



YOUR PAPER TODAY 10 PAGES



12-year-old girl elopes with 32-year-old man

Couple taken in for investigations by Saliyawewa Police

BY HIRAN PRIYANKARA JAYASINGHE

A 12-year-old girl and a 32-year-old man with whom she had eloped were taken in for investigations by Saliyawewa Police on Thursday evening (16).

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Deshabandu Tennakoon tipped to be next IGP

IGP Wickramaratne scheduled to retire on March 25

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Western Province Senior DIG Deshabandu Tennakoon is likely to be appointed as the Inspector General of Police following the retirement of the current IGP C.D. Wickramaratne, the Daily Mirror learns.



SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Indian Railways kickstart Buddhist Circuit Tourist train

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has organised a Buddhist tourist train covering 9 places across India and Nepal that impacted Buddha, helping tourists experience his self-disciplined and legendary life, Indian media reported.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Opposition Leader discusses SL political situation with Canadian HC

BY YOHAN PERERA

Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa who met the Canadian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Eric Walsh has discussed the political situation in Sri Lanka, Opposition Leader's office said yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Maithripala's writ petition to be heard before a five-judge-bench on July 31

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The writ petition filed by former President Maithripala Sirisena was yesterday fixed for July 31 by the Court of Appeal. This petition is to be heard before a fuller bench comprising five judges of Court of Appeal on next hearing date. In his writ application former President Sirisena had challenged the magisterial inquiry and issuance of summons against him in connection with the Easter Sunday attack incidents. The Court of Appeal has already ordered to lay by the magisterial inquiry against former President Maithripala Sirisena at Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

JUSTICE MINISTER ACCUSES POLICE OF FALSE ARRESTS

- Says substances recovered have not been narcotic drugs
- There are also instances where wrong tips have been given to police as acts of revenge

Minister of Justice Wijeyadasa Rajapakse yesterday alleged that some police officers have falsely arrested persons on drug-related offences. "Police lately have arrested a large number of persons for keeping drugs in their possession, but the substances they have recovered from the suspects have not been narcotic drugs, the Minister said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

ICC issues arrest warrant for Putin

Court alleges he is responsible for war crimes

Moscow denies the allegations and labels the warrants as "outrageous"

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin. The court alleges he is responsible for war crimes, and has focused its claims on the unlawful deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia.

It says the crimes were committed in Ukraine from 24 February 2022 - when Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

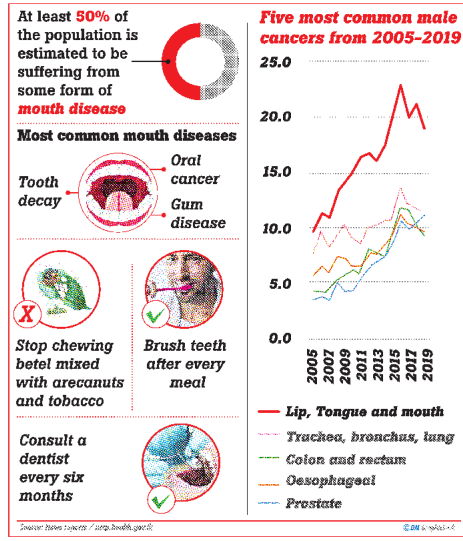
Half of Sri Lanka's population suffering from oral diseases

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

At least 50% of the population are estimated to be suffering from some form of mouth disease, Deputy Director General Dental Services Dr. Ananda Jayalal said.

Addressing the media, he said the majority of people used to consult dentists after suffering from toothache, swallowing difficulties, or being unable to eat food. Especially, tooth decay, oral cancer, and gum disease were considered the most common mouth diseases in society.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Getting ready for the next innings?



President Ranil Wickremesinghe and SJB MP Harsha De Silva in conversation while watching the 144th Battle of the Blues between S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and Royal College, Colombo at the SSC last evening. PIC BY KUSHAN PATHIRAJA

First ever free-of-charge conference, banquet hall to open on Monday

The conference hall has a seating capacity of 500

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

Sri Lanka's first-ever free-of-charge, luxury, high-tech-equipped, conference hall and a grand banquet hall are to be declared open at the Devram Vehera Temple in Pannipitiya on Monday (20).

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Teacher Transfer Board dissolved

BY YOHAN PERERA

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has ordered the dissolution of the Teacher Transfer Board with immediate effect, sources close to the President said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SLPP wins Yatiyantota Cooperative elections

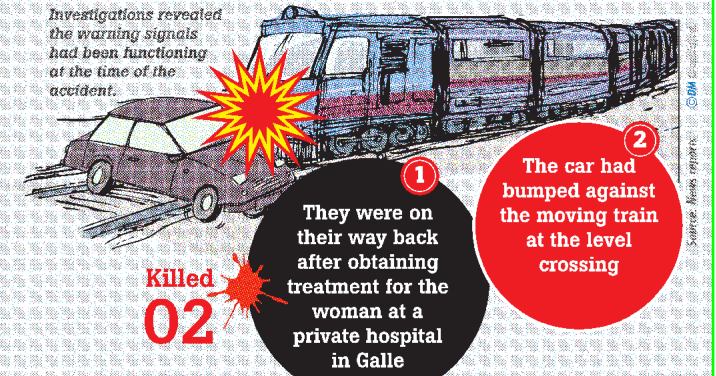
The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) led group had emerged victorious at the Yatiyantota Cooperative elections after suffering a string of defeats. Around 80 members of the group backed by the SLPP were elected to the cooperative committee.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Two killed in car-train accident at level crossing



Investigations revealed the warning signals had been functioning at the time of the accident.



Killed 02

1 They were on their way back after obtaining treatment for the woman at a private hospital in Galle

2 The car had bumped against the moving train at the level crossing

BY D.G.SUGATHAPALA AND SUMATHIPALA DIYAGAHAGE

A car had bumped against the moving train at the level crossing near the fertilizer stores in Koggala causing the death of two individuals including a woman on the spot.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Infant left in train: COUPLE TO MARRY FOR CHILD'S WELL-BEING

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The unmarried couple who had abandoned a 13-day-old infant in the toilet of the Batticaloa-bound Meenagaya express train yesterday sought court's permission for the care and full custody of their child after insisting that they will be legally married for the child's well-being.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Former MP J. Sri Ranga to be arrested

BY SITHUM CHATURANGA

Vavuniya Magistrate yesterday ordered the arrest of former Parliamentarian J. Sri Ranga on the charge of interfering with the evidence of a case and intimidating the witnesses in a road accident that caused the death of a police sergeant.

It is alleged that the suspect former MP had on March 30, 2011 caused the death of the police officer at Settikulama in Vavuniya while driving his unlicensed vehicle.

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Daughter raped by father and his friend

BY HIRAN PRIYANKARA

An individual and one of his friends who raped the former's daughter since the age of ten were taken into custody by Karuwalagaswewa Police yesterday.

It was ironical that the friend had informed police that the daughter had been raped by the father, but the investigation revealed that both of them had raped the girl.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Daily Mirror

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CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

12-year-old girl elopes with 32-year-old man

The girl stated that she met the young man in response to a call over the phone and went with him

Investigations revealed that the girl who was a grade seven student of a school in Rajangana area had eloped with the young man after appearing at the term test that ended at about 12 noon. The young man, a resident of Giribawa area, had taken the girl on a motorcycle to a jungle in Maragahawewa area in Weerapura.

However, an individual who noticed them had provided information to Saliyawewa Police who rushed to the scene immediately, arrested the young man and took charge of the girl.

The girl stated that she met the young man in response to a call over the phone and went with him. However, the police said they would hold a formal investigation of her statement and her parents were summoned to the police and made inquiries. The girl was to be referred to the JMO Puttalam Base Hospital and the suspect was produced before the Magistrate.

Deshabandu Tennakoon tipped to be next IGP

He was appointed Senior DIG in 2019 and functioning as the Senior DIG in charge of the Western Province for more than three years

It was reported that the President had recommended to the Constitutional Council the appointment of Senior DIG Tennakoon as the 36th IGP of the Sri Lanka Police.

IGP Wickramaratne is scheduled to retire on March 25. Tennakoon, studied at Nalanda College in Colombo, joined the Police Service as an apprentice Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1998. He was promoted to the position of Superintendent of Police in 2006. He was later appointed as Deputy Inspector General of Police in 2015.

He was appointed Senior DIG in 2019 and functioning as the Senior DIG in charge of the Western Province for more than three years.

Indian Railways kickstart Buddhist Circuit Tourist train

The Buddhist tourist train takes people to these destinations and helps them experience first-hand the self-disciplined and legendary life of Lord Buddha

To facilitate people to embark on the path of enlightenment, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC) Buddhist Circuit Tourist train on the Bharat Gaurav Trains concept has commenced its spiritual journey.

In the Mahaparinirvana sutra, the Buddha tells his followers that they can attain merit and a noble rebirth by going on pilgrimage to the places where he was born- Lumbini, gained enlightenment- Bodhgaya, first taught- Samath, and attained Nirvana- Kushinagar.

The Buddhist tourist train takes people to these destinations and helps them experience first-hand the self-disciplined and legendary life of Lord Buddha.

India, the country where Buddhism originated, has rich memories of the Buddhist legacy. As part of its drive towards austerity, the only kind of art and architecture that it supported were Stupas (stone-cased mounds that commemorated relics of Buddha), Chaityas (prayer halls) and Viharas (cells for the monks). Buddhist Train India will help you visit all these places up close for a truly religious experience.

Maithripala's writ petition to be heard before a five-judge-bench on July 31

On October 14, 2022 the Court of Appeal two-judge-bench issued an order postponing magisterial inquiry against former President Maithripala Sirisena. The Court of Appeal further decided

to postpone the magisterial inquiry at Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court for a period of 10 weeks. The Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court had earlier issued a notice directing former President Maithripala

Sirisena to appear in court on October 14, 2022 in connection with a private complaint filed on Easter Sunday attacks. Rev. Fr. Cyril Gaminig Fernando and Jesuraj Ganeshan, a victim of Easter

Sunday attack, had filed a private complaint before Magistrate's Court urging to take legal action against the former President under section 298 of Penal Code for causing deaths by negligence.

JUSTICE MINISTER ACCUSES POLICE OF FALSE ARRESTS

"Genuine arrests have been less than one per cent," he added. "There are instances where it has been found 'Panadol' powder from

the possession of suspects. There are also instances where wrong tips have been given to police as acts of revenge," he also said.

"We will launch a special programme to monitor the situation and to take preventive measures," the Minister assured.

ICC issues arrest warrant for Putin

Moscow has denied the allegations and labelled the warrants as "outrageous". Little is likely to come of the arrest warrants - the ICC has no powers to arrest suspects, and can only exercise jurisdiction within the countries that are signed up to its agreement.

Russia is not a signatory - so it is unlikely the president will be extradited, however it could affect him in other ways, such as being unable to travel.

In a statement, the ICC said it had reasonable grounds to believe Mr Putin committed the criminal acts directly, as well as working with others.

The court also said he failed to use his presidential powers to stop the deportation of children. Russia's commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, is also wanted by the ICC for the same crimes.

In the past, she has spoken openly of efforts to indoctrinate Ukrainian children taken to Russia. Last September, Ms Lvova-Belova complained that some

children removed from the city of Mariupol "spoke badly about the [Russian President], said awful things and sang the Ukrainian anthem."

She has also claimed to have adopted a 15-year-old boy from Mariupol.

In response to the warrants, the Kremlin said it did not recognise the jurisdiction of the ICC. Kremlin spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, said any of the court's decisions were "null and void" with respect to Russia.

The ICC said it initially considered keeping the arrest warrants secret, but decided to make them public in case it stopped further crimes from being committed. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev went as far as comparing the warrant to toilet paper.

"No need to explain WHERE this paper should be used," he said on Twitter, with a toilet paper emoji.

Russian opposition leaders welcomed the announcement, with jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's close ally Ivan

Zhdanov tweeting "wow!". "An arrest warrant for Putin! Yes, a symbolic step. But how important it is!" he wrote. Ukraine's Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin said the decision was "historic for Ukraine and the entire international law system", while Ukraine's presidential chief of staff Andriy Yermak lauded the decision as "only the beginning".

The Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said the ICC was right to issue the warrant and said Mr Putin should be "put to trial for the crime of aggression".

Jonathan Leader Maynard, a lecturer in international politics at King's College London said the warrants are unlikely to bother Putin too much, as the ICC "relies on cooperation from governments to actually arrest people, and the Russian government is obviously not going to cooperate in this respect".

But he said it could impact Mr Putin's freedom to travel around the world as other ICC signatory nations could assist with his arrest. (BBC)

Half of Sri Lanka's population suffering from oral diseases

Oral cancer is considered the number one cancer in Sri Lanka, and it is spreading faster among people.

The main cause of the spread of oral cancer is chewing betel mixed with arecanuts and tobacco, and the Health Promotions Bureau is taking measures to discourage chewing betel, as well

as a programme for the early detection of such oral diseases. Also, measures had been taken to promote toothpaste with fluoride. Therefore, "We recommend the public to consult a dentist every six months and brush their teeth after every meal," he said.

Former MP J. Sri Ranga to be arrested

Police told court that when the vehicle bumped against a garden wall, the police officer occupying the seat near the driver had received serious injuries and died. He is alleged to have taken two witnesses to a secret location by van and interfered with evidence in an attempt to conceal the truth of the incident. As a result,

the police had reported to court that the deceased sergeant 36759 G. Udaya Jayamini Pushpakumara had driven the vehicle at the time of the incident. Later the investigations conducted by the Police Special Investigation Unit on the request of the relatives of the sergeant revealed that the former MP had driven

the vehicle and caused the accident and that the witnesses had refrained from giving evidence under intimidation. The Magistrate issued the arrest warrant on the request of the police. The suspect former MP who had taken ill was not present in court. The case was postponed for March 27.

Two killed in car-train accident at level crossing

The deceased Gardiyawasam Balage Amesh Iranda Silva (33), was a surveyor by profession and father of one child. He was to celebrate his birthday today. The other Yapa Mudiyansele Heenmenika (87) had been living in the former's house as a servant. They were residents of Welhengoda in Ahangama.

Investigations revealed the warning signals had been functioning at the time of the accident. The motorcar had been dragged onto a distance of about 40

metres with the two passengers trapped in the wreckage. Residents of the area rushed to the scene and evacuated the two passengers only to find them already dead. Investigations revealed they were on their way back after obtaining treatment for the woman at a private hospital in Galle when they met with the accident. The car had hit Beliatta bound express on the level crossing.

The funerals was to take place today at Welhengoda in Ahangama.

Couple to marry for child's well-being

Senior Counsel Lakshan Dias appearing for the couple informed the court that his clients are ready to take custody of the child and preparing to legally marry in the time period of yesterday considering the utmost well-being of the child.

Taking into consideration the facts, Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage ordered the Director of Lady Ridgeway Hospital, to hand over the infant to their parents. Accordingly, the couple was ordered to be released on two sureties of Rs.500,000 each. The infant is to be supervised under the direct supervision of a Probation Officer. Meanwhile, the Magistrate further ordered that the child and the suspect couple appear before the Government Analyst on March 21 for a DNA test.

Is Govt. ready to hold LG polls if economic issue is resolved by some party: PAFFREL

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

People's Action for Free & Fair Elections (PAFFREL) has questioned the government whether it was ready to conduct the Local Government election, if some party was ready to provide a solution to the financial constraint that the government was claiming as the main obstacle to holding the election.

PAFFREL Executive Director Rohana Hettiarachchi said in a letter to the Prime Minister that it was evident that the government was attempting

to indefinitely postpone the LG polls without any legal basis. He said the government was attempting to use progressive electoral reforms as a tool to postpone the LG polls at this juncture. Hettiarachchi inquired from the Prime Minister as the subject minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, what would be the new electoral system after reducing the number of wards and members through ongoing delimitation process.

Booru Moona taken into custody in front of Courts: Magistrate orders to produce in court

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Ravindu Sanka alias Booru Moona has been allegedly taken into custody by persons identifying them as police in front of Avissawella Magistrate's court when he was on his way to surrender himself to court with a lawyer.

The suspect who is said to have been wanted for the recent spate of murders. The police had stopped the vehicle

right in front of the police post in the Avissawella Magistrate's Court where he was to surrender himself. Counsel Chaminda Athukorale appearing on behalf of the suspect told court that there is an imminent danger to the suspect's life Avissawella Magistrate Janaka Samarasinghe made an order to immediately produce the suspect before the Magistrate's Court.

PHIs TO CHECK MILK PRODUCTS SOLD AT FOOD STALLS

BY RANITH RAJAPANSE

A team of public health inspectors from Maskeliya MOH office yesterday launched a campaign to check milk products sold at food stalls on Sri Pada-Hatton route from Nallathanniya to Gangulathenna and to collect samples for laboratory tests.

They had taken this step in the wake of suspected Listeria positive case being reported from Ratnapura, Erathna and Kuruvita Sri Pada routes. Administrative PHI of the MOH offices S. Baskaran said this precautionary steps was taken

to prevent any possible spread of the disease. He said all food stalls in the Nallathanniya - Sri Pada route were checked and samples of milk products collected and referred to the Ratnapura MOH office for immediate laboratory tests.

He said the supply of food to the pilgrims in the Sri Pada route was subject to their direct supervision.

Meanwhile, the traders and the managers of tourist hotels, guest houses and lodges said the pilgrim arrivals had declined after cases of Listeria were reported.

Teacher Transfer Board dissolved

It was reported that transfers of 12,500 teachers will get automatically cancelled by this move. Sources said the President had taken this decision to avoid any adverse effect on GCE Advanced Level paper marking and other common issues which would affect the education sector.

It was reported that the President took into consideration the hardship faced by the teachers with regard to

transfers such as high transportation cost and high house rents. It was said many teachers have complained about the hardships they have faced with the economic crisis. Also, it was reported that some of the candidates contesting for the local government election were also to be transferred and their transfers will also be cancelled. These teachers were planning to identify their transfers as political victimization.

SLPP wins Yatiyantota Cooperative elections

SLPP has suffered a string of defeats in the recent past while Jathika Jana Balawegaya led by the JVP and the Samagi Jana Balawegaya have gained control of some cooperative bodies.

First ever free-of-charge conference, banquet hall to open on Monday

The decision was taken to build a wedding hall considering the young couples who are unable to wed due to financial issues

Temple's founder Ven. Kolonnawe Siri Sumangala Thera said the conference hall and wedding hall were built for the people to conduct their social activities, such as seminars and lectures, free of charge.

The conference hall has a seating capacity of 500 participants.

Meanwhile, Ven. Sumangala Thera said that the wedding hall was also designed with the latest luxury facilities, where up to 200 participants can be accommodated for a single ceremony.

Ven. Thera said the decision was taken to build a wedding hall

considering the young couples who are unable to wed due to financial issues. "The temple will provide all required facilities, such as the wedding poruwa, to have the ceremony. While providing all the facilities, a wedding ceremony would be held in a Buddhist religious environment. If any couple has decided to postpone their wedding due to financial issues, the organizing committee of the temple will provide full assistance for them to have their wedding ceremony, including providing the wedding suits for the bride and groom followed by meals for all participants free of charge," he said.

"Using alcohol or liquor is strictly forbidden as the wedding ceremonies take place in a religious setting.

Playing simple music is allowed, except DJ music, which causes disturbance to the environment," he said. The ambition of providing these facilities for social service is to produce people who are useful to society, Ven. Sumangala Thera said.

Daughter raped by father and his friend

Police said the victim was now 16 years of age and a grade ten student at a school in Puttalam, her father is 44 years and her father's friend involved in the incident was 39 years.

Investigations revealed that the suspects had raped the girl for more than five years when her mother was away from home for employment. However, the mother who denied any knowledge of the incident told police that she was a manual worker away from home during the daytime and returned late in the evening.

The victim and the suspects were residents of Thabawa in Karuwalagaswewa area.

A senior police official said the individual who provided information against the girl's father had himself raped the girl with the knowledge of her father.

The suspects were to be produced in court last morning and the girl to be referred to the JMO Puttalam Base Hospital.

Karuwalagaswewa Police are conducting further investigations.

Opposition Leader discusses SL political situation with Canadian HC

"A number of issues were discussed at the meeting, including the recent privilege issue raised by MP Premnath Dolawatte who claimed that the recent Supreme Court's decision to ask the Finance Minister to allocate funds for the local government elections is a violation of legislature's privileges. The duo has therefore discussed the separation of three pillars in the state.

OBITUARIES

GUNESEKERA - KAMALA (nee JAYAWARDANA). Beloved wife of late Hemasiri Gunsekera, loving mother of Kumari and Samiddha (Australia), dearest sister of Padma, late Girdle, late Seeliya and late Lionel, darling grandmother of Aroshe (Gateway), Sachinthana (Canada), Hariha (Australia) and Chani (Australia), mother-in-law of late Rohan and late Ayanthi. **Remains lie at 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**

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By **Avishka Mario Senewiratne**

Fr. Victor Silva

75 years of a true Victor of Christ

“Life is like a box of chocolates,” said a wise man. He further went on to say “you never know what you’ll get”. When it comes to my dearest priest-friend, all those who associate with him can ably claim the fact that they would know him after speaking or listening to him for a few moments. His charming demeanour coupled with his open mind and astute sense of humour has made him one of a kind. I do not wish to bore the readers with a strong historical record on this priest, whom I personally admire. Instead, I wish to bring out his role as an apostle of Christ in his sojourn of three scores and fifteen years. Truly, he is one of those who refused to shine; yet did in the firmament of presbyters of this island nation.

I first came to know Fr. Victor Silva some twenty years ago in 2003, when he served as the 11th Rector of St. Joseph’s College. It was at that time that my parents decided to enrol me at St. Joseph’s. Fr. Victor admitted me with no hesitation. I was not ‘big’ enough to know Fr. Victor then. However, I did come to know that he was loved by all, teachers and students alike. He was an administrator par excellence who would call a spade a spade and yet not fail to be kind and open to all those who came to him. I remember this popular Rector had a sudden yet memorable farewell in College in 2005. I did not see Fr. Victor for nearly a decade after his exit from College. I learnt that he was in the United States for some years and then in a Parish and Seminary. He did later visit College for special events and

feasts. However, it was only in 2017 that I met him well enough to know him. The occasion was the College Prize Giving and I was to receive a couple of prizes. By this time, he was the Director of Subodhi Institute of Integral Learning and I was an Assistant Head Prefect of the College.

The administrators of the College decided that the students fresh from their O/Ls, ready to face the fire of A/Ls, needed a place to retreat to. Subodhi was decided as a fine solution for this endeavour. Four classes of students in the Science stream had to go to Subodhi to stay for three days. The burden or the blessing of being the SOLE prefect to supervise 100+ boys for the three days and three nights fell on me. Fr. Victor was furious to know the College had let me handle this task all alone. Struggling to silence them when silence was in need and keeping order and discipline from the retreats or the long food lines of boys asking ‘we want more’, was a good spiritual, mental and physical exercise for me. Over the process, Fr. Victor and I clicked well. We realised that we had quite a few common interests and shared the same opinion from mundane to controversial topics of discussion. We

kept in touch over the phone at least every fortnight. Unlike many of his generation who fail to get on well with the younger crowds today, Fr. Victor knew the art of winning their hearts. His people skills were his forte. He was a great strength to me when I underwent a difficult period striving to publish my maiden book based on the history of St. Joseph’s College. Though I was a victim of clericalism, presbyters like Fr. Victor gave me hope. He would go on say “Don’t stop what you started. I will back you”.

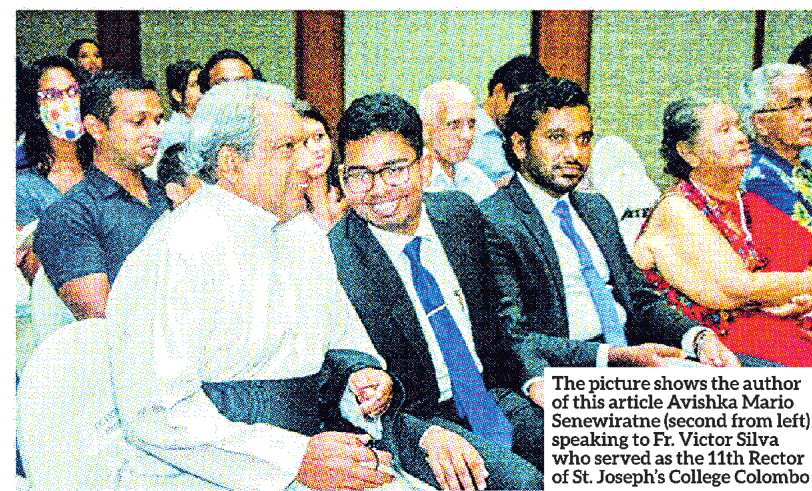
During his day as a young seminarian, I am told through his contemporaries that he was a brilliant student who was good in both his academics as well as sports, basketball in particular. The late Fr. Kenneth Perera played a major influence on his life as a seminarian and then as a priest. Ordained in 1976 by the late Cardinal Thomas Cooray OMI, he was brilliant in his ministry as an Assistant Parish Priest and then later a formator at St. Aloysius’ Minor Seminary. He won the hearts of the people whom he met in these missions for he made all of them feel ‘important’.

Apart from his routine mission for the Church, he realised his zest and

talent in music. One was the pre-eminent legendary, Fr. Marcelline Jayakody OMI. Fr. Victor would often visit him and pick his brains on composing and writing Sinhala hymns. I must say as a lyricist Fr. Victor has kept a very low profile. Through his hymns such as Aethin Asena and Pottupottu mal pohottu remain very popular to date, not many know that it was he who wrote them several decades ago.

He was a firm Rector, who knew how to get things done albeit, never failing to stand his ground.

Now Fr. Victor has passed his 75th year on Earth: A truly remarkable life, which he has lived to the fullest. Many seek



The picture shows the author of this article Avishka Mario Senewiratne (second from left) speaking to Fr. Victor Silva who served as the 11th Rector of St. Joseph’s College Colombo

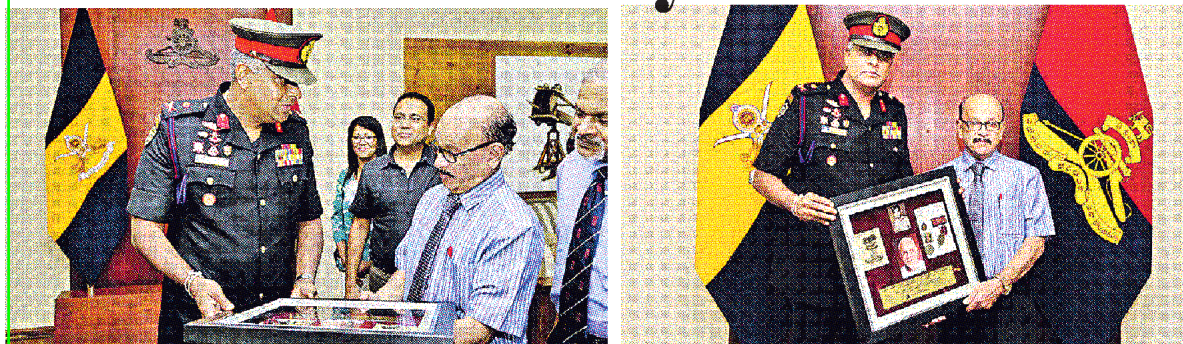
He was an administrator par excellence who would call a spade a spade and yet not fail to be kind

retirement at this age, but Fr. Victor still has plenty of gas in his tank. His brilliant apostolate in Subodhi bringing young men and women together, renewing their mission, the counselling is a noteworthy

endeavour. While I wish him a blessed 75th Birthday, I hope the Lord keeps this stalwart priest, healthy and vibrant, for he has more to do for the people of this country. May many men and women emulate him and be ‘Victors’ of Christ. Ad Multos Annos!

(Avishka Mario Senewiratne is an Old Boy of St. Joseph’s College. Being a historian, his major works are Till the Mountains Disappear and Fruits of Virtue)

Donating of World War 11 medals to Army Museum



The pictures show a member of the Kern family handing over the World War II Memorials of the late war veteran Shelton Kern to Maj. Gen. W.A.S.S Wanasinghe at a ceremony held at the Sri Lanka Army Artillery Regiment Museum at Panagoda recently

World War II Memorials of the late war veteran Shelton Kern, who passed away on 15/02/2022, were handed over to the Sri Lanka Army Artillery Regiment Museum at Panagoda recently.

“The medals were handed over because it was the wish of the family, and also because we understood the need for the preservation of those medals and by doing so it would help all generations to remember,

interpret and understand the experience of war,” said members of the Kern family. They also thanked the Commandant of the artillery Regiment Maj. Gen. W.A.S.S Wanasinghe, Brigadier

Sampath Fernando, Lt Col Tissa Gunaratne and all the officers and staff of the Regiment for organising the handing over of the World War II memorials. (JOHN KERN, EARLTON KERN, MOLLY KERN, JOAN KERN)

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EDITORIAL

It is essential that there should be organization of labor. This is an era of organization. Capital organizes and therefore labor must organize.
-THEODORE ROOSEVELT

OUR THOUGHT

EDUCATION; ARE THE CHILDREN MOULDED TO BUILD A JUST SOCIETY?

At one time you would say Sri Lanka had the highest literacy rate in South Asia. Thanks to the hard work by farsighted free thinkers like C. W. W. Kannangara who introduced free education. Influenced by the Western education system, patriotic leaders like Mr. Kannangara laid the foundation for an educated future generation.

It was on this foundation that Sri Lanka could achieve adult literacy rate of almost 92 percent according to United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) ranking. Our country also displayed a significant achievement in education with the male literacy rate at 93% compared to 91% for females.

The credit should go to the generations of teachers who gifted an educated younger generation to this nation and the world. This was despite the poor salaries they were paid and difficult working conditions specially in rural areas of Sri Lanka.

We witnessed the same dedication of the teachers when schools were closed suddenly in October 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The teachers voluntarily started online teaching using their smart phones, laptops and other devices. This was out of their own pockets and despite various other obstacles. Unfortunately the education authorities did not realize the urgent need of online education.

Some greedy service providers who made millions of rupees selling data too were unable to understand the need of the hour. They failed to organize some sort of service to the children and the teachers who were willing to work for our tomorrow.

Children in rural villages had to climb to trees and mountains in search of signals as both local and multi-national telecommunication partners had catered their 'services' only to cities where they could earn at a time people were restricted to their homes and only mode of relaxation was the internet.

This was also a time where parents were struggling to find day today living as the pandemic had devastating consequences for their jobs. World Bank data indicated that more than 500,000 people in Sri Lanka may have been pushed into poverty as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and this number is likely to increase.

"Children across Sri Lanka have had a terrible two years, with COVID-related school closures completely disrupting their ability to get a basic education. This economic crisis is making things worse. Not only are schools closing once again, but families have even less resources at their disposal to keep kids learning than they did before the pandemic," Ranjan Weththasinghe, Save the Children's Director of Programmes in Sri Lanka stated referring the period of Covid-19 pandemic and the economic crisis thereafter.

"A recent needs assessment by Save the Children shows that 50% of families are struggling to support their children's education and some children are already dropping out of school. Parents are having to decide whether to buy data to access online classes, or use this money for food. Faced with such a decision, families make the life-saving choice. But at what cost?" Mr. Weththasinghe asked in a statement.

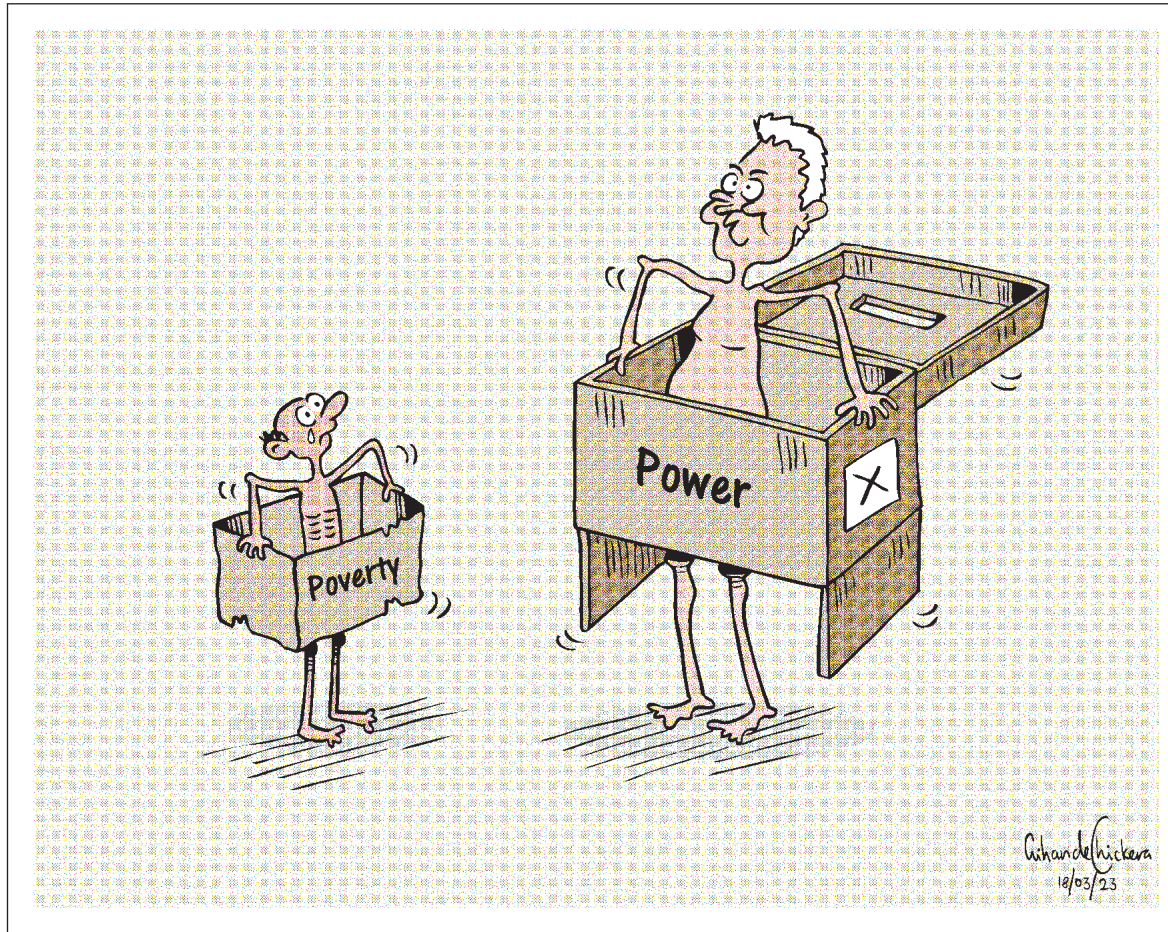
The results of all these tragedies are now out. A recent survey by the Education Ministry itself has revealed that the education level of children had suffered a severe setback during the covid-19 period and 90 percent of the students have not been able to acquire sufficient literacy or knowledge.

It has also been revealed that the technology which was in wrong hands had been misused as nearly 33 percent of grade one students have played games using mobile phones during the study from home period of the pandemic.

The survey done randomly selecting the provincial and regional education offices, genders, school classification and income levels also had revealed that 64 percent have watched television for more than one hour a day and 7 percent have watched television for more than three hours during the school hours. Who could be blamed for this disaster now? The damage is done and we have played with the precious future of our country.

The legendary Thomas Jefferson founding Father who served as the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809, has said "whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."

During the past 75 years most of our leaders have played politics with our education and most of our children are left uninformed or ill-informed and are unable to make a proper judgment on the role they should play in building a just and fair society.

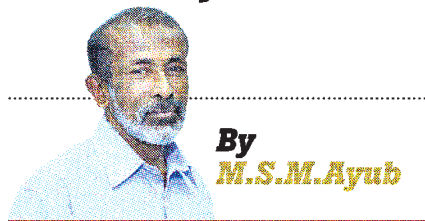


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WHAT LIES AHEAD

LENGTHY SHOWDOWN OR A QUICK CRACKDOWN?

No Opposition would prefer a takeover at this juncture, despite their rhetoric



By M.S.M. Ayub

Wednesday's trade union action was different from the ones the same unions launched on March 1.

Uniformity was not an element in the previous one, as some unions struck work while others announced that they would work to rule. Employees in some State institutions demonstrated in front of their offices during the lunch hour without striking work and the impact of the trade union action was eclipsed by this diversity.

However, Wednesday's trade union action was somewhat felt by the people. This time more unions chose to stop working with some of them declaring an indefinite strike until their demands are met.

However, unions affiliated with the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) announced that although they join the strike on Wednesday they would not go for an indefinite work stoppage considering the hardships faced by the people due to the economic crisis. However, JVP trade union leaders, Lal Kantha, and Mahinda Samarasinghe warned they would decide their next course of action based on the Government's reaction to Wednesday's strike action.

Some media institutions, including those supportive of the Government, showed the deserted railway stations and hospitals with people lamenting over them being inconvenienced and some even cursing the strikers. This might have delighted the union leaders as suffering by the people, though not meant by them is always the yardstick to gauge the success of a trade union action. And the President's Secretariat had informed the strikers that the President was willing to discuss the demands put forward by the unions. Union leaders used this communication as well to say that the Government has "kneelt."

The JVP's stance on Wednesday's strike might have been called a betrayal of the 'struggle' had it been announced at a time when their rival leftist trade unions are powerful as in the past. However, this time names of unions affiliated with the 'Old Left' were not heard of. Whether the struggle was a failure or the Government knelt before the workers, it was prudent on the part of the Government to resolve the issue through negotiations, as announced.

However, it would be a gigantic task on the part of both the Government and the agitating unions to reach an agreement given the nature of the issues in question. The unions and professional associations



Wednesday's TU strike: Success or failure?

demand, among others, a reduction of the personal income taxes that have been imposed recently on anyone earning over Rs.100,000 a month, a reduction in the bank interest rates, a reduction of recently increased electricity tariffs and the removal of obstacles for the Local Government Elections that are on the verge of being postponed for the second time due to Government's failure to release funds.

Questions remain as to whether all unions and associations that joined the trade union action on Wednesday are in full agreement on all these demands. JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake had said he proposed to move the maximum income limit for the exemption of taxes from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 200,000. If the doctors and other high-income groups are prepared to accept that suggestion is not clear.

In fact, the moves to increase taxes, interest rates and electricity tariffs as well as restructuring some State institutions are matters that have been agreed upon by the Government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in relation to the global lender's bailout package for Sri Lanka, following the country declared bankruptcy in April last year.

Unlike the past leaders of the country who hesitated to say that they accepted the conditions laid down by the IMF, President Ranil Wickremesinghe on March 7 very clearly said in Parliament that the "Government had to fulfil the requirements set by the IMF which included revision of electricity tariffs and fossil fuel prices, ensuring the independence of the Central Bank, and increasing interest rates to control inflation, reforming public enterprises, strengthening the social safety net, working to increase public revenue and controlling public expenditure."

Out of these conditions one would be puzzled as to what the IMF has meant by social safety net as the other main conditions - increasing electricity tariff, fuel price and taxes - run counter to the idea. Electricity tariffs were increased twice after August last year by about threefold.

Obviously, the burden of increased taxes and interest rates would also be heaped ultimately on the poor. The President in his speech in Parliament expressed his Government's determination not to change these conditions by saying "There is no room for failure in completing every task

agreed upon with the IMF, unlike the previous 16 occasions."

He indicated how difficult it was now to turn back.

"If Sri Lanka fails to fulfil the tasks agreed upon with the IMF, it could result in the IMF discontinuing its collaboration with the country, and this could in turn lead to other multilateral and bilateral financial institutions being unable to work with Sri Lanka."

He warned that the bankrupt country would have to repay the loans taken from foreign countries and private banks without any assistance from the international players if the agreement failed and reminds that an amount of approximately US\$ 6-7 billion is due to be repaid until 2029.

Obviously, the Government's very survival depends on the IMF bailout package and it is at a point of no return. On the other hand, the unions argue that the taxes imposed especially on the professionals are unprecedentedly high and the threshold amount of Rs. 100,000 is also too high for the lower middle class, against a backdrop of prices of essential items gone threefold high for the past year.

The rupee depreciation during the period was such that the dollar which stood at Rs.196 in December 2021 rose to Rs.365 last month. And these taxes are imposed while losing the amount of over Rs 650 billion in tax money annually due to the huge tax cuts by the Gotabaya Rajapaksa government in 2019. Ali Sabry as the then Finance Minister told Parliament last year that the government had lost over a million taxpayers due to these tax cuts.

Similarly, the electricity tariff hike is the result of past political decisions and a constant blockade imposed on renewable energy projects by corrupt officialdom in the power sector. Both sides have strong justifications for their respective stances and that might lead to a tough showdown and sometimes to a heightened crackdown as well in the near future, in case of a breakdown of proposed talks between the two sides.

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and the National People's Power (NPP) led by the JVP have endorsed the Government seeking IMF assistance at this juncture while supporting the trade union actions.

Hence, the onus is on them to explain how they would handle the situation if they were in power, as the IMF conditions are not selective based on parties in power.

However, one cannot see any valid obstacle other than the fear of defeat in the leaders of the Government for them to hold LG polls, one of the demands put forward by the unions, as it wouldn't change the Government immediately and thereby wouldn't stand in the way of IMF programme. In fact, no Opposition party might prefer a takeover at this juncture, despite their rhetoric.

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?

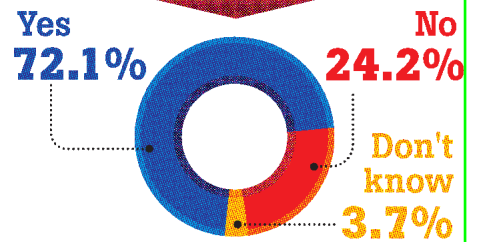
- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Income Tax - Some suggestions

The long history PAYE Tax system has been abolished and introduced the Advance Personal Income Tax [APIT] wef 1st January 2020. The APIT is deducted up to 31st December 2022 based on the consent of employees and others have to pay taxes on their own. However, APIT is implemented similarly to PAYE by compulsory tax deduction system from salary wef 1st January 2023.

The tax thresholds are Rs 100,000, Rs 250,000 and Rs 100,000 per month for the periods before 1st January 2020, between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2022 and after 1st January 2023 respectively.

The earnings level between Rs 100,000 and Rs 250,000 are not taxed until 31st December 2022 and Rs21,000 tax charge is applied for monthly earnings of Rs 250,000 wef 1st January 2023 equivalent to 8.4% of earnings.

The very low tax rate [ie: 6%, 12% and 18%] were applied between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2022. Also from 1st January 2023, the tax-free allowance has been reduced from Rs 250,000 to Rs 100,000 and slab values reduced from Rs 250,000 to Rs 41,667.

Tax rates have been changed to 6%, 12%, 18%, 24%, 30% and 36%. Instead of 6% 12% on Rs 250,000 slabs and 18% beyond Rs 750,000 monthly earnings.

The following changes have been effected on the monthly earning levels for three tax periods.



Tariff hike puts CEB and CPC in trouble

WEB COMMENTS

SAMBO - Could this so-called Minister explain why Lanka IOC is gaining huge profits while CEPETCO is running at a loss for years? Why doesn't a Minister with a little brain look into this matter? -

EDIE - Why not start laying off the excessive staff from the CEB and Petroleum Corporation? There are so many political appointees, which have been put into the CEB and PC to gain votes during elections. Politicians are responsible for the excessive staff.

THULA - Wonderful article, best wishes to the author.

SAM - The burden is always on the normal consumer when politicians, their cronies and security personnel owe billions. First, disconnect all such supplies.

ANONYMOUS - Most will start drastically reducing electricity use, and those with evil, thieving minds will continue their dastardliness. Banks will not be in trouble, they would never be silly enough to believe CEB can get full expected revenue. They will get first shy at income, perhaps putting CEB in even worse trouble, while keeping themselves safe as banks always do. -

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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*"The national anthem of hell is, I
Did It My Way"
-PETER KREEFT*

POINT OF VIEW

HOW LANKA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS AMENDED DUE TO SUPERSTITION

By D.B.S.Jeyaraj

Sri Lanka is presently experiencing a tremendous economic crisis. Several knowledgeable persons describe the current period as the worst-ever phase in the Island nation's 75-year post-Independence history. Many acts of omission and commission are being faulted for this calamity. Mercifully none have blamed Sri Lanka's national anthem as the cause so far. At least not yet.

The insensitive, superstitious action affected the poet who lamented that his head has been cut off.....committed suicide on April 5, 1962.

The charge was that the notations in Namo Namo Matha were unlucky and the cause of the country's ills and misfortunes.

Rabindranath Tagore, George Wilfred joined Shantinekathan, Tagore's School of Fine Arts in Bengal. He joined Shantinekathan in 1936 and studied art under the famous Bengali artist Nanda Lal Bose, and music and singing under Shanti Devi Gosh. He came back to Lanka in 1937 without completing his course and started teaching again. Upon his return, George Wilfred became known as Ananda Samarakoon. In 1940, he joined the staff of Mahinda College, Galle.

NAMO NAMO MATHA

The genesis of Namo Namo Matha is interesting.

It was not written originally for the purpose of being a National Anthem. What happened was this. Ananda Samarakoon used to pay frequent trips to India even after his academic pursuit at Shanthiniketan had ended.

On one occasion he returned from India by air on his first-ever plane trip. Samarakoon looking down from the skies was enthralled and excited at the sight of his native land. He jotted down a few words and lines that came to mind immediately after landing.

On October 20th 1940 he was at his ancestral residence in Padukka. Unable to sleep he tossed and turned in his bed. Suddenly he got up at about 10 p.m. and began writing a tribute to his motherland relying on the short notes written after his air trip from India.

Samarakoon wrote late into the night and the immortal Namo Namo Matha was born. He then took it to Mahinda College where he was teaching and taught it to students after setting it to music.

The song became popular and was included in a musical record in 1946. Being a fine singer himself Samarakoon recorded the song with his partner Swarna de Silva, the sister of famous flautist Dunstan de Silva.

The song was also included in a book of poems published by him. It was called Geetha Kumudini.

Sadly, Samarakoon was unable to reimburse the printing costs incurred by the printer R.K.W Siriwardena and handed over the copyright to him. Samarakoon was to regret this later when his creation came to be acknowledged as the National Anthem.

When the Gandarva Sabha conducted the competition to select a national song Samarakoon was away from the Island in India, but his wife and his brother had submitted **Namo Namo Matha** for the competition.

Though fully deserving it was overlooked and Sri Lanka Matha, Yasa Mahima by the Illangasinghe-Edirisinghe duo was selected.

Despite 'winning' the competition Yasa Mahima was spurned by most people because of the manner in which it was declared the winner. Namo Namo Matha without any official status was enjoying wide exposure and popular acclaim. Its popularity among ordinary people was so great that public opinion favoured Namo Namo Matha over Yasa Mahima.

It was now the 'de-facto' National Anthem.

PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE

In 1950 the then Finance Minister J.R. Jayewardene presented a Cabinet Memorandum that the widely popular Namo Namo Matha be formally acknowledged as the official anthem. Prime Minister D.S. Senanayake set up a Parliamentary Select Committee under Home Affairs and Rural Development Minister Sir E.A.P Wijeratne (Father of Dr Nissanka Wijeratne) to finalise the issue.

The Committee headed by Wijeratne decided that Samarakoon's song should be made the National Anthem.

There was however a minor hitch. The committee wanted a minor change in the words. The song had originally been composed when the country was under the British. Now it was independent.

It was therefore felt that the 10th line in the song was inappropriate and had to be changed. Samarakoon was then in India

and returned home in mid-1951 after being summoned by Sir Edwin.

Samarakoon agreed to change the line. So the line Nawa Jeewana Damine was altered to Nawa Jeewana Demine Nithina Apa Pubudu Karan Matha with the wholehearted consent and approval of Ananda Samarakoon.

Sir E.A.P Wijeratne then presented a Cabinet paper in August 1951 recommending Namo Namo Matha as the National Anthem.

In the search for scapegoats, certain elements ...pounced upon the National Anthem. In a burst of superstitious or irrational frenzy, Namo Namo Matha was singled out as the cause for all the troubles afflicting the country under the Bandaranaike dispensation

It was unanimously approved by Cabinet and formally adopted on November 22, 1951. Four years after getting freedom, Namo Namo Matha was sung at Independence Day ceremonies as the official National Anthem on February 4, 1952.

ENSURING UNIFORMITY

While Namo Namo Matha was now being sung as the official anthem there was no uniformity in the melody or manner of singing. Different choirs and singers were rendering it in different ways.

This was causing much confusion. So, the Government decided to appoint a committee to ensure that uniformity was ensured in rendering the National Anthem.

An eleven-member committee was appointed in 1953. Among its members were Ananda Samarakoon himself, Devar Suryasena and J.D.A. Perera.

This committee set out guidelines as to how the anthem should be sung and also defined the exact tune for it. The melody was a refined version of the original tune composed by Samarakoon. On June 24, 1954, the Cabinet of Sir John Kotelawala formally endorsed the tune and singing of the National Anthem.

The copyright ownership of Namo Namo Matha was formally acquired by the Government after the payment of Rupees 2,500 on June 24, 1954.

The money however did not go to Ananda Samarakoon as he had already transferred the copyright to Siriwardena the printing press owner who had first published the song in a book of poems.

CRUEL NIGHTMARE

Having one's composition officially recognized as the National Anthem was indeed a great achievement. Ananda Samarakoon having accomplished this feat was entitled to bask in glory after reaching that milestone.

Alas! That was not to be so. Instead of a dream existence there commenced an ordeal that turned out to be a cruel nightmare for the poet.

In 1956 S.W.R.D Bandaranaike became Prime Minister riding the crest of a Sinhala Nationalist wave.

The new Government hailed as Apey Aanduwe ran into a series of problems and difficulties soon. There were political demonstrations against the Government, strikes by workers, communal violence and natural disasters like floods, fires and landslides.

SEARCH FOR SCAPEGOATS

In the search for scapegoats, certain elements (With vested interests perhaps) pounced upon the National Anthem. In a burst of superstitious or irrational frenzy, Namo Namo Matha was singled out as the cause for all the troubles afflicting the country under the Bandaranaike dispensation. A vicious campaign was launched against Namo Namo Matha.

The charge was that the notations in Namo Namo Matha were unlucky

and the cause of the country's ills and misfortunes.

The letter 'Na' at the beginning was described as malefic. The inauspicious Ganaka or Gana at the beginning of the National Anthem had an ill effect on the country it was alleged.

A Gana is the placing of the first three syllables - how the long and short syllables occur. The opening words of the anthem 'na-mo-na' short-long-short constituted an unlucky gana it was stated.

As criticism mounted **Ananda Samarakoon** was constrained to defend himself against the charges.

He engaged in many newspaper debates and also spoke at public meetings in defence of Namo Namo Matha.

The onslaught against Namo Namo Matha destroyed Samarakoon's peace of mind.

In September 1959, Prime Minister S.W.R.D Bandaranaike was assassinated. Elections to Parliament in March 1960 saw a hung Parliament.

Fresh elections were called. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) was swept to power in July 1960. Bandaranaike's widow Sirima became Prime Minister. The new Govt took the campaign against **Namo Namo Matha** seriously.

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

The Home and Cultural Affairs Minister Maithripala Senanayake appointed a committee of experts to examine the issue and determine whether the National Anthem was the cause of the country's troubles.

The committee recommended that the words Namo Namo Matha be changed to Sri Lanka Matha.

Ananda Samarakoon protested vehemently and opposed the proposed change.

The Government however went ahead and unilaterally amended the National Anthem from Namo Namo Matha to Sri Lanka Matha in February 1961. Samarakoon's consent was not obtained.

Since copyright was now vested with the Government there was no legal remedy available to the poet to prevent this arbitrary action.

The act however had a distressing and debilitating effect on the poet. Thereafter Ananda Samarakoon was morose.

He was never the same again. On April 5th 1962 Ananda Samarakoon was found dead.

In the search for scapegoats, certain elements ...pounced upon the National Anthem. In a burst of superstitious or irrational frenzy, Namo Namo Matha was singled out as the cause for all the troubles afflicting the country under the Bandaranaike dispensation

His door was broken open as he was not answering the knocks on his door. The inquest revealed that he had died of an overdose of sleeping tablets.

There was a letter on his desk to then Opposition leader Dudley Senanayake complaining of how his anthem had been mutilated.

ANTHEM HAS BEEN BEHEADED

A few days before his death, Samarakoon wrote a letter to the Timesman Column in the Times of Ceylon newspaper.

He wrote- **"The anthem has been beheaded. It has not only destroyed the song but also destroyed the life of the composer. I am frustrated and brokenhearted. It is a misfortune to live in a country where such things happen to a humble composer. Death would be preferable"**.

This then was the tragic fate of the poet who authored the National Anthem of Sri Lanka. **D.B.S.Jeyaraj can be reached at dbsjeyaraj@yahoo.com**



Ananda Samarakoon



Lionel Edirisinghe



P.B. Elangasingha



Sir John Kotelawala

VEHICLES & MACHINERY FOR TENDER

Vehicle No	Make/Model	Year
MOTOR BIKES		
WP BIC-0313	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	MADIWELA
WP BIR-3671	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	MADIWELA
WP BHR-6320	YAMAHA RAY ZR	MADIWELA
WP BHK-6126	YAMAHA FZ-VER 2.0	MADIWELA
WP BFW-7816	TVS APACHE RTR 200	MADIWELA
NW BFV-9646	BAJAJ CT 100	KURUNEGALA
WP BHK-4598	TVS APACHE RTR 200	BATTICALOA
EP BGV-7152	YAMAHA FZ-VER 2.0	BATTICALOA
EP BHK-3463	HONDA GRAZIA APDS	BATTICALOA
EP BBE-1401	HERO DAWN	CHAVA
THREE WHEELERS		
NW ABC-3152	BAJAJ RE 205	KURUNEGALA
NW AAB-0211	BAJAJ RE 205	KURUNEGALA
CP YD-0937	BAJAJ AUTO AR 45	KURUNEGALA
WP QX-1894	BAJAJ AUTO ARAS UG	MADIWELA
WP QA-4173	BAJAJ AUTO RE 2 STROKE	MADIWELA
MOTOR LORRY		
WP DAF-8757	MAHINDRA MAXIMO PLUS	MADIWELA
SP PT 5558	MAHINDRA BOLERO MAXI	MATARA
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Niladsan	Chavakachcheri Yard	077-5968321
Sugath	Batticaloa Yard	076-7057676
Dilum	Matara Yard	071-4476283
The Motor Cycles, Three Wheelers, Motor Lorry, Motor Coach & Machinery will be on view 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd March 2023 from 08.30 am to 05.00 pm		
Tender will be closed at 5:00 PM on 22nd March 2023		
Tender forms can be collected from the yard or branch until 22nd March 2023 on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.300/- Please Note that Madiwela yard tender form is available at Asia Asset Head Office.		
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Drag Queen Story Hour

event description. But this event too has come under fire by parents and concerned citizens after it emerged that several events have highly sexualized content, including adult males attired in provocative female attire teaching children how to 'twerk.' Critics argue they sexualize and confuse young audiences; and I agree.

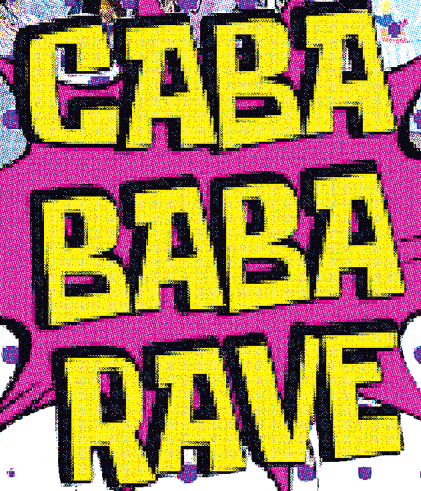
I am not homophobic or transphobic, but if we don't allow a heterosexual female teacher to attend school scantily clad, or a male teacher to perform suggestively in front of a classroom full of young girls, then how is it alright for an adult man to be teaching children how to 'twerk' whilst attired in provocative clothing? Concerned parents have written to their local councils to express their concerns over these highly sexualized events. The letters, coordinated by the **Family Education Trust**, state, "Drag shows are adults-only entertainment and not suitable for school age children. When we expose children to sexual material, we blur the boundaries between adults and children, exposing them to adult sexual concepts and we risk normalizing the sexualization of children."

Drag Queen, Aida H Dee, has been the main act at Drag Queen Story Hour events staged across the UK. A play on ADHD, Aida H Dee, has come under fire in the UK for social media posts he has published under his real name, Sab Samuel. In one post, dated April 2019, he shares a vulgar joke about an orgy, and in another dated July 2020, he states that, 'love has no age,' a statement once promoted by defunct organization, Pedophile Information Exchange, in their propaganda material urging governments to lower the age of sexual consent so that adults could have sex with children. Other disturbing content he has published include a picture of a pre-teenager boy and an older man with the caption, 'gay clubs are wild as you can meet both types and be told both are twenty-three years in age.' How is this acceptable? A comprehensive due diligence process is followed prior to granting teachers and other professionals' access to children. Is it then acceptable to overlook an individual's history in the name of diversity and inclusion? Would a heterosexual male teacher with a similar digital media footprint be employed by an educational establishment? Most international companies today investigate a potential employees digital media footprint prior to offering them an employment contract.

In other reported incidences, several other Drag Queen artists who have been contracted to perform at Drag Queen Story Hour events across the UK have faced severe backlash. An artist identified by his stage name, FlowJob, also known as Nathan Mullen, was also highlighted for sharing sexual content on his social media platforms including footage of simulating a sex act utilizing a sex toy. I simply cannot fathom how these dubious individuals are repeatedly granted access to young children. Would we allow a porn star to teach children Speech and Drama at a school? My mind remains baffled!

Wokeism

The Transgender and Drag Queen Conversation



BY RISHINI WEERARATNE

Growing up in Colombo, I was first exposed to the transgender community as a university student. I would return home every Summer and spend two glorious months in the island before returning to London. Almost all holidays in Colombo invariably included a game or two of cricket that I would go watch with my friends at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium. These games were always entertaining affairs, with papare bands playing popular balla tunes accompanied by beautiful transgender dancers attired in colourful, sequin saris or lehengas imitating famous Bollywood actresses. They were always a treat to watch. As a young adult in my twenties, one of my most favourite performances in Colombo were the sold-out shows staged by artist extraordinaire, celebrity chef, Kolu. 'Touch My Party' held at the Oak Room, Cinnamon Grand, to date, remains as one of the most entertaining shows I have witnessed in Colombo. The entire audience was in stitches of laughter throughout the evening, and I don't think anyone in Sri Lanka can perform in drag as well as Kolu does. His comic timing on stage is unmatched, and I doubt Sri Lanka will see another act like his for a few decades to come. His shows were always restricted to adults over the age of eighteen, and he never promoted any of his performances to children, let alone toddlers! He was, and he remains, a highly respected artist. On this week's article I discuss the on-going global debate pertaining to children's exposure to controversial Drag Queen performances.

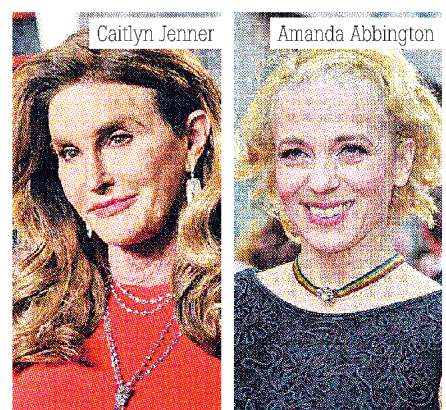
our children to sexualized content in the name of inclusion? How can we possibly compare a semi-nude adult male performing attired in bondage gear to a Christmas Pantomime artist? What happened to taking children to watch Disney on Ice or Sesame's Street on stage.

Drag Queen Story Hour

Originally, launched in San Francisco in 2015, this event has been promoted as a 'fun and interactive kids show with amazing and talented drag performers! Drag Queen Story Hour UK wants to show the world that being different is not a bad thing, and by providing imaginative role models for children to look up to, we can change the world book by book!' Seems innocent, one would think reading the

CabaBabaRave

CabaBabaRave was an event promoted and staged in London, as a show for mothers and babies, and was organised by two mothers, who are also former performers. The performance was promoted as a 'Cabaret-Baby Sensory-Rave,' for parents and their children below the age of five, offering a 'little slice of afternoon delight that intersperses cabaret with captivating baby sensory moments before ending in a rave.' The sold-out event featured semi-nude drag performers, burlesque, and other highly sexualized acts. Pre and post promotional trailers and other content material highlighted: (i) a cross-dressing performer doing a handstand on a chair attired in a leopard-print thong and gloves, (ii) a performer in a bondage-style outfit performing acrobatics from a swing suspended from the ceiling, and (iii) a topless woman with rainbow hearts on her nipples, attired in a red thong carrying a toddler. This performance received fierce backlash across the UK and the story dominated headlines for over a week. The event was staged as a part of the Vault Festival 2023, the UK's leading festival of live performances. I took a quick peek at the festival website to see if they have addressed the ongoing backlash. A statement published on the official website states: "Vault Festival is aware of comments on social media directed at CabaBabaRave, part of the 2023 Vault Festival programme. The cabaret show is designed for parents, with sensory moments for babies, and is a fun and welcoming space for parents

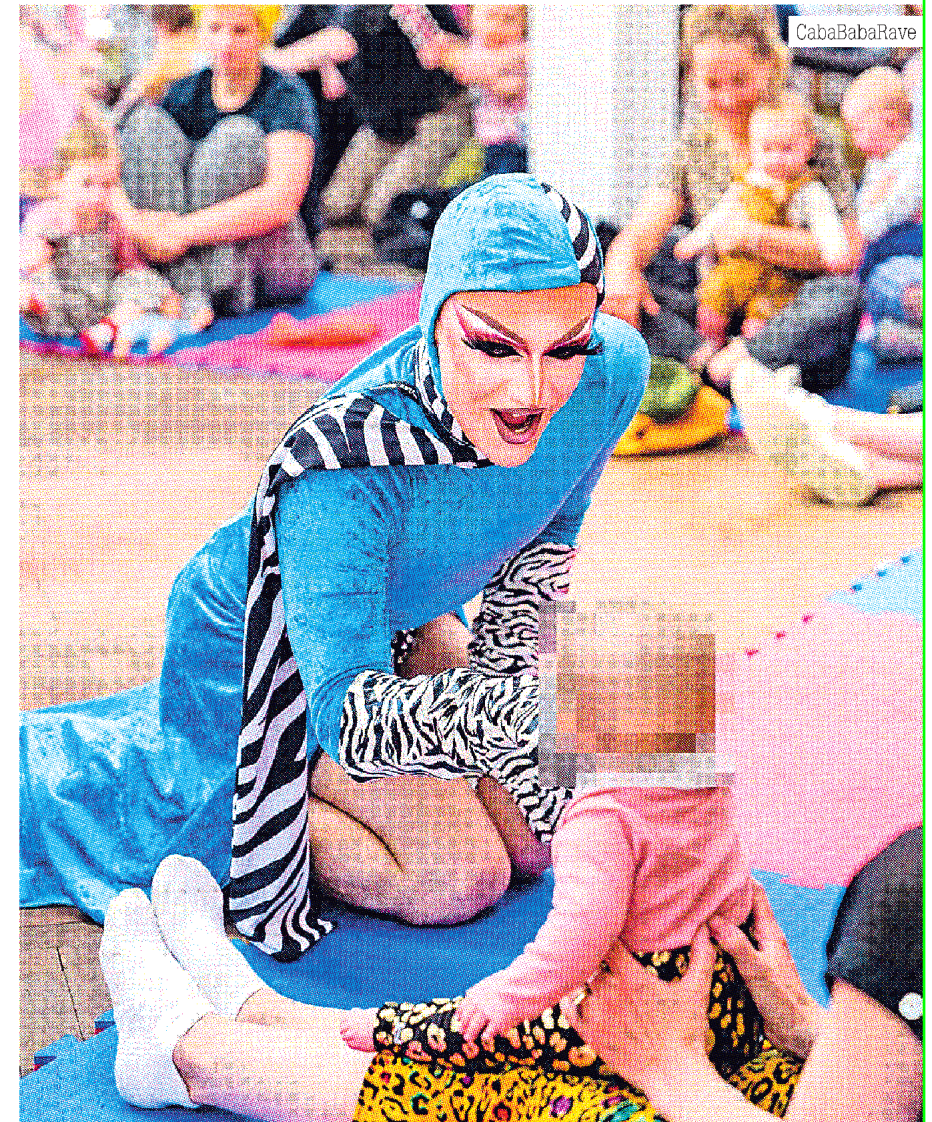


with young babies. Vault festival exists to support live performance and artistic talent and is proud to platform events that are welcoming and accessible for all, with audience safety always as a top priority."

In what universe is this considered educational or appropriate for toddlers and infants? Like I discussed in my article last week, 'Wokeism: A Weapon of Mass Destruction? Part One: Roald Dahl,' do I need to be 'woke' to understand this highly sexualized theatrical performance? If children aren't allowed to enter a strip club, or even a nightclub for that matter, until the age of eighteen, how is it alright for toddlers to be entertained by highly sexualized drag performers? Would you allow scantily dressed erotic dancers or strippers to perform at your child's birthday party? Shouldn't the mothers who attended CabaBabaRave with their children be held accountable for negligence, for exposing young children to sexualized content even before they could memorize

their ABCs? Videos shared widely on social media shows a performer attired in bondage harness, wearing knee high boots, performing acrobatic sequences from straps dangling from the ceiling, and another video highlights an artist performing a handstand on a chair whilst wearing only a pair of stilettos and a thong. The performers were also named after various sex acts. Shocked netizens were up in arms after video footage of the event went viral online.

British actress, **Amanda Abbington** tweeted, "Nah, I'm really broadminded, but nah. This is not for babies, and if you think it is, there is something fundamentally wrong with you." When supporters of the performance trolled the actress on Twitter and accused her of being 'transphobic,' she responded with a second tweet. "I lost quite a few followers for saying that a semi-naked man in high-high boots dancing in a highly sexualized way shouldn't be performing in front of babies and it tells me everything I need to know about where society is heading. How do you not agree with me on this?" Media personality, **Dominique Samuels** joined the conversation and tweeted, "stop the sexualisation of kids! Absolutely abhorrent. There is nothing 'bigoted' or 'far-right' about protecting the innocence of children, and I will continue to shout from the rooftops about this until something is done." The second performance was subsequently cancelled owing to the public outcry. Supporters of the show expressed their outrage at the cancellation and called it, 'homophobic' and 'lack of diversity and inclusion,' and even compared the event to a Christmas Pantomime. So now we need to expose



“I have no idea why you want drag queens to read books to your children. Would you want a stripper or a porn star to influence your child? It makes no sense at all. A drag queen performs in a nightclub for adults. There is a lot of filth that goes on, a lot of sexual stuff that goes on, and backstage there’s a lot of nudity and sex and drugs. OK? So, I don’t think this is an avenue that you would want your child to explore.”

- Kitty Demure -

Commenting on the on-going debate, **Claire Loneragan** from the **Women’s Rights Network**, UK, stated, ‘drag is misogynistic and drag performers frequently reduce women to hyper-sexualized, big-breasted, big-haired bimbos. It also gives a very reductive vision of gay men. And even if sexualized behavior is toned down, children are also quite able to look things up on the internet.’ She further added, controversial Drag Queen artist Aida H Dee, ‘is not a qualified counsellor. How is he being allowed this kind of access and influence?’ **British MP Sara Britcliffe** tweeted her opinion and referred to the events as being, ‘wholly inappropriate.’

Interestingly, it wasn’t just concerned parents who were against these events. Popular American Drag Queen, **Kitty Demure**, via a video shared on social media stated, ‘I have no idea why you want drag queens to read books to your children. Would you want a stripper or a porn star to influence your child? It makes no sense at all. A drag queen performs in a nightclub for adults. There is a lot of filth that goes on, a lot of sexual stuff that goes on, and backstage there’s a lot of nudity and sex and drugs. OK? So, I don’t think this is an avenue that you would want your child to explore.’

Since the launch of Drag Queen Story Hour in 2015, several other events targeting children below the age of twelve have been held across the US and UK, including shows such as, Bring Baby Drag Bingo, Drag Queen Kids Klub, and Drag Queen Brunch. All these events have been met with protests by outraged citizens. A recent event in Minnesota had a performer dressed in a miniskirt, crop top and high heels flash his male genitalia at a group of toddlers. In another similar event held in California, a Drag Queen scantily attired wearing knee-high boots and exposing much of his buttocks, was filmed teaching a girl child to dance for money. He was caught on camera talking to the child and saying, ‘look how much money you just made.’ At another controversial event held in Washington DC, an artist was filmed performing a strip-tease act to an audience of children below the age of eighteen. The list is endless. At yet another Drag Queen Story Hour session held at the Houston Public Library, it later surfaced that one of the storytellers was a registered child sex offender who had been convicted of sexually assaulting a child aged eight in 2008. The library immediately issued a statement apologizing and stated that it ‘failed to complete a background check as required,’ thereby leading to a man posing as a drag queen. They further added, ‘in our review of our process and of this participant, we discovered that we failed to complete a background check as required by our own guidelines. We deeply regret this oversight and the concern this may cause our customers. We realize this is a serious matter.’

Across the Atlantic, in the UK, horrific footage emerged last week from a Drag Brunch organized for parents and children at a South London Pub. The performance at the Honor Oak Pub in Lewisham, South London was horrifying to say the least. In leaked video footage shared widely on social media a Drag Queen can be seen bunched up his mini skirt to do splits and gyrate on the floor wearing PVC boots, whilst a young girl watches on and the adult’s cheer. Stories such as these make my skin crawl! I am shocked that responsible parents would allow their children to be exposed to such atrocious acts in the name of being ‘woke’ and ‘inclusive.’ There are many other ways to be inclusive, tolerant, and respectful of all living beings irrespective of their race, religion, caste, class, or sexual orientation. There is absolutely no need to expose children to such crude content. We all have a shared responsibility as adults to protect all children and to speak up when we see them being harmed.



TODAY'S CLASS: TWERK IT. SHAKE IT. MOVE IT.

TUCKER CARLSON TONIGHT

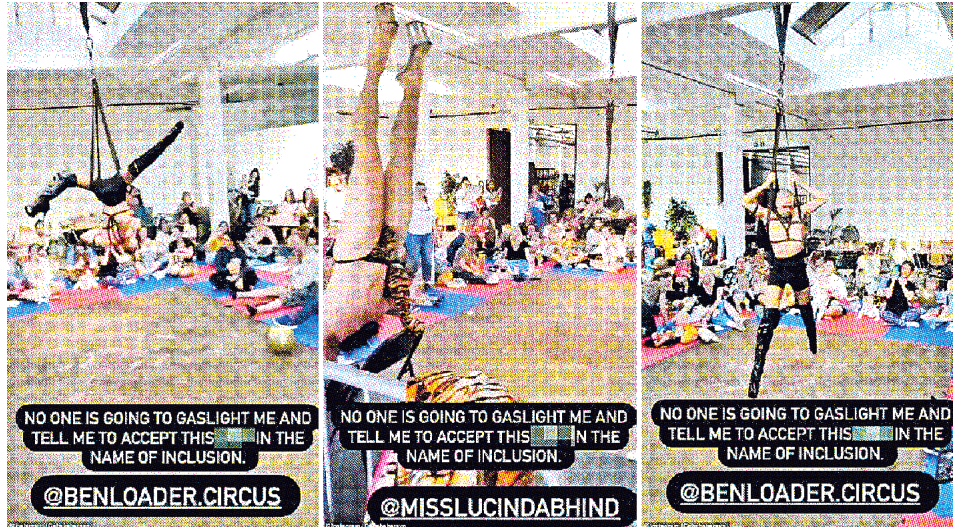
& Juliet

A friend and I recently went to watch the much-publicized West End musical, ‘& Juliet’ one cold wintery evening. Having seen posters advertising this musical across London, we were both quite excited to say the least. ‘& Juliet’ is a musical based on the question, ‘what if Romeo died, but Juliet lived on,’ and follows the journey of Juliet and her transgender best friend as they travel from Italy to France. The music was fabulous, and we did enjoy most parts of this musical, however, we both left the theatre that evening quite disappointed. I am all for Girl Power and women being independent and carving a life and identity without being stitched to a man. But what I couldn’t fathom was the need for the writers of this musical to strip apart the historic character, Romeo. Romeo, who eventually wakes up and comes to France searching for Juliet, is portrayed as an effeminate man attired in a pink biker jacket and a floral pink backpack. He is made to perform lines that identify him as being a liar, unfaithful and a playboy, insinuating he is incapable of being in a monogamous relationship. Meanwhile, the musical progresses to show Juliet falling in love with a French man who later realizes he is in fact gay and in love with her transgender best friend. Great storyline, modern and in tune with current times, however, what we both couldn’t fathom was the Director’s desire to rip Romeo apart. Is it now a crime to be a heterosexual male or to be in a heterosexual relationship? What was the need to shred an iconic heterosexual romance penned by William Shakespeare? Would the LGBTIQ community have appreciated if an historic and iconic LGBTIQ story was edited in such a manner? There have been plenty of beautiful LGBTIQ romances captured in both TV and Cinema. Be it the on-going developing relationship between Reese Witherspoon’s character Bradley Jackson and Julianna Margulies character Laura Peterson in the popular Apple TV drama, The Morning Show, or the romance between Prince Willem and Simón on the popular teen-drama, Young Royals on Netflix. These are all original screenplays written with new fresh characters that viewers connect with and enjoy watching their stories unfold episode after episode.

If we are to evolve as being truly inclusive and progressive, we must first ensure there is equality amongst all living beings. Mutual love and respect must be inculcated at a young age. However, this must not be at the expense of one community over the other. I am against the idea of allowing transgender women to compete in women’s sports. It’s simple biology, men are physically stronger than women, and it’s not fair to allow a transgender female to have a competitive edge over cisgender females, even if they have undergone gender altering surgery or medical treatment for many years prior to competing under the women’s category. Even **Caitlyn Jenner**, former Olympic gold medalist, stated in an interview in 2021 that she opposes trans girls participating in women’s sports. Caitlyn who came out as a trans woman in 2015, stated, ‘it just isn’t fair, and we have to protect girls’ sports in our schools.’ I personally feel it would be more appropriate to include a third category, male, female, and an open category at sporting events. Have an equal platform for all. That way we also ensure all beings have an equal fair chance of succeeding. Why trample upon female rights in the name of transgender rights?

If cisgender females are uncomfortable sharing a locker room with transgender females, why force them to accept the situation? Wouldn’t it be better to have a third category of locker rooms and washrooms in public spaces? Perhaps it’s time the world identified a third gender category?

New rules enacted in the UK, ban trans women with male genitalia from female prisons in England and Wales. The ban also applies to trans women who are sex offenders or have been convicted of violent crimes and will be applicable irrespective of the individual being in possession of a Gender Recognition Certificate. The rules were established after the case of Isla Bryson in Scotland; a trans woman who was found guilty of two counts of rape before she changed her gender. She transitioned from a man to a woman while awaiting trial. She was initially placed in a female prison but following outcry from the public she was switched to a male prison. Another similar case was that of Katie Dolatowski, a twenty-two-year-old trans woman who was convicted for sexually assaulting a ten-year-old girl in a supermarket washroom, and for filming a twelve-year-old girl using the loo at another supermarket. She too was originally placed in a women’s prison and then switched to a men’s prison. This brings me back to my comment in the previous paragraph; perhaps it’s time the world identified a third gender category? Men, Women and Open.



Gender Affirmation Surgery

Another conversation that has been met with fierce opposition across the US recently is the topic of Gender Affirmation Surgery performed on minors. Gender-affirming surgery is a surgical procedure, or series of procedures, that alters a transgender or transsexual person’s physical appearance and sexual characteristics to resemble those associated with their identified gender. Progressive treatment that undoubtedly should be freely available to consenting adults. However, should the same treatments be performed on children below the age of eighteen, even with their parent’s consent? I personally don’t think it should be allowed. Children should be allowed to be free and should be encouraged to be themselves, be it heterosexual or otherwise. They should be allowed to freely decide for themselves after they have reached the legal age of being considered an adult. How is it alright for children to be prescribed puberty blockers when they are merely eight or nine years of age? When a child cannot legally pay and obtain any cosmetic surgery prior to the age of eighteen, how is it alright for a child to undergo gender-affirming surgery?

In an interview aired by Fox News on the 3rd of March 2023, parents of ten-year-old transgender girl Kiernan stated that, ‘our daughter is ten years old. She started letting us know she was transgender really before she could even speak. She would do things like wear her sister’s clothes, pretend that towels were long hair and when she was about three years old, she started to withdraw and become depressed, so we started doing some research.’ Would a child really know at the age of three what he or she would like to be identified as for the rest of their lives? Children grow up experimenting and going through different phases throughout their childhood years. Haven’t we all played with our brother’s toys and attempted to dress younger male cousins as girls? Applied make up on their faces and painted their fingernails in pretty colours? I know I have. Long Sunday lunches at my grandma’s house always included a performance of sorts rehearsed and staged by us cousins. Being the eldest granddaughter of the family, I took my role quite seriously. I would select which games we all played, which story we rehearsed and performed, which songs we sang and even picked the music we danced to. I would love to play dress up with my younger cousins and would happily dab makeup on the boys without a second thought. Even in school, for one class assembly we had great fun dressing five of our male classmates as the Spice Girls. We dressed them up exactly like each member of the popular 90’s girl band, from pretty dresses to wigs and plenty of makeup and taught the boys how to do a synchronized dance act for the song, ‘Wannabe.’ This was the most popular performance that year. I have friends who went through tomboy phases growing up and only wanted to wear boy shorts and Sri Lanka cricket tee shirts, but as young adults they ditched this look and are today amongst the best dressed ladies in society. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt’s daughter Shiloh Jolie-Pitt wanted to be referred to as ‘Peter’ when she was younger. It was reported that she is a fan of the children’s classic tale Peter Pan and hence wanted to be referred to as Peter and was often photographed attired in boys clothing. Fast forward to 2021, Shiloh was photographed attending the ‘Eternals’ movie premier with her mother attired in a beautiful vintage Christian Dior dress. Shiloh has since then been photographed on the red carpet at various events attired in feminine outfits that confirm her desire to be identified as a girl. Hence, why I believe it’s imperative that we allow children to be children and give them a safe space to enjoy their childhood without assuming and making life altering decisions for them prematurely.

As of end 2022, at least twenty-two states across the US have introduced bills to criminalize or ban access to puberty blockers, hormone treatments and

transition-related surgeries for transgender minors. In 2021, Arkansas became the first state to pass the country’s first ban on gender-affirming medical treatments for transgender youth. Earlier this month, the Governor of Tennessee signed laws banning drag performances in front of children and restricting medical treatment for transgender youth. The bill prohibits health care providers, ‘from performing on a minor or administering to a minor a medical procedure if the performance or administration of the procedure is for the purpose of enabling a minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor’s sex.’ It further states that minors who receive care cannot be held liable but lawsuits could be brought up against parents, ‘if the parent of the minor consented to the conduct that constituted the violation on behalf of the minor.’ Furthermore, this newly signed law also imposes fines on health care professionals who provide the care.

Wouldn’t it be more advisable to allow children to grow up in a safe environment where they will be loved and treated as equals irrespective of their sexual orientation? If they want to dress in a particular way, so be it. If they want to grow their hair or cut their hair, then allow it. If they want to change their names, go for it. Let them explore their personal journey in a safe environment and decide for themselves as adults if they want to undergo permanent, life altering medical treatment. These are choices individuals should be allowed to make as consenting adults and not choices parents should be making on their behalf.

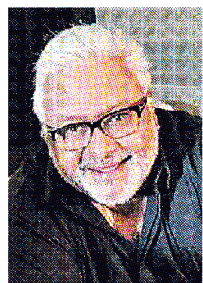
This is a slippery slope, imagine the number of parents who would explore this option should it be freely available in countries that place a lower value on the life of a girl child? Children will be forcefully transitioned without their consent or a clear understanding. Wanting to include different opinions I contacted Celebrity Chef, **Hemalalindre Ranawaka** (Kolu), renowned Fashion Designer, **Dinesh Chandrasena**, leading Child Rights Activist, **Dr. Tush Wickramanayaka** and popular Psychology Teacher and Counsellor, **Shihani De Soysa**, and invited them to share their thoughts.

Dinesh Chandrasena
Fashion Designer



“Any life altering decision should be made by an adult regarding themselves. Be it diet, cosmetic surgery, gender reassignment, etc. Educated decisions ensconced in forethought based on one’s own requirements, ethics and codes can only be made by an adult.”

Hemalalindre Ranawaka
(Kolu)
Celebrity Chef



“There are no hormonal differences among prepubertal children,” Joshua Safer, Mount Sinai Centre for Transgender Medicine and Surgery, New York City. Therefore, instead of directing children through a specific course of gender transition before puberty, the process of gender development should be supported. I believe that rather than predicting or preventing who a child might become, it is better to value them for who they are now, including at a very young age. Once children are older, and if the incompatibility between the sex assigned to them at birth and their experienced gender has persisted, then a discussion of medical transition can occur.”

Dr. Tush Wickramanayaka
Chairperson, Stop Child Cruelty Trust



“The global definition of a child is a person below the age of eighteen years. A child is the most vulnerable member of a community in any country and requires the attention and protection from adults. Any decision

made relating to children must conform to the global principle of child protection, in the best interest of the child. Identifying one’s individuality can be confusing and challenging, especially during the teenage years. Gender identity for some can be daunting with the natural sexual curiosity that develops during adolescence. ‘Gillick Competence’ - is a recognized rule of medical practice when children under the age of sixteen can consent to their own treatment if they’re believed to have enough intelligence, competence and understanding to fully appreciate what’s involved in their treatment. This is known as being Gillick competent. Otherwise, someone with parental responsibility can consent for them. Whilst some decisions on medical treatment, such as contraceptive treatment, dental treatment, etc. can be made by a Gillick competent child, decisions that affect their lives permanently may not. Let’s be realistic, even adults find it difficult to make life changing decisions at the best of times. In a landmark case in UK in 2020, Kiera Bell, a twenty-year-old transgender woman in a case in the High Court against the NHS Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) that offered Bell puberty blockers at the age of sixteen years. The court heard, ‘Bell had a double mastectomy aged twenty, and now regrets transitioning, which has left her with no breasts, a deep voice, body hair, a beard and affected sexual function. She may well be infertile as a side effect of the drugs.’ Kiera was regretful of her decision and was convinced she was not appropriately counselled before receiving puberty blocking therapy. GIDS, the only NHS transgender service halted all treatment. However, the original decision was overturned by the Court of Appeal, UK in 2021 and the guidance on puberty blockers was quashed. The Court of Appeal ruled that the High Court should not have issued guidance on the Gillick test and puberty blockers because it was, ‘for clinicians to exercise their judgement,’ in relation to puberty blocking treatment.

This historical landmark case has opened a wider debate across geographical borders by rights groups and law makers on gender transformation therapy. Whilst the debate on legal and moral ramifications of a minor making decisions is ongoing, a child experiencing gender distress needs time and support, not to be set on a medical pathway they may later regret. As a mother, physician, and human rights defender, I strongly believe that all decisions made relating to children must be in the best interest of the child.”

Shihani De Soysa
Msc. C.A.M.H, CBT & AAC
Senior Psychology Teacher and Counsellor



“There’s a legal argument here which is obvious that children under the age of 18 cannot give consent to a medical procedure. There are exceptions to this in different countries where the child can be deemed Gillick competent where the court decides that the child can make a sound medical decision for

themselves. When looking at gender reassignment now better known as gender affirming surgery, as a mental health practitioner, I feel the number one priority should be to ensure that the child is not made to feel like they are irrelevant in this process. Even if they are not able to give consent to a medical procedure, it’s crucial that they feel supported and heard through this journey which may or may not end in gender affirming surgery. But a sure way of assuring that a child makes a decision that you don’t want them to make, is to say they CANNOT do something. This will only create resentment and distance between parent and child, at a time where a child needs the parents the most. So instead of using language that asserts the parent’s authority and power over the child, using an approach that says, ‘I hear you and I understand, however, there are some things that we need to think about’, and using dialogue and open communication with the child might be the better way to deal with this. From all the chats I have had with students one of the main things they say when asked about what they wished parents did differently is, ‘I wish they just explained that to us.’ Sometimes, keeping the lines of communication open is all it might take to avoid conflict. Once parent and child are on the same page, the process and what is in the child’s best interest becomes the focus and the right steps from seeking a mental health assessment in order to assess for gender dysphoria followed by right next steps all fall into place. Hence, in my opinion, the focus needs to be on the child. So, for an example, if it is in their best interest to have gender affirming surgery, and if the law does not allow it until they’re 18 years of age, then it is the responsibility of the adults in that child’s life to help them cope with the possible stressors that might come with that. Be in through counselling or support groups or being accepting in general.”

SPORTS

CONWAY HITS 78 AS NEW ZEALAND DIG IN ON OPENING DAY AGAINST SRI LANKA

Devon Conway's blistering 78 helped hosts New Zealand race to 155-2 against Sri Lanka at the end of a rain-delayed opening day of the second Test yesterday in Wellington.

Conway fell short of a hundred as he was caught and bowled by Dhananjaya de Silva, who dived low to his right to get both hands on a superb catch, to end a thrilling 108-ball knock.

First-Test hero Kane Williamson was unbeaten on 26 alongside Henry Nicholls on 18 when bad light stopped play at the Basin Reserve after Sri Lanka won the toss and put New Zealand in to bat in blustery conditions.

"I was gutted to get out when I did, I had put in all the hard work," Conway said.

"Those are the ones you want to kick on and make the most of it on day one. We just have to focus on tomorrow now." New Zealand started strong, with Conway and Tom Latham putting on an opening partnership of 87, after the 2,500th Test match in cricket history was hit by a damp start.

Heavy overnight rain delayed the toss until after lunch.

Latham fell for 21 around the halfway point of

Official Sponsor of the National Cricket Team

New Zealand

1ST INNINGS

T. Latham c Jayasuriya b Rajitha	21
D. Conway c & b de Silva	78
K. Williamson not out	26
H. Nicholls not out	18
EXTRAS : (1nb, 1w, 10lb)	12
TOTAL : (2 wickets, 48 overs)	155
FALL OF WICKETS : 87-1, 118-2	
BOWLING : K. Rajitha 16-3-42-1, A. Fernando 12-4-33-0, L. Kumara 10-1-49-0, D. de Silva 8-3-18-1, P. Jayasuriya 2-0-3-0	



New Zealand's Devon Conway celebrates 50 runs on day one of the second Test cricket match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in Wellington.

the day's curtailed proceedings when he spooned a Kasun Rajitha delivery to deep square, into the hands of Prabath Jayasuriya.

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne opted to give his bowlers an early opportunity to use a green wicket to attack the New Zealand batters.

Conway responded by smashing 13 fours in a fiery knock.

Sri Lanka made one change from the team that lost the first Test on the final ball in Christchurch,

with wicketkeeper Nishan Madushka making his debut in place of Niroshan Dickwella.

New Zealand were forced into a single switch with seamer Doug Bracewell playing his first Test since 2016, replacing Neil Wagner, who tore a hamstring in the first Test. It is the first time Bracewell has played a Test match alongside his cousin Michael.

(AFP)

DailyMirror SPORTS EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL

- Cricket: **ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP** New Zealand vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test - Day 2 - (Wellington)
- IRELAND IN BANGLADESH ODI SERIES** 1st ODI (D/N) - (Sylhet)
- WEST INDIES IN SOUTH AFRICA ODI SERIES** 2nd ODI (D/N) - (East London)
- Football: **PREMIER LEAGUE** Aston Villa vs Bournemouth (Villa Park) Brentford vs Leicester (Gtech Community Stadium) Southampton vs Tottenham (St. Mary's Stadium) Wolves vs Leeds (Molineux Stadium) Chelsea vs Everton (Stamford Bridge)

LOCAL

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

DM SportsDesk

Royal in command, S. Thomas' in dire straits

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Royal College continued their domination on day two of the 144th Battle of the Blues encounter against traditional rivals S. Thomas' College as they ended in a commanding position and had the Thomians in dire straits and struggling for survival at the SSC ground.

Royal skipper Dasis Manchanayake put in another fine batting display following his top knock of 137 in the first inning, when he hit a quick-fire 57 in 49 balls that included six boundaries to become the first Royal captain to score a ton and a half ton in the same encounter.

The morning session of play on day two saw Royal making a declaration on their overnight score of 326 for 8 and then having the Thomians in a spot of

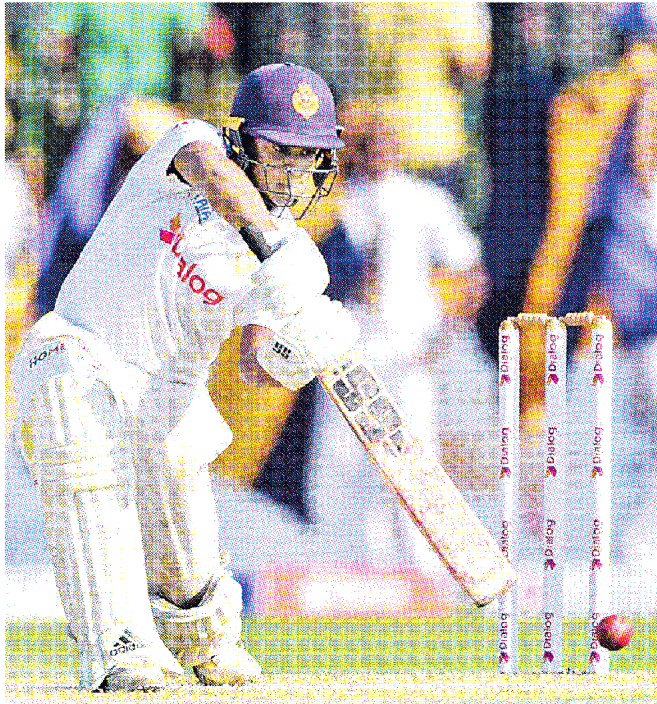
bother.

The sea side boys had an inauspicious start as they lost the first two wickets with just 27 runs on the board.

The Royal bowling pair of Bulan Weeratunga and Ranuka Malaviarachchi made things tough for the Thomians as they ran through the batting and have them struggling on 107 for 5.

The late order batting too failed to make any impression as Sandesh Ramanayake and Sineth Jayawardena shared four wickets between them to bundle out the Thomians for a low score of 153 runs.

Royal took the option of batting the second time, and after losing two early wickets skipper Manchanayake came to their rescue as he along with Uvindu Weerasekera put on a valuable 72-run partnership which was followed by Ramiru Perera and Savindu Senaratharatchi sharing an unbroken stand of 53 runs for the fifth wicket for Royal to end day on 168 for 4 for an overall lead of 316 runs.



Royal skipper Dasis Manchanayake became the first Royal captain to make a ton and a half ton.



Akash Fernando bagged four scalps in Royals second innings. Pictures by Kushan Pathiraja

Royal

ROYAL 1ST INNINGS (DASIS MANCHANAYAKE 137, RAMIRU PERERA 128, OVINA AMBANPOLA 20; AKASH FERNANDO 4/55, KAVINDA DIAS 3/58) 326/8 DECLARED

ROYAL 2ND INNINGS

O. Ambanpola c Mendis b Fernando	05
S. Jayawardena lbw b Fernando	04
U. Weerasekera b Fernando	28
D. Manchanayake b Fernando	57
R. Perera not out	46
S. Senaratharatchi not out	11
EXTRAS (b6, lb5, nb2, w4)	17
TOTAL (4 wicket: 25 overs)	168
FALL OF WICKETS - 1-5, 2-13, 3-85, 4-115	
BOWLING - N. Caldera 9-0-28-0, A. Fernando 9-0-59-4, K. Dias 6-0-39-0, D. Goonewardena 3-0-16-0, C. Peiris 1-0-15-0	

S. Thomas

1ST INNINGS

S. Bulankulame c Senaratharatchi b Mallawaarachchi	40
T. Eheliyagoda c Ramanayake b Weeratunga	05
D. Goonewardena lbw b Ramanayake	10
R. Mendis c Ramanayake b Malaviarachchi	04
N. Caldera c Manchanayake b Perera	20
C. Peiris c Jayawardena b Ramanayake	17
M. Perera c Senaratharatchi b Weeratunga	30
S. Hettiarachchi c (sub) Polonowita b Jayawardena	09
A. Fernando not out	01
K. Dias st Senaratharatchi b Jayawardena	00
A. Paranawidana b Weeratunga	00
EXTRAS (b4, lb2, nb2, w9)	17
TOTAL (all out: 55 overs)	153
FALL OF WICKET - 1-6, 2-27, 3-45, 4-83, 5-107, 6-130, 7-151, 8-151, 9-152, 10-153/	
BOWLING - R. Mallawaarachchi 12-1-35-2, B. Weeratunga 14-6-26-3, S. Ramanayake 10-0-36-2, D. Manchanayake 2-0-11-0, R. Perera 10-1-30-1, S. Jayawardena 7-3-9-2	

Induwara, Kalupahana shine for Mahinda on day one

Skipper Dhanuja Induwara and Sri Lanka Under 19 player Dinura Kalupahana shone for Mahinda College on day one of the 118th Battle of Lovess Quarrel against traditional rivals Richmond College played at the Galle International Stadium.

Induwara made a 120-ball knock of 101

that included eight boundaries and a six while Kalupahana hit a breezy 75 in 59 balls which had 11 boundaries and a six and shared an opening wicket stand of 109 runs with Pramesh Madubashana for Mahinda taking first lease of the wicket to make a formidable score of 316 for 8 declared.

Richmond in their turn facing 20.3 overs ended the day on 74 for 3. The match will be continued today. (MSA)

Mahinda

MAHINDA 1ST INNINGS

D. Kalupahana c Nirmal b Abishek	75
P. Madubashana lbw b Tharupathi	38
D. Induwara lbw b Tharupathi	101
R. Hettiarachchi lbw b Koththigoda	16
H. Mandila c Manohara b Nirmal	30
H. Achintha b Nirmal	03
T. Dilshan run out	05
C. de Silva not out	20
S. Hasaranga st Kaushal b Nirmal	18
EXTRAS (lb2, nb5, w3)	10
TOTAL (8 wickets decl. 73.5 overs)	316
FALL OF WICKETS - 1-109, 2-137, 3-179, 4-239, 5-243, 6-270, 7-288, 8-316	
BOWLING - K. Nirmana 11-0-43-0, S. Ramanayake 7-0-36-0, Y. Koththigoda 9-1-46-1, M. Tharupathi 19-3-78-2, S. Abishek 6-0-33-1, T. Nirmal 21-5-27-8, 3	

Richmond

RICHMOND 1ST INNINGS

C. Subasinghe lbw b Rukshan	50
B. Manohara c Udayanga b Hasaranga	00
T. Pradeeptha not out	09
S. Abishek c Induwara b Rukshan	00
T. Nirmal not out	06
EXTRAS (lb1, nb3, w5)	09
TOTAL (3 wickets: 20.3 overs)	74
FALL OF WICKET - 1-5, 2-68, 3-68	
BOWLING - S. Hasaranga 6-0-18-1, D. Kalupahana 4-1-16-0, D. Induwara 2-0-10-0, T. Dilshan 4-0-14-0, A. Udayanga 2-0-10-0, K. Rukshan 2-0-10-2, H. Mandila 0.3-0-1-0	

Janishka, Imtiyaz guide Moors SC to final

A fine knock of 72 inclusive of five boundaries and a six-wicket haul by Imtiyaz Slaza helped Moors SC to record a comfortable first innings win over SCC in the Major Club Under 23 semi-final encounter played at the Colts ground.

The second day's proceedings saw Moors SC resuming from their overnight score of 137 for 4 and Janishka's knock along with a valuable partnership of 48 runs for the ninth wicket between Sisitha Madanayake and Deshan Gamage enabled them to make a score of 239 for 9 declared.

SSC in their turn in their early stages of the innings found Slaza too hot to handle and lost their top five wickets for 51.

Despite skipper Nipun Dhananjaya and Sasindu Madanayake sharing a brief stand of 35 runs for

the sixth wicket the others failed to make any impression as they were able to muster a score of only 151 runs which ensured Moors SC the berth to the final and will confront Ragama CC. (MSA)

Result:
At Colts - First innings win for Moors SC Moors SC (137/4 overnight) 239 for 9 declared (Janishka Perera 72, Razeen Ramlan 38, Deshan Gamage 22, Shakour Razni 16, Dinuka Dilshan 15, Risira Weerasuriya 15, Sisitha Madanayake 34 n.o., Nimmaka Jayatileke 5 for 55, Kalana Perera 3 for 63)

SSC 151 (Nipun Dhananjaya 57, Sasindu Malshan 34, Kalana Perera 25, Akmal Fazly 19; Imtiyaz Salza 6 for 93, Theesan Vithusan 2 for 28)

(MSA)

Sharujan stars, misses out on a ton

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Sharujan Shanmuganathan stole the day one limelight in the 3rd Rev Fr James Cartman Trophy encounter as St. Benedict's took command against traditional rivals Wesley College at the P.Sara Stadium.

Shanmuganathan was unfortunate to miss out on a ton by two runs as he was stuck on 98 when the 65 overs of batting came to an end.

Shanmuganathan's knock came off 122 balls which had seven boundaries and a six.

Earlier in the day Viduneth Wilson and Sheron Kannangara made half tons for St. Benedict's taking first lease of the wicket to make 298 for 7.

Wesley helped by an unbeaten half ton by Uvin Perera ended the day on 112 for 3. The match will be continued today.

St. Benedict's

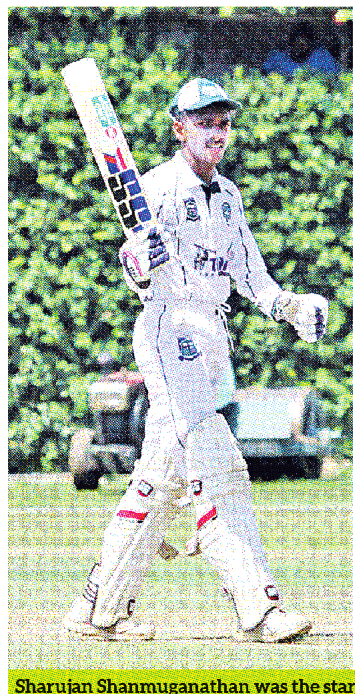
ST BENEDICT'S 1ST INNINGS

V. Wilson b Sigeru	73
S. Kannangara lbw b Minon	68
S. Shanmuganathan not out	98
S. Samararatunga c Subasinghe b Minon	14
K. Himsara c Wieman b Sigeru	08
C. Chathura c Yapa b Minon	18
H. Joseph c Sigeru b Minon	06
V. Aththanayake run out	02
M. Dissanayake not out	01
EXTRAS (b1, lb2, nb5, w2)	10
TOTAL (7 wickets: 65 overs)	298
FALL OF WICKETS - 1-125, 2-178, 3-195, 4-212, 5-265, 6-280, 7-294	
BOWLING - S. Amarasinghe 5-0-29-0, U. Perera 3-0-17-0, J. Weiman 9-4-30-0, S. Minon 27-1-99-3, L. Subasinghe 6-0-44-0, R. Sigeru 15-2-0-76-2	

Wesley

WESLEY 1ST INNINGS

S. Amarasinghe c Dissanayake b Semila	23
A. Isira c Samararatunga b Chathura	05
L. Subasinghe c Joseph b Chathura	00
U. Perera not out	55
A. Pahansara not out	29
EXTRAS	00
TOTAL (3 wickets: 33 overs)	112
FALL OF WICKETS - 1-10, 2-19, 3-38	
BOWLING - D. Semila 6-0-38-1, C. Chathura 11-3-34-2, V. Aththanayake 6-2-11-0, M. Dissanayake 9-0-31-0, O. Michael 1-0-3-0	



Sharujan Shanmuganathan was the star for St. Benedict's pix by Pradeep Dilrucksana

3rd Bangabandhu International Invitation Kabaddi Tournament Sri Lanka rout Indonesia for third win

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sri Lanka trounced Indonesia by 26 points in the 3rd Bangabandhu International Invitation Kabaddi Tournament yesterday (17).

This tournament is being held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the participation of 12 countries.

The 47-21 rout of Indonesia was Sri Lanka's third consecutive victory in the tournament.

Sri Lanka, which has completed four matches in Group 'A' managed to win against Malaysia (41-39),

Chinese Taipei (45-26), and Indonesia (47-21), but lost their opening match against Thailand 32-36.

Sri Lanka will take on the strong Kenya team today (18) in their final match of the preliminary round.

Results:
Bangladesh beat England 55-27
Kenya beat Malaysia 81-26
Nepal beat Argentina 62-28
Chinese Taipei beat Thailand 40-28
Sri Lanka beat Indonesia 47-21



Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market P10

People's Bank says well equipped to serve both public and private sector customers

Says not received any direct or indirect request or instructions from any state institution to close their accounts with bank

People's Bank yesterday said it had not received any direct or indirect request or instructions from any state institution to close their accounts with the bank. The state-owned lender said this in response to the media

reports, which stated certain state institutions were considering withdrawing their accounts from People's Bank. "We wish to strongly emphasise that People's Bank has always been a trusted partner for state

organisations in providing reliable banking services, including instances where such services were provided at the expense of profitability, in order to serve the country's best interests," the Marketing Department of People's

Bank said in a brief media release. "Our institution is well equipped to meet the financial needs of all our public and private sector customers and we have a strong track record of providing customised banking solutions

that cater to their unique requirements. We take this opportunity to thank our customers for their continued trust in us and look forward to serving them with our full commitment and dedication," it added.

Local marketers confident in fixing Sri Lanka's falling brand

Bring together branding experts, business leaders and policy influencers by launching 'Brand Sri Lanka Creation Symposium'

Express confidence in having resources to rectify Sri Lanka's image with a branding strategy and not necessarily a marketing campaign

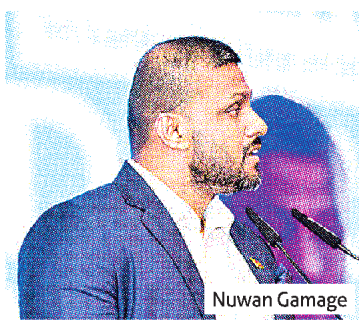
Outcome is to enable world to see Sri Lanka through a new paradigm

Stresses need for policymakers to join in an effort to make initiative effective



Inaugural Brand Sri Lanka Creation Symposium entailed a panel discussion which featured (from left) Brand Finance Place Branding Director Konrad Jagodzinski, Rich Life Dairies Ltd Chief Operating Officer Dinesh Nalliah, Advocata Institute CEO Dhananath Fernando, SLIM Immediate Past President Thilanka and SLIM Past President and Brand Finance Chairman Ruchi Gunewardene

Sri Lanka is in dire need to correct its image in the eyes of the international community, given the negative sentiments that are still largely prevalent, as stepping up efforts in this regard is the marketing fraternity of the country. The national body of marketers, the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), kicked off a fresh initiative that will focus on rebranding the island nation. The institution unveiled the inaugural 'Brand Sri Lanka Creation Symposium' by bringing together the experts in branding, business leaders and policy influencers, to roll out the endeavour. Accordingly, efforts are underway to explore and pool in innovative ideas and strategies



that can help crisis-struck Sri Lanka to stand out, as it looks to start a new chapter in its economic development and growth agenda. As several attempts by diverse stakeholders in appropriately branding the island nation have failed in the recent past, SLIM



expressed confidence in having what it takes to fix Sri Lanka's image in a global context. "We have the resources to rectify that (Sri Lanka's image) with a powerful nation branding strategy, which is not necessarily a marketing campaign."



Indian Railway recommences Buddhist circuit tourist train

In an effort to promote pilgrimage tourism, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation recommended the Buddhist circuit tourist train, on the Bharat Gaurav Trains concept. The Buddhist tourist train will cover nine destinations associated with the life of Lord Buddha, across India and Nepal. For the first time after the Covid-19 pandemic, the seven-night and eight-day tour kicked off on March 11, from Delhi Safdarjung

Railway Station. The tour will conclude today (18), at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station. The Buddhist circuit tourist train has a seating capacity to accommodate 98 persons in First Class (AC) and 60 in Second Class (AC). The full tour is packaged at US \$ 1,368, First Class and US \$ 1,144, Second Class. On day one, the train starts from Delhi and reaches Bodhgaya on day two and Nalanda on day three.

On day four, the train will reach the holy city of Varanasi and on day five, enters Lumbini, Nepal. On day six, tourists will be able to explore the pilgrimage centre of Kushinagar, known as the place where Lord Buddha attained Nirvana. On day seven, the train will make a stop at Shravasti, the capital of the ancient Indian kingdom of Kosala. On the final day of the tour (day eight), the train will enter Agram, a popular city in Uttar Pradesh.

Covid tests for China travellers to England to end

BBC: Covid testing for travellers coming to England from China will end, the UK government has announced. Voluntary on-arrival testing was introduced in January in a bid to detect any new variants arriving from China. The government said an average of 99 people per flight had been tested, totalling 3,374 passengers. During that period, 14 positive cases were identified but none was deemed to be a variant of concern. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) said from Friday, March 17 "passengers aged 18 or over travelling from mainland China and arriving at Heathrow Airport will no longer be invited to take a voluntary test on arrival". It added that from April 5, no-one flying from China to

the UK will need a negative pre-departure test. The DHSC said China was sharing more information around testing, vaccination and genomic sequencing results, providing greater transparency on its domestic disease levels. It said the latest data indicated that Covid variants observed in China were "the same as those already circulating in the UK". The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention also reported that all regions had passed their infection peak, the DHSC said. "The ending of this enhanced surveillance is in line with international partners such as the EU who are reducing border measures to monitor new variants from China," it added.

MOREON P10

Improved demand at Colombo Tea Auction this week

Correction in parity rate between rupee/US dollar helped in overall strengthening of tea prices this week



A total of 5.1 MnKgs came under the hammer at this week's Colombo Tea Auction, which was met with improved demand, particularly as the sale progressed. "Perhaps a correction in the parity rate between the Sri Lanka rupee/US dollar would no doubt have helped in the overall strengthening of the tea prices this week," said Forbes and Walker Tea Brokers in its latest tea auction report. At last week's tea auction, substantial quantities went unsold, due to the sudden appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar.

This week, the Ex-Estate offerings comprised of 0.74 MnKgs. Here again, there was improved demand and particularly a stronger tone at the lower end of the market. The Best Western BOP/BOPFs were firm and up to Rs.50 per kg and Rs.100 per kg dearer, respectively, with a few select invoices gaining further, following special inquiry. In the Below Best category, the better BOPs appreciated up to Rs.50 per kg, whilst the others together with the teas at the lower end of the market gained further.

MOREON P10



Stroll around a buzzing Colombo Fort

A group of foreign tourists is seen taking a break from their stroll around Colombo Fort. Tourist arrivals to destination Sri Lanka are picking up and gathering momentum. The latest available data from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority shows that for the month of March, the number of international visitors has crossed the 60,000 mark for the first 15 days, bringing the cumulative arrivals for the January 01 to March 15 period to 271,068.

PIC BY PRADEEP PATHIRANA

Global markets rebound after US lenders rescue First Republic Bank

CNN: Markets in Europe and Asia rebounded yesterday after First Republic Bank was rescued by a group of major US lenders, easing worries about the current banking turmoil. "Some optimism has returned to markets over the last 24 hours, with bank stocks stabilising on both sides of the Atlantic," Deutsche Bank analysts said in a note yesterday. First Republic Bank (FRB) is set to receive a US \$ 30 billion lifeline from a group of America's largest banks, including JPMorgan Chase (JPM), Bank of America (BAC), Wells Fargo (CBEAX), Citigroup (C) and Truist (TFC). The news calmed investors, who were on tenterhooks over a potential banking crisis

following the collapse of two US banks and the maelstrom at Credit Suisse (CSGKF) over the past week. On Thursday, US stocks closed higher, with tech shares staging a rally. European shares posted gains Thursday as investors were reassured by news that Credit Suisse would tap a lifeline offered by the Swiss National Bank, borrowing up to 50 billion Swiss Francs (US \$ 53.7 billion). The rally in Europe carried over to yesterday, although gains were modest. The benchmark Stoxx Europe 600 index rose 0.3 percent in early trade. Germany's DAX (DAX) and France's CAC 40 (CAC40) ticked up 0.4 percent and 0.07 percent, respectively.

President Wickremesinghe, heads of ASEAN missions discuss advancement of SL-ASEAN cooperation

The heads of the ASEAN missions in Sri Lanka discussed with President Ranil Wickremesinghe this week the advancement of the association and Sri Lanka cooperation, including in trade, investment and tourism. The discussion took place when the heads hosted a dinner in honour of Wickremesinghe, earlier this week. The ASEAN heads of missions were led by Dewi Gustina Tobing, Ambassador of Indonesia, as the current country's chair of ASEAN and Ambassador of Myanmar Han Thu, Ambassador of Viet Nam Ho Thi Thanh Truc, Ambassador of Thailand Poj Harmpol and High Commission of Malaysia CDA Aneurin Ignatius also attended. Foreign Affairs State Minister Tharaka Balasuriya, President's Chief of Staff Sagala Ratnayaka, Foreign Secretary Aruni Wijewardane and



President Ranil Wickremesinghe with heads of ASEAN missions

Board of Investment Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody were also present. Tobing, representing the ASEAN, briefed Wickremesinghe on the priority of the ASEAN under the chairmanship of Indonesia, which aimed to make the ASEAN the motor of peace and stability in the region and to make Southeast Asia the centre of economic growth. With the theme 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth', the

ASEAN countries will ensure that the ASEAN remains and is increasingly relevant to the ASEAN community and world. Wickremesinghe appraised the development and central role of the ASEAN and keened to have a closer collaboration with the ASEAN. Wickremesinghe hoped there would be an increase in investment and tourists from the ASEAN countries, given that the flows from the region only account

for a small proportion of investment and tourism. The ASEAN heads of missions of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam generally responded positively to Wickremesinghe's hopes for increasing the flow of investment and tourists from the ASEAN countries, especially in supporting Sri Lanka in economic recovery efforts. The ASEAN heads of missions are also expected to increase the two-way trade relations with Sri Lanka and advance more market access between Sri Lanka and the respective ASEAN countries. The ASEAN heads of missions further expressed their willingness to advance cooperation in various fields that benefit Sri Lanka's economic development, both individually in bilateral relations and within the ASEAN framework.

MOREON P10



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17.03.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE	
MAIN BOARD								LANKA IOC	181,941	184.75	184.00	192.00	184.00	191.75	7.00	DIRI SIVI BOARD								
ASPEN.HOT.HOLD	17,621	58.20	58.00	60.00	58.00	59.80	1.60	LANKA REALTY	1,521,267	13.70	13.60	15.50	13.50	14.70	1.00	AGSTAR PLC	76,703	12.50	12.50	12.70	12.30	12.50		
ACCESS ENG SL	489,962	15.20	15.00	15.50	14.90	15.00	(0.20)	LANKA TILES	824,831	54.10	52.00	52.00	46.80	47.30	(6.80)	ALUMEX PLC	2,511,659	8.60	8.70	9.00	8.60	8.90	0.30	
ACL	137,803	85.50	86.10	87.00	85.30	86.00	0.50	LANKA WALLTILE	592,404	59.00	58.60	59.80	58.60	59.30	0.30	AMANA TAKAFUL	2,449	12.20	12.00	12.20	12.00	12.20		
ACL PLASTICS	439	410.00	413.00	413.00	401.00	407.00	(3.00)	LANKEM DEV.	6,357	27.30	28.00	28.00	26.00	27.60	0.30	AMBEON HOLDINGS	1,025	36.70	36.50	36.80	36.50	36.50	(0.20)	
ACME	2,600	6.70	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	(0.10)	LAUGFS GAS	7,170	26.00	25.20	27.20	25.20	27.00	1.00	AMF CO LTD	2,455	7.90	7.70	7.90	7.70	7.70	(0.20)	
AGALAWATTE	101,757	30.90	32.00	32.30	31.10	32.10	1.20	LAUGFS GAS [LGLX0000]	1,200	18.00	17.90	18.00	17.90	17.90	(0.10)	ASIA SIYAKA	122,760	4.20	4.10	4.40	4.10	4.40	0.20	
AHOT PROPERTIES	374,983	40.00	40.00	43.00	40.00	41.40	1.40	LAXAPANA	14,220	13.20	13.10	13.30	13.00	13.30	0.10	BANSEI RESORTS	93	11.30	10.90	11.20	10.90	11.30		
AITKEN SPENCE	2,222	135.25	135.00	137.00	135.00	137.00	1.75	LB FINANCE	11,995	53.50	53.20	54.00	53.00	53.70	0.20	BERUWALA RESORTS	98,416	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.30	1.40	0.10	
ALLIANCE	5,977	66.40	67.90	68.30	65.40	66.70	0.30	LMF	1,073	144.25	146.75	147.50	144.25	144.50	0.25	BOGALA GRAPHITE	125,924	65.00	65.00	68.00	65.00	67.80	2.80	
AMANA BANK	2,104,497	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.60	2.60		LVL ENERGY	471	7.20	7.30	7.30	7.10	7.10	(0.10)	BOGAWANTALAWA	1,812	43.70	44.00	44.00	43.50	43.50	(0.20)	
ASIA ASSET	2,720	7.90	8.00	8.20	8.00	8.00	0.10	MALWATTE	500	78.60	78.00	80.00	78.00	79.80	1.20	BPPL HOLDINGS	25,408	21.80	22.00	22.70	22.00	22.60	0.80	
ASIA CAPITAL	245	4.10	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	0.10	MELSTACORP	2,432,235	56.80	57.00	57.50	56.70	57.00	0.20	BROWNS	6,661	125.25	125.00	130.00	125.00	129.00	3.75	
ASIRI	7,648	26.00	26.40	26.40	25.50	26.00		MERCHANT BANK	1,500	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	0.10	BROWNS INVSTMTS	5,747,783	6.30	6.40	6.50	6.30	6.40	0.10	
BATRAHA FARMS	5,583	161.25	161.25	162.00	159.50	160.00	(1.25)	MULLERS	900	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20		C.W.MACKIE	13,305	83.90	83.00	83.00	82.30	82.50	(1.40)	
BALANGODA	2,214	65.70	68.20	68.20	65.70	65.80	0.10	NAMUNUKULA	50	369.50	368.25	368.25	368.25	369.50		CALT	710,998	34.00	34.20	35.20	34.00	34.70	0.70	
BUKIT DARAH	3,767	410.00	400.00	415.00	400.00	411.25	1.25	NAT. DEV. BANK	127,087	50.90	51.00	52.00	50.60	51.60	0.70	CEYLON TEA BRKRS	12,579	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10		
C.M.HOLDINGS	59	67.70	71.90	71.90	69.00	67.70		NATION LANKA	13,091	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.10	CITRUS HIKKADUWA	251,847	5.20	5.20	5.30	5.10	5.20		
CARGILLS	124	231.00	234.00	234.00	230.25	234.00	3.00	NATIONS TRUST	6,476	65.70	65.30	65.70	65.00	65.00	(0.70)	CITRUS WASKADUWA	11,179	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.60	2.60		
CARGO BOAT	50	47.50	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.50		OVERSEAS REALTY	8,742	15.50	15.50	15.60	15.30	15.60	0.10	COM.CREDIT	190	27.50	27.30	27.30	27.00	27.10	(0.40)	
CARSONS	116	274.75	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	0.25	PAN ASIA	144,704	13.80	13.50	14.20	13.40	13.90	0.10	COMMERCIAL DEV	1	110.00	116.50	116.50	116.50	110.00		
CDB [CDB.X0000]	51	67.10	62.80	67.00	62.80	67.10		PANASIAN POWER	33,806	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.40	(0.10)	DILMAH CEYLON	1	1058.00	1124.75	1124.75	1124.75	1058.00		
CENTRAL FINANCE	1,085	76.80	77.80	77.80	77.70	77.80	1.00	PEOPLE'S INS	2,750	23.20	23.00	23.70	23.00	23.50	0.30	E - CHANNELLING	6,771	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.50	11.70	(0.10)	
CENTRAL IND.	6,456	93.20	92.50	95.40	92.10	93.50	0.30	PEOPLES LEASING	193,403	8.50	8.50	8.60	8.50	8.60	0.10	ELPITIYA	4,789	78.00	78.00	81.00	78.00	77.00	(1.00)	
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	274	1060.00	1060.00	1060.00	1060.00	1060.00		PGP GLASS	1,654,454	20.50	20.90	21.80	20.30	21.60	1.10	EQUITY TWO PLC	250	40.20	40.00	40.00	38.10	38.30	(1.90)	
CEYLON GUARDIAN	651	70.00	70.00	70.00	69.00	70.00		PRINTCARE PLC	7,450	53.40	53.80	53.80	51.10	52.00	(1.40)	EXTERMINATORS	275,085	8.10	7.60	9.10	7.60	8.90	0.80	
CEYLON INV	7,720	37.20	37.00	37.00	35.10	36.60	(0.60)	R I L PROPERTY	2,186,055	6.20	6.30	6.40	6.20	6.30	0.10	FC TREASURERS	181,820	22.50	22.60	23.00	22.50	22.60	0.10	
CEYLON TOBACCO	4,478	690.50	690.00	700.00	675.00	678.50	(12.00)	REGNIS	63,743	44.70	43.00	45.50	43.00	45.00	0.30	FIRST CAPITAL	607,858	34.10	35.80	35.80	33.60	34.00	(0.10)	
CHEMANEX	150	75.50	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	1.50	RENUKA AGRI	445,669	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.40	5.50	(0.10)	FORTRESS RESORTS	34,526	21.40	21.20	23.00	21.20	22.90	1.50	
CHEVRON	192,299	94.90	94.90	95.00	94.80	95.00	0.10	RENUKA CITY HOT	10	365.00	387.00	387.00	387.00	365.00		GALADARI	54,278	13.70	13.60	13.80	13.60	13.60	(0.10)	
CIC	80,149	77.20	77.50	78.00	76.50	77.60	0.40	RENUKA FOODS	6,923	23.80	24.00	24.00	23.20	23.40	(0.40)	HAPUGASTENNE	2,500	46.80	46.80	46.90	46.80	46.80		
CIC [CIC.X0000]	551,513	53.10	54.00	55.00	52.50	54.20	1.10	RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]	5,440	18.50	18.60	19.00	18.60	18.90	0.40	HATTON	8,943	21.50	22.60	22.60	21.40	21.50		
CITRUS LEISURE	1,415	6.30	6.20	6.50	6.20	6.30		RENUKA HOLDINGS	150	13.50	13.90	13.90	13.70	13.90	0.40	HNB FINANCE	67,085	5.40	5.70	5.70	5.30	5.50	0.10	
COLD STORES	67,994	38.50	38.40	39.60	38.40	39.00	0.50	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	129	11.20	11.40	12.50	11.40	12.50	1.30	HNB FINANCE [HNBFX.X0000]	3,591	4.90	5.10	5.30	5.10	5.10	0.20	
COLOMBO CITY	89	1058.25	1112.00	1112.00	1100.00	1058.25		RESUS ENERGY	703	13.90	13.80	13.80	13.30	13.80	(0.10)	HVA FOODS	4,587	3.90	4.10	4.10	3.90	3.90		
COLOMBO LAND	11,350	18.50	18.50	19.50	18.30	19.10	0.60	RICHARD PIERIS	112,077	22.00	21.70	22.50	21.50	21.60	(0.40)	JETWING SYMPHONY	13,370	7.20	7.10	7.30	7.10	7.20		
COMMERCIAL BANK	379,621	67.60	67.00	71.00	67.00	69.80	2.20	ROYAL CERAMIC	444,244	33.00	33.00	33.40	32.50	32.80	(0.20)	JOHN KEELLS	1,197	68.10	68.60	68.60	68.00	68.00	(0.10)	
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	1,454	58.10	58.30	58.50	58.00	58.30	0.20	S.M.B. LEASING	2,295,244	0.80	0.80	0.90	0.80	0.80		KAHAWATTE	23,368	20.50	20.80	20.80	20.20	20.30	(0.20)	
CONVENIENCE FOOD	10	1208.00	1205.00	1205.00	1205.00	1208.00		S.M.B. LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	2,060,010	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.30		KEELLS HOTELS	30,113	17.60	17.80	17.80	17.60	17.80	0.20	
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	6,417	22.80	23.00	23.30	22.70	22.80		SAMPATH	601,690	56.00	56.00	57.50	55.60	57.10	1.10	KELSEY	101	21.90	23.60	23.60	23.60	23.60	1.70	
DFCC BANK PLC	31,933	46.80	47.00	47.90	45.10	47.20	0.40	SANASA DEV. BANK	3,362	28.00	28.00	28.50	28.00	28.40	0.40	LANKA CERAMIC	258	105.00	101.00	110.00	100.00	100.25	(4.75)	
DIALOG	79,296	10.50	10.50	10.60	10.50	10.50		SARVODAYA DEVFIN	759	11.60	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.40	LANKEM CEYLON	38	87.50	84.00	87.40	84.00	87.50		
DIMO	1,742	479.75	475.25	475.25	473.00	474.50	(5.25)	SEYLAN BANK	15,028	37.30	36.10	37.10	35.50	37.00	(0.30)	LAUGFS POWER	800	9.30	8.90	9.00	8.90	9.00	(0.30)	
DIPPED PRODUCTS	274,741	29.50	30.00	30.00	29.10	29.40	(0.10)	SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]	19,191	24.70	24.90	25.90	24.90	25.40	0.70	LCB FINANCE PLC	1,642	2.20	2.40	2.40	2.20	2.30	0.10	
DOCKYARD	1,200	65.50	65.50	65.50	65.00	65.00	(0.50)	SEYLAN DEVS.	15,433	13.80	14.00	14.60	13.70	14.30	0.50	LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL	1	29.80	29.80	29.80	29.80	29.80		
DOLPHIN HOTELS	8,900	32.40	31.00	33.00																				