



YOUR PAPER TODAY 14 PAGES

Government agencies' failure to hold the LG polls SC GRANTS LEAVE TO PROCEED WITH PETITION

The petitioners stated that the conduct of the Government Printer and the IGP are indicative of a coordinated campaign to procrastinate the holding of LG elections

The Supreme Court yesterday granted leave to proceed with a Fundamental Rights petition filed challenging the failure and refusal of several government departments to take the necessary steps to hold the Local Government Elections.

CAN'T PRINT BALLOT PAPERS AS NO FUNDS RECEIVED -GOVT. PRINTER INFORMS EC

- No response has been received from the Treasury to the queries whether money will be given for the printing of ballot papers
If funds are received, ballot papers can be printed in four to five days
If the money is received by tomorrow, steps will be taken to print ballot papers from tomorrow itself

BY SUJITH HEWAJULIGE

Government Printer Gangani Kalpana Liyanage has informed the Election Commission yesterday that since there is no sign of receiving money from the Treasury, they cannot start printing ballot papers for the forthcoming Local Government elections.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

POLITICAL GOSSIP

Motorcade in 'no parking area' irks Devalaya Nilame!

The news that the main post in the khaki suit department is going to fall vacant shortly has led to a big scramble to secure it by several high-ups from senior ranks in the department, they say.

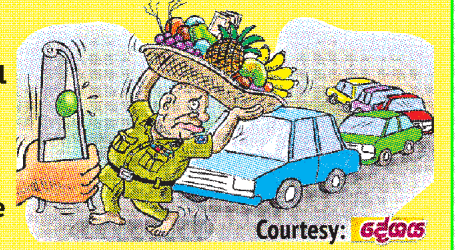
These hopefuls are said to be holding poojas and performing various other rituals at the prominent places of worship of all religious denominations across the country seeking divine blessings!

high-ups including the head of the state would not leave their vehicles parked at this spot well known as a 'no parking area', they say.

Meanwhile, the Maha Nilame of the Devalaya who had come there had lost his temper on seeing the motorcade parked at the Maha Wahalkada. He had immediately looked for the khaki suit high-up responsible for the high-handed act and given him a tongue lashing.

By the way, a certain khaki suit high-up, one of the aspirants to the high post, had arrived in the Kataragama Devalaya in a motorcade the other day. Having got down from his vehicle at the Maha Wahalkada (the main entrance), he had ordered his escorts not to move away the motorcade until his return from devalaya following participating in the rituals!

However, even the distinguished state



Courtesy: 6666

School principal arrested for sending an explicit pic to a student

- The suspect had also molested the child while she was in school

The Women and Child Affairs Unit of the Gampaha District has arrested a school principal in Attanagalla for sending an explicit picture to a grade 11 student via whatsapp.



LISTERIA IN RATNAPURA?

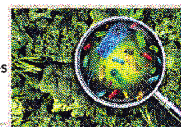
- The woman concerned who developed nausea, high fever, and headache had been admitted to hospital in a semi-conscious state
Elderly persons, infant children, expectant women and diabetics and cancer patients are more susceptible to this disease

LISTERIA INFECTION

Listeria infection is a foodborne bacterial illness that can be very serious for pregnant women, people older than 65 and people with weakened immune systems.

Symptoms

- Fever
Chills
Muscle aches
Nausea
Diarrhea



Causes

- Raw vegetables that have been contaminated from the soil or from contaminated manure used as fertilizer
Contaminated meat
Unpasteurized milk or foods
Certain processed foods

Prevention

- Keep things clean. Wash your hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water before and after handling or preparing food.
Scrub raw vegetables. Clean raw vegetables with a scrub brush or vegetable brush under plenty of running water.
Cook your food thoroughly.

BY AJITHAL SHANTHAUDAYA

Health authorities have launched a crash programme in Kuruvita, Erathna and Sri Palabathgama to prevent any possible spread of listeria after the death of a 53-year-old woman working in a food stall on the Sri Pada route.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

'NO NEED TO PANIC' -HEALTH MINISTRY

- Only one confirmed death from Listeria

While claiming that there is no cause for panic, the health ministry yesterday said that although there have been reports circulating on social media about several deaths, only one death has been confirmed as caused by Listeria.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Supreme Court stays holding election for Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha

- The respondent Elections Commission has been required to file any objections within two weeks and the petitioners counter affidavit two weeks after
The petition was fixed for argument on May 12

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday issued a stay order against the holding of Local Authority Elections in respect of the Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SUBMIT ACCOUNTS OR FACE TERMINATION: EC WARNS POLITICAL PARTIES

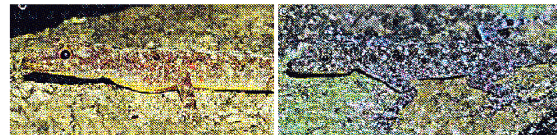
- Political parties have been notified to submit their statements of accounts on a number of occasions
Certain political parties have failed to submit their statements

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Failure to submit audited statements of accounts for the year 2021 within 14 days will result in the termination of the right to be treated as a recognized political party, the Election Commission informed political parties yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

TWO NEW SPECIES OF GECKOS FOUND IN SL



BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

A research team in Sri Lanka was successful in identifying two new species of geckos that are endemic to Sri Lanka in the isolated Misty Mountains. The new gecko species have been named Jayaweera's Day Gecko (Cnemaspis jayaweera) and Nanayakkara's Day Gecko (Cnemaspis nanayakkara).

- The new gecko species have been named Jayaweera's Day Gecko (Cnemaspis jayaweera) and Nanayakkara's Day Gecko (Cnemaspis nanayakkara)
Both species are classified as "critically endangered" (CR) under the IUCN Red List criteria

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Advertisement for Bullion Exchange Jewellers featuring 'OMG! SALE OPENS 2 P.M. TODAY' and '22 KT GOLD JEWELLERY AT ONLY THE GOLD RATE'.

Advertisement for PLATA jewelry featuring necklaces and the slogan 'When Attitude Meets Style'.

Advertisement for NANKANG tires and SUVs, featuring the slogan 'THE BEST CHOICE NANKANG SP9'.



Daily Mirror

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CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

SC GRANTS LEAVE TO PROCEED WITH PETITION

● The petitioners maintained that these actions are prejudicial to the fundamental rights of the petitioners and the citizens of Sri Lanka

The Supreme Court three-judge bench comprising Justices Preethi Padman Surasena, Gamin Amerasekera and Janak De Silva granted leave to proceed with the petition under Articles 10, 12(1) and 14(1)(a) of the constitution.

The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and its Executive Director Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu filed this petition naming the Treasury Secretary, Government Printer and Inspector General of Police and several others as respondents.

The petitioners stated that the elections to elect persons as members of local authorities are required to be held every 04 years in terms of the relevant statutes. Elections were previously held in 2018, and the term of the Local Authorities that were due to expire in 2022 were ended for a year thereafter.

The petitioners stated that the conduct of the Government Printer and the Inspector General of Police are indicative of a coordinated campaign to procrastinate the holding of local Authority elections. The petitioners

also stated that the President in the capacity as the Minister of Finance and the Secretary to the Treasury have not until the very last minute on the 23rd of February 2023 indicated that there is a challenge in the allocation of funds to conduct the elections.

The petitioners maintained that these actions are prejudicial to the fundamental rights of the petitioners and the citizens of Sri Lanka.

The petitioners are highlighting that the failure of the Government Printer, IGP, President Ranil Wickremesinghe (as Finance Minister) and the Election Commission failed to protect the fundamental rights of citizens, by failing to take proper steps as required by law to hold elections by 19th March as made compulsory in terms of the Municipal Councils Ordinance, Urban Councils Ordinance and Pradeshiya Sabhas Act.

Senior Counsel Viran Corea with Luwie Ganeshathasan and Khyati Wikramanayake appeared for the petitioners. Senior Additional Solicitor General Priyantha Nawana appeared for the respondents.

TEAM APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE ACCIDENTS IN SL AIRSPACE

● The team operated under the Ministry at present, will be established as an Accident Investigation Bureau in future

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva has appointed a team to investigate air accidents in the Sri Lanka airspace for the first time.

Accordingly, letters of appointments were awarded yesterday to the first batch of Air Accidents Investigators.

Accordingly, 07 Air Accident Investigators received letters of appointment from the Minister.

This is the first time in the history of Sri Lankan aviation services sector, Air Accident Investigators were appointed to identify accurate information, investigate to the true cause of air accidents and take necessary action to prevent any future disasters in the Sri Lankan airspace.

The Minister said that the regulatory role of the global aviation sector is performed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the regulatory activities of the Sri Lankan aviation sector should follow the ICAO standards.

"For so long, there was no institution or proper programme to accurately conduct

investigations of aircraft accidents occurred in Sri Lankan airspace," the Minister said. He said that after deep study into the matter, the steps taken by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka to establish an independent pool of Air Accident Investigators is a great leap forward for the elevation of the Sri Lankan aviation sector.

"Therefore, immediate steps will be taken to amend the Aviation Act to establish the Aviation Accident Investigation Bureau for these activities without delay," the Minister said.

Training for Air Accident Investigators conducted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, adhered to the standards stipulated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The team will be operated as an independent body under the purview of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation.

Also, the team operated under the Ministry at present, will be established as an Accident Investigation Bureau in future.

CAN'T PRINT BALLOT PAPERS AS NO FUNDS RECEIVED -GOVT. PRINTER INFORMS EC

Ms. Liyanage said that if the funds are received, the ballot papers can be printed in four to five days and the other election related printings

could be printed in about 30 days. She also has informed that her department has only received Rs. 40 million for the printing of ballot papers.

She further mentioned that if the money is received by tomorrow, steps will be taken to print ballot papers from tomorrow itself.

LISTERIA IN RATNAPURA?

● Pilgrims need not be perturbed by any possible danger to their health, but they should refrain from partaking in frozen food and take only hot food

A spokesman for Ratnapura General Hospital said the woman concerned who developed vomiting, high fever, and headache had been admitted to hospital in a semi-conscious state and that she died while under treatment. A senior official of Kuruvita MOH office said, judging from the symptoms she is suspected to have died of complications caused by Listeria Monocytogenes bacteria. She was a resident of Kospelawinna in Ratnapura.

He said her blood samples and spine marrow would be subject to biological tests to confirm the cause of death. A microbiologist said the Listeria bacteria is found in soil and

refuse and that it would be contracted through frozen food including milk, sausages and cheese.

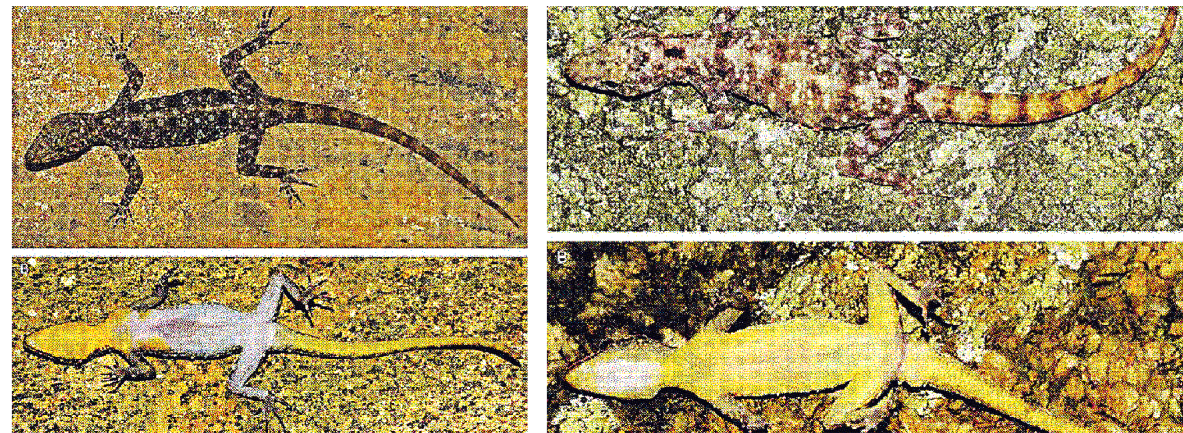
A doctor said elderly persons, infant children, expectant women and diabetics and cancer patients are more susceptible to this disease.

A spokesman for Kuruvita MOH office said the cause of death of the woman could be confirmed on medical test reports and that the pilgrims need not be perturbed by any possible danger to their health, but they should refrain from partaking in frozen food and take only hot food. The doctors advised them to take immediate treatment if they developed fever, vomiting and headache.

'NO NEED TO PANIC' - HEALTH MINISTRY

Speaking to media, Registrar in Community Medicine of the National Institute of Health Sciences, Dr. Naveen Sozaya said, two other suspected deaths have been reported, however they have not been confirmed to be caused by the disease as of now.

"There is no cause for panic or alarm," Dr. Sozaya said, as all precautions have been taken by authorities in this regard. "The necessary research is being carried out, focused on the Sri Pada area, where the disease has been reported," he said.



TWO NEW SPECIES OF GECKOS FOUND IN SL

"Sri Lanka is a hotspot for Cnemaspis Day Geckos, with 40 currently known species with 100% endemism," one researcher said.

These gecko species are reported from Galgiriya Mountain, in the Kurunegala District, Ampara District, and Ethagala Mountain, in the Ampara District.

"These new species were recorded from granite caves within forested areas in isolated mountains in the dry bio-climatic zone (Point-endemics). Both new species are micro-habitat specialists with narrow niches limited to humid, cool, canopy-shaded granite caves and old buildings associated with granite caves, where they are camouflaged

by their cryptic morphology and body colouration," a report by the researchers said.

Both species are classified as "critically endangered" (CR) under the IUCN Red List criteria.

The Jayaweera's day gecko has been identified by researchers in the vicinity of the Ethagala Kanda forest reserve in the Ampara District by a senior member and former president of the Young Zoologists' Association (YZA) of Sri Lanka, Shanhasiri Jayaweera.

The species named Nanayakkara's day gecko was identified from the Galgiriya Forest Reserve in the intermediate climate zone of Kurunegala District by a senior instructor of the reptile study

group, the Young Zoologists' Association (YZA) Ananda Lal Nanayakkara.

A group of local and foreign reptile experts, including Suranjan Karunaratne, Kanishka Ukuwela, Anstlem de Silva, Majintha Madawala, Madhava Botheju, Dinesh Mahagage, Eran Bauer and Nicolo Poirkov, participated in this research.

The major threats for these new species are habitat loss due to the expansion of commercial-scale agriculture, illicit forest encroachments, and forest fires.

"We recommend that authorities take immediate conservation action to ensure the protection of these forest areas and their buffer zones soon," the researchers said.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ARRESTED FOR SENDING AN EXPLICIT PIC TO A STUDENT

The suspect had also molested the child while she was in school. The child had informed her mother of her bitter experience when the former saw the nude picture in her phone. Police are conducting further investigations.

Opposing ongoing strikes by certain opposition members

SOME MEMBERS IN JJB AND SJB UNDERSTAND THE ACTUAL SITUATION - AKILA

BY YOHAN PERERA

There are progressive people in Opposition parties such as Jathika Jana Balawegaya and Samagi Jana Balawegaya, UNP Assistant Leader Akila Viraj Kariyawasam said yesterday.

"K. D. Lakantha of Jathika Jana Balawegaya and Eran Wickramaratne of Samagi Jana

Balawegaya are progressive leaders who understand the real situation. That is why they oppose ongoing strikes. They are aware that the country would lose much with strikes and protests," Kariyawasam said.

"Clear awareness of the consequence of sabotage had resulted in criticism coming from

within the parties itself," he added.

He said that what tourists experienced at Fort Railway station on Wednesday could affect tourism. "Tourists suffered on Wednesday as they could not reach their destinations within Sri Lanka because of the general strike," he added, the country would lose much with strikes and protests.

Supreme Court stays holding election for Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha

● This order will be effective until the final determination of a writ petition filed by Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya

This order will be effective until the final determination of a writ petition filed by Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya. Thilak Waragoda, the General Secretary of Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya and its Authorised Agent for Kalutara Senal Welgama filed this petition challenging the rejection of nominations of the Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya for the Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha. The petitioners named the Election Commission and several others as respondents.

The respondent Elections Commission has been required to file any objections within two weeks and the petitioners counter affidavit two weeks after. The petition was fixed for argument on May 12.

The Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprised Justices Preethi Padman Surasena, Gamin Amerasekera and Janak De Silva. Senior Counsel Viran Corea with Ashiq Hassim instructed by Anuradha Weragoda appeared for the petitioners. Counsel Dharshana Weraduwa appeared for the elections commission.

SUBMIT ACCOUNTS OR FACE TERMINATION: EC WARNS POLITICAL PARTIES

Commissioner General of Elections Saman Ratnayake said that political parties have been notified to submit their statements of accounts on a number of occasions. However, certain political parties have failed to submit their statements of accounts.

"We have decided to inform under registered cover the political parties that have not to date (2023-03-16) submitted their statements of accounts for the year 2021 to submit the same within 14 days from Thursday and to terminate the right to be treated as recognized political parties under Section 9(3) of the aforesaid Act, of the parties that fail to comply with the said order," he said.

The decision was taken when the members of the Election Commission met yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has decided to conduct a discussion on next Thursday (23) with the secretaries of recognized political parties that contest the 2023 local government election.

OBITUARIES

GUNESEKERA - KAMALA (nee JAYAWARDANA). Beloved wife of late Hemasiri Gunsekera, loving mother of Kumari and Samiddha (Australia), dearest sister of Padma, late Girlie, late Seeliya and late Lionel, darling grandmother of Aroshie (Gateway), Sachintha (Canada), Hariitha (Australia) and Chani (Australia), mother-in-law of late Rohan and late Ayanthi. Viewing at Jayaratne's Respect Funeral Home, Borella on Friday 17th March from 8.30 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. and at her home. No. 78, Old Road, Nawala on Saturday 18th March from 9.30 a.m. Cortege leaves residence on Saturday at 3.45 p.m. for cremation at General Cemetery, Borella at 4.30 p.m. (New Crematorium). 083055

ONLINE OBITUARIES
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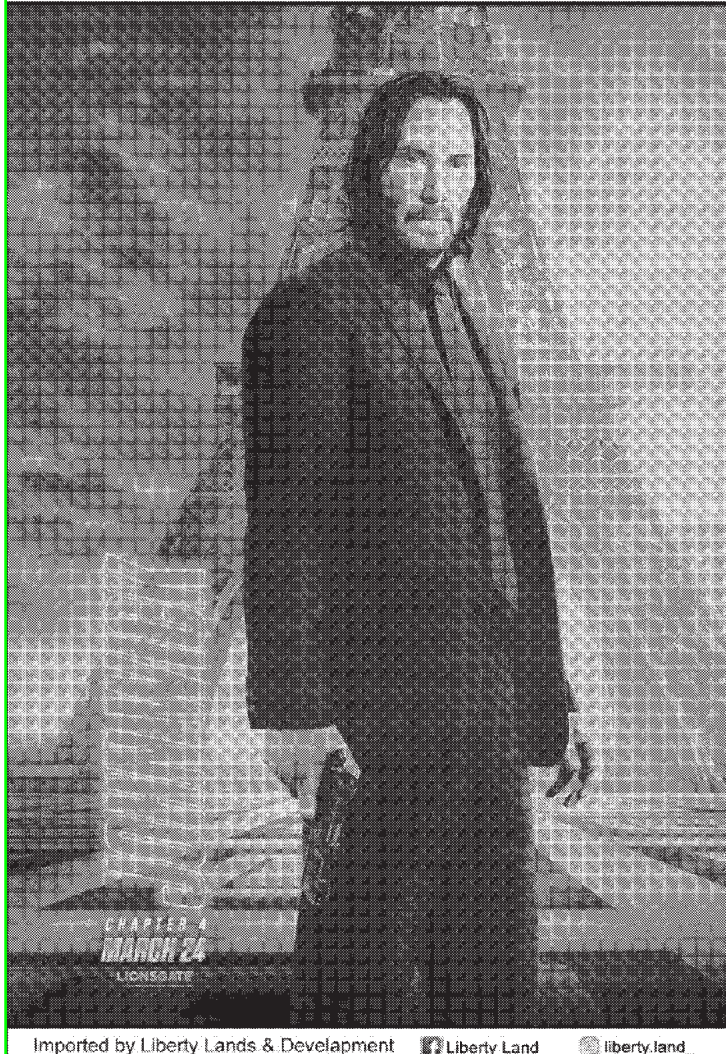
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SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

EXAMINATION FOR REGISTRATION TO PRACTISE MEDICINE (ERPM) PART A & PART D – MAY 2023

The Sri Lanka Medical Council will receive applications for the above examination from **Wednesday 22nd March 2023 to Tuesday 04th April 2023 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** only on each working day. The application forms can be obtained from the SLMC website. Receipt of applications will close on **04th April 2023 at 1.00 p.m.**

Eligibility:

- (a) Citizens of Sri Lanka who have obtained approval of the Sri Lanka Medical Council for the MBBS or equivalent degree from a foreign medical school recognized by the Council.
- (b) Candidates who have previously sat the examination and have not completed ERPM Parts A and /or D.
- (c) Candidates who have previously passed in both Medicine & Psychiatry (former Paper 1) and Paediatrics & Psychiatry (former Paper 2) are exempted from sitting the present Psychiatry Paper 5.

Part A:

Paper 1 Medicine
Paper 2 Paediatrics
Paper 3 Surgery
Paper 4 Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Each paper will have 25 MCQs of True /False type and 25 Single Best Answer Questions, a total of 50 Questions in each paper.

Paper 5 Psychiatry
This paper will have 30 MCQs of the True /False type.

Part D :

Paper 6 Community Medicine
Paper 7 Forensic Medicine
Each paper will have 30 MCQs of the True /False type.

Note: Candidates should apply for all subjects of ERPM Part A and Part D which have NOT been passed in previous examinations. "refer eligibility item (c) above"

The applications are only available on the website which should be downloaded. The dates and venue of the examination will be notified later.

**By Order of the Council,
Registrar**

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SLMC Website: www.slmc.gov.lk

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- Strong eye and hands on ability to contribute towards managing and reporting on costs, especially relating to procured items and contracts entered into.
- Should demonstrate good IT skills. Exposure to ERP systems will be an advantage.
- Should possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

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- To proactively manage cash flows and to ensure the ready availability of funding for working capital and capital expenditure at optimal cost.
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EDITORIAL

"The privileges of the side-table included the small prerogatives of sitting next to the toast, and taking two cups of tea to other people's one."
-CHARLES DICKENS, (MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT)

OUR THOUGHT

DO YOU SEE THE 'MIDDLEMEN' IN THIS HAZE?

These are days where Sri Lankans are sinking into the possibility that LG Polls would not be held after all. This government - unelected by the citizens of the country - doesn't have to please the people. But if you analyse who comprises the government some shocks could be revealed.

According to Ajith Perakum Jayasinghe who writes for the Sinhala weekend newspaper 'Anidda' the three categories of people 'forming' the true government are the politicians, government servants and individuals who undertake contract work for the regime via the businesses they run. These are the people who earn massive incomes and poor tax payers have to maintain them and their questionable earning methods. They also can be labeled as the 'middlemen'. This middleman or privileged class is represented by both the elite and some sections of the worker classes like worker unions. This concept is not difficult to understand when one observes the politicians who run their very own hotels, busses and wine and spirits stores and even some of the grocery stores which have earned the preferred name food city. When the government jacks up the prices of goods businessmen operating the above mentioned enterprises see a rise in income.

The worst hit are the entrepreneurs and the majority of the members of the worker class. So technically the JVP and its politicians in parliament cannot say that they don't make some representation in this 'middleman class'. They enjoy parliamentary privileges. We must observe this privileged class in this society. Most worker unions that are very active have a system that fattens their coffers and sees to the welfare of its elected members.

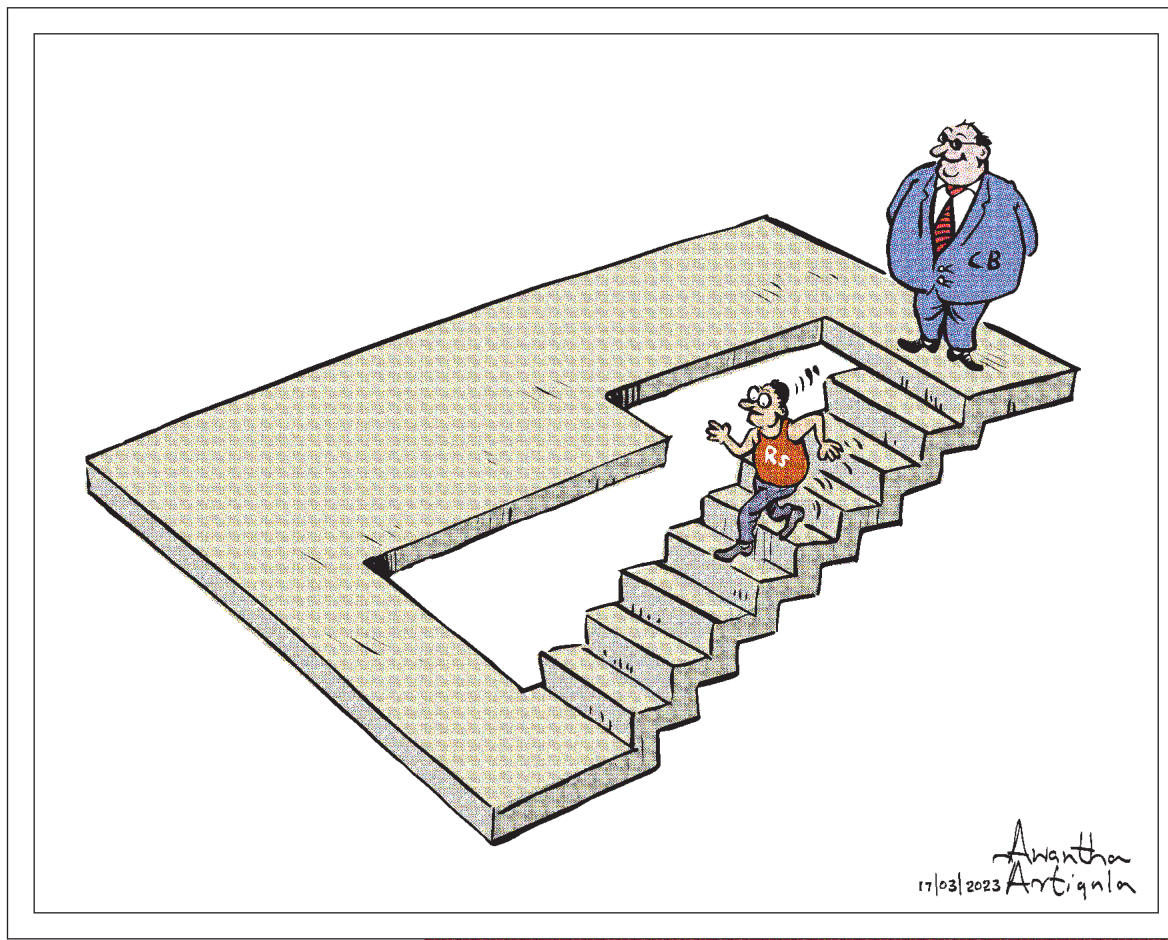
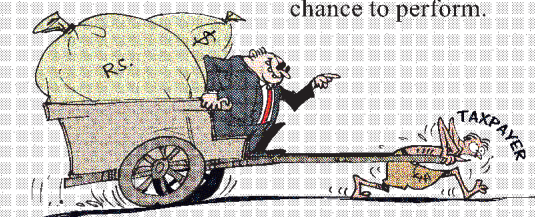
It's hard for anyone not in this privileged class to break into the political scene and get closer to the 'throne' or the hot seat of being a minister or Member of Parliament (MP). The Aragalaya that faded away is a good example. So the painful truth is that the next leader of the country or president will have to come from this privileged class or the group that represents the 'middleman'. May be that a new leader emerging from this old set-up can change the system and instill some discipline into how this privileged class will spend state funds; also not forgetting the fact that earnings of governments workers must be monitored with strict vigil. There is still no system in place to check the total income generated by a Sri Lankan politician who does so by serving in the cabinet or attending parliament and the wealth and assets he amasses by putting in several years as a lawmaker.

So the painful truth is that the next leader of the country or president will have to come from this privileged class or the group that represents the 'middleman'. May be that a new leader emerging from this old set-up can change the system and instill some discipline

Ajith Perakum Jayasinghe writes in his column that till the system is changed and there are proper checks and balances regarding state expenses or for that matter the country begins to mould lawmakers who are ruthless when it comes to being responsible citizens of this country-it could be wise to allow a veteran lawmaker like Ranil Wickremesinghe to continue to be the first citizen of the country. Critics might not agree with what's suggested above, but the majority of citizens with voting rights might agree to the fact that Wickremesinghe is a safer bet than the unknown prince 'deyassen' who a good number of people in this country still pray and hope will arrive and save everyone!

We all love democracy, freedom of speech and freedom of expression; all of which the government elected without the franchise of the voting public dread at the moment. The present government is also worried that a sinking economy can go down crashing if these never-ending strikes and protests are not stopped and the recovery process is not given chance to run its course.

There are some signs of the government taking this economy at least somewhere close to stability, but then this regime must be given a chance to perform.



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ISLAMOPHOBIA: THE INHUMAN POLITICS BEHIND THE SCOURGE



By **Ameen Izzadeen**

March 15 came and went. None celebrated the Ides of March. Also on March 15, the first-ever United Nations Day to combat Islamophobia, too, came and went. There was very little awareness campaign apart from perfunctory United Nations statements which received little media attention, though Islamophobia is one of the pressing global issues.

On March 15, last year, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 76/254, designating the date as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The resolution introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), was unanimously adopted but not before India, France, and the European Union made some observations.

To mark the day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres affirmed that the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, observed for the first time this year, was "a call for action to stamp out anti-Muslim hatred".

"Discrimination diminishes us all. We must stand up against it," he said in a Twitter post. "Today & every day, we must counter the forces of division by reaffirming our common humanity." The UN Chief said anti-Muslim bigotry is part of a larger trend of a resurgence in ethnonationalism, neo-Nazism, stigma, and hate speech targeting vulnerable populations.

In Sri Lanka, where Islamophobia was part of politics, the UN day was a nonday, whereas the Government should have made use of it to stress the principles the UN stands for. In the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), it is affirmed that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

The UDHR, regarded as the human rights holy scripture, has been embraced by every UN member. It stands as a reminder that never again shall the world see atrocities similar to the Holocaust during which millions of Jews were exterminated by Germany's Adolf Hitler and his Nazi butchers who believed in a pseudoscientific Master Race ideology.

Despite the horrors of the Holocaust, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and apartheid do exist to demonize and divide people who are part of the human family. UN treaties, and supporting domestic legislation do exist to combat the evil that discriminates against people, but only to be observed in the breach in most counties or to be selectively applied.

The irony is that the very laws that are



UN Day against Islamophobia: A call for action to stamp out anti-Muslim hatred, says the UN chief

adopted to end discriminatory practices are implemented discriminately.

In Sri Lanka, it is alleged that the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights Act which was supposed to end racial discrimination and hate speech was selectively misused to harass Muslims, political opponents, and even artists. While the ill-informed police charge the suspects under the ICCPR Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and other draconian laws, the Attorney General's Department did precious little to stop the misapplication of the law. The AG's role is not to be an accomplice in the government's wilful abuse of the law, but, like a caregiver, to advise -- and if necessary warn -- the government not to play politics with the law.

Take the case of an impoverished Muslim woman from Mahiyangana. She was arrested for wearing a kaftan that depicted the picture of the ship's helm. The police deliberately interpreted the picture as the Dharma Chakra and booked her under the ICCPR Act. That this was Islamophobia and abuse of law was lost on the state's legal officers.

Islamophobia came to the mainstream in Sri Lanka after the end of the separatist war in 2009. The separatist war itself was given a racial twist and called an ethnic war for political reasons rather than being dealt with as a civil war. Instead of building a Sri Lankan nationalism that recognises unity in diversity, respects democracy, and adopts meritocracy, Sri Lankan politicians, in the promotion of ethnonationalism, saw an easy way to capture power.

After Tamil ethnonationalism was tamed by sheer military force, the ultranationalists' turned their weapons on the Muslims, who stood for Sri Lanka's unity. Such self-centered political opportunism, while kindling anti-Muslim riots in Aluthgama, Digana, Minuwangoda, and other places, only led to the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks, the ascension of an incompetent candidate to the presidency and brought about the economic crisis.

As Islamophobia was aroused by Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna elements to win the 2019 presidential election, some sections of the mainstream media willingly joined the ultranationalist bandwagon and falsely accused a Muslim doctor of making thousands of Sinhala women infertile. Also accused of making Sinhala women infertile were Muslim traders selling women's undergarments and Muslim eateries selling 'wanda' or pregnancy-preventing

kottu. Although these allegations were proved wrong, it is unfortunate that the country lacks a media culture to name and shame the fake news messengers posing as journalists and peddling Islamophobia.

Islamophobia was also evident during the Covid pandemic, with the then government, egged on by its anti-Muslim advisors, denying the Muslims the right to bury their kith and kin during of Covid, although the World Health Organisation, fair-minded Sri Lankan scientists, Islamic countries, and international human rights organisations pointed out that it was safe to bury those who died of Covid.

On a positive note, the Aragalaya protests that overthrew the Islamophobic President have brought about a general realisation across the country that all this anti-Muslim hype had an ulterior motive - capturing power.

In neighbouring India, too, Islamophobia is almost the state policy. The Bharatiya Janata Party seized on the sheer devastation the 2019 Easter Sunday bombing caused in Sri Lanka and won the elections that year by projecting itself as the only party that had the willpower to end the so-called Islamic terrorism. Since the ultranationalist BJP assumed power in India in 2014, its members have been given the carte blanche to demonise India's 200 million Muslims - the world's third-largest Muslim population after Indonesia and Pakistan.

BJP leaders have publicly claimed that India's Muslims do not deserve the same rights as everyone else living in the country. Some have even called for the mass killings of Muslims. The lynching of Muslims for eating, selling, or possessing beef continues with impunity. The rich Muslim segment of India's history is obliterated, while mosques and Muslim houses are bulldozed for road projects. Mercifully, the Dravidian south is not infected by the BJP's Hindutva and Islamophobic ideology.

Islamophobia is a multibillion-dollar industry in the West. In a 2021 report, the United States-based Muslim rights group, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), revealed that a staggering \$105,865,763 was poured into 26 Islamophobia Network groups between 2017 and 2019, within the US alone. These groups spread misinformation and conspiracy theories about Muslims and Islam, the report titled Islamophobia in the Mainstream said.

In Europe, several reports point to a rise in Islamophobia. In the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, and other European countries, Islamophobia is "becoming increasingly normalized".

Declarations of a UN day to combat Islamophobia alone will not end the inhuman practice of dividing humanity. Much needs to be done to establish equality and fraternity in human society before another holocaust tarnishes human history.

DM Poll

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

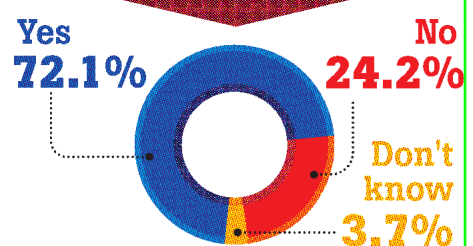
- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



Scan to Vote

LAST POLL

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



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wither goes our trade unions ?

Your editorial of the 14th revealed some lesser-known details on the new tax proposals.

Accordingly, persons drawing less than Rs.100,000/- do not pay any direct taxes and this covers all the state sector teachers, going on strike, in solidarity (!) with other "professionals"

Those receiving over 100,000 and up to 141,667 per month, have to pay 6% (ie a mere 2,500/- at the most)

Those over this limit and earning up to 266,667/- have to pay 24% (or 25,000/- at the most)

Only the elite group earning over 750,000/- have to contribute at 36% (or 195,500/-)

The entire country knows that we are shamelessly bankrupt or that our economy has hit the rock bottom.

We have to admit that we are in this pathetic state due to outright robbery of our riches by crafty and greedy politicians and some administrative staff at the top.

Is it too much for our state officials and the professionals to contribute the maximum to salvage our country's economy, rather than holding the general public to ransom, to win their unreasonable demands?

Cha Munasinghe

The Spirit of Cricket

There were two recent test matches which concluded recently. One was England vs New Zealand which New Zealand won by one run and in the other where Sri Lanka took on New Zealand the Kiwis won by one run. The results of both matches were described variously as "Crazy, tense and bringing out the true spirit of Test Cricket!"

In this context it may be topical to recall the words of Sir Henry Newbolt:

There's a breathless hush in the close tonight
Ten to make and the match to win
A bumpy pitch and a blinding light
An hour to play and the last man in
But it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat
Or the selfish hope of a seasons fame
But his captain's arm on his shoulder smote
Play up, Play up and Play the game!
Hats off to the sides for playing in the true spirit of the game

Sent By: Terrence Savundranayagam

Govt to limit allowances to state officials

WEB COMMENTS

PRIVYEN WUJESKERA - They will simply find a devious method of getting the allowances

MIZARU - Only now? This should have been done on the day Sri Lanka gloriously declared bankruptcy.

BUFFALOACITIZEN - Very good move. Most of the fellows who are entitled to these privileges are yakkas and they completely abuse this privilege. Enough is enough.

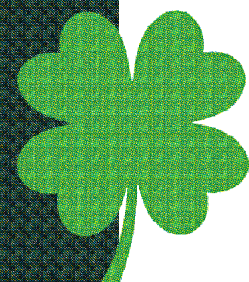
See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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St. Patrick's Day



National Day of Ireland - 17th March 2023



Message from the Irish President

President marks St. Patrick's Day 2023

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann, may I send my warmest greetings and good wishes to our Irish family, and friends of Ireland, across the world, on this day of celebration of our national patron, Saint Patrick.

Whether we are Irish by birth or Irish by choice, we are all part of a rich and vibrant global community that is bound together by a shared love of life, a shared love of our national heritage, language and culture.

Today, as we gather to celebrate that spiritual culture and legacy that speaks so deeply to us of a common but complex past, we can draw a shared strength from recalling the inspirational teachings from the life of Saint Patrick, our national Patron Saint.

In these times of multiple interacting crises, human and natural, it is vital that we recognise the need for a solidarity that binds us together as humans, and acknowledge the responsibility we share for our vulnerable planet and for all those who dwell on it.

For example, the plight of the people in Türkiye and Syria will be in our thoughts as they work to rebuild in the wake of last month's devastating earthquakes. Such horrific events remind us all of our utter vulnerability, and of the shared humanitarian response required.

We live in a time of increasing conflicts, and a departure from the principles of international and humanitarian law so carefully crafted over decades, as alternatives to war.

Over a year on from the invasion, the people of Ukraine, and all those ensnared in the more than 20 armed conflicts around the world, must remain foremost in our minds.

It is heartening to see the welcome that so many households and schools have extended here in Ireland and elsewhere, heartening to hear of all those who continue to provide sanctuary to the tens of thousands of displaced Ukrainian citizens who have fled conflict in their homeland. Schools in every part of the country have opened their arms to new pupils and shown a deep commitment of respect and solidarity. Thank you.

As we honour our patron saint, Naomh Pádraig, how appropriate it is that we recall the foundational story upon which our

National Day, is based, that story of the slavery of his time as a young man.

Saint Patrick emerged from slavery, having been trafficked across the Irish Sea as a young man. After six years he escaped, returning to his family and his studies in Britain. Yet, in a remarkable display of resilience and generosity, he would later return to Ireland as a missionary.

There are many powerful echoes from Patrick's life that resonate with our contemporary circumstances, ones that have brought new forms of slavery into being, where racism is increasing rather than decreasing, in so many parts of a world, where a poisonous xenophobia, new and recalled, has taken hold in so many places. It is in these spaces where fear is being sowed.

The story of Patrick's transformation that would lead to his becoming an emblem of the country he adopted as his own, stands in counterpoint and is so important.

In his protest against the war crimes of King Coroticus and his men, Patrick, the former slave, gave both voice and his life, to spearheading an awareness of the consequences of slavery.

The story of his life as a migrant, we must never forget, is a reminder of the resilience and necessary courage of migrants, a reminder too of the contributions that they have made, and continue to make, to the countries they call home.

The act of migration constitutes a story defined by an extraordinary will and an unyielding human desire to envision and create a better world, even in the face of sometimes considerable adversity.

Today, as we recall the life of our patron saint, we can invoke his spirit in acknowledging our role as global citizens, opening our minds and hearts to our universal human family in all its complexity, circumstances and vulnerability.

It is by showing empathy, compassion and solidarity, such as by helping those fleeing distress, by offering our hearts and doors to those in need, and giving people an opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families, that we demonstrate our commitment to bringing into being values which have the power to transcend borders.



There are so many areas where we cannot continue to fail on such basic issues as global hunger and poverty. For example, in the Horn of Africa, the harsh reality of hunger steals the future, the potential, the dignity, of millions of our brothers and sisters threatened with famine.

How shameful it is too that 64 countries in the developing world were forced, while struggling with the Covid pandemic, to spend more on debt repayments than on funding public health.

There are many powerful echoes from Patrick's life that resonate with our contemporary circumstances, ones that have brought new forms of slavery into being, where racism is increasing rather than decreasing, in so many parts of a world, where a poisonous xenophobia, new and recalled, has taken hold in so many places

During my recent visit to Senegal at which I addressed the Africa Food Summit, I emphasised that there is an urgent need to tackle not only poverty and hunger in Africa but to offer proper security on the basic necessities of life, delivering universal basic services such as education and healthcare, thus helping to create a lasting, sustainable future built on security in its most inclusive sense.

We have a moral and ethical responsibility to support our global family in dire need, to help with sustainable solutions to ending all famines, to provide a decisive response to climate change.

Saint Patrick's message was at its core one of respect for nature, for its spirituality reflected in its seasonal renewal. Our planet is scarred by the consequences of human actions, actions often sourced in greed, actions that have had a direct bearing on our changing climate, constituting, as it does now, one of the greatest challenges of our time, reflected in extreme weather

events, widespread displacement and forced migration across our world, and the loss of fertile land.

It is such a tragic injustice that those nations suffering the greatest human and economic impact of climate change are those who were least responsible for the emissions that threaten their very existence.

The demand for collective action addressing our shared Earth's climate emergency has never been greater. We all must now take responsibility for our role in the climate crisis and play our part in decarbonising our economy and society so that we may inhabit a sustainable world, one that preserves the planet for future generations and all those who inhabit it.

On this day, let us pledge to work together, cooperating, so that we may confront the contemporary challenges facing our world, espousing some of the most essential values, such as kindness and compassion, embodied as they are in the story of Saint Patrick.

Rather than list the points of darkness that challenge us in our contemporary circumstances, let us instead be guided by the points of light. Let us envision how our lives could be without war, famine, hunger and greed, in a world that eschews the poisonous ideals of imperialism and embraces the decent instincts of humanity that such as Saint Patrick embodied.

As we commemorate Saint Patrick's legacy, guide and patron, whose life embodied the values of a shared, generous sense of humanity, let us do so by mustering the courage to recover the best instincts of our humanity, have the mettle to face those who resist such instincts, reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to advocating the principles that informed Patrick's life, calling us as they do to embrace our role as global citizens, extending a hand of support to all those in need with whom we share this planet, respond with hospitality and kindness to those fleeing the ravages of hunger, conflict and climate change, thus bringing into reality our taking responsibility to work with fellow citizens for a more just and inclusive world.

I wish you all a most enjoyable and peaceful Saint Patrick's Day. Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh uilig.

Message from the Irish Ambassador in India



I am pleased to offer my best wishes on Saint Patrick's Day to the Irish community in Sri Lanka and to the many friends of Ireland in that country. It was a pleasure to visit Colombo in early February to participate in the Independence Day celebrations and to meet some friends after a break of over two years.

I am conscious that Sri Lanka still faces some economic problems, but there is scope for cooperation and development. Trade, education, investment and tourism are all areas where closer cooperation is possible and they will be priorities for me and for my diplomatic and economic teams in the years ahead. As Island nations of similar size and in many respects, similar history I consider that there is an empathy between our countries and peoples. The Sri Lankan

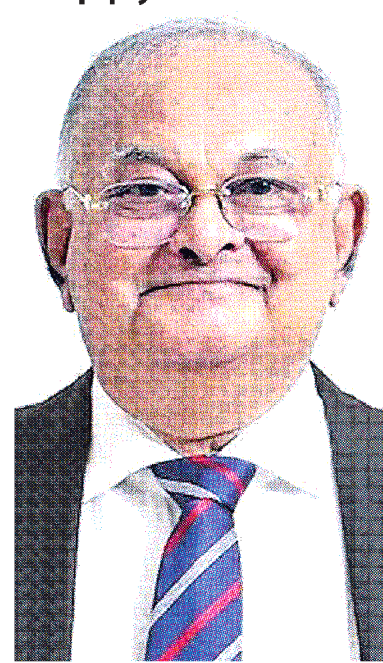
community in Ireland is small, but growing steadily. Irish holidaymakers have discovered Sri Lanka in recent years and I am confident that they will visit in large numbers this year. Significant numbers of Sri Lankan students are also looking to Ireland for educational opportunities. They are finding not only an excellent academic environment, but also a friendly and secure living space. I know that Sri Lankans in Ireland will also be celebrating our national holiday with enthusiasm.

Saint Patrick's Day is probably the most widely celebrated national holiday in the world with celebrations spanning the globe from New Zealand to Hawaii. I am pleased that it is also being marked in Sri Lanka.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Brendan Ward Ambassador of Ireland

Message from the Honorary Consul General for Ireland in Sri Lanka

Happy St. Patrick's Day to our Irish citizens in Sri Lanka!



It is with great pleasure I express these greetings on behalf of the people of Sri Lanka to mark the Irish National day in 2023. The two island nations; "Pearl of the Indian Ocean" and the "Emerald Isle" have a many an opportunity to get to know each other through the exchange of our resources such as the increasing Sri Lankan student population in Ireland and the increasing number of professionals from both sides working and living in each other's countries. Here in Sri Lanka, we see a growing popularity of 'Irish Pubs' and Irish cuisine in pub menus. Similarly, we hear of Sri Lankan students packing spices for Irish friends. It's this friendship and understanding that can help promote our shared interests in the future.

One of the greatest resources both Island nations have in common is our emerging 'Blue Economy'. Ireland with a coast line of 1,500kms in the Atlantic Ocean and Sri Lanka's coastline of 1,620

km, with abundant natural resources supporting millions of livelihoods. It's Lagoons, rivers, bays, sand dunes, mangroves, estuaries, rocky shores, saltmarshes, tidal flats, beaches, spits, estuaries, coral reefs and seagrasses are important habitats found along Sri Lanka's coastline. About half of Sri Lanka's population and over 60% of all industries operate in the coastal regions, making the sustainable management of resources essential and ensuring those habitats are not compromised in any way.

Let's share our knowledge and our experiences in developing our 'Blue Economies', strengthening our friendships and be an example to the world on how two Island nations are collaborating and creating new ecosystems, despite the distance between us.

G Manik Pereira (J.P.) Honorary Consul General for Ireland in Sri Lanka

MARITIME

FREIGHT

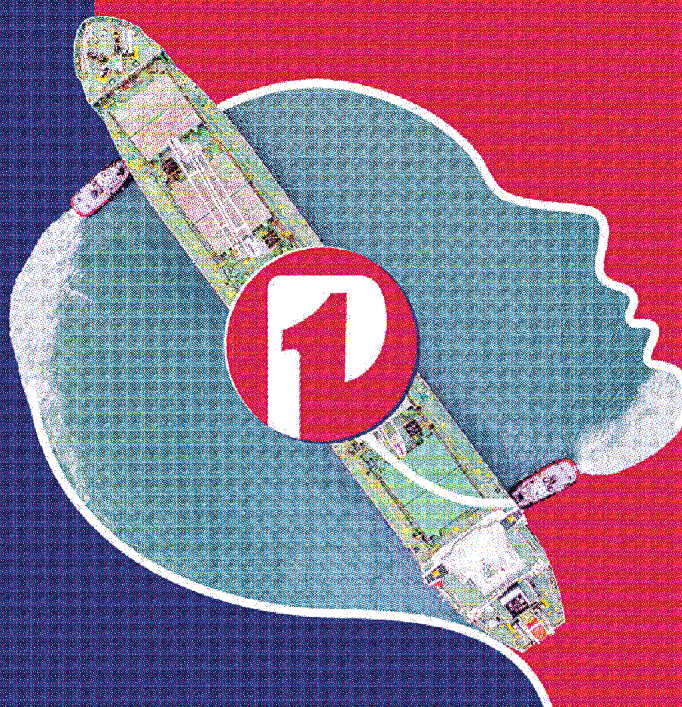
LOGISTICS

REAL ESTATE

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

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CONTAINER CONVERSIONS



WITH GREAT KNOWLEDGE COMES, GREAT POWER.

FEATURES

LET THE BIG MATCH HEALING BEGIN!

SEVERAL DECADES AFTER LEAVING S. THOMAS' I FEEL THAT IT IS NOT A DISEASE; THE BIG MATCH, THE BATTLE OF THE BLUES THAT IS, IS A HEALER. THERE'S NOTHING MAD ABOUT MARCH; THE BIG MATCH PROVIDES SANITY IN A WORLD OF ROUTINE AND GRINDS MARKED BY CHAOS, UNCERTAINTY AND DRUDGERY



Royal- Thomian Big Match is more than just a cricket encounter

By **Krishantha Prasad Cooray**

The season of big matches is upon us. These cricket encounters are big for the respective schools, not for others. In fact, as far as the particular schools are concerned they are huge. It is THE event of the year.

Today there are big matches in all parts of Sri Lanka, so many that only a few can escape them for the spectacle is not contained by the walls of the schools. It not only spills over to the streets but climbs over the walls of other schools as well. Well, the girls' schools at least. For history and spectacle, however, it can be argued that no match comes even close to the Royal-Thomian encounter. Royal College and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia have played this annual encounter for over 140 consecutive years. That's including the war years and the period of Covid-19-related lockdowns.

All good fun for the most part. And so, over the years we have come to expect phrases such as **Big Match Fever**, and **Mad March Days**.

Today, several decades after leaving S. Thomas' I feel that it is not a disease; the Big Match, the Battle of the Blues that is, is a healer. There's nothing mad about March; the Big Match provides sanity in a world of routine and grinds marked by chaos, uncertainty and drudgery.

For me, like for countless Royalists and Thomians, the Roy-Tho is not only the oldest continuously played cricket series in the world but an extraordinary carnival that adds value to comradeship and friendship.

It is all about memories, traditions, sportsmanship and life in general. It is a holiday unlike any other. We walk into the SSC, where the big match has been played for decades except for the last two years when the venue was shifted to Suriyawewa due to containment protocols related to Covid-19, and we are suddenly in this incredible space where we just don't have to guard our tongues or worry about perceptions being wrecked.

We can be frank, open and basically ourselves

without having to think twice before saying or doing anything. It's not a shut up and sit down event but a getup and speak up one where everyone is equal.

We all have school memories. Among them, those associated with the Royal-Thomian are the most precious. The truth is, as schoolboys we never thought about memories. We just had fun. Incredible fun. Little did we know that we were in fact creating memories that would stay with us and keep us warm when we are battered by the harsh and freezing winds of life.

It is not just students and old boys. It is everyone associated with the two schools including teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, friends, girlfriends and others who identify with each School for as simple a reason as living close by!

I still vividly remember the 1990 Big Match. Naresh Adikaram, the Thomian Captain, lost his father a few days before the Roy-Tho. He attended the funeral, and a few hours later, was at the SSC, leading his boys. He scored over 70 runs in that match. Such courage, such composure! I am sure it was appreciated and applauded by both Thomians and Royalists.

Of course, what happens in the middle of the ground is hardly what makes the Royal-Thomian so special. The carnival, so to speak, unfolds outside, in the stands, among friends, in the back-and-forth of reminiscences by old men whose firm belief they've not aged is a product of the amount of alcohol consumed, the papare bands, dancing in the tents, the supporters affirming yet once again that the only tune they can hold is that of the school song, and the occasions pitch-invasion.

It was not uncommon even back then for some of the most colourful personalities of our generation, from Varuna Botejue, Charya De Saram or Prasad Wimalasekara, to spend weeks before the Royal Thomian planning for the event.

I remember being aghast, as a senior student, seeing my younger brother Nishantha running into the field, the college flag in hand. He was just about eight years old then. Such interruptions are expected, cheered or jeered, and looked back upon with a smile that says, "We were so much younger then, and we can only be as young again on the three days in March when we attend the Royal Thomian."

And we graduated from the boys' tent to the Stallions, the Colts, the Mustangs and other horse-enclosures that don't have anything to do with age but celebrate merry-making to the maximum, such as the Stables, set up by Krishan Perera and his team 19 years ago.

On the Thomian side, I still remember how seriously cricket legends like Michael Tissera and Anura Tennakoon would come and invest so much of their time and energy in helping to advise, support and mentor our team. All this while the late Warden Neville De Alwis and Sub Warden former Bishop Duleep De Chickera would be warning the 'Yakos' such as myself to kindly refrain from assaulting Prefects during the match.

It is a pilgrimage as holy as any other. This is why Royalists and Thomians time their visit to the 'mother country' so that they can go to the Big Match. It is a temple where there's community worship of things that matter: friendship, camaraderie and memories that just don't age.

The Sane March Days are here again. Let the Big Match healing begin!

Three steps to perfection

Bhagavad Gita Online Lectures by Sunandaji from March 23 to 26

The Bhagavad Gita lecture by Sunandaji on Chapter 5 titled Three Steps to Perfection is scheduled to be held from Thursday, March 23 to Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 6.45 to 8 p.m. Sri Lanka Standard Time.

The lecture is online and free registration is open at vedantacolombo.org. The annual Bhagavad Gita lecture is sponsored by Kanapathy Chetty Selvanathan Charitable Trust.

Umaya Venugopal, also a disciple of Swami Parthasarathy, conducts weekly classes on Bhagavad Gita and Vedanta sessions for youth.

Bhagavad Gita Chapter VI weekly study classes, Sundays 4.45 to 6 p.m. Joy of Liberation - Vedanta weekly discussion for youth based on the book The Holocaust of Attachment by A. Parthasarathy on Saturdays 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. All times are Sri Lanka Standard Time. These two sessions are online. For details visit vedantacolombo.org or contact +94 762796113.

The Bhagavad Gita is taught systematically and methodically at the Vedanta Academy. It is part of the curriculum of the three-year residential course on Vedanta at the Vedanta Academy situated in Pune, India.

Swami A. Parthasarathy, the world-renowned Vedanta philosopher is the founder of the Vedanta Academy. Youth from all over the world with diverse cultural backgrounds study at the Vedanta Academy and learn Vedanta, the technique of life and living.



Sunandaji

Sunandaji is the daughter - of a disciple of Swami A. Parthasarathy. Sunandaji has been studying and researching Vedanta, for over three decades. Her clear and powerful presentation of the Bhagavad Gita in contemporary thought has been acclaimed in India and abroad.

The alumni of the Vedanta Academy conduct weekly study classes based on the books written by Swami A. Parthasarathy. The Fall of the Human Intellect, Governing

The Bhagavad Gita lecture by Sunandaji on Chapter 5 titled Three Steps to Perfection is scheduled to be held from Thursday, March 23 to Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 6.45 to 8 p.m. Sri Lanka Standard Time

Business and Relationships, The Holocaust of Attachment, and Vedanta Treatise: The Eternities are to name a few.

The study and practical application of Vedanta in daily life help to lead a happy and prosperous life, to maintain harmony in relationships and ultimately to reach human perfection, the state of Self-realisation.

Bhagavad Gita is a manual of life. It enunciates the ancient philosophy of Vedanta. Vedanta presents the eternal and universal principles of life and living which transcend the barriers of race, religion, caste and creed. These principles equip one with a strong intellect to meet the challenges of the world at all levels - social, official and domestic. Thus, one enjoys a rare combination of being dynamic and successful in one's endeavours externally and being happy and peaceful internally. Above all Vedanta ushers one towards the ultimate goal of human perfection within, the state of spiritual Enlightenment.

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Pera Alumni (Colombo) AGM on March 31

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (Colombo Chapter) will be held on Friday, March 31, 2023 from 5 p.m - 6 p.m at the Institute of Engineers, No.120/15, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7. For details, please visit the website (aaupcc.org) or contact AAUPCC General-Secretary Priyath Cabral (privathc@gmail.com) or 0777560708

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INTERNATIONAL

MACRON FORCES THROUGH CONTROVERSIAL PENSION REFORM WITHOUT PARLIAMENTARY VOTE

AFP.COM, 16 MARCH, 2023- French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday decided to trigger Article 49.3 of the French constitution, which granted the government executive privilege to push through controversial pension reforms without a parliamentary vote. The move gives the opposition the right to immediately call a confidence

vote and risks further inflaming the protest movement after months of demonstrations. The decision was made just a few minutes before the vote was scheduled at the National Assembly, France's lower house of parliament.

The retirement age has now been raised by two years to 64 in a pension

reform that is the flagship legislation of Macron's second term. The unpopular plan has prompted major strikes and protests across the country since January.

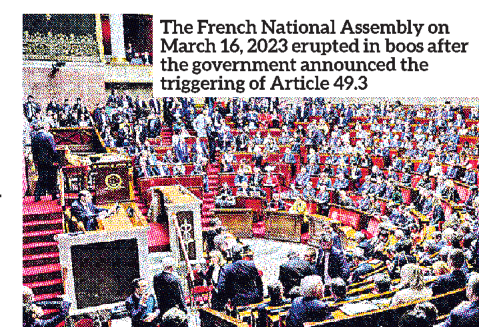
The move is expected to trigger a quick no-confidence motion in Macron's government.

The announcement came hours after the Senate, France's upper house, adopted

the bill Thursday morning in a 193-114 vote, a tally that was largely expected since the conservative majority of the upper house of parliament favours a higher retirement age.

But the government was unsure of the vote numbers in the National Assembly, forcing French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne to announce the triggering of Article

49.3. Resorting to the measure is likely to further enrage unions, protesters and left-wing opposition parties that say the pension overhaul is unfair and unnecessary. "This government is not worthy of our Fifth Republic, of French democracy. Until the very end, parliament has been ridiculed, humiliated," Fabien Roussel, head of the French Communist Party said.



The French National Assembly on March 16, 2023 erupted in boos after the government announced the triggering of Article 49.3

SEYLAN BANK PLC

(Registered under Ref. PQ 9 according to the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007)

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

It is hereby notified that under Section 8 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 that at a meeting, held on 24.01.2023 by the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC it was resolved specially and unanimously.

BRANCH : MALABE
ACCOUNT NO : 0670-33545642-001 / 0670-33546137-001

Whereas Zeon International (Pvt) Ltd a Company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007 bearing Registration No. PV 94138 and having its registered office at Nugegoda / Maharagama as 'Obligor/Mortgagor' has made default in payment due on Mortgage Bond Nos.1693 dated 06th May 2016 attested by B.M.Gunawardena, Notary Public, 1776 dated 11th June 2018 attested by Deepani Range, Notary Public, 355 dated 24th May 2019 and 649 dated 03rd February 2022 both attested by Buddhini M. Ranwala, Notary Public in favour of Seylan Bank PLC (Company Registration No. PQ 9 under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007) and there is now due and owing to the Seylan Bank PLC on account of principal and interest up to 25th March 2022 an aggregate sum of Rupees Twenty Four Million Three Hundred and Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Four and Cents Eighty Three (Rs.24,381,284.83) together with interest on Rupees Twenty Three Million Six Hundred Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Five and Cents Six (Rs.23,600,125.06) at the rate of Sixteen Point Five Percent (16.5%) per annum from 26th March 2022 in respect of the Short Term Loan facility on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC under the powers vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.04 of 1990 as amended, do hereby resolve that Mrs.Chandima Gamage, Licensed Auctioneer be authorized to sell the property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Seylan Bank PLC by the said Mortgage Bond Nos.1693, 1776, 355 and 649 by Public Auction for recovery of the said sum of Rupees Twenty Four Million Three Hundred and Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Four and Cents Eighty Three (Rs.24,381,284.83) together with interest as aforesaid from 26th March 2022 up to the date of recovery of full sum, with costs of advertising, any other charges under Section 13 of the said Act, less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1A depicted in Plan No.12976 dated 25.04.2016 made by Mervyn Samaranyake, Licensed Surveyor of the land called Waljambugahawatta, bearing Assessment No.170, Old Kottawa Road, situated at Pannipitiya within in the Municipal Council limits & Divisional Secretary Division of Maharagama in the Grama Niladari Division of Pannipitiya South - 531A in Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale, in the District of Colombo Western Province, and which said Lot 1A is bounded on the North by Old Road on the East by Land of M A Wijepala & K A P Punchinona on the South by Lot 4 in Plan No.55 of L.Simon Perera & Lot 1B hereof and on the West by Lot 2 in Plan No.55 of L.Charlis Perera & Lot 1B hereof together with all movable and immovable Plant and Machinery now and herein after be stored, and plantations buildings fixtures or erections, standing thereon and hereafter to be erected including but not limited to any and all condominium land parcels/units under a condominium plan and a Condominium Declaration and containing in extent Nine Perches (A;O;R;OP:9) together with the trees plantations and everything else standing thereon as per said plan No.12976.

By Order of the Board of Directors
(Mrs.) V.A. Paranagama
Attorney-at-Law
Assistant General Manager - Legal

SEYLAN BANK PLC

(Registered under Ref. PQ 9 according to the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007)

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

It is hereby notified that under Section 8 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 that at a meeting, held on 24.01.2023 by the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC it was resolved specially and unanimously.

BRANCH : MALABE
ACCOUNT NO : 0670-33545642-001 / 0670-33546137-001

Whereas Zeon International (Pvt) Ltd a Company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007 bearing Registration No. PV 94138 and having its registered office at Nugegoda / Maharagama and Ukwaththa Liyanage Asiri Samanthilaka at Maharagama as 'Obligor/Mortgagor' have made default in payment due on Mortgage Bond Nos.1694 and 1695 both dated 06th May 2016 both attested by B.M.Gunawardena, Notary Public, 1778 dated 11th June 2018 attested by Deepani Range, Notary Public and 650 dated 03rd February 2022 attested by Buddhini M. Ranwala, Notary Public in favour of Seylan Bank PLC (Company Registration No.PQ 9 under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007) and there is now due and owing to the Seylan Bank PLC on account of principal and interest up to 25th March 2022 an aggregate sum of Rupees Eleven Million Seven Hundred and Seven Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Seven and Cents Forty Seven (Rs.11,707,177.47) together with interest on Rupees Eleven Million Two Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine and Cents Ninety (Rs.11,229,999.90) at the rate of Eighteen percent (18%) per annum from 26th March 2022 in respect of the Term Loan facility on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC under the powers vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.04 of 1990 as amended, do hereby resolve that Mrs.Chandima Gamage, Licensed Auctioneer be authorized to sell the property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Seylan Bank PLC by the said Mortgage Bond Nos.1694,1695,1778 and 650 by Public Auction for recovery of the said sum of Rupees Eleven Million Seven Hundred and Seven Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Seven and Cents Forty Seven (Rs.11,707,177.47) together with interest as aforesaid from 26th March 2022 up to the date of recovery of full sum, with costs of advertising, any other charges under Section 13 of the said Act, less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

1. 11 that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1B depicted in Plan No.2009/34 dated 29.09.2009 made by K D P Kannangara, Licensed Surveyor of the Land called "Wallawawatta" and "Ambagahawatta" bearing Assessment No.186/2C, Pasal Mawatha, situated at Halpita Village with in the Grama Niladhari Division of No.570- Halpita, Divisional Secretariat Division of Kesbewa, and with in the Urban Council limits of Kesbewa in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 1B is bounded on the North by the other portion of the same land on the East by Lot 1C in Plan No.2009/34 on the South by Lot 2 in Plan No.2009/07, on the West by Lot 1A in Plan No.2009/34 and containing in extent of Fifteen Decimal Naught Perches (A0-R0-P15.0) or 0.0379 Hectares according to the said plan No. 2009/34 together with the soil, trees, plantations, buildings and everything else standing thereon.

2. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1C depicted in Plan No.2009/34 dated 29.09.2009 made by K D P Kannangara Licensed Surveyor of the Land called "Wallawawatta" and "Ambagahawatta" bearing Assessment No.186/2B, Pasal Mawatha, situated at Halpita Village with in the Grama Niladhari Division of No.570- Halpita, Divisional Secretariat Division of Kesbewa, and with in the Urban Council limits of Kesbewa in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 1C is bounded on the North by the other portion of the same land on the East by Lot E in Plan No.981 on the South by Lot 2 in Plan No.2009/07, on the West by Lot 1B hereof and containing in extent of Fifteen Decimal Naught Perches (A:0-R:0-P:15.0) or 0.0379 Hectares according to the said plan No. 2009/34 together with the soil, trees, plantations, buildings and everything else standing thereon.

Together with the right of way and other connected rights over in and along Lot 2 in Plan No.2009/7 dated 29.05.2009 made by D R P Kannangara, Licensed Surveyor and Lot 8 depicted in Plan No.6131 dated 15.07.1996 made by H L Gunasekara, Licensed Surveyor.

By Order of the Board of Directors
(Mrs.) V.A. Paranagama
Attorney-at-Law
Assistant General Manager - Legal

CALLING 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI)

TERRESTRIAL TV BROADCASTING RIGHTS (FREE TO AIR) FOR IRELAND MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023 & PAKISTAN MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), being the Governing Body of Cricket in Sri Lanka hereby invites and seeks "Expressions of Interest" from reputed Local Broadcasters who are interested in acquiring Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Rights (Free to Air) of Sri Lanka Cricket for the tours specified below only in respect of the territory of Sri Lanka.

1) Ireland Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023 – 2 Test Matches

1st Test : 16th April – 20th April 2023 at Galle International Cricket Stadium

2nd Test : 24th April – 28th April 2023 at Galle International Cricket Stadium

2) Pakistan Men's National Tour of Sri Lanka 2023 – 2 Test Matches

1st Test : 18th July – 22nd July 2023 at Galle International Cricket Stadium

2nd Test : 26th July – 30th July 2023 at Galle International Cricket Stadium

Note: Only one broadcaster/channel will be granted terrestrial TV broadcasting rights in respect of both tours. Further, the tournament dates and venues are subject to change.

DETAILS OF THE RIGHTS:

A document detailing the Rights for which SLC will be floating an Invitation to Tender indicating SLC's Requirements and Guidelines in relation to the submission of Bids will be notified to the firms / organisations that show interest.

EOI SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

Interested firms/organisations are called upon to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] together with a summary of credentials, and corporate profile of the firm/organisation via e-mail to SLC on sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk to reach on or before 03:00 pm. [Sri Lankan Time] on 28th March 2023. If further information is required in relation to this EOI, please contact Manager Business Development - SLC via +94 779 429 035.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SRI LANKA CRICKET



VACANCY

PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE

We are looking for a qualified and experienced Procurement Executive to assist the purchasing activities and ensure that purchased items are both cost efficient and of high quality. The Procurement Executive's responsibilities includes preparation of Invitation letters, Invitation of quotations, evaluating supplier options, maintaining accurate reports and positive supplier relations.

Scope of Work

- Assisting the functions of the purchasing department
- Preparing plans for the purchase of equipment, services, and supplies
- Assisting with tender processes and contracts
- Following and enforcing SLC's procurement policies and procedures
- Reviewing, comparing, analyzing, and recommending products and services to be purchased
- Maintaining good supplier relations and negotiating transactions

Qualifications and Experience

- A Degree/Diploma in Purchasing and supply chain Management from the Institute of Supply and Materials Management
- Any other similar professional qualification from a recognized Institution
- At least 04 years' experience in handling purchasing in a Public or reputed private sector organization
- Strong communication, written and negotiation skills
- Proficiency in computer including Microsoft office
- Should be a goal oriented and organized team player

If you are a team player with the drive and initiative to perform with minimum supervision and willingness to work in a team oriented environment, you could be the person we are looking for!

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package with other benefits await the right candidate

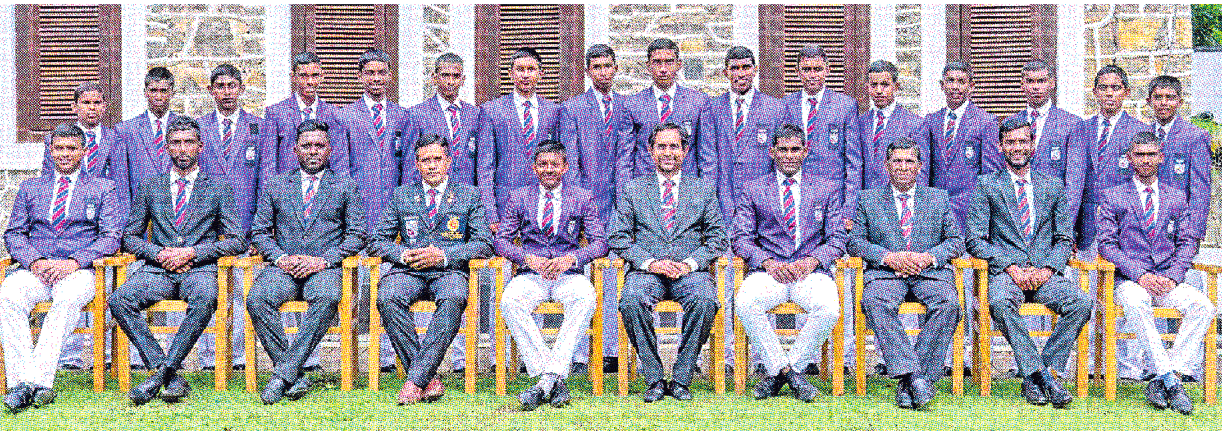
All applications should be forwarded to vacancies@srilankacricket.lk along with the names of two non-related referees within 7 days from the date of this advertisement

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

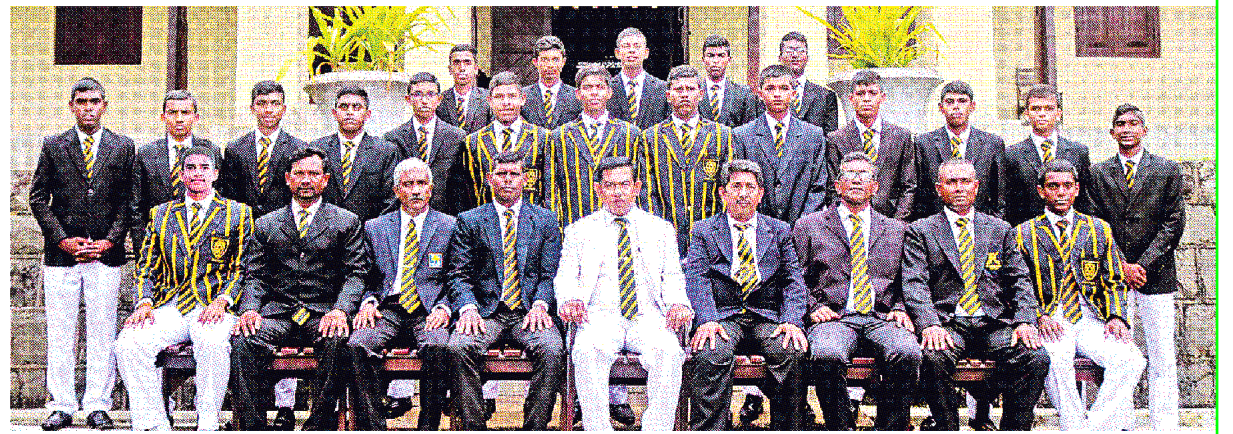
*Please ensure all employment criteria is met prior to applying

Human Resources Dept. Sri Lanka Cricket,
No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 7

SPORTS



Richmond College Team



Mahinda College Team



Tharinda Nimal (Capt.) Kavindu Nirmana (VC) Bhanuka Manohara



Malsha Tharupathi Janeth Kaushal Sharon Abishek



Maheesha de Silva Thamindu Pradeeptha Chehan Subasinghe Sihath Ramanayaka



Imesh De Silva Kaveesha Induwara Yuri Koththigoda Seneth Sisan



Manuja Dulneth Lakmal de Silva (Coach)

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Richmond College and Mahinda College traditional rivals on the cricket field from down South will battle for supremacy when they clash in the 118th Battle of the Lovers' Quarrel over the next two days at the Galle International Stadium from today.

Richmond leads the series with 24 wins to Mahinda's 23 from the matches that have been played so far. Richmond was the last winner of the series having come out victorious by six wickets under the leadership of Thaveesha Abishek

while Mahinda's last win was in 2008 under the leadership of Rajitha Priyan. According to performances of the two teams in the inter-schools cricket season Richmond led by fourth year player Tharinda Nimal holds the edge due to the fact that they

have recorded five outright wins from the 13 matches that they have played and in contrast Mahinda led by Dhanuja Induwara has been able to chalk up only one outright win and undergone an outright defeat.

However the statistics cannot be taken for granted as when two sides meet each other in an encounter of this nature the atmosphere differs and the underdogs have been successful. The two sides possess talented players which could make a difference and an outcome though it's not going to be easy to predict.

Richmond's trump card is Kavindu Nirmana who is their top scorer having 500 runs under his belt and the support from Thamindu Pradeeptha who has scored over 400 runs, Maheesha de Silva and skipper Nimal is going to be crucial if they are to put a challenging score on the board.

The bowling will revolve around the left and right-arm spinner duo Yuri Koththigoda the top wicket taker with over 50 wickets and Malsha Tharupathi who is a member of the Sri Lanka U19 team who will take wings to UAE after the big match for the Tri-Nation series involving Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Tharupathi has not been able to represent his school side due to national duties but from the few matches he played as bagged 40 scalps and to support will be skipper Nimal.

For Mahinda they will depend on skipper Induwara who has made over 550 runs inclusive of a ton and five half tons and they have another batsman whom they can rely on Hiruna Gallage who too has scored over 500 runs and they will be expecting deputy skipper

Dinura Kalupahana who too will take wings to UAE and Tharusha Dilshan for useful contributions to bolster the score.

Mahinda too will depend on their spinners Tharusha Dilshan and Arosha Udayanga who together have shred over 50 wickets between them and pacie Shehan Hasaranga for them to curtail their opponents' batting.

Mahinda hold two records of the series with P.H.K.H. Ranasinghe's 162 made in 1972 being highest individual knock. In fact this record was broken in the same match who was established by Prasad Kariyawasam who made unbeaten 156 on the first day's which was broken by Ranasinghe. Kariyawasam eclipsed Mahinda's Sirisena Hettige's record of 155 made way back in 1939.

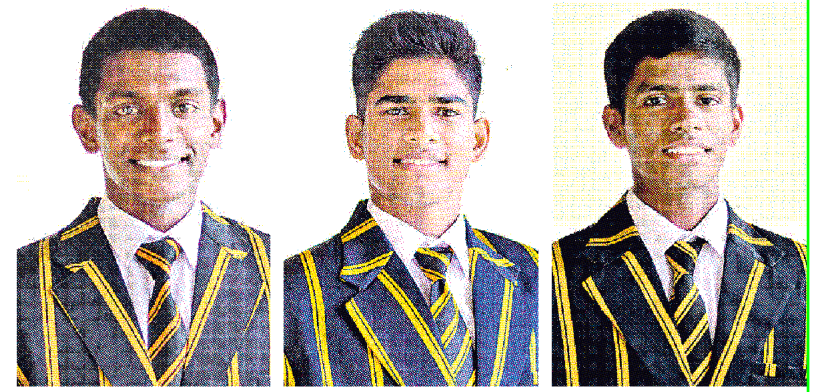
In the bowling department S.



Senuka Dangamuwa

Ambewatta of Mahinda has the unique record of taking all ten wickets for just 44 runs in the year 1953 while R.M.M. de Silva of Richmond holds the best bowling returns of 15 for 15 which he achieved in 1922.

118th Battle of Lovers' Quarrel RICHMOND HAS EDGE OVER RIVALS MAHINDA



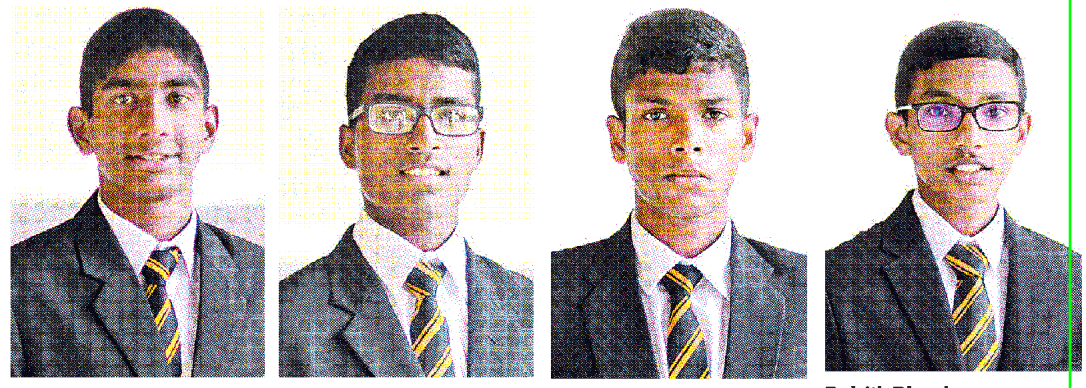
Dhanuja Jayaweera (Capt.) Dinura Kalupahana (VC) Ranmina Hettiarachchi



Hiruna Gallage Tharusha Dilshan Shehan Hasaranga



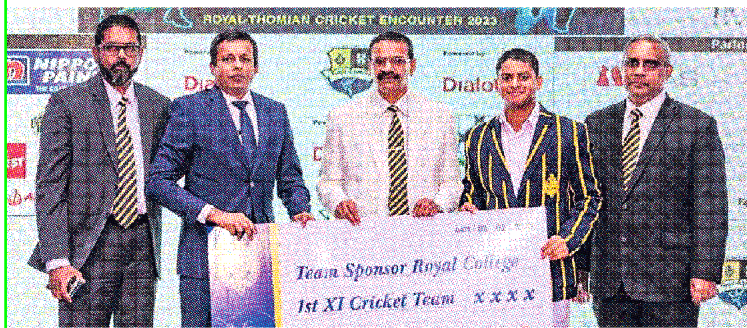
Chandupa de Silva Pramesh Madubashana Hareen Achintha Kaveen Rukshan



Arosha Udayanga Deneth Kaushalya Dulana Rajapakse Dulsith Dharshana

Home Lands sponsors Royal College First XI cricket team for the 2022-23 season

Home Lands, the market leader in the local real estate industry, is sponsoring the Royal College First XI cricket team for the 2022-23 season in anticipation of the upcoming 144th Battle of the Blues. The announcement of the sponsorship was made during the recently concluded media conference for the Royal-Thomian Big Match on 2nd March 2023.



L-R: Deeptha Senevirathne (Senior Sales Manager - Home Lands), Nalin Herath (Chairman - Home Lands Group), R.M.M. Rathnayake (Principal - Royal College), Dasis Manchanayake (Captain - Royal College First XI Cricket Team) and Rehan Gunasekara (Co-chairman - Royal Thomian Match Organizing Committee)

Under 23 Semi Final

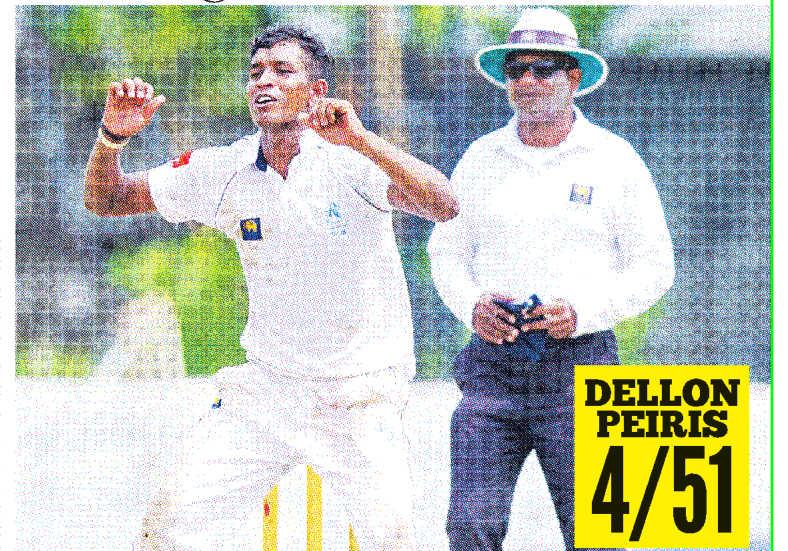
Ranmith, Dellon steer Ragama CC to final

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

A knock of 139 by Ranmith Jayasena and an all-round performance by Dellon Peiris helped Ragama CC to record a first inning win over Tamil Union in the semi final encounter of the Major Club Under 23 cricket tournament played at the CCC ground.

In the other semi final between Moors SC and SSC played at the Colts ground saw the former taking first lease of the wicket ending day one on 137 for 4. The match will be continued today.

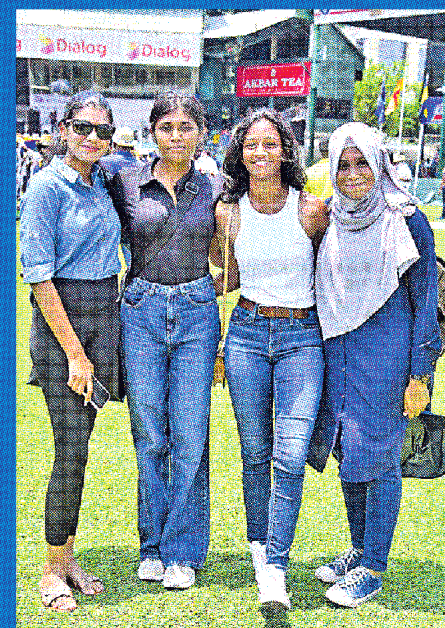
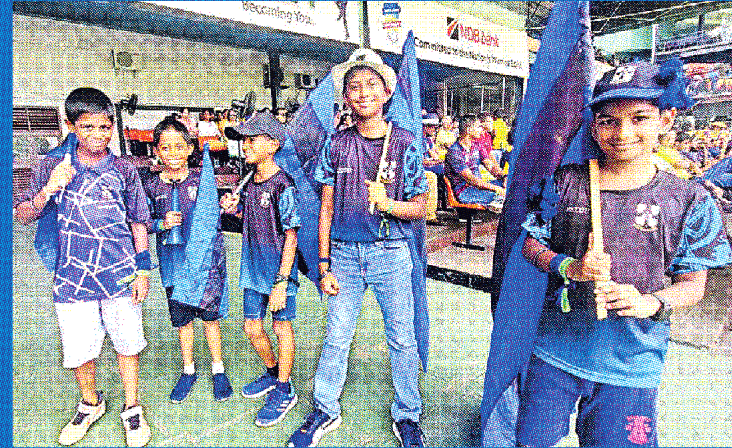
RESULTS	
At CCC - First inning win for Ragama CC	
Ragama: CC 311 for 9 (Ranmith Jayasena 139, Dellon Peiris 43, Kalhara Senaratne 60 n.o.; Vijayakanth Vijayakanth 3 for 85, Naveen Fernando 2 for 25, Dulaj Samuditha 2 for 43)	
Tamil Union: 240 (Navod Paranavithana 102, Sithara Hapuhinna 41, Tharindu Harshana 26, Salindu Pathirana 20, Naveen Fernando 18 n.o.; Dellon Peiris 4 for 51, Yohan Liyanage 2 for 22, Kalhara Senaratne 2 for 50)	
At Colts	
Moors SC: 137 for 4 (Razeem Ramlan 38, Janishka Perera 60 n.o.; Kalana Perera 2 for 37) vs SSC	



DELLON PEIRIS 4/51

SPECTATORS RETURN FOR ROYAL-THOMIAN

After three years of behind played behind closed doors, spectators young and old returned for the 144th Royal-Thomian encounter yesterday at the SSC ground. Seen here are some who attended the match yesterday, along with a few action photos taken by our staff photographer Pradeep Dilrukshana



Combank teams up with Sri Lanka Cricket as Official Inbound Sponsor for ODIs and T20Is in New Zealand

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has stepped up to the crease to support Sri Lanka Cricket as the Official Inbound Sponsor for the ODI and T20 matches of Sri Lanka's ongoing tour of New Zealand.

"Cricket is the most followed sport in Sri Lanka and almost everyone in Sri Lanka is passionate about the national cricket team of the country," Commercial Bank's Deputy General Manager - Retail Banking & Marketing Mr Hasrath Munasinghe said. "Directly associating with the national cricket team is considered a prime opportunity that only leading brands in the country have been able to respond to. Commercial Bank as one of the leading brands in Sri Lanka is shouldering this national responsibility for the ODIs and T20s of the Sri Lanka tour of New Zealand."

Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand consists of two Test matches, three ODIs, and three T20 Internationals.

Pictured here are Commercial Bank's Deputy General Manager - Retail Banking & Marketing Mr Hasrath



Munasinghe (right) and Sri Lanka Cricket Head of Marketing Mr Upul Nawaratne Bandara announcing the partnership.

Savinaka, Nadeesha clinch shuttle titles at Southern Province Open

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Savinaka Weerasekara and Nadeesha Gayanathi clinched men's and women's open singles titles at the Southern Province Open Badminton Championships held at the Dadella Sports Complex in Galle.

Weerasekara, a student of D.S. Senanayake College Colombo, overcame Kasun Madushanka Rathnayake in straight sets (21-8, 21-12) to clinch the title while Gayanathi also lifted her singles crown with a 21-13, 21-13 win over Isuri Amanda De Alwis of Visakha Vidyalaya in the final.

Oshamika Karunaratne and Thulith Thewmika Palliyaguru beat Dinuru Rashmina and Lahiru Weerasinghe 21-14, 21-19 to seal the men's doubles title. Singles champion Gayanathi made it a double when she teamed up with Kavindika Binari De Silva to overcome Madushika Dilrukshi Beruwalage and Buthmi Asini Galagamage 21-14, 21-17 to lift the doubles title.



All age group winners with Chief Guest

Kavindika Binari De Silva also enjoyed a double when she teamed up with Siyath Dulneth Senaratne to beat Ranthushka Sasindu Karunathilaka and Gayanathi 18-21, 28-26, 21-19 in one of the most thrilling encounters of the Championships to win

the mixed doubles final.

Organised by Sri Lanka Badminton (SLB) and the Southern Province Badminton Association (SPBA) for the third time, the six-day Championships saw over 680 shuttlers in action.

CALLING 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' (EOI) TERRESTRIAL RADIO BROADCASTING RIGHTS FOR IRELAND MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023 & PAKISTAN MEN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2023



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SRI LANKA CRICKET

SPORTS

144th Battle of the Blues

DASIS, RAMIRU SLAM TONS, ESTABLISH NEW FIFTH-WICKET RECORD

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Dasis Manchanayake and Ramiru Perera slammed tons as the pair came to the rescue of Royal College and in the process established a new all-time fifth-wicket record on day one of the 144th Battle of the Blues against traditional rivals S. Thomas' played at the SSC ground.

The pair sent the Thomian bowlers on a leather hunt with Manchanayake making 137 in 150 balls inclusive of 17 boundaries and Perera scoring 128 in 186 balls which included 15 boundaries and two sixes for Royal to end the first day's play on 326 for 8.

Royal did not have it easy when they were invited to take first lease of the wicket as they lost three quick wickets in just under ten overs.

Manchanayake and Ovina Ambanpola shared a brief 44-run stand for the fourth-wicket before pacie Akash Fernando made the breakthrough with the wicket Ambanpola who made 30. Manchanayake joined by Perera saw the Royalists through to the lunch break with the score on 83 for 4.

Resuming after the lunch break, the pair frustrated the Thomian bowlers and posted Royal's 100 on the board, followed by their 50-run stand in quick time. Manchanayake raced to his half ton in 57 balls and they succeeded in taking Royal past 150 runs.

Perera reached his half ton after the pair had posted their 100-run partnership.

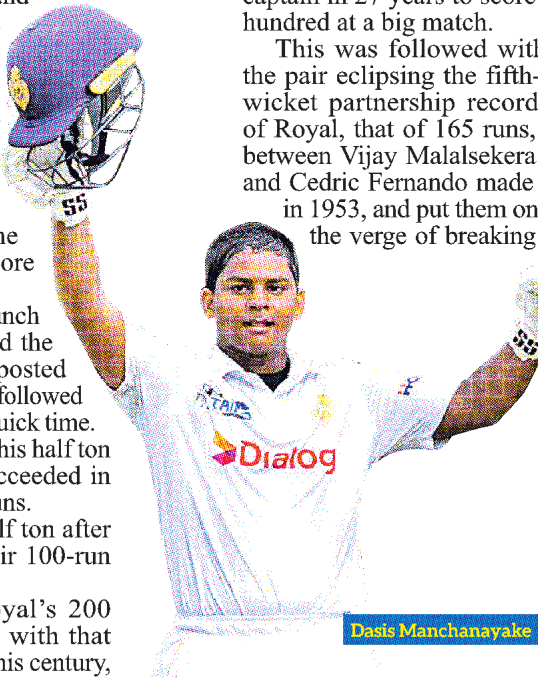
The pair posted Royal's 200 runs on the board and with that Manchanayake raced to his century,



The Two centurions running between the wickets

becoming the first Royal captain in 27 years to score a hundred at a big match.

This was followed with the pair eclipsing the fifth-wicket partnership record of Royal, that of 165 runs, between Vijay Malalsekera and Cedric Fernando made in 1953, and put them on the verge of breaking



Dasis Manchanayake

Royal

1ST INNINGS

R. Peiris	c Hettiarachchi b Fernando	04
S. Jayawardena	b Caldera	01
O. Ambanpola	b Fernando	30
U. Weerasekera	c Caldera b Dias	03
D. Manchanayake	b Dias	137
R. Perera	c Mendis b Dias	128
S. Ramanayake	lbw b Fernando	00
S. Senaratharachchi	not out	08
B. Weeratunga	b Fernando	02
N. Dharmaratne	not out	00
EXTRAS:	(b6, lb2, nb3, w2)	13
TOTAL:	(8 wickets, 74 overs)	326
FALL OF WICKET:	1-4, 2-12, 3-19, 4-63, 5-292, 6-301, 7-321, 8-326	

BOWLING: A. Fernando 13-1-55-4, N. Caldera 16-2-64-1, K. Dias 10-2-58-3, D. Goonewardena 7-0-35-0, C. Peiris 13-0-55-0, A. Paranawidana 10-0-39-0, S. Bulankulama 1-0-3-0, M. Perera 1-0-9-0.

144th Encounter, Battle Of Blues, SSC Grounds, Colombo

Record fifth-wicket partnership

RUNS 229

ROYAL COLLEGE 1ST INNINGS

Akash Fernando (55/4)

Ramiru Perera 128 (186)

4x15, 6x2

4x17

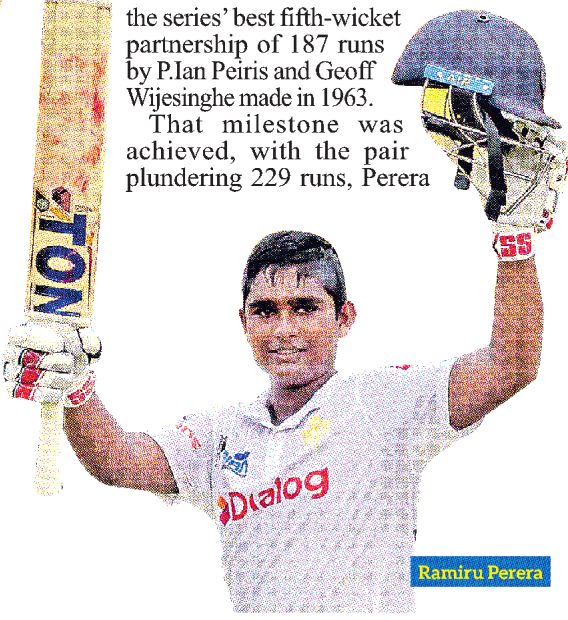
Dasis Manchanayake 137 (150)

Chathuranga Dewapriya

ODMSportsDesk

the series' best fifth-wicket partnership of 187 runs by P.Ian Peiris and Geoff Wijesinghe made in 1963.

That milestone was achieved, with the pair plundering 229 runs, Perera



Ramiru Perera

himself reaching his ton. Manchanayake's dismissal on 137 ended that record stand, and from there on Royal lost three quick wickets, including that of Perera who made 128 for the addition of 34 runs to end day one on 326 for 8. Pacie Akash Fernando was the pick of the Thomian bowler taking four scalps. The match will be continued today.

Last-gasp defeat motivates Sri Lanka for second New Zealand Test



Dimuth Karunaratne

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne says Sri Lanka will use their agonising last-gasp defeat to New Zealand as motivation when the second Test starts today in Wellington.

Kane Williamson sealed a thrilling New Zealand win by running a bye as the first Test went to the final ball in Christchurch.

The hosts' two-wicket triumph scuppered Sri Lanka's chances of making the World Test Championship final, handing the spot to India, who will face Australia.

"Unfortunately we aren't in a position to progress (to the final), but it's a two-Test series and we have to play for our pride," Karunaratne told reporters yesterday.

"I can see the boys in the dressing room still want to win this match and draw the series," Karunaratne knows his team paid a heavy price for fielding errors in Christchurch, particularly when danger man Williamson was dropped on 33. He went on to make a match-winning century. "There were small things we couldn't do well,

that is the only concern, but we're trying to correct the mistakes," said Karunaratne.

The Sri Lankan skipper says his seam bowlers can cause problems for Williamson and New Zealand's top order.

Asitha Fernando took seven wickets in the first Test.

"We can challenge the Kiwi top batters every time, even some of their players said to me that they didn't expect that kind of bowling pressure from the Sri Lankans," said Karunaratne.

"That's a plus point." The second Test is at Wellington's Basin Reserve, scene of the hosts' memorable one-run win over England last month which squared that two-Test series.

"We had great crowds last time we were here and got people talking about Test cricket," said captain Tim Southee, whose Black Caps are chasing a third straight Test win. Showers and high winds are forecast today and Southee will decide his team after inspecting the green wicket. "We'll have a final look in the morning as there is a bit of weather around," he added.

All-rounder Doug Bracewell has been added to the New Zealand squad as cover for Neil Wagner, who is sidelined after finishing the first Test with a back and hamstring injury.

Southee expects Sri Lanka to put up another stern test. "They are a quality side, as we saw in Christchurch," he said. (AFP)

Final selection trials for Asian youth netball on April 10

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Netball Selection Committee has decided to conduct the Asian youth netball final selection trial on April 10.

Former Sri Lanka National Netball captain Damayanthi Jayatilaka is the Netball Selection Committee Chief while Chamika Jayaekara and Thisangani Kodituwakku are the other members of the selection panel.

The final selection is for the 12th Asian youth (U-21) Netball Championship 2023 to be held from June 10-17. Steps have been taken to reduce 35-member pool to 18 after the second selection trial held in Colombo.

The 18 players currently in the pool include players from Musaeus College (5) and Holy Family Convent, Kurunegala (4).

The Sri Lanka Netball Federation (SLNF) has taken steps to nominate former national netball player and veteran coach Vajira Pushpakumari as the Sri Lanka team Manager for the Asian youth netball tournament.

Meanwhile, it is reported that a group of players' parents have complained to the Ministry of Sports and the National Sports Council against the involvement of an outside person for the Youth Netball Pool Players Fitness activities on several occasions.

The National Sports Council has advised the SLNF to obtain a legal



File Photo

approval from the Ministry of Sports whether a coach is required for Asian youth netball pool fitness training.

Holy Family Convent, Kurunegala coach Amalka Wannithilake will be the Sri Lanka youth netball coach.

Sri Lanka Youth Netball Pool: Hiruni Heshani, Sachini Rathnayaka, Nethmi Perera, S.T.

Pathirana, U.G.B.S.N. Udagedara, G.G.T.M. Wasanthapriya, Nethanga Gunarathna, Jinali Balasuriya, Minagi Kankanange, Nethmi Wijenayaka, Tharushi Perera, Sarasi Gunasingha, Chalani Neesha, Dishara Umayangani, Deumi Bamunuarachchi, Udari Guruge, Dilmi Wijenayaka, and Idusha Perera.

Gianni Infantino re-elected FIFA president until 2027

Gianni Infantino has been re-elected as President of FIFA until 2027 after standing unopposed at the congress of world football's governing body yesterday.

The 52-year-old Swiss lawyer, who succeeded the disgraced Sepp Blatter in 2016, was waved in for a third term by acclamation, just as he was four years ago, by delegates from the 211 member federations.

"I love you all," Infantino told delegates in the Rwandan capital, where the voting system did not register the number of dissident voices.

While FIFA statutes currently limit a President to a maximum of three four-year terms, Infantino has already prepared



Gianni Infantino has been re-elected unopposed as President of football's ruling body FIFA on a four-year term until 2027

the ground to stay until 2031, declaring in December that his first three years at the helm did not count as a full term.

Infantino, who staunchly defended

Qatar's hosting of last year's World Cup as the Gulf state's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community came under the spotlight, has overseen the expansion of the men's and women's World Cup and huge increases in FIFA revenues.

The men's World Cup will increase from 32 teams to 48 for the next edition in North America in 2026, while the women's World Cup will feature 32 teams for the first time in Australia and New Zealand later this year.

Infantino has also announced projected income of \$11 billion in the four years up to 2026, compared to \$7.5 billion in the last four-year cycle ending in 2022. (AFP)

Chamari Athapaththu invited to play in Hong Kong

BY BIPIN DANI

Sri Lanka's women's cricket captain Chamari Athapaththu, who recently played in the women's exhibition matches in Pakistan, will play in the Cricket Hong Kong FairBreak Invitational 2023 tournament next month, it is learnt.

The tournament is scheduled to be held at the Kowloon Cricket Club (Hong Kong) between April 3 and 16.

The 33-year-old batting all-rounder was a part of the tournament last year, when it was



Chamari Athapaththu

held in the UAE.

"So far, she is the only player from Sri Lanka to have been a part of the tournament," a source at Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said.

Interestingly, 90 women cricketers from 36 countries are to take part in this tournament.

The tournament has the backing of Cricket Hong Kong and the FairBreak Invitational is another step towards greater recognition and the development of the outstandingly talented players in Asia including from the UAE, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Bhutan, Kuwait and Hong Kong.

First athletic selection trials on March 20 and 21

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) has decided to hold the first Junior and Senior Athletics Pool Selection trial on March 20 and 21 at Mahinda Rajapaksa Sports Complex, Diyagama.

The target is the 20th Asian Junior (U-20) Athletic Championship from June 4-7 (Yecheon, South Korea) and 25th Asian Senior Athletics Championship from July 12-16 (Pattaya, Thailand). SLA hopes to select a team of eight or ten for the Asian Junior Athletic Championship and 15 to 20 for the Asian Senior Championship.

DailyMirror SPORTS EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL

- Cricket: ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP New Zealand vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test - Day 1 - (Wellington)
- Cricket: AUSTRALIA IN INDIA ODI SERIES 1st ODI (D/N) - (Wankhede)
- Football: PREMIER LEAGUE Nottingham vs Newcastle (City Ground)

LOCAL

- Cricket: BIG MATCHES FIXTURES Royal College vs S.Thomas' College - (SSC Grounds) Wesley College vs St. Benedicts College - (P. Sara Oval) Richmond College vs Mahinda College - (Galle)

ODMSportsDesk

Sri Lanka beat Chinese Taipei for second win in Bangabandhu kabbadi

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sri Lanka defeated the strong Chinese Taipei team by two points in another match of the 3rd Bangabandhu International Invitation Kabbadi tournament yesterday (March 16). This tournament is being held in Dhaka, Bangladesh with the participation of 12 countries. After an intense Group A clash from the start, Sri Lanka managed to emerge victorious 41-39. This is Sri Lanka's second consecutive victory after having played three matches.

Sri Lanka lost the opening match to Thailand 36-32 before bouncing back to win against Malaysia 45-26.

Sri Lanka's next match is against Indonesia today (17).

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka team captain Aslam Saja was adjudged the best player in the match against Chinese Taipei.

Yesterday's Results
 Bangladesh beat Nepal 40-23
 Thailand beat Malaysia 59-24
 Kenya beat Indonesia 65-33
 Sri Lanka beat Chinese Taipei 41-39



G-Sec yields continue descent as economic recovery hopes grow ahead of IMF approval

The yields of government securities continued to ease this week as the Central Bank succeeded in selling Rs.120 billion at the Treasury bill auction held on Wednesday, two days after it offered a mammoth Rs.180 billion in the country's biggest bond auction in its history.

The bill auction saw the yields falling across the board extending the months-long streak of declines in

yields on the hopes of finalising a deal with the International Monetary Fund on March 20.

This week's primary bill auction saw the 3-month bill yields falling by 81 basis points to 27.94 percent, 6-month bill yields falling 43 basis points to 27.34 percent and 12-month bill yields falling 51 basis points to 25.92 percent.

With this week's declines, the

tenors had cumulatively given up 4.70 percent, 4.86 percent and 3.35 percent respectively, since the current streak of declines in bill yields began in the middle of December last year.

The current descent in yields also reflects that the 100 basis points hike in key rates by the Central Bank a fortnight ago had no impact.

Despite the full subscription of the bill auction, the Central Bank

kept open the second phase of the subscription for a further day to accept up to 25 percent of the aggregate amount offered at the auction.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank on Monday offered Rs.180 billion in two bonds maturing on November 15, 2024 and May 01, 2027 at 22.00 percent and 18.00 percent respectively.

Although Rs.70.0 billion was offered under the 2024 bond, the Central Bank accepted only a fraction or Rs.441 million at a weighted average yield of 29.99 percent reflecting that a majority of bids have landed well above the coupon rate.

However, the Central Bank accepted the total Rs.110 billion it offered under the 2027 bonds at an

average yield of 28.11 percent. The Central Bank managed to raise a further Rs.8.95 billion at an issuance window which kept open till the following day at the same average yield.

The Central Bank raised further Rs.121.8 billion on Wednesday via a special issuance of Treasury bills as per the request of the Treasury to finance debt servicing payments.

Proposed CB law will pave way for unpopular but essential decisions

- Under the draft law, the main priority of the Central Bank will be to maintain price stability
- Secretary to the Treasury excluded from both 11-member Monetary Policy Board and the 7-member Governing Board to deter any influence from fiscal authorities
- Open and transparent mechanism provided under the draft law for the appointment of CB Governor
- CB Governor confident that flaws in the Bill would be corrected by the Supreme Court or when it is taken up for approval in parliament

By Nishel Fernando

The new Monetary Law Act, which aims to grant independence to the Central Bank with enhanced accountability, will empower the monetary authority to make unpopular but essential decisions in prioritising price stability in the country under a flexible inflation target framework, a top official said.

"The key objective of this legislation will be to empower the Central Bank to make the right decisions, not popular decisions. With this new law, a Central Bank Governor has the ability to work independently and make decisions without any undue influence from the fiscal authorities, and such decisions cannot be changed according to the whims of the government in power," Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe said delivering a public lecture on the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Bill, in Colombo yesterday.

Under the draft law, he highlighted that the main priority of the Central Bank will be to maintain price stability by officially adopting a flexible inflation targeting framework. The



Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe

Minister of Finance and the Central Bank are required to sign a monetary policy framework agreement setting out the inflation target to be achieved by the Central Bank.

In failing to meet the inflation target

for two consecutive quarters, the 11-member Monetary Policy Board Chaired by the CB Governor will be required to submit a report to the parliament through the Minister of Finance.

Further, the Central Bank is also required to publish a report every six months detailing recent movements in inflation, sources of inflation and medium-term projections for inflation and key risks to such projections.

Although, the Central Bank had achieved some success in maintaining inflation at manageable levels with gradual adoption of a flexible inflation targeting framework in 2009-2020 period, Dr. Weerasinghe pointed out that inflation spiraled out of control after 2020 due to excessive interference of fiscal authorities who sit in the Monetary Board.

Accordingly, he noted that Secretary to the Treasury is excluded from both 11-member Monetary Policy Board and the 7-member Governing Board in order to deter any influence from the fiscal authorities.

MORE ON P12

Central Bank disputes Fitch Solutions' forecast on rupee

Disputing the grim forecast of Sri Lanka's exchange rate by Fitch Solutions by the year-end, Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe raised concerns on the basis of the forecast while stressing that such long-term predictions on exchange rate are not prudent.

Fitch Solution recently maintained its forecast for the rupee to weaken to a record low of 390 per dollar by the year-end despite the positive prospects of the country securing the US\$ 2.9 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package.

Dr. Weerasinghe noted that annual debt service obligation to the tune of US\$ 6 billion until 2029 has been one of the assumptions of this forecast. However, he stressed that such

a high figure of foreign debt servicing is unlikely given that the country is engaged in debt restructuring negotiations.

Further, he opined that such a long-term prediction on an exchange rate of a currency is not practical.

Referring to the recent appreciation of the rupee, he remarked that the market will adjust to a new rate and if the need arises, the CB stands ready to intervene in the forex market in a limited capacity.

"We have a small market, that's why the exchange rate fluctuates a lot. That's why the CB is required to intervene in the market to a certain extent. However, the CB would not act against the direction of market forces," he stressed.

JAAF welcomes progress made towards securing IMF bailout

- Believes assurances received by China, India and Paris Club creditors are signs of attaining stability
- Commends progress made by Sri Lankan authorities in securing financing assurances

The Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF) yesterday welcomed the progress made by the Sri Lankan authorities in securing financing assurances from China, India and the Paris Club creditors, paving the way for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to consider approval of the long-awaited US\$ 2.9 billion bailout package.

With official creditors aligning their support, JAAF hopes talks with private sector creditors too will follow suit to expedite

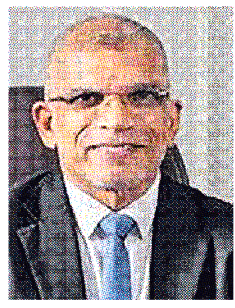
consensus on the country's debt restructuring plans.

"JAAF is hopeful the Letter of Intent submitted by President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe will be received positively by the IMF Executive Board," the association said in a brief statement.

"As the country's largest foreign exchange earner, JAAF sees these important steps in the recovery process for the Sri Lankan economy. Good governance and recognition of the democratic process is key. It is also imperative that the country makes progress on other reforms required to get the country back on a growth agenda. These include reforms of the state-owned enterprises, labour law reform and pursuing free trade agreements with countries like Australia, Japan, Korea and Canada which have enormous potential," it added.

Hayleys Eco Solutions sets up new operations in North and East expanding supplier base by 20%

Expanding its supplier base for coconut-related raw materials, Sri Lanka's leading manufacturer of value-added coconut fibre products and a subsidiary of the Hayleys Group, Hayleys Fibre, set up new operations in the Northern and Eastern provinces, expanding its supplier base by 20 percent.



Rajeeve Goonetilleke

coconut triangle to Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Pallai, Ampara and Polonnaruwa.

The move creates a network of smallholders in the Northern and Eastern provinces offering many households with new opportunities.

Working with women-headed households in the area, Hayleys Fibre expanded its operations beyond the traditional

"The Hayleys Group, since its inception 145 years ago, has played a significant role in manufacturing value-added coconut products."

MORE ON P12

Embattled Credit Suisse shares rebound after US\$ 54bn lifeline

AFP: Credit Suisse shares surged more than 30 percent yesterday after announcing it would borrow up to US\$ 53.7 billion from the Swiss central bank following a market drubbing over fears of a global banking crisis.

Switzerland's second biggest bank, already mired in a slew of scandals, has come under pressure this week as the failure of two US regional lenders has rocked the sector.

Shortly after the opening

bell Thursday, Credit Suisse shares traded 32.59 percent higher at 2.22 Swiss francs, after falling as much as 30 percent on Wednesday to a historic low of 1.55 francs.

European stock markets opened higher yesterday after falling sharply the day before, but Asian indices were down.

The rebound came hours after the bank issued a statement saying it was "taking decisive action to preemptively strengthen its

liquidity" by exercising its option to borrow up to 50 billion Swiss francs from the central bank.

It also announced a debt buyback of up to three billion francs.

"These measures demonstrate decisive action to strengthen Credit Suisse as we continue our strategic transformation to deliver value to our clients and other stakeholders," CEO Ulrich Koerner said in the statement.

MORE ON P12

Economy shrinks 12.4% in 4Q22 as crisis bites

- Full year contraction at 7.8%, worst in post-independence history
- Agriculture bottoms out as sector returned to 0.7% growth in 4Q
- Fx shortages, inflation, higher rates, power cuts and social unrest cited as reasons for sharp GDP decline
- Sri Lankan economy turning a corner as IMF will unfreeze relief package next week

(GDP) contraction from an earlier estimate of 11.8 percent to 11.5 percent when it released the fourth quarter GDP estimates this week.

The sector-wise performance showed that the agriculture sector had turned around with 0.7 percent expansion in activity, but the industrial and services sectors had continued to shrink by 30.1 percent and 3.9 percent respectively.

For some, the December quarter GDP estimates came in as a bit of a surprise as they thought the economy might have bottomed in the third quarter.

Before that Sri Lanka had recorded its worst decline in terms of quarterly GDP estimates in the second quarter of 2020 when nearly the entire quarter had to be shut down because of the pandemic.

The Sri Lankan economy gave up 17.1 percent of its output from April through June 2020 when the pandemic forced the economy to go into hibernation. Along with the pandemic, sweeping tax cuts, excessive Central Bank liquidity and economic mismanagement contributed to Sri Lanka's economy's undoing.

DCS cited the economy running out of steam in the early part of last year caused by the shortage of foreign currency, sending inflation and interest rates through the roof.



It also noted that social unrest took a massive toll on almost all sectors of the economy as it had never been.

"In addition, frequent power disruptions, shortages in fuel, raw materials, foreign currency which affected in making supply chain disruptions, amidst price escalations in both domestic and global markets, affected adversely to the whole production process of agriculture, industry and services," DCS said.

This caused the economy to give up record 7.8 percent in 2022. For the full year, the agricultural sector declined by 4.6 percent, while the industry and services sectors contracted by 16.0 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively.

Sri Lanka's economy is expected to turn a corner next week with the expected approval of US\$ 2.9 billion bailout package by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Razik Zarook reappointed Insurance Regulatory Commission Chairman



Razik Zarook Brian Selvanayagam Sanjeeewa Anthony

- Brian Selvanayagam and Sanjeeewa Anthony join as appointed commission members

President's Counsel Razik Zarook was reappointed as the Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (IRCSL) and assumed duties on 15th March 2023.

Zarook has served as the Chairman of IRCSL since January 2020 and has played a key role in strengthening the regulatory framework for the insurance sector.

Zarook, former Chairman of number of Public Corporations, is a senior Attorney-at-Law in active practice.

MORE ON P12



SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC

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16.03.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG
ASPEN HOT HOLD	87,772	60.5	60	60	58	58.20	(2.30)	LANDEM DEV	119,924	26.6	27.1	27.5	27	27.30	0.70	ALUMEX PLC	586,663	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.5	8.60	(0.10)
ACCESS ENG SL	4,026,565	14.7	14.7	15.9	14.6	15.20	0.50	LAUGFS GAS	29,362	26.5	26.5	26.5	25.5	26.00	(0.50)	AMBEON HOLDINGS	500	36.3	36.2	36.9	36.2	36.70	0.40
ACL PLASTICS	205,543	87	87.2	87.5	85	85.50	(1.50)	LAUGFS GAS [LGL X0000]	1	18	17	17	17	18.00		AMF COLTD	1,705	7.5	7.9	8	7.9	7.90	0.30
ACME	1,250	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.70	0.10	LAXARANA	70,193	53.3	53	54.1	53	53.20	(1.00)	ARPCO INSURANCE	3,093	20.4	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.30	(0.10)
AGALWATTE	59,489	30.5	31.4	31.8	30.9	30.90	0.40	LB FINANCE	31	697.75	690	690	685	697.75		ASIA SIVAKA	18,875	42	42	43	42	42.00	
AHOUT PROPERTIES	40	40	40	40	40	40.00		LION BREWERY	16,447	146	147	147.5	144	144.25	(1.75)	BANSEI RESORTS	25	11.3	11	11	11	11.30	
AITKEN SPENCE	1,217	134.5	138	138	134.75	135.25	0.75	LMF	23,712	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.20	(0.10)	BERUWALA RESORTS	517	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.30	(0.10)
ALLIANCE	1,681	66	67.7	67.8	66	66.40	0.40	LVL ENERGY	12,454	77	80	80	74.6	78.60	1.60	BOGALA GRAPHITE	7,320	65.8	65	65.4	63.2	65.00	(0.80)
AMANA BANK	3,206,950	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.60		MALWATTE [MAL X0000]	250	48.3	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.90	1.60	BOGAWANTALAWA	1,569	43.7	44.8	45.9	43.5	43.70	
ASIA ASSET	2,100	7.8	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.90	0.10	MELSTACORP	75,364	57.2	56.8	57.9	56.6	56.80	(0.40)	BPPL HOLDINGS	118	20.7	20.8	21.9	20.8	21.80	1.10
ASIA CAPITAL	1,600	4	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.10	0.10	MERC SHIPPING	152	191.75	190	190	190	190.00	(1.75)	BROWNS	58,126	124.25	125	130	124.5	125.25	1.00
ASIRI	334	26	26.8	26.8	25.6	26.00		MERCHANT BANK	9,195	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.50	(0.10)	BROWNS INVSTMENTS	7,120,872	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.2	6.30	(0.10)
ASIRI SURG	1,419	12.5	12.5	12.9	12.4	12.80	0.30	MULLERS	1,636	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.20	(0.10)	C T LAND	106	24	24.1	26.4	24.1	26.30	2.30
BAIRAHA FARMS	8,301	157.5	160	169.75	160	161.25	3.75	NAMUNUKULA	160	360	367.75	371	367.75	369.50	9.50	C W MACKIE	17,929	82.6	83.9	84	82.7	83.90	1.30
BALANGODA	15,421	64	64.8	69.5	62	65.70	1.70	NAT DEV BANK	45,705	52.4	53	53	50.7	50.90	(1.50)	CEYLON TEA BRKRS	2,462	4	4.1	4.1	4	4.10	0.10
C M HOLDINGS	1,780	71.4	72	72	67.5	67.70	(3.70)	NATION LANKA	10,100	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.50		CFI	5	63.1	67.5	67.5	67.5	63.10	
C T HOLDINGS	10	180	180	180	180	180.00		NATIONS TRUST	140,329	66.3	66.4	67	65	65.70	(0.60)	CIT	401	96.3	120	120	120	120.00	23.70
CARGILLS	1,838	230.5	230	231	230	231.00	0.50	NATIONS TRUST [NTB-X-0000]	400	61.4	59.1	59.1	59.1	59.10	(2.30)	CITRUS HIKKADUWA	1,209	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.20	
CARGO BOAT	70	47.5	48.2	48.2	46	47.50		OVERSEAS REALTY	2,153	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.4	15.50		CITRUS WASKADUWA	2,271	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.60	
CARSONS	1	274.75	270	270	270	274.75		PAN ASIA	40,762	14	14.1	14.1	13.5	13.80	(0.20)	COM.CREDIT	26,185	26.5	27.7	28.5	27.5	27.50	1.00
CDL	2,123	192.75	195	200	195	196.25	3.50	PANASIAN POWER	13,663	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.50		COMMERCIAL DEV	697	113	117.5	118	110	110.00	(3.00)
CDL [CDL X0000]	1,329	65	62.1	69	62.1	67.10	2.10	PEOPLE'S INS	112,187	23.3	23.5	24	23	23.20	(0.10)	DILMAH CEYLON	42	1,058.00	1,053.00	1,150.00	1,053.00	1,058.00	
CENTRAL FINANCE	2	76.8	76.2	79.5	76.2	76.80		PEOPLES LEASING	209,884	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.50	(0.10)	E-CHANNELLING	9,309	11.5	11.9	12.2	11.8	11.80	0.30
CENTRAL IND	11,441	95.7	96	96.5	92.6	93.20	(2.50)	PGP GLASS	1,844,807	21.6	21	22	20.1	20.50	(1.10)	ELPITIA	1,235	76.2	77	79.9	77	78.00	1.80
CEYLON GUARDIAN	1	70	73.2	73.2	73.2	70.00		PRINTCARE PLC	5,848	53	53.6	54	53	53.40	0.40	EQUITY TWO PLC	1	40.2	40.1	40.1	40.1	40.20	
CEYLON INV	392	37	37.5	37.5	37	37.20	0.20	R I L PROPERTY	2,543,268	5.8	5.8	6.3	5.8	6.20	0.40	EXTERMINATORS	1,340	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.1	8.10	(0.10)
CEYLON TOBACCO	248	693.25	700	700	690	690.50	(2.75)	RENUKA AGRI	584,092	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.60		FC TREASURIES	167,656	22.7	22.6	23.3	22.5	22.50	(0.20)
CHEMANEX	27,765	80	77.5	80	75	75.50	(4.50)	RENUKA CITY HOT	52	365	365	365	365	365.00		FIRST CAPITAL	467,707	35.1	35.1	35.9	33.7	34.10	(1.00)
CHEVRON	35,162	95	95.5	95.5	94.8	94.90	(0.10)	RENUKA FOODS	11,107	23	23.5	24	23.2	23.80	0.80	FORTRESS RESORTS	8,097	22.1	22	22	20.1	21.40	(0.70)
CIC	13,776	77.2	76.6	78.1	76.6	77.20		RENUKA FOODS [COCO X0000]	10,000	17.8	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.50	0.70	GALADARI	80,191	14	14	14.1	13.6	13.70	(0.30)
CIC [CIC X0000]	98,043	54	53.6	54	53	53.10	(0.90)	RENUKA HOLDINGS	42	13.5	14	14	13.8	13.50		HAPUGASTENNE	27	46.8	46.8	46.8	46.8	46.80	
CITRUS LESTURE	1,700	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.30	0.20	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL X0000]	27,072	12.7	11.5	11.5	11	11.20	(1.50)	HATTON	87,519	22.4	22	22	21.4	21.50	(0.90)
COLD STORES	65,037	37.6	38.5	38.9	38.2	38.50	0.90	RESUS ENERGY	53,125	13.1	14	14	13.5	13.90	0.80	HNB FINANCE	81,271	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.4	5.40	(0.30)
COLOMBO CITY	121	1,054.25	1,100.00	1,120.00	1,020.00	1,058.25	4.00	RICHARD PIERIS	30,342	22	22.2	22.3	21.7	22.00		HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-X-0000]	1,645	5.2	5.2	5.3	4.9	4.90	(0.30)
COLOMBO LAND	5,283	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.4	18.50		ROYAL CERAMIC	308,477	33.5	33.5	33.9	32.8	33.00	(0.50)	HVA FOODS	35,289	5.2	5.9	4	3.9	3.90	(0.10)
COMMERCIAL BANK	15,345	67.3	68.6	69	67.1	67.60	0.30	SMB LEASING	989,049	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.80		JAMSHAKHTI INS	5,020	28.9	29	29	28.7	29.00	0.10
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB X0000]	20,647	58.2	58.4	58.5	58	58.10	(0.10)	S M B LEASING [SMB X0000]	11,421,948	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.30		JETWING SYMPHONY	20,313	7.2	7.1	7.2	7	7.20	
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	218,241	22.5	22.6	23.4	22.2	22.80	0.30	SAMPATH	565,686	56	56.5	56.5	55.6	56.00		JOHN KEELLS	397	70	68	70.3	68	68.10	(1.90)
DCC BANK PLC	1,605	46.9	47.1	47.2	45.6	46.80	(0.10)	SANASA DEV BANK	2,811	28	28.8	28.8	28	28.00		KAHAWATTE	41,193	20.6	21	21	20.5	20.50	(0.10)
DIALOG	8,088,179	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.5	10.50	(0.10)	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	2,010	11.4	12	12	11.6	11.60	0.20	KEELLS FOOD	201	161	160	160	160	160.00	1.00
DIPMO	817	476	485	485	476	479.75	3.75	SEYLAN BANK	115	37	37.3	37.3	37	37.30	0.30	KEELLS HOTELS	24,157	17.9	18.2	18.2	17.5	17.60	(0.30)
DIMMED PRODUCTS	382,012	29.5	30	30.4	29.4	29.50		SEYLAN BANK [SEYB X0000]	9,982	25	25.1	25.1	24.5	24.70	(0.30)	KEELSEY	1,100	22	22.9	22.9	21.8	21.90	(0.10)
DOCKYARD	50,427	65	65	65.5	65	65.50	0.50	SEYLAN DEVTS	3,127	13.9	13.9	14.3	13.8	13.80	(0.10)	LANKA CERAMIC	39	105	105	105	105	105.00	
DOLPHIN HOTELS	36,740	32.8	34.7	34.7	30.6	32.40	(0.40)	SHAW WALLACE	80,609	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.70	0.10	LANKEM CEYLON	500	84.4	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.50	3.10
DURDANS	354	132	133.75	133.75	132.75	133.25	1.25	SIERRA CABL	426,650	13.7	13.5	14.1	13.5	13.90	0.20	LAUGFS POWER	296	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.30	
E B CREAMY	9,849	20.1	20.2	20.2	20	20.10		SIGIRIYA VILLAGE	52	62.2	62.2	62.2	56.5	62.20		LCB FINANCE PLC	27,431	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.20	(0.10)
EAST WEST	4,406	7.6	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.50	(0.10)	SINGER FINANCE	2,014	10.8	10.6	11.1	10.6	11.10	0.30	LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL	505	28.5	28.4	29.8	28.4	29.80	1.30
EASTERN MERCHANT	7,911	9.1	9.3	9.3	9	9.00	(0.10)	STANDARD CAPITAL	693	51.5	52.5	52.5	49	49.50	(2.00)	LOLC GENERAL INS	39,305	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.20	
EX-PACK	911,021	16.4	16.6	16.6	16	16.20	(0.20)	SUNSHINE HOLDING	535,406	45.9	45	46	44.9	45.00									

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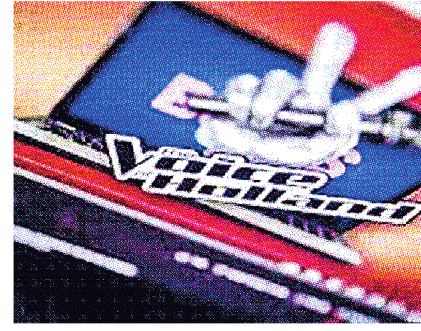


ROCK LEGEND LOU REED'S TAI CHI BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

Rock pioneer and poet Lou Reed began writing a book in 2009 on an art at the heart of his lifestyle: tai chi. But the project went unfinished, remaining a collection of scattered notes when the groundbreaking musical experimentalist died in 2013 aged 71, after complications from a liver transplant. **AFP**

PROSECUTORS CHARGE TWO OVER 'THE VOICE' SEX ABUSE

Dutch prosecutors said Tuesday they were charging two people with sex offences related to the talent show "The Voice of Holland". Local media named those charged as the show's bandleader Jeroen Rietbergen, 51, and famous Dutch rapper Ali B, 42, a jury member on the show. **AFP**



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From "Star Wars" to "Jaws" to "Schindler's List," John Williams has written many of the most instantly recognizable scores in cinema history. The 91-year-old is already the oldest person to receive an Oscar nomination for a competitive award, which he earned thanks to his spare yet poignant compositions for Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans." With 53 total nods, Williams has more Academy Award nominations than any other living person, and is second only to Walt Disney, who had 59.

It "seems unreal that anybody could be that old and working that long," Williams recently told NBC News, adding: "It's very exciting, even after 53 years." "I'm very pleased, I think it's a human thing, the gratification of any kind of appreciation of one's work."



Other credits from Williams' more than 100 film scores include the music for 1978's "Superman," the first three "Harry Potter" films and a number of "Indiana Jones" films.

John Williams

Hollywood's maestro goes for more Oscars history

Out of the dozens of nominations over the course of his extraordinary career, the composer won Academy Awards for the original "Star Wars," "Fiddler on the Roof" and three films by Spielberg, with whom he is closely associated, "Jaws," "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial" and "Schindler's List." He's even competed against himself multiple times for Oscars glory. William is known for his grand neo-Romantic scores in the fashion of Wagner, a contrast to the more experimental fare prevalent among many modern composers outside Hollywood.

But his work is also steeped in mid-century influences including jazz and popular American standards. Williams holds he's not as Wagnerian as his music might indicate, but admits the 19th century German giant's influence on Hollywood's early composers, and therefore his own, is palpable. "Wagner lives with us here, you can't escape it," he told The New Yorker in 2020. "I have been in the big river swimming with all of them."

With 53 total nods, Williams has more Academy Award nominations than any other living person, and is second only to Walt Disney, who had 59.

'SINGLE GREATEST COLLABORATION'

Williams was born on February 8, 1932 in New York's Queens borough to a percussionist father, and was the eldest of four children. The family moved to Los Angeles in 1948, where Williams later studied composition and took a semester of jazz band at Los Angeles City College. While in the Air Force, he played both piano and brass while arranging music for the service's band. Afterwards, he moved to New York, where he enrolled at the prestigious Juilliard school to study piano.

He won Academy Awards for the original "Star Wars," "Fiddler on the Roof" and three films by Spielberg- "Jaws," "E.T. and "Schindler's List"

Though he aspired to be a concert pianist, it became clear to Williams that composition was his true forte. He moved back to LA, where he worked on orchestrations at film studios earning plaudits for his range and as a session pianist, including for the film adaptation of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story." Williams notched his first Oscar nod for the 1967 film "Valley of the Dolls," and won his first in 1972 for "Fiddler on the Roof." His momentous partnership with Spielberg began in the early 1970s, when the soon to be household-name director approached him to score his debut, "The Sugarland Express." Spielberg approached him once more to work on his second film, "Jaws."

The menacing two-note ostinato Williams composed for the film has practically become synonymous with fear itself: "John Williams actually is the teeth of Jaws," Spielberg said last year at a concert for the composer's 90th birthday. The pair then worked on "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and a decades-long creative partnership unfurled. At the Williams birthday celebration in Washington, Spielberg dubbed their relationship "the single greatest collaboration of my career and

one of the deepest friendships of my life." "Through the medium of movies, John has popularized motion picture scores more than any other composer in history."

'SOUNDTRACK OF OUR LIVES'

Spielberg also introduced Williams to George Lucas. It

would become another iconic collaboration that spawned perhaps the most recognizable film score ever. Several of Williams' "Star Wars" compositions are prime examples of leitmotif, with musical cues tying together the vast, character-rich story. "He has written the soundtrack of our lives," conductor Gustavo Dudamel told The New York Times last year. "When we listen to a melody of John's, we go back to a time, to a taste, to a smell. All our senses go back to a moment." Other credits from Williams' more than 100 film scores include the music for 1978's "Superman," the first three "Harry Potter" films and a number of "Indiana Jones" films.

"Harrison Ford made Indiana Jones into an iconic action hero, but John made us believe in adventure again, through that pulse-pounding march," said Spielberg. Off-screen, he is responsible for the "Olympic Fanfare and Theme" first composed for the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles and used ever since on US broadcasts. Williams has recently indicated he might take a step back from film scoring, giving more energy to conducting and composing concert music; he was a longtime leader of the Boston Pops orchestra. But speaking at a panel with Spielberg earlier this year, Williams seemed to walk back the notion of slowing down, vowing to work until he's 100 or so. "So I've got 10 more years to go. I'll stick around for a while!" he told the crowd. "You can't retire from music." "It's like breathing." **AFP**



ENJOYING BEING SINGLE OR NEEDY

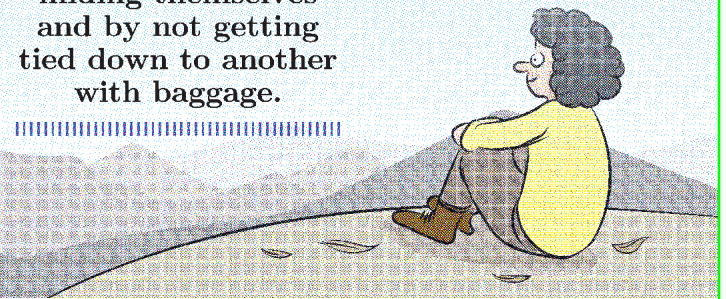
People go through phases in life, where some are fortunate to find a partner for life. Then there are some who look for a lifetime partner for all the wrong reasons, such as not having to be alone in the evening of their lives, financial stability and owing to peer and social pressure. Such people are unhappy as they are bound to their partners for better or worse. The braver ones dump their partners after a while and lead happy lives finding themselves and by not getting tied down to another with baggage.

There are many who cannot enjoy their solitude and are needy. This does not mean that they are looking for charity or money but that they are lost and, in short, are not happy with themselves. As such, they are ready to entangle or embroil themselves with any garbage they come across by forming a social chord just to fill their lives and loneliness, generally looking for a relationship, a push for continuous conversation (texting, calling, emailing, social media posting), persistently asking for reaffirmations of love, seeking out compliments and wanting to spend every moment with somebody else.

The braver ones dump their partners after a while and lead happy lives finding themselves and by not getting tied down to another with baggage.



Young people who are happy in their career and single are constantly asked whether they do not have a significant other in their lives, whether they have any plans to marry since when old they would need someone to look after them, which generally means to have some children. I find that more and more young couples are either living together or having long term relationships before thinking of long term commitments. There is nothing wrong with being single too. Why ruin one's life simply to please parents or others? Enjoy and be open to your sexuality; people should like you for whoever you are. Fear of missing out makes people want the world to know how much better they are than others and "please please pick me." Neediness is repulsive because many of us have evolved to recognise it as a bad signal. Enjoy your life whichever way you wish and not depend on others for happiness. Enjoying solitude is a blessing in disguise which very few can comprehend.



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