha Somaratne said the railway trade unions will not take part in today's general strike and have decided to support the General Manager of Railways and not take part in the strike.

However, Railways General Manager W. A. D. S. Gunasinghe said the engine drivers' unions have communicated that they will take part in today's trade union action. Railway services will be hampered due to the trade union action. Discussions are underway to avoid service interruptions. However, there is a possibility that railway services will be hampered," he said.

The Inland Revenue Staff Officers' Association and the Inland Revenue Commissioners' Association have also decided to support the trade union action as the new tax policy is unreasonable and unfair, the Chairman of the Inland Revenue Commissioners' Association, M.A. Priyanka, said.

Meanwhile, the Transport Ministry yesterday cancelled leave of all Railway Department workers designated as Essential Public Service, with immediate effect.

The President also issued an extraordinary gazette notification (2323/02) yesterday declaring the postal service an essential public service.

However, Cabinet Media Spokesperson Minister Bandula Gunawardena said yesterday that legal measures would be taken against the employees (of public services designated as essential services) who participate in the protests, violating the common law of the country.

## COPE raps CID and Sri Lanka Insurance

It has been decided to send observations from COPE to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of a formal closure of the two branches

COPE Chairman Ranjith Bandara requested Sri Lanka Insurance to inquire from CID about the progress of the investigation into the incident. It has been revealed that the complaint has been lodged with CID in 2009 and nothing has been done about it.

Officials of Sri Lanka Insurance said the matter was pertaining to fictitious brokers who had been appointed during the time Sri Lanka Insurance was run as a private entity.

It has been decided to send observations from COPE to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of a formal closure of the

two branches under the Insurance Corporation in Maldives and Seychelles which have suffered huge financial losses. The decision to close down the Sri Lanka Insurance branch in Maldives has been made 25 years ago while the decision on the closure of Seychelles has been made in 2016. However it is yet to be implemented according to COPE.

Also the COPE had recommended that Sri Lanka Insurance should be divided into 2 entities so that life insurance business and general insurance business could be handled by two entities.

## Violence against peaceful protestors is unacceptable - UK

We call on the Sri Lankan authorities to safeguard citizens' rights and ensure security responses are proportionate and in line with international human rights standards"

"We believe that a stable and inclusive political settlement is an essential foundation for the economic recovery and growth that Sri Lanka needs and we closely monitor political, economic and security developments in this regard, Minister of State (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) Anne-Marie Trevelyan informed British Parliament.

(Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, and the British High Commissioner, have called for a peaceful, democratic and inclusive approach to resolving the current political and economic issues," she stated.

"We call on the Sri Lankan authorities to safeguard citizens' rights and ensure security responses are proportionate and in line with international human rights standards," she further added.

## WP term tests postponed to March 21, 22

The Western Province Education Director, Srilal Nonis, told the Daily Mirror that the term test that was scheduled to be held today will be postponed until March 21 and 22.

He said the decision was taken as today's trade union action could affect the transport system where most of the children use public transport to travel to school.

## I SPEAK FROM THE GUT

There is no need to be upset, he said, as he did not make any wrong statement. The Minister made these comments speaking to journalists at the MICE EXPO organized by Sri Lanka Convention Bureau and Sri Lankan Airlines at the Shangri-La, Colombo.

Addressing the forum earlier, Fernando said that his intention was not to offend the Maldives but to work with the country to promote Sri Lankan tourism.

"I have got into a bit of trouble since of late, when I have made a comment about Maldives. I need to rectify that here as well," Fernando said.

"The Maldivians, my friends have got a bit annoyed with me for that comment, but I apologize if there's any inconvenience caused to them," he clarified.

## Dinesh Schaffter's autopsy inquiry postponed

There were contradictions in the post-mortem report submitted earlier to the court

Dec. 15, 2022: Dinesh Schaffter was found unconscious and tied inside his vehicle at the General Cemetery in Borella and was rushed to the ICU of the National Hospital in Colombo. He was pronounced dead while undergoing treatment.



Dec. 21: The CID had recorded statements from Dinesh Schaffter's business partners, close relatives and others

Dec. 16: The Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court issued an order preventing former English cricket commentator Brian Thomas from leaving the country

Dec. 27: Following the recovery of several evidences with investigators are suspecting that he may have committed suicide

Feb. 08, 2023: It has been revealed that the death of Dinesh Schaffter was caused by ingestion of cyanide, when the case was taken up before the Aluthkade Magistrate's Court

Feb. 14, 2023: Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court ordered to preserve the blood samples and body specimens of the victim

Source: News reports

DM GraphicDesk

The case was postponed for a further date due to the unavailability of the permanent Magistrate who inquired into the post-mortem inquiry yesterday.

On the previous inquiry date Magistrate Rajindra Jayasooriya appointed a five-member expert committee of doctors in the Forensic Medicine field and in the medical field to probe and determine the cause or causes into the death of entrepreneur Dinesh Schaffter's death on 15 December 2022.

The panel comprising of Prof. Asela Mendis, Prof. D.C.R. Perera, Prof. D.N.P. Fernando,

Dr. Siva Subramaniam and Dr. Rohan Ruwanpura were to examine and to decide the cause of Dinesh Schaffter's death and to submit a report to the court yesterday.

Magistrate Rajindra Jayasooriya made this order since there were contradictions in the post-mortem report submitted earlier to the court, regarding the death of Dinesh Schaffter.

Dinesh Schaffter was found unconscious and tied inside his vehicle at the General Cemetery in Borella on 15 December, 2022 and was rushed to the ICU of the National Hospital in Colombo.

## LALKANTHA HAS UNDERSTOOD REALITY- VAJIRA

Some political parties and trade unions have fallen into the trap set by these international forces

"The general strike today will push the country into a deep crisis and we will not be able to recover even in 25 years if it succeeds. However it is sure to be a failure," he added.

He alleged that those who want to stage a strike and political parties who back them are used by some international forces.

"Around 125 political leaders have been killed since independence. The assassins have been found but nothing has been disclosed on those who organized the plots. The fall of the government in 2001, the defeat of UNP government in 2004, the Easter Sunday attack, the 53-day government and fall of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government are part of conspiracies by international forces. Some political parties and trade unions have fallen into the trap set by these international forces," he added.

## Principal and three teachers taken into custody

Police said three of the female students between 15 and 17 years of age who fled from the school hostel after the alleged assault and three teachers who came in search of them were handed over to the Women and Children's Bureau by the Dalada Maligawa Police when the three girls refused to go back with the teachers.

Inquiries revealed that disciplinary action had been taken against five male students who had secretly entered the girls' hostel on Sunday

night (12). It is alleged that they had entered the girls' hostel to meet five female students with their consent. Police said the students concerned had been subject to assault and cruelty and even their hair had been cut.

After preliminary investigations, Women and Children's Bureau arrested the principal, two lady teachers functioning as matrons of the girls' hostel and a teacher in charge of the boys' hostel in connection with the alleged assault.

## BLC OGA dinner-dance

'Glorious Night', a dinner-dance hard to forget, is being organized by the Old Girls' Association (OGA) of Buddhist Ladies' College (BLC) on Sunday, March 19th at the King's Court, Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo.

While the crowning of the BLC Queen would be a highlight, toe-tapping, hand-clapping music would be provided by 'BLACK'.

For more information and tickets priced at Rs. 8,500 call: Damayanthi Pinto (0711586353); Chandra Ranasinghe (0776679952); or Inoka Liyanarachchi (0769166754)

## International Dhamma Programme to conduct Special Dhamma Talk

International Dhamma Programme will conduct a Special Dhamma Talk on Friday 17th March. 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm Sri Lanka time. (5.00 pm to 7.00 pm Perth time) online via zoom by Most Ven Ajahn Brahmavamsa Mahathera (known to most simply as Ajahn Brahm) Abbot of Bodhiyana Monastery, Perth, Western Australia on the topic - "The Emperor's 3 Questions Meditation Method".

Ajahn Brahm will describe how a simple story by Leo Tolstoy can generate mindfulness and renunciation (via metta) enough

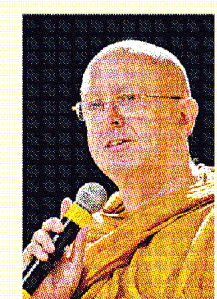
to meditate effectively, no matter what difficulties you may face.

Those who wish to register for this webinar could do so using:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\_lLqXYzQWSly

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

For any further information please contact Prof Lakshman R. Watawala 0777318565 or email ncfiasl@gmail.com



YTEYqShXY7Q

## OBITUARIES

**KADIRGAMAR - ALAGAN S.** (Retired Gen. Secretary of National Council and Colombo Y.M.C.A.). Beloved husband of late Atupharance (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 Yudheesh, was called to eternal glory on 12 March 2023. Remains lie at A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour. 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 Tiffanie, Natasha, Noel, Michelle, Dinali and Ramona, great grandfather of Max and Maya. Remains 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

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# STORY OF THE WORLD, WORTHY OF READING

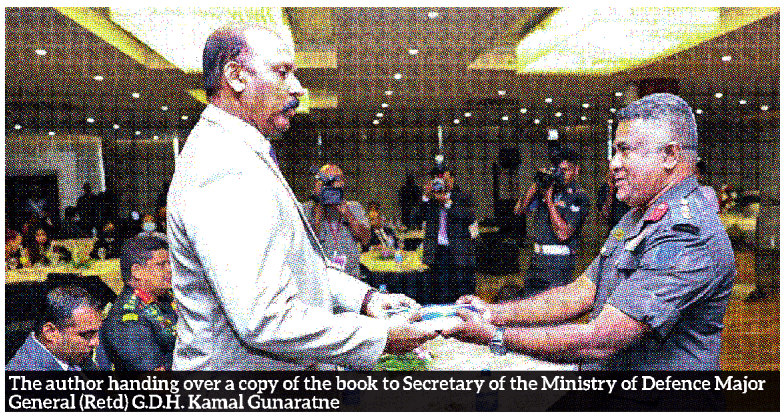
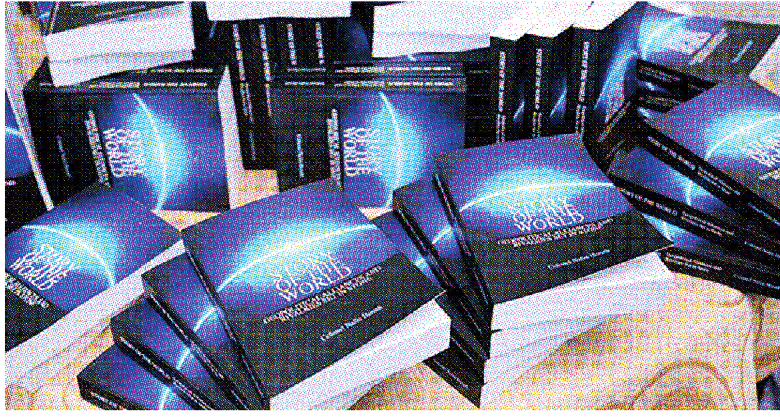
The book by Col. Nalin Herath not only provides valued study materials for scholars and researchers but is also immensely helpful to the average reader

At a time when updated study materials on international relations that study the interaction of nation-states and non-governmental organizations in diverse fields are rare, an attempt of bridging such gaps in the present, richly connected, complex world by a professionally skilled international relations expert demands greater appreciation.

"Story of the World: Geopolitical Alliances and Rivalries Set in Stone" authored by Col. Nalin Herath presents facts on geopolitics, history, culture and international relations, with an in-depth analysis on world affairs in the context of current geopolitical developments. This publication not only provides valued study materials for scholars and researchers but is also immensely helpful to the average readership of any age group who loves reading for life.

The author of the "Story of the World", Col. Nalin Herath who is Media Director of the Ministry of Defence and well-known author in international relations and current affairs exerts a successful attempt through this publication to further enhance the knowledge of the reader interested in contemporary world affairs.

This latest publication by Col. Herath is an extension to his maiden English publication "Globe in a Nutshell" authored a few years back and its Sinhala translation is widely popular among the military and other scholars at home and overseas as



The author handing over a copy of the book to Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Major General (Retd) G.D.H. Kamal Gunaratne

they delivered highly demanding material in their studies.

There are ongoing conflicts around the world at present involving many major powers. Scholars in the field of international relations face challenges in analyzing as well as conducting research about politics of other nations in the face of rapid

change in international politics and a general understanding of such issues is also equally important. Therefore, studying international relations which is a major discipline in social science becomes so vital for everyone.

Thus, "Story of the World: Geopolitical Alliances and Rivalries Set in Stone" is a book worth reading.



## HNB FINANCE

### HNB FINANCE PLC TWO GIGANTIC AUCTION SALES

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#### AUCTION 01

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

To Be Held At No 94 Muththettuwa Waththa, Hadigama, Piliyandala. Commencing at 10.00 a.m.

#### Comprising :

##### Motor Cars

WP CAX 6XXX	SUZUKI WAGON R	2017
WP KM 4XXX	MAZDA DBA-BK5P	2007
WP CAQ 9XXX	SUZUKI CELERIO VXi	2016
CP KE 8XXX	MARUTI ALTO	2007
WP KK 9XXX	MARUTI ZEN ESTILO VXi	2010
NW KP 3XXX	MITSUBISHI CSIASNDER	2009
WP CBC 1XXX	BMW I8	2016
SG CBK 5XXX	TOYOTA DBA-KSP130	2017
SG CAI 6XXX	SUZUKI DAA-MH44S WAGON R	2015
WP KM 1XXX	MARUTI ZEN ESTILO VXi	2010
CP JT 2XXX	TOYOTA TA- GX110	2001
19 9XXX	OPEL ASTRA 14SE	1996
WP KJ 7XXX	TOYOTA COROLLA	2008
NW CAD 7XXX	MICRO PANDA LC 1.0	2015
WP CAL 7XXX	SUZUKI ALTO LXI 800	2015
WP CAL 9XXX	HONDA DAA-GM4 GRACE	2015
CP KT 3XXX	KIA SORENTO	2012
WP CAU 2XXX	SUZUKI ALTO LXI 800	2017
WP KH-7XXX	MERCEDES BENZ	2006

##### Motor Lorries

WP PW 0XXX	TATA ACE EX	2013
WP LN 7XXX	L/ASHOK LEYLAND ECOMET	2018
CP PV 5XXX	TATA SUPER ACE	2013
WP DAD 8XXX	TATA XENON LIGHT DIESEL TRUCK	2016
WP LD 1XXX	TATA ACE	2006
WP PX 3XXX	TATA ACE EX2	2014
WP PR 7XXX	MAHINDRA MAXXIMO L/ASHOK LEYLAND TAURUS 2516	2011
SP LG 4XXX	TATA 207 DI	2009
WP LB 6XXX	TATA 207 DI	2006
SP LK 3XXX	NISSAN FREEZER TRUCK	2006
WP LI 6XXX	MITSUBISHI PA-FE70BB	2004
SP PQ-8XXX	TATA ACE	2011
NW PX 6XXX	TATA ACE EX2	2014
SP PX 9XXX	TATA ACE	2014
SP PP 0XXX	TATA ACE	2010

##### Vans

WP HG 5XXX	NISSAN GE-VTGE24	1998
60 8XXX	TOYOTA HIACE	1987
WP JM 0XXX	DAIHATSU HIJET GD-S200V	2000
254 - 0XXX	NISSAN CARAVAN	1995

##### Motor Cycles

CP BIO 4XXX	HONDA CBF TWISTER	2019
SP BIR 5XXX	YAMAHA RAY-ZR DISK	2019

#### Three Wheelers

YJ 2XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2010	ABA 7XXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE	2015	QC 9XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005
QU 6XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2009	QO 6XXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE	2008	QA 6XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005
QD 6XXX	Bajaj 2 STROKE	2006	JO 6XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2004	ABB 6XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2015
QJ 1XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2007	QI 6XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	YD 4XXX	BAJAJ RE	2010
YN 0XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2011	HS 0XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2003	QG 2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006
JE 5XXX	BAJAJ 2 STROKE	2004	QP 0XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008	QK 2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2007
AAS 0XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2014	QG 3XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2006	QB 6XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005
QT 9XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2009	QI 7XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2006	AAA-2XXX	BAJAJ RE205	2012
AAC 5XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012	QT 0XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2009	QC-1XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005
HZ 7XXX	BAJAJ AR 2 S	2004	QH 4XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	ABS-1XXX	BAJAJ RE	2018
YY 6XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012	QJ 5XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2007	AAA-9XXX	BAJAJ RE	2012
QN 5XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2007	YE 7XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2010	HC-7XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2003
QI 8XXX	BAJAJ RE	2006	QQ 8XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008	QZ-4XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010
AA 8XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2015	QS 1XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2008	QJ-3XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2007
AAI 3XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2013	QE 2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	YA-4XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2010
AL 4XXX	PIAGGIO APE	2013	QA 2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005	YC-3XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010
YM 5XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	QI 0XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	QB-2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005
AAF 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2013	YU 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	YB-8XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010
ABQ 0XXX	PIAGGIO APE	2013	YG 4XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2010	QH-2XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2006
AAR 3XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2014	YV 4XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2011	YG 7XXX	BAJAJ RE205	2010
AAP 0XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2014	YQ 0XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2011	QD 3XXX	BAJAJ 2 STROKE	2005
ABD 0XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2015	QL 7XXX	BAJAJ 4 STROKE	2007	AA 4XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2015
AAS 4XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2014	ABN 8XXX	BAJAJ RE	2016	QA 9XXX	BAJAJ RE	2005
AAI 1XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2013	JM 5XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2014	YL 3XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011
YB 8XXX	BAJAJ RE	2010	QL 2XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2007	AA 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012
QG 3XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	QJ 2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	YR 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011
QQ 5XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2006	QD 9XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	QF 6XXX	BAJAJ RE	2006
QM 1XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2007	QO 3XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008	YS 2XXX	BAJAJ RE	2011
YF 5XXX	TVS KING	2010	YJ 2XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2011	YJ 7XXX	BAJAJ RE	2011
AAV 7XXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE	2014	YB 8XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010	QN 8XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008
QX 4XXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE	2010	YL 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	AAO 2XXX	BAJAJ RE	2013
YR 9XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	AAZ 6XXX	BAJAJ RE	2014	QK 2XXX	BAJAJ RE	2007
AAU 3XXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE	2014	QG 3XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	QZ 6XXX	BAJAJ RE	2010
Jl 9XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2004	QB 9XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005			

#### AUCTION 02

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

To Be Held At No.562/127, D. S. Senanayake Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Commencing at 10.00 a.m.

#### Comprising :

##### Motor Cars

WP GV 1XXX	MITSUBISHI GALANT	2002
CP JK 6XXX	TATA INDICA LXI	2004
NC HG 2XXX	MITSUBISHI CSIASNDER	2002
NC KE 0XXX	MARUTI 800	2006

##### Vans

59-9XXX	TOYOTA HIACE	1993
CP PI 3XXX	NISSAN	2015
56-6XXX	MAZDA	1990
252-2XXX	HBD-DA17V EVERY	1994

##### Motor Lorries

NP PR 1XXX	MAHINDRA BOLERO PIKUP	2011
NP LO 2XXX	ISUZU TKG-NPR85AN	2013
NW PR 2XXX	TATA ACE	2011
NC LI 2XXX	TATA LPK407	2011
NW DAC 9XXX	ACE XPRESS CDI	2015
EP DAB 3XXX	MAXIMO PLUS	2015
WP PX 2XXX	MAXIMO PLUS	2013
NC PT 1XXX	TATA ACE EX	2011
NP LI 0XXX	TATA LPK 1615	2010
EP JV 7XXX	TATA 207 DI	2005
NW PQ 5XXX	TATA ACE	2011
NC DAD 6XXX	TATA ACE EX2	2016
NP PS 6XXX	BOLERO MAXI TRUCK	2012
NW PR 6XX	TATA ACE	2011
NP PP 9XXX	BOLERO MAXI TRUCK	2010
EP LI 7XXX	TATA LPK1615	2011
SG PV 8XXX	MAHINDEA MAXXIMO PLUS	2013

##### Motor Cycles

NC BIT 2XXX	T V S APACHE 160	2020
NP BIG 5XXX	HERO HF DELUX	2019
NP BJA 7XXX	APRILLILIA	2019
NC BIE 5XXX	T V S WEGO	2019
EP BHQ 7XXX	PULSAR 150	2019
NC BIR 5XXX	HERO PLEASURE	2020
NC BIE 1XXX	YAMAHA FASCINO	2016
NC BIR 1XXX	T V S SPORT 100	2019
NC BIV 3XXX	T V S WEGO	2020

##### Tractors

CP RF 4XXX	3230 TX SUPER -2WD NEW HOLLAND	
NC RF 8XXX	MAHINDRA 595 DI 50 HP	
NC RH 5XXX	3230 TX SUPER - 4WD	

#### Three Wheelers

YM 8XXX	BAJAJ RE205	2011	QS 0XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008	QO 0XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008
QQ 3XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008	OS 2XXX	BAJAJ 4 S	2009	AAN 1XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2013
AAF 5XXX	BAJAJ RE205	2012	YY 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012	ABJ 3XXX	BAJAJ RE	2015
YI 8XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2010	QI 0XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	QI 6XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006
YH XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2010	QZ 0XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010	JH 4XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2004
ABH 6XXX	BAJAJ RE	2015	QG 6XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	QF 4XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006
QV 9XXX	BAJAJ 4 S	2009	QU 4XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2009	QH 0XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006
QV 4XXX	BAJAJ 4 S	2009	YR 7XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	JU 2XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2004
YX 2XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012	ABK 3XXX	BAJAJ RE	2016	AAW 4XXX	BAJAJ RE	2015
OR 6XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2008	HH 4XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2003	JG 7XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2004
YO 9XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2011	YA 0XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010	QM 9XXX	BAJAJ AR4S	2007
QI 8XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	AAN 1XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2013	YZ 0XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012
YD 7XXX	BAJAJ AR 4S UG	2010	QC 9XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005	WP QB 9XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2005
QE 7XXX	BAJAJ AR2S	2006	AAB 9XXX	BAJAJ RE 205	2012			

Viewing - Two Days Before Each Auction At The Respective Locations (Between 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.)

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- Payment : Non - refundable initial deposit of 25% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 75% & Removal within three working days after each auction.
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PAINTING THE WAY TOWARDS INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY



ALL ROUNDED PROTECTION



# EDITORIAL

*"Poverty is relatively cheap to address and incredibly expensive to ignore."*  
- CLINT BORGEN

OUR THOUGHT

## ADDRESSING POVERTY IS A STATE RESPONSIBILITY

Whether the country is reeling from an economic crisis or not Sri Lankans once in every few years witness a trend among some sections of the society taking drastic decisions to ruin their own life and that of their children. One might doubt if such a trend is in the making at present as well, given a series of self inflicted crimes committed by some people for the past few weeks, especially taking the lives of their own children.

A man from Aranayake had killed his two children before committing suicide on February 6 while in a similar incident, two children had been found murdered after which their mother had attempted to kill herself as well on February 18 in Kuruwita. Another mother from Kebithigollawa in Anuradhapura had jumped into a well on March 5 along with her two children and on the same day another disgruntled mother had thrown her one-and-half year-old child into a shrimp tank in Udappuwa, a fishing village in Puttalam District. Two days later, a young father from Vavuniya had killed himself by hanging after poisoning his wife who was a teacher and two children. It was said that the man had been frustrated as he had run into debt.

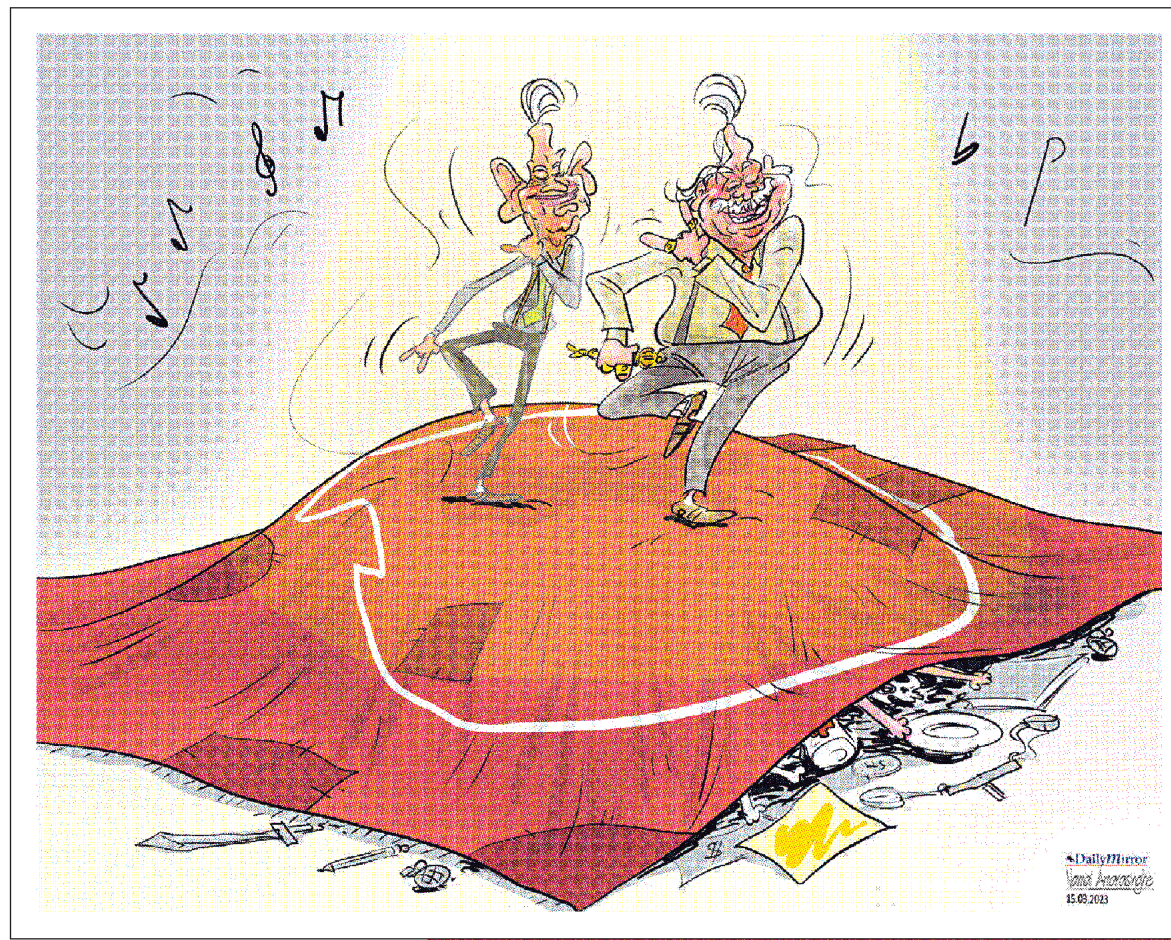
We have been reading in newspapers or watching in televisions similar incidents in the recent past as well such as parents throwing children into crocodile-infested rivers or jumping into rivers, leaving the children on the bank. When we hear those incident our subconscious conclusion would be that the wretched person or the family represents the low income stratum of the society, as that has been the case in most occasions. Not a single incident cited above had occurred in affluent families. The immediate cause for these incidents may vary from family disputes, indebtedness to unemployment or such frustrating situations, but poverty lies as a running thread underneath all these causes.

One can blame the current economic crisis for the above incidents, but poverty had taken toll on lives of low-income families even during politicians thumping their chests over what they claim massive economic development in the country. A casual Google search would remind us many such incidents took place during the past several decades. True, the current economic downturn has ruined the lives of the members of thousands of families who had been leading a somewhat comfortable life and the push for them to take drastic decisions should be relatively higher, though only a few succumb to that drive. And running counter to the claims of some politicians about economic hegemony of certain communities over the one they belong to, we hear of these unfortunate incidents from around the country.

What is disheartening is nobody responsible for the country's economy seems to have been moved by these horrific reports. They apparently feel this situation as something alien to their realm of authority and these shocking incidents are felt like those in the movies they have been watching. A sense of duty to address the underlying causes is not prompted them to act.

An individual has to bear some degree of responsibility to his economic standing, but humans do not live alone like Robinson Crusoe in an isolated uninhabited island. The state as the collective and organized mechanism for the security and wellbeing of all individuals has a higher degree of responsibility to address issues such as natural disasters, epidemics and poverty that cannot be tackled individually. Feudal China and the Tsarist Russia which were highly backward in the early 20th century became world powers with socialist programmes launched by the leaders of famous Chinese and Russian revolutions. Germany and Japan which were destroyed by the World War II emerged within a few years as economic giants with successful capitalist programmes by the leaders of those countries. Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea are another four cases in point for the state transforming the economy into "tigers."

In Sri Lanka, even those who ruled the country now admit that they destroyed the country. They put it as "all past governments are responsible for the current economic mess." Impunity for high profile corruption is something well accepted in this island. After the country being declared bankrupt in April last year Sri Lanka is now about to be awarded with a breathing space by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by helping restructuring its foreign debt and lending it US\$ 2.9 billion for four years. Along with the debt restructuring, the government is planning to obtain more loans from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and some countries. Yet, we have a blurred future ahead of us, as we are yet to be informed of how we are going to shake off the burden of all these debts and how the leaders are going to develop the country, using these borrowings.



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

# MISERY IS QUICKLY FORGOTTEN EXCEPT BY THOSE WHO SUFFER

By **Gamini Akmeemana**

**W**e get so mired in our own problems that we forget how troubled the outside world is. Not that it's any comfort.

The problem is that, while the epicenters of violence which threaten world stability, such as the Ukraine, get all the media attention, other troubled nations are quickly forgotten and left to stew in their own misery. Myanmar, Iran, Belarus and Palestine are prominent examples, while no one even mentions Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Haiti or Albania.

Russia is still a world power capable of rattling the West. Once a great nation, it doesn't belong in the above list but has done most things wrong under autocratic President Vladimir Putin and is set on a self-destructive course. One year after Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Russia, I can see how mistaken my initial assessment was. The invasion was a mistake but I thought Russia's massive armoured forces would easily overrun Ukraine. It has proved to be otherwise. That assessment was based on Soviet era Red Army capability, now obviously eroded by corruption and selection of inept generals and strategists by Putin, who can't put this right because he's very much part of this self-serving and self-consuming system.

While there are no clear victors in this war (now reminiscent of stagnant World War I warfare or the Iran-Iraq war started by Saddam Hussein, the Ukrainians can claim the moral high ground with their fierce resistance. When the war ends, it will face huge problems because of terrible infrastructure damage, people's mental and physical health and other issues. Russia, despite talk of a powerful Moscow-Beijing alliance, has in fact become an economic satellite of China, a humiliating fate to a country which got its then backward ally started in her drive to be a military-industrial power under Mao Tsetung.

To get out of this socio-economic and political quagmire, Russia needs bold new leadership ready to forget world dominance and territorial claims and willing to keep corruption under check. Unfortunately, the country's best democratic hope for this has been jailed under trumped up charges, much of the opposition and free press silenced. China checked corruption with brutal efficiency. Those convicted of bribery or siphoning off public assets were executed by firing squad, and the victim's family had to pay for the bullet.

Putin can't do this because he will have to shoot his own friends. Of course, in Sri Lanka, we find such solutions unacceptable because this is a democracy which guarantees the rights of those politicians responsible for economic crimes and unsolved disappearances.

Ominously for the rest of the world,



Aung San Suu Kyi Vladimir Putin's

**To get out of this socio-economic and political quagmire, Russia needs bold new leadership ready to forget world dominance and territorial claims and willing to keep corruption under check.**

Russia's more prosperous ally too, is focused on territorial claims – Taiwan and the Sprat Islands, and is a nuclear power. That gives this duo an awesome power which the old Axis powers – Germany, Italy and Japan – never had.

Of the other troubled nations mentioned above, it's Myanmar which provides the most heartbreaking example. After decades of military rule, it remains poor and underdeveloped, with per capita income rarely going above US\$1400. Administrative services, health and education suffer severe problems as the country's military rulers, with Chinese backing, pour money into lucrative mega projects such as highways and a new capital, profitable to themselves and their business backers.

Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of assassinated national hero Gen. Aung San and Myanmar's democratic hope, was finally freed three years ago after spending most of her life in detention. In November 2020, her National League for Democracy (NLD) won General Elections with more than 80% of the vote. Striking a deal with the military, she was appointed 'national councillor' or de facto prime minister and Myanmar began walking a perilous path to democratic rule. But, though the deal still gave them power in parliament and several key portfolios including defence, the military simply could not get used to civilian rule.

They ousted her government in a coup in February 2021, placing Suu Kyi under house arrest. She was subsequently arrested under sham charges, facing 18 months of trials on 19 charges. A Myanmar military court has sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to a total jail time to 33 years. She is now 77 and, unless a miracle occurs and she goes free, the military clearly want her to die in jail. Her trials have been set behind closed-doors

where the public and media are barred access and her lawyers were banned from speaking to journalists. This was in effect a military kangaroo court.

Large parts of Myanmar descended into chaos after the latest coup, displacing more than a million people. More than 2,900 people have been killed during the junta's crackdown on dissent, according to monitoring group the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

40,000 homes have been burned down, 8 million children are no longer in school, and 15 million people (of a total of 53.8 million) are judged by the UN to be dangerously short of food.

Much of the country is caught up in a brutal civil war. Yet the military is still refusing to negotiate with its opponents, as it promised to do in a meeting with neighbouring countries shortly after the coup.

Instead, it has plans for an election which would almost certainly exclude Suu Kyi, and much of her party.

Those loyal to her are calling on citizens to boycott any poll organised by the military, arguing it would be illegitimate and impractical. The UN says these would be "sham elections".

Many members of Suu Kyi's party are among more than 16,600 people who have been arrested by the junta since they seized power - 13,000 remain in prison, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma).

Recently, the UN Security Council called for an end to violence in Myanmar and the release of all political prisoners. China and Russia abstained from the vote and did not use their veto power following amendments to the resolution's wording.

With no hope of fair elections or the military showing any signs of compromise, young people have taken two different paths of protest – one of 'silent protests' in the cities where they hold placards. But those with less patience have taken to violence.

With typical harshness, the junta has executed suspects and passed a draconian law under which the properties of those on trial for terrorism will be confiscated, forcing families to state publicly that they have disowned family members, be they sons, daughters or spouses, accused of such 'crimes against the state.'

Soon after she became national councillor, Suu Kyi lost her standing in the West for not standing up to the military when they began brutally persecuting the Muslim Rohingya minority. Oxford University which awarded her an honorary degree, removed her portrait and she was widely condemned as racist and unfeeling towards the Rohingyas.

But it's clear now why she remained silent. If she had spoken out, the coup which ended Myanmar's all too brief experiment with democracy and rule of law, offering a glimmer of hope to millions of long suffering citizens, would have come sooner rather than later. The military were simply waiting for a chance to get back to the driving seat. When she didn't give them one, they quickly made it up.

## DM Poll

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

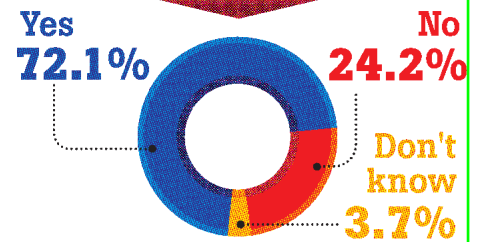
- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



Scan to Vote

## LAST POLL

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



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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### QR Code for Fuel

Seven months before, the authorities has introduced the QR Code System to issue Fuel to the vehicles according to the types of vehicles. The quota is entitled for a week and reset the quota by midnight of Sunday/Monday.

However, the reset date of the quota has been changed to Monday/Tuesday midnight recently as cost saving of distributions during the weekends. If the reset date change as Friday/Saturday this benefit will be more effective.

As an example 20 liters quota is entitled for Motor Cars category and fuel tank capacity of majority of cars are above 40 liters. Hence, every week most of them require to fill their tanks every week and wasting their valuable time as well as filling stations' resources.

Hence, it's proposed to change the system to allocate quota to be doubled and reset every 2 weeks time. This benefits the customers to fill their tank at once and manage their long distance travels accordingly.

N.NIMAL

### A/L answer script marking

As a matter of fact that the GCE (A/L) examinations concluded last month but the preparation for answer script evaluation is still dragging on due to the anomalies in the payments for evaluators of answer scripts. The evaluators were paid at the rate of only Rs 2,000 each a day but this amount is hardly sufficient for the evaluators to manage with their daily expenditures during the script markings. The CTU secretary has revealed that the Ministry authorities has agreed to pay to Rs 3,000 each evaluator a day. It is apparent that the cost of living is increasing on a daily basis in Sri Lanka and no can cope with the fixed amount of income due to the monstrous and mounting rate of inflation in the country owing to the economic downturn in Sri Lanka. It was a fact that the Department of Examinations took nearly six months to release the results of students who completed the GCE (A/L) examinations in the month of February 2022.

The unnecessary delays in conducting examinations and answer script evaluations will severely affect the higher studies and future of students because students spend more than 13 years to complete their school studies in addition, they have to spend substantial period of time to obtain the results of both examinations in Sri Lanka.

M.JALALDEEN ISFAN

## TU protests to continue until Wednesday

### WEB COMMENTS

**HIGH TAX PAYERS** - There is always new generation who will work for fair pay and pay their taxes. These professionals are now becoming too much burden, just like CEB unions caused cost blow outs.

essential. Then they can be imprisoned if they do not work

**PRO BONO PUBLICO** - Government can use the law to break the TUs. Declare everything and anything related to professionals as

**SAVE POOR** - IMF will not give any loan to us if government tax revenue keeps low. The families of the poor are greater numbers than the few 100,000 plus per month earners, and government has smash the professionals for country's future.

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

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EmpowHer 2023 #EmbraceEquity

# DESHIKA HOSTS PROGRAMME FOR ASPIRING FEMALE PROFESSIONALS

A unique event to celebrate International Women's Day this year titled, 'EmpowHer 2023' will be held on March 22 at Hilton Colombo Residences from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. According to a press release issued by Deshika Rodrigo—the main facilitator of the event—this programme has been exclusively curated for women who aspire to achieve phenomenal professional success.

The release states, "Many working women work hard to balance work and home life and often struggle to navigate the many challenges that they must face to succeed. This programme is, therefore, for female professionals to learn what it takes to succeed in a mostly male-dominated corporate world."

"It is a highly interactive and practical programme in which, through stories, best practices, video's and sharing of real-life experiences

the participants will discuss and agree on the essential components of professional success; from a woman's perspective. Some of the topics that will be discussed during the programme include what to do (and not do) at work, how to balance work and home priorities, developing your personal brand, bias and how to address them, self-limiting bias, body-image issues, financial awareness and investing, mental wellness and developing a BHAG (Big, Hair, Audacious Goal)". According to the press release another segment in the programme is to discuss the importance of women

supporting other women.

Rodrigo is a well-known figure in the world of HR and Diversity and Leadership Coaching. She will be joined in the programme by several leading ladies like Ms. Farzana Jameel (Presidents Counsel and Former Sr. Additional Solicitor General), Ms. Christine Bandaranaike (CEO, JB Financial PVT Ltd), Ms. Roshani Weerasekera (Head Liability Management, LOLC Finance PLC) and Ms. Shanelle De Almeida (Clinical Psychologist, TheMindManager.lk).

Rodrigo has delivered this programme for several leading corporate clients and women executives over the past five years and the feedback received from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. She believes that women are indeed a force

and when they work together they really can achieve their highest aspirations; contrary to what some may think!

Rodrigo is a passionate advocate of women's empowerment and was instrumental in driving several key women-related initiatives at Standard Chartered Bank where she was the former Head of Human Resources.



Deshika Rodrigo

**It is a highly interactive and practical programme in which, through stories, best practices, video's and sharing of real-life experiences the participants will discuss and agree on the essential components of professional success; from a woman's perspective**

**EMPOWHER 2023**  
#EMBRACEEQUITY  
Celebrate International Women's Day by attending this specially curated program for women who aspire to achieve phenomenal professional success!

📅 22nd March, 2023  
🕒 8.30am - 5.30pm  
📍 Hilton Colombo Residences

Investment: Rs 15,000/-  
Registration: 074-281-5112 / 077-774-9807

**Guest of Honor:** Farzana Jameel (President, Counsel and Former Sr. Additional Solicitor General)

**Panelists:** Shanelle De Almeida (Clinical Psychologist, TheMindManager.lk), Christine Bandaranaike (CEO, JB Financial PVT Ltd), Roshani Weerasekera (Head Liability Management, LOLC Finance PLC)

**Facilitator:** Deshika Rodrigo (Leadership Coach, HR Professional and Diversity Specialist)

\*Net proceeds in aid of Ma Sewana Teenage Mothers Home\*

# SISTERHOOD INITIATIVE CELEBRATES THREE YEARS

To commemorate three years since Sisterhood Initiative's (SI) inception, "Celebrating SI" was held recently at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies recently.

According to a release issued by SI, this Muslim women's group was founded in early 2020 by Nabeela Iqbal; an activist with experience in peacebuilding.

The release states, "Sisterhood Initiative is a non-profit, non-political & non-religious discussion and volunteer group, dedicated to understanding and addressing issues faced by Muslim women across the island. The group engages with women from all faiths and backgrounds. Its vision is to make Muslim women be recognised as important stakeholders in society with decision-making power. SI works towards creating a safe space for women to have conversations, to inspire learning and leadership through volunteering, while raising awareness for the protection and advocacy of the rights of Sri Lankan Muslim women."

Piyumi Wattuhewa, the Coordinator for Colombo, described how the unfair treatment that Muslim women were subjected to became increasingly transparent against the backdrop of the Easter Sunday Attacks in 2019. This inspired SI's founding members to invite women to converse about their experiences. They had an overwhelming response, and from there, the group has since expanded to different parts across the island. As a non-Muslim, Wattuhewa spoke of her experience in Sisterhood as not catering exclusively to Muslim women. In fact, during one of the highlights of the event, members from the audience were asked to say a word that described SI — "inclusivity" was one of them. The other words included "safe space", "community", "advocacy" and "freedom".

Despite the pandemic ensuing almost immediately after SI's inception, Samiha Muhsin, the Coordinator for Kandy, explained that their most impactful discussions were held online; such as IG lives like "A day in the life of a Muslim Girl in Ramadan", "Learning about Poon Poya Day" and "Conversation between a Catholic and a Muslim".

SI had also had heavier conversations, surrounding the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act (MMDA) reforms, women's participation in politics, forced cremations, which were carried out with relevant experts. But the work done by the SI Team has come at the cost of online attacks and harassment, with the intention of discrediting young female activists.

The group has increasingly come under scrutiny for their work, the slander only worsening under Sri Lanka's current crisis. The team has been subjected to smear campaigns and thinly veiled threats, especially for their work in bringing light to laws that discriminate against Muslim women, under the MMDA.

But that has not stopped the team. SI has been running a (Legal) Support Team which consults young women who reach out, through social media and its membership, regarding domestic and intimate partner violence, and discrimination in the Quazi courts. Shifa Najumudeen, an Attorney-at-Law and also SI's Legal Officer, carries out free weekly online consultations for these women. Fellow Sumaiya Frahatth assists these cases with her background in Psychology.

One of SI's biggest milestones is their campaigns team programme. Volunteers were pooled into teams by inter-faith and intra-faith dialogues, women's rights and the MMDA reforms. They learned about key policy and legislative instruments that shaped Sri Lankan society and were mentored on how to inspire change. Other workshops, with resource persons, included digital storytelling and countering hate speech on social media.

A highlight of SI's 2022 was drawing murals in Union Place and Slave Island with South Asian artists, Fearless Collective, to depict images of minority women, representing leadership and unity. The group returned to Slave Island, during the height of the economic crisis, to support communities with ration packs distributions.

Key stakeholders who've worked with SI present at the event shared their sentiments. Rev. Fr. Andrew Devadason of St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, said "All the parents here are very proud to see these young women working at their potential. I am leaving with greater hope. You guys are the hope for this nation. We are getting old, but this nation will not fall because of



Shreen Abdul Saroor and founder Nabeela Iqbal



Piyumi Wattuhewa and Samiha Muhsin talking about SI's journey

you. I saw that here as I came, I told Mr. Iqbal (Nabeela's father) you will initiate change. It's there in you and all that I have heard here."

On April 21, 2022, SI in collaboration with the Milagiriya Church organized an Ifthar (breaking fast) event to remember the victims of the Easter Sunday Attacks and the families affected by the unlawful arrests that followed, under the PTA.

"I noticed how much joy is there in the way you work. I have always noticed the duty of care you all have towards getting something moved off the internet or getting a case result and the duty of care that you hold for people who come to you for help or advice. I think that's very commendable. I really hope you don't lose sight of it and I have faith that you won't," said Saritha Irugalbandara from Hashtag Generation, an organization which SI relays cases regarding online harassment. They also help the team at SI remove harmful content off the internet.

The event concluded with a conversation between Nabeela and the Guest Speaker, Shreen Abdul Saroor, the co-founder of Women's Action Network. She spoke of her experience working with SI during the government's policy of forced cremations and its crushing impact on Sri Lankan Muslims. She commented on SI: "I am also one of the admirers of Sisterhood Initiative. Since their inception, I've been working with them. I see their volunteerism and how they resonate with the community wherever they go, how they care about the community, how they care about other activists on the ground."

More information about SI could be obtained by browsing [www.sisterhoodinitiative.org](http://www.sisterhoodinitiative.org) or by contacting [sisterhoodinitiative.lk@gmail.com](mailto:sisterhoodinitiative.lk@gmail.com). The livestream of the 'Celebrate SI' event is available on their official Facebook and Instagram pages.

SI's vision is to make Muslim women be recognised as important stakeholders in society and inspire learning and leadership through volunteering, while raising awareness for the protection and advocacy of the rights of Sri Lankan Muslim women

**32nd Annual General Meeting of the American Alumni Association of Sri Lanka**

**Date:** Monday 27th March 2023  
**Time:** - 4.00 pm  
**Venue:** AGM & Fellowship - American Center, US Embassy

We cordially invite all members.

Please confirm attendance by 20th March 2023 by sending your name and e-mail address to [secretary.aaasorg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.aaasorg@gmail.com) or call / WhatsApp (74) 264 4162 to make necessary arrangements to enter the embassy premises.

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**YURENI NOSHKA**  
MARCH 15TH WEDNESDAY AT 10.00PM

Dialog 24 | YouTube | hi/online

**NOTICE**

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION**

A Special General Meeting of the St. Peter's College Old Boys' Union (SPC OBU) will be held on **Friday 31st of March 2023 from 6.30 p.m. at the Sr. Flora Hall, St. Peter's College, Colombo** to amend the Constitution of the SPC OBU. The proposed amendments are available on the SPC OBU website. (<http://www.stpetersobu.com>).

All members are invited to attend.

By order of the Committee of Management  
**Dayan Georges**  
Hony. General Secretary  
52/3, Kawdana Broadway,  
Dehiwela.  
14th March 2023

**TENDER NOTICE**

ශ්‍රී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව  
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

**Obtaining the Service of a Qualified Mechanical Engineer to the Facilities Management Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka**

<b>Tender Number</b>	05/03/003/0043/001	
<b>Tender Description</b>	Tender for obtaining the Service of a Qualified Mechanical Engineer to the Facilities Management Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on outsourced basis for a period of two (02) years	
<b>Virtual Pre-bid Meeting</b>	<b>Date :</b> 20.03.2023	<b>Time :</b> 1030 hrs.
<b>Bid Closing and Opening</b>	<b>Date :</b> 27.03.2023	<b>Time :</b> 1430 hrs.
<b>For further Information</b>	Please refer <a href="https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders">https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders</a>	
	Deputy Director Facilities Management Department 011-2477541	Senior Assistant Director Human Resources Department 011-2477232

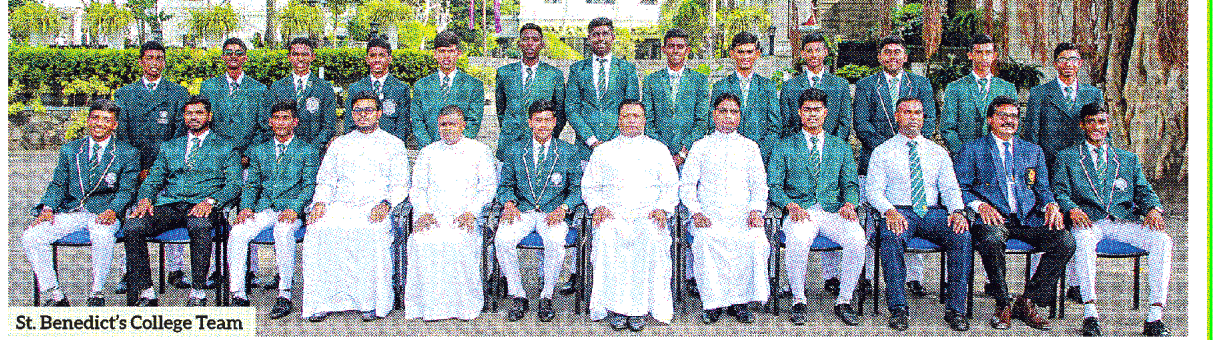
Director, Human Resources Department,  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

SPORTS

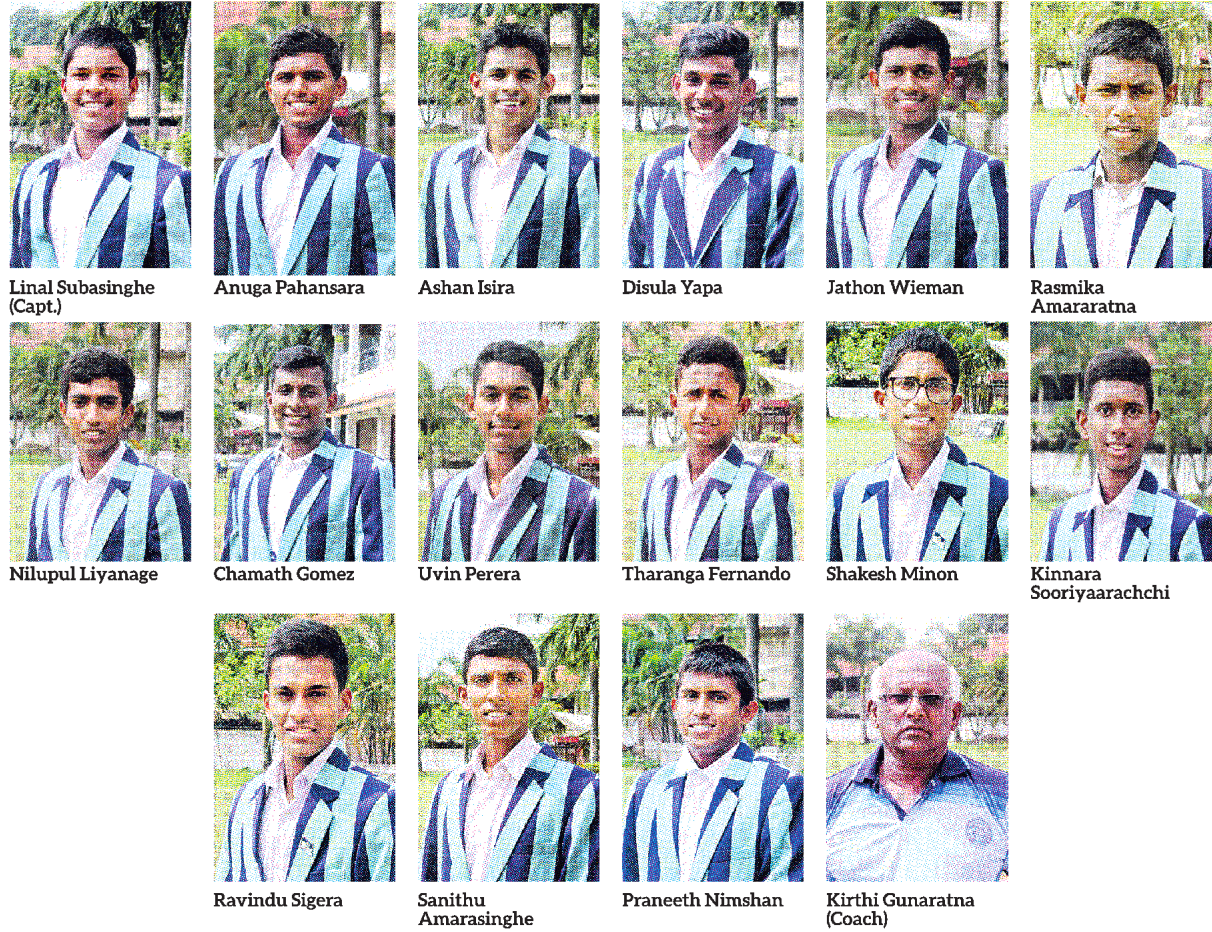
# WESLEY, ST. BENEDICT'S LOOK FOR FIRST OUTRIGHT WIN



Wesley College team



St. Benedict's College Team



**Wesley College Team:**  
 Linal Subasinghe (Capt.), Anuga Pahansara, Ashan Isira, Disula Yapa, Jathon Wieman, Rasmika Amararatna, Nilupul Liyanage, Chamath Gomez, Uvin Perera, Tharanga Fernando, Shakesh Minon, Kinnara Sooriyaarachchi, Ravindu Sigera, Sanithu Amarasinghe, Praneeth Nimshan, Kirthi Gunaratna (Coach)



**St. Benedict's College Team:**  
 Chamath Chathurya (Capt.), Arshan Joseph, Dinath Senila, Geenod Perera, Haren Olagama, Sharujan Shanmuganathan, Shenal Samaratunga, Sheran Dissanaik, Viduneth Wilson, Sheron Kannangara, Mevan Dissanaik, Tehan Bitar, Vihara Aththanayake, Akshor Selvanayagam, Yohan Samuel, Penlal Fernando (Coach)



Uvin Perera the top knock taker of the side who has taken over 30 wickets

Skipper Linal Subasinghe the top run scorer for the Wesleyites

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

The 3rd encounter between Wesley College Colombo and St. Benedict's College Colombo for the James Cartman Trophy will be played on March 16 and 17 at the P. Sara Stadium.

The two schools share a cricketing history of over 126 years, having first met on the cricket field in 1896, but it was only in 2021 that they began playing for the James Cartman Trophy.

Following the two-day encounter, they will face off for the Rev. Bro. Luke Gregory in a limited over encounter and with the matches in 2021 and 2022 not being played – effectively meaning a winner this year would be the first to get their hands on the respective trophies.

The limited over trophy encounter will be played on March 25 at SSC Grounds, and will coincide with the Wesley Walk which will begin from the school premises.

The two schools will also be playing each other for the second time this season having met in the knockout stage of the ongoing Under 19 inter-school cricket tournament, with the Benedictines coming away with a victory that move them forward into the semi-finals. Wesley will be led by fourth year player Linal Subasinghe who has been their top scorer this season with over 450 runs inclusive of six half tons to his credit from the few matches that they have played.

Apart from the skipper the other players from whom much will be expected are Sanithu Amarasinghe,

Chamath Gomaz, Lakshan Sudarshana and Uvin Perera, an all-rounder who will lead the bowling attack with the support from Shakesh Minon, Ravindu Sigera and Sanithu Amarasinghe.

St. Benedict's will also be led by fourth year coloursman Chamath Chathurya who has yet to show his best. But the cynosure of all eyes will be on Sharujan Shanmuganathan who has scored over 900 runs inclusive of four half tons and two tons with a top score of 160 against St Servatius.

They have another centurion in the side in Shenal Samaratunga who scored over 400 runs making four half tons and two tons, with Viduneth Wilson, Sheron Kannangara, Mevan Dissanaik, Arshan Joseph and Vihara Aththanayake also key to the Bens' success.



Sharujan Shanmuganathan is the top scorer for St. Benedict's having chalked up over 900 runs inclusive of four half tons and two tons

Mevan Dissanaik the best bowler of St. Benedict's has taken over 45 wickets

PIX BY PRADEEP DILUKSHANA

## CDB lift MCA "Ban-Fin" Cricket Sixes

Adeesha Tillakaratne (34 not out) and Chanaka Ruwansiri (30) were involved in a whirlwind partnership, for Citizens Development Business Finance (CDB), to chase down 100 runs and snatch a last ball win over HNB in the Final of the MCA "Ban-Fin" Cricket Sixes conducted by the Mercantile Cricket Association, concluded last Saturday, at the Galle International Cricket Stadium.

HNB batting first got off to an absolute flyer as Madhawa Wamapura led the way with a blistering eight ball 35 not out; Sandun Weerakkody (21) and Tharusha Fernando (19 not out) continued with the onslaught to take HNB to the magical three figure mark in five overs (100/1).

The awards were presented by Regional Manager,

Nippon Paint Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Duroshan Nagahawatte, Relationship Manager Privilege Select Banking, National Development Bank (NDB), Lakshan Karunatilake, President, Nalin Wickramasinghe, Senior Vice President, Mahesh de Alwis & Vice President, Sirosha Gunatilake (all from MCA). -BM

**Match Results in brief**  
**League Stage (09 matches):**  
 LB Finance – 60/2 (5) lost to CDB – 63/4 (4.4);  
 Orient Finance – 53/1 (5) lost to Union Bank – 57/1 (3.5); Peoples Leasing & Finance – 98/1 (5) beat Commercial Bank – 58/2 (5); HNB – 69/3 (5) Lost to CDB – 72/1 (4.4); Orient Finance – 68/1 (5) lost to Assetline Finance – 72/4 (4.4); Peoples Leasing & Finance – 85/3 (5) beat LOLC 65/2 (5); LB Finance –

74/5 (5) lost to HNB – 78/2 (4.0); Assetline Finance – 73/0 (5) beat Union Bank 56/1 (5); LOLC 74/5 (5) tied with Commercial Bank 74/5 (5); **Semi-Finals:** Assetline Finance – 35/6 (4.5) lost to CDB – 37/0 (2); Peoples Leasing & Finance – 51/3 (5) lost to HNB – 55/1 (3.5); **Final:** HNB – 100/1 (5) (Madhawa Wamapura 35 not out, Sandun Weerakkody 21, Tharusha Fernando 19 not out, Chanaka Ruwansiri 1/14) lost to CDB – 101/2 (5) (Adeesha Tillakaratne 34 not out, Chanaka Ruwansiri 30, Mishane Silva 17, Madhawa Wamapura 1/17, Sandun Weerakkody 1/13); **Special Awards:** Chanaka Ruwansiri from CDB was the best batter, hitter of Most Number of sixes in the tournament & Man of the Final; Sayura Udukumbura from LOLC was the Best bowler.



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**Date:**  
 March 23, 30  
 April 20, 27  
 May 4

**Time:**  
 5.45–7.45pm

**Venue:**  
 Auditorium,  
 AICPA & CIMA Sri Lanka,  
 356 Elvitigala Mawatha,  
 Colombo 5

**Ticket fees:**  
 Members/exam  
 complete candidates:  
 LKR 12,000

**Nonmembers:**  
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## Trinity College in control against Prince of Wales

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

Trinity College was well placed in their inter-school Under 19 encounter against Prince of Wales College which commenced at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

Trinity scored 230 with the help of two fine half centuries by Rahal Amarasinghe (77) and Lakvin Abeysinghe (55). The match was stopped 60 minutes before scheduled close of play due to heavy rain and bad light in Kandy.

**Trinity 230** in 60.4 overs (Rahal Amarasinghe 77, Lakvin Abeysinghe 55, Vibawith Ehelepola 31, Rasindu Fernando 3 for 67, Prince Fernando 2 for 16, Basuru Kalhara 2 for 34, Uneth Peiris 2 for 31) **Prince of Wales 5/0** in 2 overs

## Sri Lanka lose to Thailand in Bangabandhu kabbadi opener

Sri Lanka lost to Thailand by four points in their first match of the 3rd Bangabandhu International Invitation Kabbadi tournament yesterday. Twelve countries are participating in this tournament being held in Dhaka, Bangladesh with the final scheduled for March 20. Thailand

defeated Sri Lanka after a close match 36-32.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka will take on Malaysia today in another Group A match (SP)

**Others results:**  
 Indonesia beat Malaysia 36-23  
 Bangladesh beat Argentina 72-23  
 Iraq beat Nepal 49-48

## Ireland to play two Tests in Sri Lanka after schedule tweak

Ireland's tour of Sri Lanka next month will now include two Test matches – the visitors' fifth and sixth ever – after a scheduling rejig, officials said yesterday.

The tour initially comprised one Test match and two ODIs, but both teams agreed to play a second Test and skip the 50-over games.

Both Test matches will be played in Galle, the first starting on April 16 and the second on April 24.

Richard Holdsworth, of Cricket Ireland, said they agreed to the late change in schedule because the Test series is preceded by six white-ball matches in Bangladesh and followed by three further ODIs after they return home. "Exposing our playing group to an extended period in Asian conditions will be beneficial to their development and given the World Cup this year is in India, the more exposure to these conditions the better, despite it being a different format," he said in a statement. Ireland have played just three Test matches, losing all of them, since being given Test status in 2017.



Andrew Balbirnie in action (File Photo) They are due to play their fourth, in Bangladesh, in early April. In June they are set to take on England in a one-off Test at Lords.

Ireland squad: Andrew Balbirnie (capt), Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Murray Commins, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Graham Hume, Matthew Humphreys, Tom Mayes, Andrew McBride, James McCollum, PJ Moor, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White.

(AFP)



# Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market POB

## World Bank calls for stakeholder feedback for new country partnership framework

The World Bank Group (WBG) is calling for stakeholder feedback as it is preparing a new country partnership framework (CPF) for Sri Lanka for the 2023-2026 period.

The process involves consultations with a broad range of stakeholders—representatives from government, international financial institutions, civil society organisations, think tanks, academia and the private sector.

In preparing the CPF, the WBG said it remains conscious of Sri Lanka's challenging context and the limited financial resources available.

Public consultations for the CPF will include virtual and face-to-face meetings with different stakeholders, including the government, international financial institutions, civil society, and the private sector.

**MORE ON P8**

## Sri Lanka to pilot two floating solar power plants with Korean grant

The Cabinet nod has been granted to install two floating solar plants as a pilot project with 6.83 billion Korean Won funding from the South Korean government.

The Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera on Monday sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to sign the discussion paper with the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology and the Department of External Resources to start and implement the pilot project.

Under the Framework Convention on Grant Aid signed between the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka in 2009, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea has agreed to provide a grant amounting 6.83 billion Korean Won for the implementation of a pilot project to install floating solar panel power plants with 1 MW capacity on the surface of Kiriibban Wewa reservoir and Chandrika Wewa reservoirs in the Ratnapura District.

Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology is acting as the monitoring agency for the pilot project on behalf of the South Korean government.

## President assures transparent, fair debt restructuring effort

- Writes open letter to all bilateral creditors expressing SL's commitment to debt restructuring
- Says will ensure equitable burden sharing and comparability of treatment
- SL expected to announce its debt restructuring strategy this April
- IMF Executive Board is meeting on March 20 to consider SL's request for bailout



Ranil Wickremesinghe

Sri Lanka defaulted on its debt last April, and is expected to announce its debt restructuring strategy this April, according to the Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe.

The island nation successfully secured financing assurances from all its major bilateral creditors, which was a prerequisite to unlock an International Monetary Fund

(IMF) bailout package to the tune of US\$ 2.9 billion over a period of four years.

The Executive Board of the IMF is meeting on March 20 to consider Sri Lanka's request for a bailout, and if approved, the first tranche of the facility would be released shortly.

Sri Lanka would need to restore debt sustainability over a ten-year period as per the agreement with the IMF, and debt treatment remains the most critical aspect of that exercise.

In this backdrop, President Wickremesinghe yesterday assured Sri Lanka's bilateral creditors with transparency, equal treatment of all creditors and equitable burden sharing of all restructured debt.

"We also understand and acknowledge that we must ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to ensure equitable burden sharing and comparability of treatment. To alleviate any legitimate concern in that regard, there are commitments that we can make to those of you willing take action ahead of others."

**MORE ON P8**

## Sri Lanka's first ever international MICE Expo kicks off in Colombo

Sri Lanka's first ever MICE Expo kicked off in Colombo this week, bringing together local industry stakeholders and carefully selected buyers worldwide.

The ceremoniously inaugurated event yesterday saw 100 carefully selected buyers from the Indian, Middle Eastern, and European markets.

One of the key focuses of the three-day MICE Expo 2023 is to position the island nation as a year-round destination for business events.

Participating MICE buyers will join industry forums, networking sessions, and familiarisation tours and receive a 360-degree perspective of Sri Lanka's distinctiveness that sets it apart from other destinations.

Commenting on the current



Tourism Minister Harin Fernando (second from left), with other senior officials of the Sri Lanka Conventions Bureau, and Sri Lanka Association of Professional Conference, Exhibition & Event Organisers at the inauguration of MICE Expo 2023



B2B meetings at MICE 2023 PIX BY NISAL BADUGE

economic status, Tourism Minister Harin Fernando noted that despite Sri

Lanka having faced a 30-year war, and then repeated challenges since 2019, including the Covid-19 pandemic, Sri Lanka is a resilient nation and will bounce back.

"When it comes to MICE, Sri Lanka has all that it needs to host conferences," said the Minister commenting on the island nation's potential.

**MORE ON P8**

## Govt. hints providing relief to public sector after April

While insisting that only 10 percent of public sector employees are subjected to PAYE taxes, the government revealed that discussions are underway to grant relief to public sector employees after April.

"We will prioritise providing relief to public sector employees once we see a marked improvement in the economy," the Cabinet Spokesperson Minister Bandula Gunawardana told reporters in Colombo yesterday.

In particular, he noted that discussions are underway at the Treasury to provide tax relief

to government employees and special attention has been drawn to exempt various allowances granted to them from income taxes.

"Separate committees are considering exempting allowances coming under PAYE tax," he added.

He remarked that the relief measures are likely to be granted beyond April after the country secured the US\$ 2.9 billion IMF rescue package.

However, he emphasised that only 10 percent of public cadre earning above Rs.100,000 per month is subjected to PAYE tax.

## Moody's puts six US banks on watch for potential downgrade

**CNN:** Moody's Investors Service placed six US banks on review for potential credit rating downgrades late Monday, in the wake of last week's collapse of Silicon Valley Bank.

The credit ratings firm also downgraded Signature Bank deep into junk territory following that bank's failure. Ratings downgrades can make it more expensive for companies

to borrow money.

Moody's warned it could similarly downgrade First Republic Bank, Zions, Western Alliance, Comerica, UMB Financial and Intrust Financial. The firm cited the "extremely volatile funding conditions for some US banks exposed to the risk of uninsured deposit outflows."

**MORE ON P8**

## New SEC commissioners appointed

New commission members have been appointed to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which is now chaired by veteran banker Faizal Salih.

The newly appointed members are: PwC Sri Lanka Managing Partner Sujeewa Mudalige, leading legal professionals Rajeev Amarasuriya and Shanil Anthony Fernando and AGXA an AG International Company Chairman/CEO Anton Godfrey.

Both Sujeewa Mudalige and Rajeev Amarasuriya have served as commission members at previous occasions and Anthony Shanil Fernando and Anton

Godfrey previously served as board members of the Colombo Stock Exchange.

Chartered accountant and ex-CA Sri Lanka President Manil Jayasinghe will also continue to serve the Commission as an appointed member.

Meanwhile, Deputy Treasury Secretary R.M.P. Ratnayake and Central Bank Deputy Governor Yvette Fernando will continue to serve as nominated members while Registrar General of Companies Sanjeewa Dissanayake and President of CA Sri Lanka Sanjaya Bandara will serve as ex-officio members.

## Director buys 12.5% Vidullanka stake

Vidullanka PLC Director C.F. Fuhrer this week acquired 108.9 million shares or 12.5 percent stake in the company in a Rs.653.6 million deal.

The seller of shares was Wembley Spirit Limited, which held the exact same quantity as at December 31, 2022.

Vidullanka is a pioneer in the renewable energy generation space in Sri Lanka and also has operations in Africa and South America.

Before the latest acquisition, Fuhrer held 1.09 million voting

shares of Vidullanka.

It couldn't be established whether Fuhrer and the seller of shares Wembley Spirit Limited are related parties. Fuhrer serves on the Board of Vidullanka as a Non-Executive Director. He is also the Director of Ranmalu Fashion (Pvt) Ltd and Chesa Swiss Restaurants (Pvt) Ltd., and has over a decade of experience in senior management and Board positions in Sri Lanka.

Vidullanka doesn't have a controlling shareholder.

## Government to present new anti-graft law to P'ment ahead of IMF Board meeting

- IMF Executive Board to consider SL's staff level agreement on March 20 for approval
- Draft anti-corruption legislation is a key component of the proposed IMF programme
- Govt. says bill has been drafted with extensive consultations from various stakeholders

Ahead of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board Meeting on March 20, the Cabinet green-light has been received to present the draft anti-corruption legislation to parliament for approval in an expedited manner.

Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers on Monday to publish the anti-corruption draft bill on the government gazette notification and furnish the

same to parliament for approval. The Attorney General has also granted clearance for the draft anti-corruption bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Cabinet Spokesperson Minister Bandula Gunawardana highlighted the proposed anti-corruption legislation as a key component of the envisaged IMF programme.

The government agreed to bring in a new anti-corruption legislation when entering the staff-level agreement last September with the IMF.

**MORE ON P8**



Bandula Gunawardana

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14.03.2023

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

Exchange Rates

14.03.2023

Table showing average rates of various currencies (Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, etc.) and their approximate exchange rates for the US\$.

Indices close on mixed note

The ASPI closed in green as a result of price gains in counters such as Hattion National Bank, Sampath Bank and National Development Bank with the turnover crossing Rs. 1.4 bn.



Holdings whilst retail interest was noted in Softlogic Capital, SMB Leasing nonvoting and Piramal Glass. Foreign participation in the market activity remained at subdued levels with

foreigners closing as net buyers. Capital Goods sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Hayleys, John Keells Holdings and ACL Cables) whilst the sector index edged up by 0.05%.

2.80 (3.38%) to close at Rs. 85.70. The Banking sector was the second highest contributor to the market turnover (due to Hattion National Bank) whilst the sector index increased by 2.21%.

Contd. from Page 7

President assures...

The first of these commitments, probably the most important one, is transparency. We commit to communicate transparently with all of you on any debt treatment terms that are agreed with any creditor or group of creditors, before being formalised.

end, we also confirm that we have not and will not make any side arrangement with any creditor aimed at reducing the debt treatment impact on the creditor," the letter further read.

Sri Lanka's first...

Due to the right infrastructure in place, Sri Lanka has been successful in bagging a few events for the 2023 calendar. Some of the key events include the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) convention which will be held in July this year, and the hosting of a reality show by Zee TV in Jaffna, both of which will generate immense publicity for destination Sri Lanka.

coastal train rides, breathtaking mountainous regions, wildlife, adventure sports, wellness retreats, and many other attractions in a few hours of each other," he said.

Government to...

The IMF highlighted the need for the introduction of new anti-corruption laws to reduce corruption vulnerabilities to unlock Sri Lanka's growth potential. The Cabinet of Ministers in July last year approved the proposal to draft the new anti-corruption legislation.

engineering, international relations and diplomatic service, public administration as members of the commission. In addition, the draft law has proposed to establish a separate director board to receive asset liability statements and to address related issues.

World Bank ...

The objective of the online consultation is to seek broader feedback and comments from interested stakeholders on the direction and the scope of the new CPF. The new CPF aims to assist Sri Lanka in restoring economic stability and building a stronger foundation for green, resilient, and inclusive development and recovery, while

protecting poor and vulnerable populations. The CPF will focus on two high-level objectives - supporting resilience, inclusivity, and robust economic growth and protecting and enhancing human and natural capital. In addition, improving governance and green growth will be cross-cutting themes that will guide all WBG activities in Sri Lanka.

Moody's puts...

The move comes after shares of regional banks got clobbered on Monday even after the US federal government stepped in with a massive intervention designed to protect depositors and prevent further bank runs. Regional bank shares rebounded in premarket trading yesterday.



# IFC, ComBank and Sarvodaya join forces to set up early childhood development centres

To help meet the demand for quality childcare services among employed parents in the Eastern province of Sri Lanka, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Commercial Bank of Ceylon (CBC) and Sarvodaya have joined forces to establish early childhood development centres in the area.

It's an innovative move with the project developed under the Women in Work partnership between the IFC and Government of Australia, after an IFC study last year showed strong demand by parents for childcare services and local business owners also had strong interest in subsidising the childcare services for their workforce.

The first of the centres will be established in Batticaloa, with CBC providing the support on infrastructure development. The facility, which will provide day care and preschool services, will be

extended to all parents in the locality, who will be in need of such facilities and specially to all employees of companies/institutions in the area, who will pledge to partner with this initiative.

The 2022 IFC study surveyed almost 1,000 employees from 37 companies across the Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. It found companies lost Rs.99 million annually in productivity, due to employee absenteeism, distractions and delays. Almost two-thirds of parents surveyed reported dissatisfaction, including safety concerns, with their existing childcare arrangements. Over half of parents said they would make use of a childcare service, if one were available.

As the local implementing partner, Sarvodaya will help upgrade and fully equip the centres to provide children with the suitable setting to foster development.

Each centre aims to support 50 children, demonstrating a sustainable model for employer-supported childcare.

Poor access to quality childcare poses a key constraint on labour force participation among Sri Lankan women. Many employable women either fail to enter the workforce or exit prematurely and fail to return. Through the newly established early childhood development centres, the participating companies can expect more women to return to work after having a child. It also aims to reduce turnover and absenteeism associated with childcare responsibilities among employees.

The IFC also plans to develop and roll out an awareness campaign with the local communities to promote the uptake of the service, especially on the business opportunities it provides for women entrepreneurs.

## HNB exclusive banking partner for Kedella Living in Style

Strengthening the housing industry, Sri Lanka's leading private sector bank HNB PLC supported the recently concluded Kedella Living in Style, as the official banking partner.

"The last two years have been challenging for us all, especially the construction and housing industry, which have faced many restrictions across their supply chains. These difficulties have resulted in many Sri Lankans delaying plans to set up their dream home. Despite these trials, the industry has shown resilience by coming together to offer dreamers access to services and facilities to construct or renovate their homes.

"In this same spirit, HNB is proud to support the industry and the vision of individuals who strive to achieve their goals, despite the difficult circumstances we face today, as the official banking partner for Kedella, an exhibition with an opportunity to compare, buy



products and services for the housing industry. This endeavour further fortifies our ethos in providing our

customers with products, services and experiences that make us a joy to bank with," HNB AGM PFS Kanchana Karunagama said.

HNB further supported the exhibition with two stalls to provide visitors with unique financial solutions to purchase or build the home of their dreams.

Moreover, the bank further expanded its merchant network for SOLO and Prestige Prime Cards during the event, offering its extensive customer base access to more discounts and deals.

The exhibition consisted of stalls ranging from household appliances, home decorations, homes and real estate, landscaping, furniture, tiles, bathroom fittings, kitchenware, electrical goods, paints, wall design traders, lighting, home drapers, etc. to attract both locals and foreign investors.

## Fara Holdings introduces Handy Master on-call maintenance service

Fara Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd has announced the launch of Handy Master, an on-call maintenance service in Colombo.

The services of civil and MEP maintenances for houses, apartments, hotels, shops and any other establishment within Colombo 01 to Colombo 15 will be provided at the initial launch period and will be expanded islandwide to cater to national requirements in the future.

Customers can access the service by calling its hotline 1336 or by making inquiries through the newly introduced Handy Master app. With the introduction of the app, customers can easily access the service with just a few clicks on their smartphones.

Fara Holdings understands the challenges customers face when it comes to building maintenance. That's why it has created a brand that provides fast and efficient services, with just a phone call or a few clicks on the app. A team of skilled and experienced professionals is available on call to provide timely and quality services to our clients.

Handy Master is dedicated to providing excellent customer service while ensuring customer satisfaction with every job undertaken. The belief in building long-term



From left: Group HR Manager Nirosh Samarasinghe, CEO Tuwan Farzan and Group Operations Manager Sanjeewa Thissera

relationships with its clients is the main reason it offers competitive pricing and a flexible service that is tailored to the needs of each client.

"We are excited to introduce Handy Master to the people of Colombo," said Fara Holdings Founder and CEO Tuan Farzan.

"Our goal is to provide a convenient and reliable on-call maintenance service for people in Colombo and we believe that our team of skilled professionals and our user-friendly app will enable us to achieve that goal."

## Fitch assigns JAT Holdings first-time 'AA(Ika)' National Rating; Outlook Stable

Fitch Ratings has assigned Sri Lankan paint manufacturer JAT Holdings PLC a National Long-Term Rating of 'AA(Ika)'. The Outlook is Stable.

JAT's rating reflects the company's adequate liquidity and strong financial profile, which complement its leading share in the domestic wood-coating market, its growing international presence and well-established relationships with global suppliers.

Counterbalancing these strengths are JAT's small scale and exposure to cyclical end-markets with volatile demand. The Stable Outlook reflects Fitch's view that JAT's credit metrics will remain adequate for the rating in the next 12-18 months, with sufficient buffers to navigate a prolonged and deeper economic downturn beyond our expectations.

Fitch expects JAT to maintain EBITDA net leverage around 1.0x and EBITDA interest cover around 4.0x over the next two years, despite operational challenges, high working capital and capex. The rating agency forecasts that JAT will spend Rs.600 million-700 million on working capital a year to support revenue growth.

"JAT's capex in the next two years will mainly focus on capacity expansion and diversification into certain non-related sectors at around Rs.1.0 billion-1.2 billion a year. However, the rating could come under pressure if JAT continues to make non-core investments," Fitch said.

JAT is the exclusive partner of Sayerlack products in South Asia and in certain African countries. Sayerlack accounts for 60 percent of JAT's gross profit and has helped the company to become the market leader in wood coating in Sri Lanka, with a market

share of 55 percent and holds a 25 percent market share in Bangladesh's industrial wood-coating market.

JAT's longstanding relationship with Sayerlack's principal, The Sherwin-Williams Company (SWC, Long-Term Issuer Default Rating: BBB/Stable), has helped it with preferential pricing, product customisation and extended credit periods.

JAT entered the decorative paint market in 2021, with the launch of the brilliant white emulsion paint, which has gained nearly a 10 percent market share within a short time. The company has adopted an innovative online strategy of directly selling to the customers by bypassing distributors. This has allowed JAT to offer more attractive prices than competitors.

Fitch expects the decorative paint segment to grow by around 25 percent a year over the medium term, with JAT continuing to gain market share and contribute 20 percent to group revenue by the financial year ending March 2025 (FY25), from 8 percent in FY22.

Fitch expects JAT's domestic sales volumes to fall by 10 percent-15 percent in FY24, amid a 2.2 percent contraction in the economy in 2023, after a Fitch-estimated 6.4 percent decline in 2022. The construction sector, JAT's main end-market, is seeing a significant slowdown, due to budget cuts, high construction costs and rising interest rates. Consumers are also deferring maintenance work as incomes weaken. Fitch expects JAT's recent price hikes, ranging from 30 percent to 50 percent across all categories, to counterbalance the volume decline, driving domestic revenue (9MFY23: up 28 percent YoY).

Demand for JAT's wood coating, decorative paints and paint brushes stems from the cyclical construction sector. The company caters mainly for the less-volatile maintenance market within the construction sector but demand is still subject to discretionary income. JAT's rating is constrained by its small operational scale, as reflected in EBITDA size, against higher rated peers. This is because the company is a leader in a niche market within building materials and has a small share of the larger decorative paint segment.

JAT is increasingly focusing on export markets to diversify away from the weakening Sri Lankan market. JAT started a manufacturing plant in Bangladesh in 2022 to further penetrate the retail and industrial wood-coating markets. Fitch expects onsite manufacturing to reduce costs and make JAT's products more competitive in the Bangladeshi market, which is dominated by multinationals with large economies of scale. The rating agency expects the new plant to double the revenue contribution from Bangladesh in the next three years, from the current 20 percent.

Meanwhile, Fitch believes that JAT's attempt to penetrate the Indian market remains challenging, due to the market being highly price sensitive and import taxes, making JAT's products less competitive against the locally manufactured paints.

JAT plans to set up a manufacturing plant in East Africa in FY24, to cater for this highly underpenetrated African region with strong growth potential. It already has a presence in Africa as the authorised distributor of Sayerlack products.

## Daniel Hess to spearhead Baur's Consumer Division to expand footprint

With the aim of becoming the most sought-after and trusted distributor for consumer goods in Sri Lanka, A Baur & Co. (Pvt.) Ltd, also known as Baur's, one of the leading diversified corporates in the country, is strengthening its Consumer Division to double its agencies, expand its portfolio and enhance its channel agility to reach all parts of the island with predictive distribution.

Baur's is re-engineering its processes in the division to enable a seamless execution of the entire value chain, capitalising on the company's existing smart infrastructure. Baur's has stepped up its capabilities to take a highly data-driven approach in the whole distribution process to optimise its presence among outlets, backed by some of the most advanced predictive analytics and scenario planning.

Spearheading the transformation of the division is Baur's Senior General Manager Consumer Business Daniel Hess. Hess, an expat living in Sri Lanka for the past six months, is specialised in sustainably ramping up new businesses and transforming businesses in new, promising directions.

Plans are already underway to double its distribution network to reach over 50,000 outlets in a short period of time and also doubling its agencies to onboard and include both Sri Lankan and international companies with a solid portfolio in consumer goods and fast-moving consumer goods.

The division is also putting a tremendous amount of



Baur's Senior General Manager Consumer Business Daniel Hess

effort in uplifting its export capabilities to better position Baur's in serving some of the most important markets in the European region, taking the beauty of Sri Lanka to the world.

Hess has a proven track record of connecting consumer businesses and data to maximise engagement and sales. He holds a Bachelor in Marketing from the HWZ in Zürich and an MBA for Marketing and Media Management from the Steinbeis University in Berlin, Germany.

Prior to joining Baur's, Hess was introducing and leading the Xbox Business for Microsoft for nearly a decade. He brings a strong backdrop of launching new products and businesses to international markets (the USA, Germans speaking Europe and Southeast Asia).

In recent history, he was leading and transforming D2C businesses and teams into a data-driven future and changing traditional business models.

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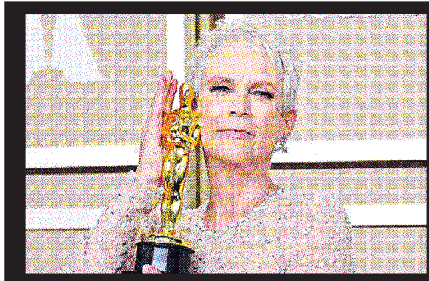
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## AFTER 40+ YEARS IN SHOWBIZ, JAMIE LEE CURTIS STRIKES OSCARS GOLD

She is Hollywood royalty, the daughter of two legendary actors. She became a scream queen for the ages in the "Halloween" films and did a sexy striptease for Arnold Schwarzenegger in "True Lies." Now, Jamie Lee Curtis is an Oscar winner. **AFP**

## 'SCREAM' STILL ECHOES, TOPPING N. AMERICA BOX OFFICE

Twenty-seven years after the first "Scream" movie raised goosebumps, a sixth installment opened atop the North American box office this weekend, taking in an estimated \$44.5 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations said Sunday. **AFP**



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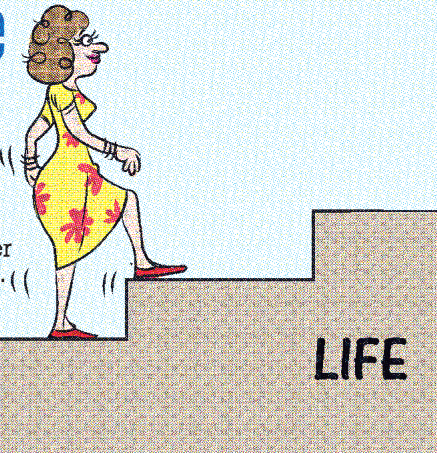
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## Seven stages of life

I was sent this humorous description of seven stages of life and thought readers would enjoy reading them as much as I did.

- 0 to 5 years we experience many 'SPILLS'.
- 6 to 16 years we undergo many 'DRILLS'.
- 17 to 25 years we discover many 'THRILLS'.
- 26 to 40 years we have to pay many 'BILLS'.

- 41 to 60 years we take many 'PILLS'.
- 61 to 75 years we suffer many 'ILLS'.
- 76 and above we worry about our 'WILLS'. Thereafter we smile and remain 'STILL'. The best way to go about these ills is to just 'CHILL'.



## A SIMPLE, MODEST, SHY PERSON

It was sad to hear of the death of a lifelong friend the late Punyakanthi Wijenaik from her sister Ayoma who kindly called to tell me the sad news. Puny was 2 years my senior but we were classmates, close friends and I was one of her bridesmaids when she married the late Ananda Wijenaik. She gained great fame and honour later on in life when she became an author of several works of fiction, short stories and poetry. Her earlier writings were focused on the cultural, social and political changes that were prevalent features of that time. She won many awards for her writing among them were The Women of Achievement award in 1965, the Kala Suri Class 1 award for Literary Achievement, conferred by the Government of Sri Lanka in 1988, the 1994 Gratiaen Award for her novel 'AMULET' and was widely felicitated as the joint winner of the Commonwealth short story competition of radio in 1966. Perhaps her best known writing is 'Giraya'. Puny was the daughter of the late Justin and Millicent Kotelawala, and the niece of a former Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala. This is a time when there is a dire need for writers of good English and she will be missed. She was a simple, modest, shy person and has three daughters who looked after her with tender loving care in her last years. A great blessing to have had.



## A woman with many laurels

I attended a panel discussion to celebrate International Womens Day 2023 recently. The theme for the discussion was Innovation and Technology for gender equality. The esteemed guests on the panel were Shiranee Tilakawardene, Shamini Ratwatte, and Sharanya Sekaram. All three were excellent. As a fellow Bishopian I was very proud of Shiranee who I first met when she was a schoolgirl and we past pupils ran the tuckshop. She would come and spend much of her free time with us, and we had many conversations well laced with humour, wit and jokes. When I spoke to her during fellowship after the discussion she reminded me that we had done an enthusiastic jive together at a Hawaiian night at our Alma Mater at a time when she was forbidden by her parents to dance with boys! The mischievous schoolgirl I knew has developed into a woman with a great many laurels to her credit. The first woman State Counsel in Sri



Lanka, the first woman judge of the High Court, the first woman Admiralty Court judge, the first woman Justice of the Court of Appeal and the first woman President of the Court of Appeal. In 2003, she ascended to the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka where she was for many years and was also Acting Chief Justice. Shiranee's closing remark was a quote from Madeleine Albright 'There's a special place in Hell for women who don't help other women'. She had said this when addressing a large group of women in New York.

**BOOK NOOK**

BY RIHAAB MOWLANA

If you would like to get in touch to feature books or book-related events, drop me an email at [lifedm123@gmail.com](mailto:lifedm123@gmail.com)

## CLASSICAL AND COOL

Gehan Cooray's concert 'CLASSICAL AND COOL' was one that I'll remember as long as I live. It was of the same high standard of any such performance I have been to in London, Paris, or Rome and was sheer joy to listen to from beginning to end for all lovers of opera and Broadway music. He is a versatile singer who not only sings both opera and Broadway music in style and great talent, but his impeccable English in explaining each song

was proof of his talent as an actor and producer of films too. It was easily the best performance seen recently in Colombo. The musician who accompanied him and played a few numbers on his own was Torger Solsvik from Norway who was invited by Gehan and hosted by him while here. Gehan's talent in all his spheres of interest are better with each performance and he has developed into a singer that we can be proud of but who has remained simple.



## BREADFRUIT SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 hardboiled eggs
- 2 tsps ground mustard
- 1/2 oz butter melted
- 3 tbsps cream
- 2 b onions grated

- dash of Worcestershire sauce and pepper
- 2 tbsps vinegar
- 1 breadfruit, peeled cored and boiled

### METHOD

Separate egg yolks from whites and chop the whites. Mash yolks and mix with the mustard, butter, cream and Worcestershire sauce, then add vinegar very slowly stirring all the time. Slice breadfruit and place on bottom of dish. Sprinkle with egg whites and onion and top with egg yolk dressing. Serve cold.

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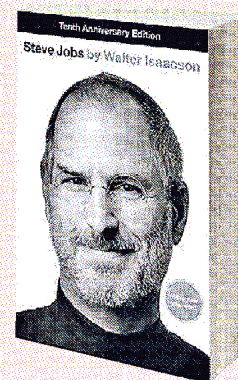
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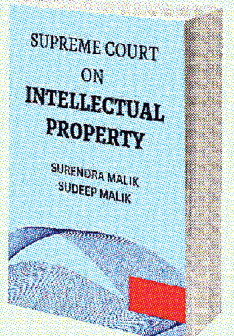
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