



YOUR PAPER TODAY 12 PAGES

LG POLLS POSTPONED

- EC TO REACH TO A DECISION OVER POLLING DATE LATER
- EC DECIDES NOT TO HOLD POSTAL VOTING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28, 29, 30, 31 AND APRIL 03

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The Local Government elections which was scheduled to be held on April 25 will be postponed, official sources said. Meanwhile, the Election Commission issuing a statement said yesterday it had decided not to hold postal voting for the Local Government Elections scheduled for March 28, 29, 30, 31 and April 03. The decision has been taken following the meeting between the Election Commission and the secretaries of the political parties contesting the LG polls.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

IMF agreement

Will get Parliament's approval to implement although not required by law: President

- We will liberalise further and attract more investment as we cannot go on with economic stagnation

President Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday said that he would get the approval and assistance of Parliament to implement the IMF agreement although it is not required by law.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

"I will not allow school children to be held hostage by various groups": President

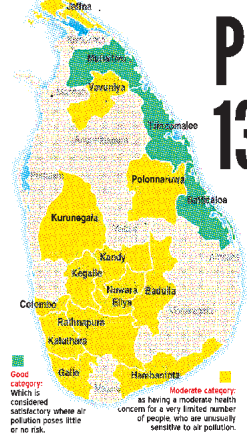
- President Wickremesinghe said education had the same importance as the economy of the country

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

President Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday said that he would not allow school children to be taken hostage by various groups and he would declare schools as an essential service if the teacher issues are not solved soon.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Puttalam's air quality "unhealthy": 13 districts moderate: NBRO



- The "moderate category" is defined as having a moderate health concern for a very limited number of people, who are unusually sensitive to air pollution

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The National Building Research Organization (NBRO) has identified the air quality in the Puttalam District region as unsuitable for sensitive groups.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Imported milk powder price to be reduced by April: Importers' Assn.

- Price of a 1 kg packet would be reduced by Rs. 200, and a 400g packet would be reduced by Rs. 80

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Milk Powder Importers' Association has decided to reduce the price of imported milk powder with effect from April 1, the association's spokesperson Ashoka Bandara said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Imported milk powder price to reduce with effect from April 1

Price of a 1 Kg packet of imported milk powder would be reduced by Rs. 200

Price of a 400 g packet would be reduced by Rs. 80

Delay in LG polls

Sajith says opposition met diplomatic corps over delay in holding LG election

- Minister Ranatunge claims opposition political parties had requested diplomatic corps to delay IMF funds to SL

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

The joint opposition including the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) met with the diplomatic corps including the Ambassadors, over the delay in holding the Local Government election, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SEYLAN BANK MARKS 35 YEARS TODAY

Seylan Bank celebrates 35 years of serving all stakeholders and empowering Sri Lanka with an unwavering dedication to excellence.

To date the bank has an extensive network with over 500 touchpoints and is also ever present on the digital sphere with QR, mobile banking app and more.

Assisting in privatizing seven entities including SriLankan, Litro Govt. sets up restructuring Unit

- SRU will appoint recognized professional and qualified consulting firms or development finance institutions to provide transaction advisory services

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The government has set up the State-Owned Enterprise Restructuring Unit (SRU) under the Ministry of Finance to assist in privatizing selected State Owned Enterprises such as Sri Lankan Airlines Ltd., including Sri Lankan Catering Ltd, Sri Lanka Telecom PLC and Litro Gas Lanka Ltd., including Litro Gas Terminals (Pvt) Ltd (LPG retailing).

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Gandhi gets 2 years jail in 'Modi Surname' case

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was found guilty and sentenced to two years in prison on Thursday in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surname by a court in Gujarat's Surat. However, he was granted bail and his sentence was suspended for 30 days to let him appeal the decision. The case was filed against Mr. Gandhi by BJP MLA and former Gujarat minister Purnesh Modi for saying "How come all thieves have the common surname Modi?"

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

93% of the policies tracked were undisclosed

Poor public finance management and lack of accountability from policymakers and bureaucrats were key contributory factors to Sri Lanka's economic crisis

Status of crisis-response policies introduced by Govt in 2022

No accountability from Govt. yet again

According to a recent assessment conducted by Verité Research, 93% of policies introduced by Sri Lankan Government MPs in 2022 pertaining to health, agriculture and power have no record of implementation. The results reveal the "closed culture" and lack of accountability present within Government.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A3 >>>

How committed was the Sri Lankan government to implementing its **CRISIS-RESPONSE POLICIES?**

Will the government's "business as usual" attitude help us in Sri Lanka's road to economic recovery?

In short... nobody will tell us (and by nobody we mean the government)

Of 15 requests made using the Right to Information Act, we got:

- Open: 27%
- Restricted: 13%
- Closed: 60%

3 responses from relevant implementing agencies response pending - information relevant to policy implementation

To find out, we tracked:

- 15 cabinet decisions and parliamentary proposals
- Covering: Health and medicine, Food and agriculture, Fuel and power

Graphic of the day

The health authorities warn that the number of undiagnosed patients in society may exceed the annual number of TB cases reported to hospitals. According to reports, there could be a substantial number of children under the age of 15.

TB

Tuberculosis or TB is an infectious bacterial disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It can infect many body parts, but is most common in the lungs.

TB Patients reported per year **8000-9000**

Out of the total number of patients reported from the Western Province

46% Most of the patients in the Colombo District are reporting from CMC area

Mortality among identified patients **500-600 (7%)**

Children under 15 years of age reported in 2022 **187 (2.2%)**

Male to female ratio of patients **2:1**

Most TB Patients reported by age groups **55-64**

Latent TB: People with latent TB show no symptoms and cannot spread the disease

Active TB: People with active TB show symptoms and can spread the disease through coughing, sneezing or spitting

SYMPTOMS

- Cough more than 3 weeks
- Night sweats
- Weight loss

Get tested early

Visit your doctor at the first sign of illness

Continuous 6 months treatment which assures a cure

Source: Family Health Bureau

BY HARSHI ALWIS @DM GraphicDesk

HOMBRE @ PLATA

Some statements need no words

Discover our unique range of men's bracelets

PLATA FINE JEWELLERY

81 Rosmead Place, Colombo 07. +94 (76) 188 5026

NANKANG

THE BEST CHOICE

NANKANG SP9



Daily Mirror

www.dailymirror.lk

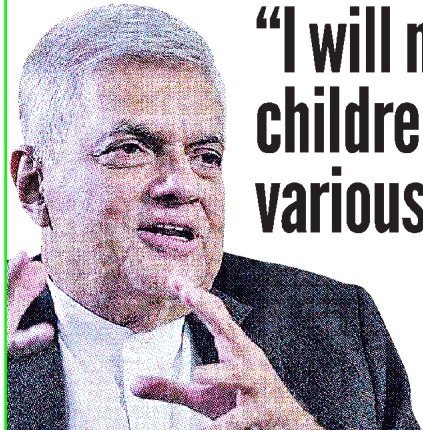
CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

Imported milk powder price to be reduced by April: Importers' Assn.

The decision was taken due to the decrease in prices in the world market

He told Daily Mirror that the decision was taken due to the decrease in prices in the world market. Accordingly, the price of a 1 kg packet of imported milk powder would be reduced by Rs.

200, and the price of a 400g packet would be reduced by Rs. 80. The price of a 1 kg packet of imported milk powder would be Rs. 2,895. Earlier, it was at Rs. 3,095. The 400-gram packet, which was priced at Rs. 1,240 will be Rs. 1,160, Mr Bandara said. "If we receive concessions at the milk powder auctions, we will pass that savings on to our customers," Mr Bandara added.



"I will not allow school children to be held hostage by various groups": President

"Parents are trying to give their children a better future. Those efforts must be the government's first priority"

Addressing a national ceremony of the distribution of free textbooks and uniforms to schoolchildren held at the Colombo Sanghamitta Girls' College last morning, President Wickremesinghe said education had the same importance as the economy of the country and he would not allow any groups to misuse it. "The parents are trying to give their children a better future. Those efforts must be

the government's first priority," Wickremesinghe said. "The main responsibility of providing education in schools lies with the school principal. They are being trained by the Education Ministry. As a result, the government must develop a genuine educational procedure, which will be provided in schools," Wickremesinghe said. "The IMF plans were presented yesterday to create

a new economy in the country. That economy will create jobs for the future, and it will be done by the Treasury and the Finance Ministry. Education is a model that should come from the school. The principals and teachers of the school should be an example," the President said. A school cannot be separated from the actions of its principal and teachers, the President said.

Gandhi gets 2 years jail in 'Modi Surname' case

The Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad made the remarks while addressing a rally at Kolar in Karnataka ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, targeting PM Modi over his last name which he shares with fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi.

Gandhi arrived in Surat earlier in the day for the verdict and was received by top leaders of the Congress's Gujarat unit, India's NDTV reported. Supporters and members of the party turned out at various spots in the city as a show of strength and support for Gandhi, with posters extolling him as 'Sher-e-Hindustan' (Lion of India) and placards declaring that the "Congress will not bow before the dictatorship of the BJP" on display.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Varma had last week concluded hearing final arguments from both sides and said it was ready to pronounce its judgement in the four-year-old defamation case, Gandhi's lawyer Kirit Panwala had said. "Truth is put to test and is harassed, but truth alone

prevails. Several false cases have been filed against Gandhi, but he will emerge from all these. We will get justice," said senior Congress leader and MLA Arjun Modhwadia on Thursday.

Gandhi had last appeared before the Surat court in the case, in October 2021 to record his statement.

In his complaint, BJP MLA Purnesh Modi alleged that Gandhi, while addressing the poll rally in 2019, defamed the entire Modi community.

Purnesh Modi was a minister in the first tenure of the Bhupendra Patel government. He was re-elected from the Surat West Assembly seat in the December elections.

Gandhi's lawyer has argued the court proceedings were "flawed" from the beginning. The lawyer also argued that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and not MLA Purnesh Modi, should have been the complainant in the case because the PM was the main target of Gandhi's speech.

Former ANCL Employees' Get-Together

A Get-Together of former Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) employees will be held on April 1 at Green Garden Reception Hall at Robert Gunawardena Mawatha, Kirulapone.

Those who wish to participate in this

event should confirm their participation by contacting the following individuals. M.D. Dharmasiri - 076 7799865, P.B. Illangasinghe - 0777 689762, Ariyasena Handuwala - 0714 746423 and Kuruvita Bandara - 0713 805484.

Foreign Minister and Justice Minister undertake visit to South Africa

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry is on a working visit to South Africa from 21-25 March 2023 at the invitation of Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Dr. Naledi Pandor. Minister Sabry is accompanied by Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, foreign ministry said.

It said that this visit is in line with Sri Lanka's stated policy, including at international fora, that it remains committed to addressing reconciliation through domestic mechanisms. In this context, the Cabinet of Ministers approved

the concept of a Truth and Reconciliation mechanism as proposed by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Reconciliation, which is chaired by the President. The Cabinet also authorized the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice to operationalize this concept and to initiate discussions and facilitate the drafting of a Truth and Reconciliation law.

In support of this process, the South African Government invited the Foreign Minister to visit South Africa to obtain insights with regard to the South African experience in the establishment of their Truth-seeking Commission, it added.

First consignment of imported eggs arrive in Sri Lanka

Distribution to commence within three days: Minister

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

The first consignment of eggs imported from India reached the Colombo Port yesterday, Commerce and Food Security Minister Nalin Fernando said.

He told Parliament that the eggs would be released to the market after the necessary tests within the next three days.

"They have requested three days to complete the necessary tests in Sri Lanka. We hope consumers will be able to purchase the eggs within the next two to three days," he said. The Minister said this in response to a

question raised by SJB MP Rohana Bandara on imported eggs.

He said the government took a policy decision to import eggs following recommendations of the Cabinet sub-committee as there was a 40 percent shortage in egg supply in the country.

He said eggs have been imported under proper standards from reputed egg producers that supply eggs to world renowned companies.

The Minister said a decision has been taken to allow import of liquid eggs so as to meet the shortfall of egg supply.

LG POLLS POSTPONED

Accordingly, Commissioner General of Elections Saman Sri Ratnayaka said that the Election Commission will reach a decision regarding the polling date in the near future after studying all these matters and relevant polling laws as well.

The Commissioner General said in the statement that the parties proposed that if a new date is being considered, all parties, the Legislature and the Executive should be in agreement.

Some political parties informed the Election Commission yesterday that conducting the Local Government polls on April 25, considering the present situation was not possible.

He said the Election Commission had a long discussion with the political parties' secretaries yesterday over the LG polls.

The parties proposed that setting a date for the LG polls should be announced after the realization of the necessary facilities and the background.

However, during the discussions, some opposition political parties present said the Polls should not be postponed further in any way due to the Supreme Court ruling. Supreme Court on 3rd March issued an interim order to the Finance Secretary and the Attorney General who represent the Finance Minister, preventing them from withholding any funds earmarked for the 2023 Local Government elections through the budget passed by Parliament.

The Commissioner General said in the statement that the parties proposed that if a new date is being considered, all parties, the Legislature and the Executive should be in agreement.

Will get Parliament's approval to implement although not required by law: President

Speaking to Editors of media organizations, Wickremesinghe said that the IMF agreement was a restructuring of the economy and not only of the country's debt, and that the future of Sri Lanka rests with whether the country will implement this agreement or not.

"We will liberalise further and attract more investment as we cannot go on with economic stagnation which resulted in unemployment that caused trouble in 1971, 1983 and 1989," he said.

He also said that the future of Sri Lanka rests with whether we will implement this agreement or not.

"We are going to bring the toughest anti-corruption law in South Asia," the President said.

Meanwhile, Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe said that interest rates will come down with the IMF arrangement coming into effect and inflation getting reduced.

President Wickremesinghe said, "This is the first occasion we've had to restructure our debt with the support of IMF and our creditors. This is only the beginning. Once we've got

the support, the financial assurances, it means that we are no longer considered a bankrupt state. We have to go to the next stage, which is to negotiate with all our creditors with the multilateral creditors, with the bilateral creditors and the most difficult of all, the private creditors. Now that stage only once we concluded it that we will be in a position to go ahead without having to look back and with confidence. So this is not the end.

This is, in a sense, only the beginning. Next is the negotiations with the creditors. And just as much as you are negotiating the creditors, we also have a four year programme," He said when the MCC was presented they alleged that the country was to be divided.

"When the IMF was introduced, they said we were going to be dominated by the West. So it is difficult for us to do all this. That is why the media organizations were asked to join in making the 17th International Monetary Fund programme a success," he said.

Puttalam's air quality "unhealthy": 13 districts moderate: NBRO

Thirteen other Districts had been found to have acceptable air quality, the NBRO said.

"Colombo 7, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Vavuniya, Kandy, Kegalle, Galle, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Embilipitiya, Badulla, Kalutara, Hambantota, and Polonnaruwa are categorized as moderate," an official said.

The official defined the "moderate category" as

having a moderate health concern for a very limited number of people, who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.

Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Mullaithivu, Batticaloa, and Kalutara Districts are categorized under the "Good" category, which is considered satisfactory where air pollution poses little or no risk.

Sajith says opposition met diplomatic corps over delay in holding LG election

Responding to an allegation made by Chief Government Whip Prasanna Ranatunge that he learnt that the opposition political parties had met with the diplomatic corps and requested them to delay the

IMF funds to Sri Lanka and enforce strict conditions, the opposition leader said they only discussed the delay in LG polls and that they never engage in political slander.

Premadasa said they had never related internal matters to the loans, benefits and donations that the country was to receive during discussions with

"We have a right to meet diplomats and expedite the elections"

the international community. "We informed the diplomatic corps that delaying elections is a huge blow to democracy."

We have a right to meet diplomats and expedite the elections. We informed them that we have been signatories to some 20 international conventions including the ICCPR Act which promotes the right to election," he said.

Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella, who confirmed the meeting with diplomatic corps said they discussed the delay in LG polls.

SJB MP Harsha De Silva said they never requested the diplomatic corps to tighten IMF conditions but thanked them for the support they extended.

Third term of 2022 school year ends today

First term of 2023 School year begins Monday

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The third term of the School Holiday for the year 2022 will begin today (24), Education Minister Susil Premajayantha said. He said this while addressing a national ceremony of distribution of free textbooks and uniforms to schoolchildren held at the Colombo Sanghamitta Girls' College last morning.

"This year we did not give more days for the school vacation as the children were unable to come to school for more than 60 percent of the time in both 2020 and 2021," he said.

Therefore, the Ministry has decided to keep as much school time as possible and has decided to commence the school year's first term on Monday (27).

The Minister mentioned that the cut-off marks for the 2022 grade five scholarship examination had been released and that most of the schools had made arrangements for the grade one enrolments on Tuesday (28) after considering the appeals.

The new school year should normally start in January. But we are going ahead with the schedule that was delayed due to COVID-19 as much as possible. We held the examinations on time, as scheduled.

We are now in the final stage of the evaluation of the 2022 GCE Advanced Level (A/L) examination scripts, and it is the responsibility of the University Lecturers, Professors, and Teachers to release the results," Minister Premajayantha said.

Govt. sets up restructuring Unit

The Finance Ministry said that government is in the process of implementing deep economic reforms including in the State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) sector. Such reforms are intended to enhance competition, productivity and efficiency across the economy.

Accordingly, the cabinet has approved the divestment of shares in Sri Lankan Airlines Ltd including Sri Lankan Catering Ltd., Sri Lanka Telecom PLC, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd, Canwill Holdings Pvt. Ltd., (Grand Hyatt Hotel), Hotel Developers Lanka Ltd., (Hilton Hotel Colombo), Litro Gas Lanka Ltd., including Litro Gas Terminals (Pvt) Ltd., (LPG retailing) and Lanka Hospital Corporation PLC.

The Finance Ministry said that SRU will appoint recognized professional and qualified consulting firms or development finance institutions to provide transaction advisory services to the above entities and assist them in the transfer of share rights.

They said the selection of such client advisory firms will begin shortly.

The SRU will advertise in local and international media for the Expression of Interest (EOI) and Request For Proposal process (RFP) to select suitable investors for these transactions in a transparent and credible manner, the Finance Ministry said.

OBITUARIES

ANANDAPPA – RUTH. Beloved daughter of late A. J. A. Anandappa and H. P. J. Anandappa, beloved sister of late Dr. (Mrs) Winifred Jayaweera, late Dr. (Mrs) Margaret Prins, late Dr. Augustus Anandappa, late Philomina Casie Chitty, late Anacleto Anandappa, late Hermia Jayaweera and Dr. (Mrs) Marie Andradi, beloved sister-in-law of late Dr. Bede Jayaweera, late Dr. Dennis Prins, late Grace Anandappa, late Neville Casie Chitty, late Robin Jayaweera and Quintus Andradi. Remains lie at Rohini Funeral Parlour, Maharagama. **Cortege leaves the Parlour on Saturday 25th March at 2.00 p.m. for burial at the General Cemetery, Borella (Roman Catholic section) at 3.00 p.m.**

SP DENVER WIJESURIYA (STF (Retd)/SLAF (Retd). Husband of late Mignone, brother of late Zerny, Rex, late Annan, Kingsley and Brian, loving father of Tony, Dalrinc, Christine and Kenneth, father-in-law of Florence, late AVM Rohitha Ranasinghe and Michelle, beloved grandfather of Dharshana, Yovanka, Shyam, Shani, Andy, Nicolie, Kieran, Gabrielle and Mikeilla, loving great-grandfather of Yuvani, Miraya, Shanaya, Shenuk, Zoe, Shanudh and Shaalya. The mortal remains will lie at A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour from 10 a.m. on Friday the 24th. **Cortege leaves Parlour at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday the 25th for service at St. Thomas', Kotte and burial thereafter at 4 p.m. at St. Thomas' burial grounds. 093383**

JAYAWEERA – HENRY ROBERT MARY (ROBIN) (Sri Lanka Railway (Retired), (Called To Eternal Rest). Beloved husband of late Hermia, loving father of Rashedh and Sureni, father-in-law of Sampath Perera and Sunjeewa Perera, grandfather of Mahen, Pooji, Marcha, late Marina, Nitaara and Marissa, son of late Robert and Muriel Jayaweera, brother of late Dr. Bede Jayaweera, late Daphne Herat, late Noel Jayaweera, late Yvette Jayaweera, and Marlene Jayasuriya. **Cortege leaves residence, 72/28, Mahalwarawa Road, Pannipitiya, at 3 p.m. on Saturday 25th March for burial at Roman Catholic Section, General Cemetery, Borella. 092566**

ONLINE OBITUARIES
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries

IN MEMORIUM

ROSE MATHER. Remembering you is easy, we do it everyday. But there's an ache within our hearts that will never go away. Fondly remembered by your children and grandchildren here and abroad. **091297**

CLASSIFIEDS

A well reputed and fast growing company located at Nawala, Nugegoda is seeking for an Account Assistant Female. Fluent in English. Salary 40,000/- Working hour 9.00 am - 6.00 pm. Contact: 0714888754 **DMR 91525**

25,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL QUIT POSTS DURING LAST TWO YEARS: SF

- We will reinstate you with arrears once we come to power
- He said they left the posts because of the orders given to them to carry out wrong acts

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

Some 25,000 military and 1,000 police personnel have vacated their posts within the past two years, Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said yesterday. Speaking during the adjournment debate on the IMF report, he told Parliament that about 1,000 police personnel have vacated the posts within the last year while some 200 policemen have left the posts during the first two months of this year. He said they left the posts because of the orders given to them to carry out wrong acts.

“We never experienced so many soldiers vacating posts even during the time of the war. We request them not to use the clubs which were given to them. If any soldier or policeman was removed for not using the clubs given to them to be used against protesters, be bold enough to go home. We will reinstate you with arrears once we come to power,” he assured. The MP said the government is engaged in cowardice acts to suppress protesters and university students and said legal action would be taken against the officials involved in suppressing protesters.

<< CONTD. FROM PAGE A1

Status of crisis-response policies introduced by Govt in 2022

No accountability from Govt. yet again

Verité Research tracked 15 Cabinet decisions and proposals introduced in Parliament by Government MPs, spanning across the three areas stated prior. These policy areas were selected on the basis that the crisis was most visible and burdensome to citizens through, shortages of essential medicine, shortages/price hikes of essential food and lengthy power cuts. Information was requested via the Right To Information (RTI) Act No. 12 of 2016, which guarantees citizens the right to ask for information from public authorities.

Of the nine agencies responsible for the implementation of the 15 proposals, just three agencies responded to the RTI requests and only one agency provided relevant information that was sufficient to assess the implementation of the proposals. This is particularly concerning given that in September 2022, the Secretary to the President, Saman Ekanayake, informed all Ministry Secretaries that it is their prime responsibility to work for the convenience of the public and that it is mandatory to create efficient response systems in all Ministries and Government institutions.

In previous years, Verité Research has highlighted that ‘lack of accountability’ is a major and consistent feature of Government policymaking through its ‘Budget Promises’ series (Can be accessed via <https://dashboards.publicfinance.lk/budget-promises/>). Particularly in the context of the current crisis, accountability regarding the use and effectiveness of tax payer money is a critical step to building public trust and a sustainable economic recovery. For information about the 15 proposals tracked, responsible agencies and other findings, visit www.publicfinance.lk.

TENDER NOTICE

Mahindra IDEAL FINANCE MAHINDRA IDEAL FINANCE LIMITED
No.299, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place - Colombo 02.

VEHI. NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	LOCATION
PU-3XXX	DFSK	EQ1020DR	2012	Kadawatha
PR-1XXX	Mahindra	Maxximo	2011	
PQ-8XXX	Tata	Ace	2011	
QY-6XXX	Mahindra	Load Carrier	2017	
YI-4XXX	Bajaj	4 Stroke	2010	Rathmalana
CAU-0XXX	Toyota	Land Cruiser Prado	2015	

Vehicle Inspection, during week days from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Mahindra Ideal Finance reserves Right to remove any vehicle without prior notice whatsoever
Kadawatha - Chamath - 0714940020 | Rathmalana - Eranda - 0717705296

EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

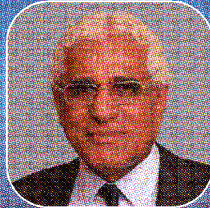
What is next for Sri Lanka in the wake of IMF Programme...

LIVE WEBINAR

Organised by Centre for Banking Studies

Keynote Speaker

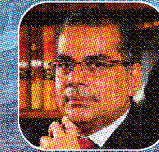
24th March 2023 from 03.00 pm to 05.00 pm FREE



Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy
Former Governor
Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Mr. Deshal De Mel
Economic Advisor
Ministry of Finance



Mr. Murtaza Jafferjee
Managing Director
J9 Securities



Mr. Bingumal Thewarathanthri
Chief Executive Officer
Standard Chartered Bank



Mr. Shiran Fernando
Chief Economist
Ceylon Chamber of Commerce



CENTRE FOR BANKING STUDIES
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA
No.58, Sri Jaywardenepura Mawatha,
Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka

011-2477840, 011-2477851 | 011-2867384 | directorcbs@cbsl.lk



Price Reductions and more Savings

This New Year



100 Lucky Winners stand a chance to Shop Free with SUPERMARKET SWEEP*

SMS the CODE on your bill to 0777 181 181

Buy goods worth Rs. 2,500 or more including 3 nominated brands to be eligible

Instant Vouchers worth Rs. 10 Million

Buy goods worth Rs. 2,500 or more including 3 nominated brands to be eligible



Best Buys

Up to 30% off on 850 Products

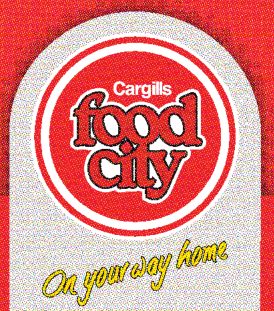
Up to 30% savings for

Members on selected products

Up to 30% savings on

Credit & Debit Cards

* For more details about Supermarket Sweep visit the Cargills FoodCity Facebook page. Valid until 30th April 2023 only. Conditions apply.



EDITORIAL

"Teaching is the greatest act of optimism"
- COLLEEN WILCOX

OUR THOUGHT

TEACHER TRANSFERS AND STALIN'S 'BUBBLE'

The teaching profession is slowly becoming a volatile ground. Teacher protests have continued for years, thus giving all signs that this is a profession where some individuals cannot find satisfaction that easily. When compared to other professions teaching has remained relatively unchanged in terms of the lifestyle teachers lead. Their salaries have remained unimpressive and it's a matter of concern when one knows that there is no real method to appreciate teachers and the hard work they do.

It's in this background that we get to hear of teacher protests and strikes. Right now the teachers are on the warpath against the government's interference in the latest teacher transfer process. This is because the government hasn't authorised the transfer of as many as 12,000 teachers. The teacher unions maintain that the government has messed up with the teacher transfer process after ensuring the dissolution of the Teacher Transfer Board; the body that facilitates the transfer process.

The Subject Minister for education Susil Premajayantha however has a somewhat different view to the teacher-transfer issue. He has said that teacher transfers will be implemented, but those left out of this process will be the teachers who are teaching in the classes that cater to the requirement of O' Level and A' Level students.

Education sector trade unions have affirmed that strike actions would continue if the transfers are not implemented fully. They want the transfers implemented before April 17.

All government teachers have to serve in difficult areas once they qualify as teachers from the teacher training school. Most teachers have fond memories of these assignments. They complete this phase of teaching regardless of the tough times they have; teaching in remote areas. These teacher assignments also underscore the old saying 'nothing is easy before it's hard'.

Teachers also have their preferences when they complete teaching in remote areas. Some individuals wish to have transfers for personal reasons. Hence the government must take into consideration the plight of teachers who want transfers due to forced circumstances.

Records state that no teacher transfers were implemented between 2020 and 2022 due to the Covid pandemic. That has given rise to a large number of teachers awaiting transfers.

The education sector trade unions have gathered momentum in demanding the rights of individuals involved in the education sector. Ceylon Teachers' Union Secretary Joseph Stalin is a household name in education; thanks to strike action. There are of course parents of school-going children who disagree with Stalin's strike actions and the manner in which he solves issues in the education sector. There are days when students do no work at schools or miss out on several hours of education inside the classroom because teachers visit these protests sites.

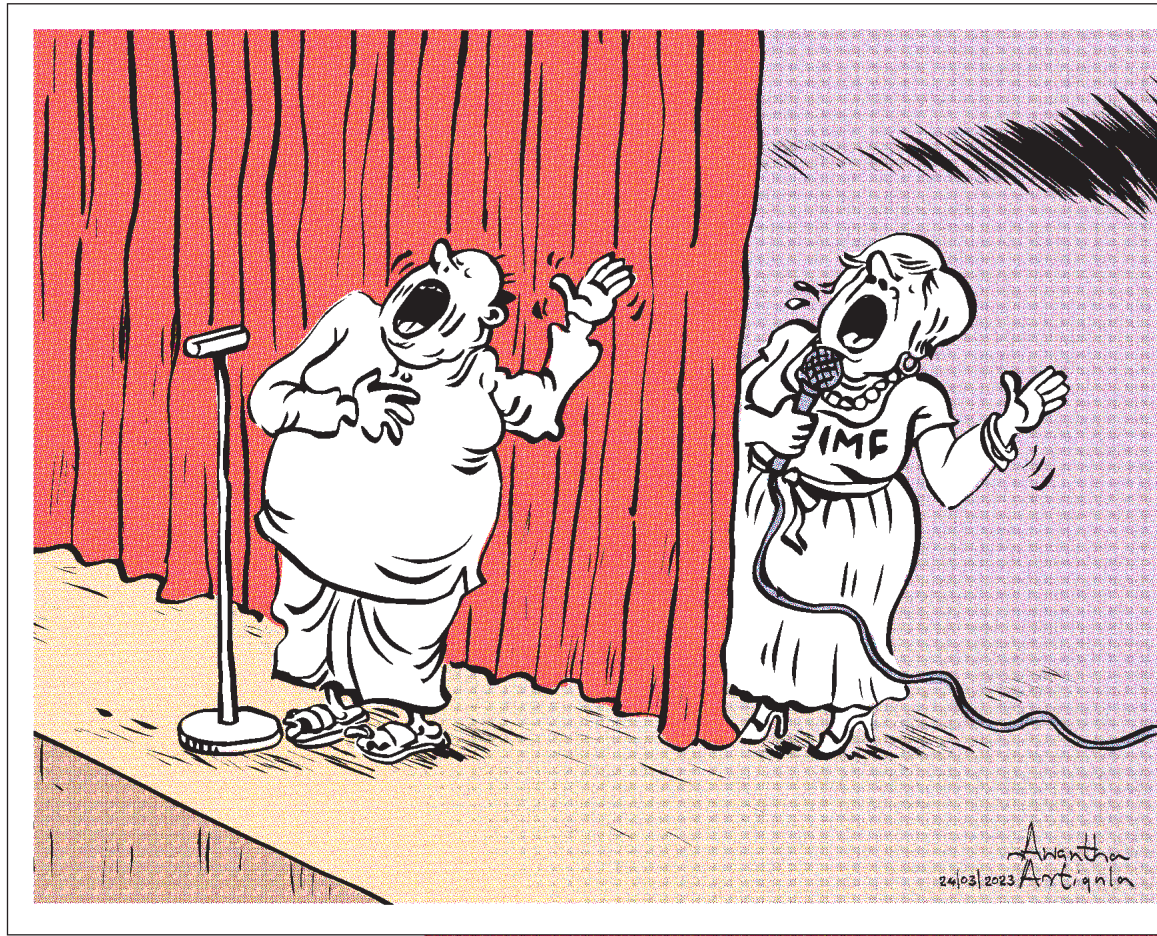
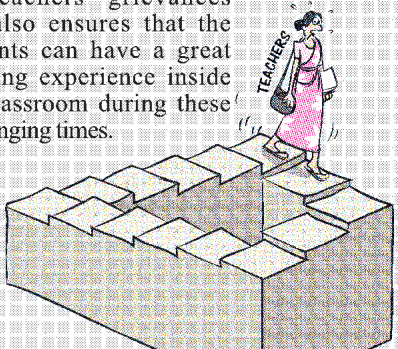
The Head of State Ranil Wickremesinghe has threatened to declare schools as essential services. This move would then cut short the strikes by teachers and trade unions in the education sector. This might be a master move by a lawmaker if such a decision is implemented in parliament. The concept of popular schools will have to take a beating then. Also will Stalin's 'bubble' bust then?

We remember some years ago when the state took a decision to name the closest school to home as the best school to study at. This was to discourage students from wanting to leave a lesser-known school and join a popular school. What has the state done to discourage teachers from wanting to leave the school they are engaged with and join another academic institute?

Every year as many as 7000-8000 teachers retire from service. According to newspaper articles many as 50,000 teachers were set to retire from schools at the beginning of last year (2022). How is the state going to fill these voids and also ensure that the teachers joining this trade offer value for the salaries they are paid?

The good news we have is that the government has plans to recruit 33,000 teachers to schools starting April this year.

Let's hope the government finds a solution to the teachers' grievances and also ensures that the students can have a great learning experience inside the classroom during these challenging times.



FOR MORE CARTOONS LOG ON www.dailymirror.lk/cartoon

IRAQ WAR, 20 YEARS ON: WHY THE HORROR STORY SHOULD BE RETOLD



By **Ameen Izzadeen**

As the Iraq war's 20th anniversary is marked this week, it is time to take an audit of the evil nature of war.

How it all began should be retold to remind the world how the high and mighty drunk with the power resorted to lies and deception to wage wars showing cruel disregard for the suffering of the people.

Didn't Iraqi people cry when they lost their children, parents and their loved ones as the United States-led coalition launched its indiscriminate air attacks deceptively packaged as precision bombing? Since the war began on March 20, 2003, some 1,445,590 Iraqis have been killed. There is no war memorial either in Baghdad or Washington to remember these victims.

The Iraq war was not a war; it was a gargantuan war crime, the brutality of which can perhaps be found in historical parallels such as the Mongol invasions or Nazi Germany's atrocities sans the Holocaust. Fallujah, Haditha, Hamandiya, Sadr City, Samarra and Ishaqi are not just names of Iraqi cities but places where the people's screams, pains, agonies and fears are etched in every grain of sand.

As the 20th anniversary of the war is being marked, there is little mention in the 'embedded' US media of the then 14-year-old Iraqi girl in the village of Yousufiya near Mahmudiya. She was gang raped and killed by US soldiers on March 12, 2006, in her own house. They also killed her parents and her six-year-old sister. The girl's two male siblings survived because they were in school at that time.

In the course of the war, the world was also shocked to learn that the soldiers of the world's leading preachers of democracy and human rights could be perverts who had no qualms over resorting to torture that degrades human dignity. Confirming this are leaked pictures from the Abu Ghraib prison.

Then there was the use of banned depleted uranium as a weapon. It was the main cause of the unusually high number of deformed children being born in Fallujah.

War crimes committed in Iraq hardly came before a tribunal, international or otherwise. Most of the crimes were covered up by the Pentagon, while many who faced charges have been exonerated, according to the Global Policy Forum, a US-based independent think-tank.

If Russia's President Vladimir Putin has been slapped with war crimes charges by International Criminal Court prosecutors for separating Ukrainian children from their parents in quick time, then why have they so far not charged the then US President George W. Bush and the then British Prime Minister Tony Blair?

Like Russia, the US is also not a signatory to the Rome Statute that established the ICC. The ICC's double standards only give credence to allegations that the tribunal



A US soldier with an Iraqi child. AFP

is nothing but a geopolitical tool of rich western nations. These nations perhaps believe that if they point to war crimes in developing countries, they could take the moral high road and divert international attention away from the stink in their cupboards and backyards.

Some 15 years after the start of the Iraq war, the ICC prosecutors did prepare a file to try US military officers accused of war crimes, but with the US imposing sanctions on the ICC prosecutors, the ICC surrendered its principles and put the case on the back burner.

In a stricter sense, the war did not begin on March 20, 2003. The plan for the attack had been conceived long before Bush became the President in January 2000. The neo-conservative (neoon) American think-tank, Project for New American Century, had long advocated military measures to preserve the US global domination. Like fish taking to water, Bush latched on to the PNAC strategy, no matter how immoral, unlawful, and unjust the might-is-right policy was.

Bob Woodward, the Watergate-fame investigative journalist, in a book he wrote, revealed that the plan for an Iraq attack was evident the very first day Bush started work in the Oval office. After his first cabinet meeting was over, he called his defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld to a side and told him to prepare a roadmap for an Iraq invasion. Bush was so obsessed with plans to invade Iraq that when his top security officials warned him of al-Qaeda's plans to use civilian aircraft as missiles to hit US targets, he gave priority to the war on Iraq.

So when 9/11 took place, Bush was adamant that Iraq should be punished. But his advisors managed to dissuade him and urged him to attack Afghanistan first.

A year after the US-led war on terror began in October 2001, Bush began his campaign to shape the minds of the Americans for the Iraq war while they had still not recovered fully from the 9/11 shock.

Not many Americans were in the mood then to realise that what visited them on 9/11 was what the US had been visiting other countries for the past several decades. It was only last week, people in Vietnam

marked the 55th anniversary of the My Lai massacre, one of the several 9/11s the Vietnamese experienced during their war for freedom. Some 500 innocent people including children, women, and the elderly were massacred by the US troops.

The American people overwhelmingly endorsed Bush's plans to attack Iraq. No questions were asked when Bush used oratorical juggling to convince the American people that Iraq had links to the 9/11 terror. A poll conducted during the war showed that as many as 60 percent of Americans believed Bush's lies. Others, including journalists, knew that Bush's account had holes but chose not to ask questions.

Capitalising on the American people's credulity, Bush accused Iraq of possessing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) which he said posed a threat to American lives. Bush's lapdog Blair tried to mislead the British people by claiming that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein could within 45 minutes assemble his WMDs to attack Britain.

The assertions of UN weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei that there was no evidence of WMDs in Iraq made it not matter to the American people, who, months later, rewarded Bush with a second-term presidential election victory.

It is said the Bush team wanted to codename the war 'Operation Iraq Liberation', but the idea was dropped because of fears that its acronym 'O.I.L.' would expose their ulterior motive. The war began with a revised codename 'Operation Iraqi Freedom.'

After 20 years, the American people and the rest of the world are still paying a huge price for the US\$ 8 trillion war that failed to find a single WMD, the *casus belli* for the war. America's wars are funded by borrowed money with interest and it would take decades to settle these state loans. While social security measures and the climate-change-reversing efforts suffered due to rich nations' unwillingness to provide funds, Bush's Iraq war made the arms industry, Big Oil, and construction companies richer and the world a less secure place by turning the cradle of civilisation into a factory of terrorism.

DM Poll

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

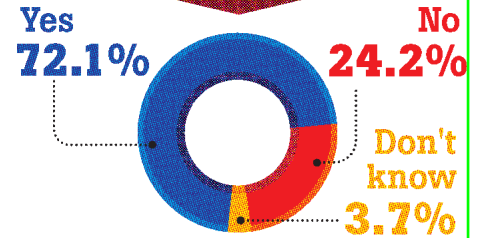
- Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sajith Premadasa
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake
- None of them



Scan to Vote

LAST POLL

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



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bankrupt or indebt?

We saw a bold statement in DM's first page 22/03 - President stating that SL is no longer a bankrupt nation. He stated this on finalisation of the IMF loan.

So what are we now? A rich nation with the IMF loan 1st tranche? People deceived by crafty politicians bragging, lighted crackers on main carpeted roads damaging the carpets as shown on TV while politicians kept on clapping and laughing. What some people were deceived to believe in was that with IMF loan, all would be rosy for the nation.

They forgot that this is a loan where capital must be paid with interest by our children and grandchildren. IMF gave this loan as our electricity charges, gas prices, petrol prices and personal income tax were increased highly on their advice putting our lives in further shambles. In the midst of the fire crackers IMF may not be aware that 7 ministers are waiting to be crowned (a public secret) to be added to the so called tiny cabinet making further burdens to the national expenditure.

SUMITH DE SILVA

Beatitudes of the Politician

In his message for the World Day of Peace in 2019, Pope Francis recalled the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal Francis - Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan who died in 2002:

Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role. Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.

Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.

Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.

Blessed be the politician who works for unity.

Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.

Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

FR. EMMANUEL FERNANDO OMI

Sri Lanka walks on Indian eggshells

WEB COMMENTS

CARL PIERCY - It is just 27km from India to Sri Lanka at the shortest point...Bird flu will most likely arrive with birds

ANIL PUSHPAKUMARA - We can sell every food item imported from India less compared to our own produce. This is will wipe out our poultry industry, especially small to medium size. GOVSL should take steps to bring down the feed cost

RANJAN - Once again it's the egg-seller who will benefit. Indian or Local he will sell it at a higher price and enjoy the benefit.

BIPIN JOSHI - Malaysia is also importing eggs from Tamil Nadu. For them there is no Bird Flu, but for Sri Lanka there is danger of Bird Flu. Great!

CHANGU - In future all Sri Lankans will be designed in Sri Lanka and produced in India; flying the short distance across the sea.

ANONYMOUS - That is a bold statement to make, the virus will be killed during the baking process but we can't make sure that each egg will be handled in a manner that controls a potential spread of the virus. Grace

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

'YOUR THOUGHT' is a space, a right of the readers to support or contradict and discuss the issues highlighted in the editorial and other articles in the editorial and op-ed pages. Designed as the reader's editorial; our readers can send in their writings, with a word count not exceeding 200, to 'Your Thought', Daily Mirror Political Features Desk, No 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2 or email to dmreadersthought@gmail.com.

No 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2. P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Editorial: Tel: 011 2 436 998, 011 2 479 479 (ext.327,356). Fax: 011 2 304 545
Advertising - 2479597 / 2479519
Head of Circulation - (Dir.) 0112 479 672, 077 3 219 775
Subscription Manager - (Dir.) 2 479 626, 2 479 628, 077 3 502 183
E-mail: dmnews@dailymirror.wnl.lk

DON'T UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY

Civic society members call for a stop to intimidating the judiciary and holding of elections

A group of 84 individuals, civil rights activists, and intellectuals has issued a statement on the political development in the country recently. In particular, they had mentioned the delay in holding the Local Government Elections, which they allege is interfering with the democratic process. They also charge that the President and certain members of the Legislature are trying to "intimidate and interfere with the Independence of the Judiciary"



We vehemently condemn these fresh actions by the Government to undermine the democratic process of our country. We also fully endorse the statement issued by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in this matter.

The BASL has warned that any attempt to interfere with the independence of the judiciary is a serious affront to the rule of law, the rights of the people of the country, and democracy.

We further note that these attempts by the ruling party Members of Parliament mark a joint effort by both the Executive and sections of the ruling party in the Legislature to further undermine the legally mandated local Government elections from being held.

It is reprehensible that the government, after the repeated failure of several attempts to force the election commission to abandon the plans to hold the election, has now chosen the judiciary as the target of its attacks.

This shows a dangerous pattern of government behaviour in which no independent institutional space – whether the independent commissions or the judiciary – is tolerated in its attempts to stay in power. It wants to prevent at any cost the people's voice from being expressed through an election, which is the most effective and peaceful way available to the people in any democratic society to express their political preferences and choices.

What these new developments show is that Sri Lanka's fragile democracy is under severe attack orchestrated by the President and the ruling party, using both

the Executive and legislative powers they wield. Therefore, all Sri Lankan citizens, political parties and civil society and other mass organizations, as well as the international community, need to be alert to the urgent need to protect democratic space at every level. Sri Lanka has a history of ruling parties attacking the independence of the judiciary during the 1970s and 1980s and later as well, aimed at serving the individual and partisan ambitions of those in power. Those have only led to greater political instability, civil unrest and the deepening of the existing political crises. Thus, defending the free space for independent judgement, action, and dissent, free from capricious interference and threats from those who hold political power, has once again become an urgent task

on the agenda for protecting democracy in Sri Lanka. We call upon the government and all those responsible for holding the elections to do so without delay or hindrance and thereby uphold and protect democratic governance and the Government in Sri Lanka. We also urge the government to cease its attacks on the judiciary, an institution whose integrity and independence is pivotal to democracy in our country. We stress that the confrontational and arrogant approach currently adopted by this administration is wholly counterproductive. It even negates the interests of the people whose rights and well-being the government is duty-bound to serve with diligence and competence in an accountable manner.

Finally, we demand that the President and the government – Desist from interfering with the judiciary or the election commission curtailing their independence in a manner that impedes the people's democratic liberties and rights.

–End misusing political power to harm the country's democratic

institutions and processes for their partisan and personal political interests and ambitions.

–Respect the interim order of the Supreme Court on local elections.

Some of the signatories are: Prof. Emeritus Jayadeva Uyangoda, University of Colombo, Dr. Devanesan Nesaiah, Dr. Jayampathy Wickramaratne, President's Counsel, Dr. Lionel Bopage, Australian Advocacy for Good Governance in Sri Lanka, Dr. P. Saravanamuttu, Jehan Perera, Prof. Emeritus Jayadeva Uyangoda, University of Colombo, Prof. Emeritus. Siri Hettige, University of Colombo, Prof. Sivamohan Sumathy, University of Peradeniya, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Rajan Hoole, Rohana Hettiarachchi

The Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favors. This time I ask you this special one (mention request) Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your own prayer and not mine. Amen.

Say this prayer three times for three days and your favor will be granted. Never been known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer.

Three Day Miracle Prayer To The Blessed Virgin Mary

(Repeat these prayers for three consecutive days)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel; Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech Thee from the bottom of my heart to succour Me in my necessity.

(Make your request)

There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Amen (repeat three times).

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands. Amen (repeat three times)

Say this prayer for three consecutive days each time followed by 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory be to the Father. Then You must publish it and it will be granted. It is never known to fail.

Thank you Blessed Virgin for hearing My Prayers and Miraculous favors granted. L.F

TOMORROW Mar 25

3.30 P.M @ 6.45 P.M

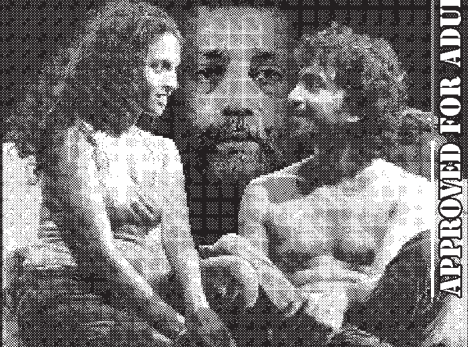
දැන්. ගැස් විවර්ත නෙමේයි.. කැපුළු ගැස්තුන් තියෙනවා..



Directed by Udayasiri Wickramaratne **ගරු කටාභාෂකතුමන්**

Directed by Ashoka Handagama

ANTIQUE කඩිගත මරණයකුණු An Entertaining Tragedy



Saumya Liyanage | Pasan Ranaweera Nipuni Sharada | Stepan Thirimanna & many other artistes

Mar 26 3.30 P.M @ 6.45 P.M

Elphinstone - All seats are box planned -

Tickets now available at the theater

Inquiries: 0777-363633 Jude Srimal

APPROVED FOR ADULTS AUDIENCE ONLY

NOW SCREENING

WON 7 OSCARS OUT OF ITS TOTAL 11 NOMINATIONS

Best Picture	Won
Best Director	Won
Best Actress	Won
Best Supporting Actor	Won
Best Supporting Actress	Won
Best Original Screenplay	Won
Best Film Editing	Won
Best Original Score	Nominated
Best Original Song	Nominated
Best Costume Design	Nominated
Best Supporting Actress	Nominated

A FILM BY DANIELS **EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE**

SAVOY PREMIER Rajagiriya 0114341782 1.30pm	MC Gold Colombo 0757844320 5.00pm	PVR One Galle Face 0713895012 01.00pm, 04.25pm, 07.10pm	CCC Scope Colombo 0112083064 04.30pm	Amitilite Maharagama 0114346463 3.00pm
Regal Gampaha 0115999999 6.45pm	Vistalite Ja Ela 0114330713 3.30pm	KCC Kandy 0812208077 Sat 04.00pm Sun 03.00pm	Maxlite Moratuwa 0114341508 02.30pm	Regal Nuwara Eliya 052222582 4.00pm

TRADEMARK PUBLIC NOTICE



Amongst many products manufactured by the **BAJAJ ELECTRICALS LIMITED** (having its registered office at 45/47, Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai, India) and exported to Sri Lanka are the **Full range of Ceiling Fans and Exhaust Fans** bearing the well-known BAJAJ trademark.

It has come to our attention that there are **Full range of Ceiling Fans and Exhaust Fans** bearing trademarks similar and/or misleading and/or with close resemblance to the Original **BAJAJ ELECTRICALS** trademark available in the Sri Lankan local market which are not genuine products of **BAJAJ ELECTRICALS LIMITED**.

The Sole Authorized Dealer to Import and Distribute the Full range of Ceiling Fans and Exhaust Fans made by BAJAJ ELECTRICALS LIMITED, in Sri Lanka is the **MANS LANKA (PVT) LTD** (Having its registered office at **No.38, 3rd Cross Street, Colombo 11**).

Telephone: +94 112 345 891 Fax: +94 112 438 598
Email: office@macksions.com

We hereby inform the general public that we do not to take the responsibility over the quality of any BAJAJ ELECTRICALS Full range of Ceiling Fans and/or Exhaust Fans bought from any party/person other than directly from the manufacturer - BAJAJ ELECTRICALS LIMITED, the authorized dealer - MANS LANKA (PVT) LTD and our authorized merchandisers. It is to further inform the general public that we are to take necessary legal actions against trademark infringements for those who import and/or sell and/or distribute and/or manufacture such fake products and mislead the consumers, to safeguard the rights of the owner of the above trademark - BAJAJ ELECTRICALS LIMITED.

SULARIKA WICKRAMATUNGE
Attorney-at-Law
Intellectual Property Agent
(On behalf of Mans Lanka (Pvt) Ltd)
Telephone: +94 112 79 2007
Email: sularikawickramatunge@gmail.com

MANS LANKA (PVT) LTD
No. 38, 3rd Cross Street,
Colombo 11.
Telephone: +94 112 345 891

SPORTS

Revenge on Thomian minds as they face Royal in Mustang's Trophy encounter today

Royal College Colombo will look to retain the Mustang's Trophy when they face traditional rivals S. Thomas' College in the 46th annual encounter at the SSC today.

A comfortable eight-wicket win last year meant the Royalists won the trophy for the 23rd time, with the Thomians sitting on 20 wins.

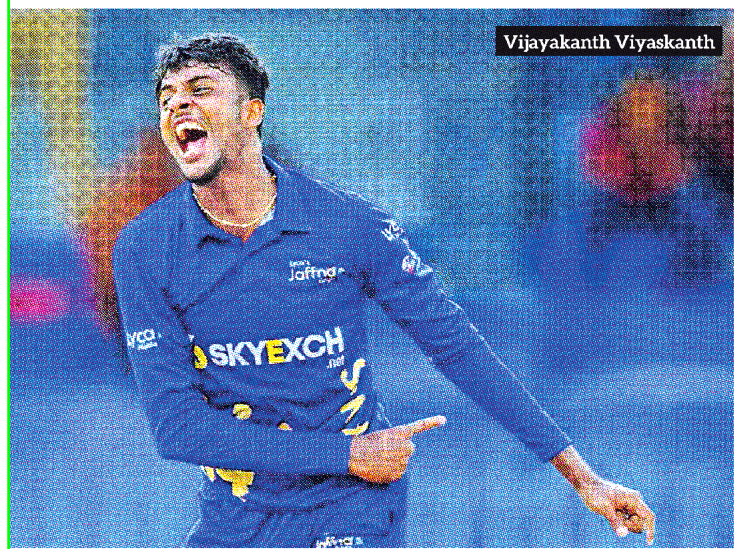
The 2002 encounter ended in a tie, with both teams bowled out for 216, while the 2012 the trophy was shared in 2012 after a miscalculation in the Duckworth/Lewis equation.

Victory for S. Thomas' today will not only see them edge closer to the Royalists, but also avenge the demoralising defeat in the three-day encounter last week.

It would also be their first win since 2018, which was under the captaincy of Dellon Peiris, when the Thomians scored 216 for 9 before bowling out the Royalists for 85, recording an emphatic win.

That victory bookended a run of five consecutive wins for the Thomians, but the Royalists have now won back to back, with two encounters in 2020 and 2021, not being played.

Sangakkara recommended Vijaykanth as net bowler for Rajasthan Royals



BY BIPIN DANI

Vijaykanth Vijaykanth was recommended as a net bowler for the IPL's Rajasthan Royals by the former Sri Lanka captain and the ex-MCC President Kumar Sangakkara.

Sangakkara is the Director of Cricket at the Royals franchise team.

Speaking to Daily Mirror, Vijaykanth said, "First of all I would like to thank the Rajasthan Royals team for giving me such a wonderful opportunity. I heartily thank the respected Sangakkara for recommending my name as a net bowler."

"I performed well in the LPL (Lanka Premier League) and the BPL (Bangladesh Premier League).

I gained more experience in playing these big tournaments. Now I will be able to bowl at the world's leading batters in the IPL. The IPL is a big tournament. Though, at present I am there only as a new bowler but my hope is to take part in it."

"Yes, I have much confidence now but being a youngster, I need to improve my skills which will be gained by doing hard work in my field. I wish to play for our national Sri Lankan team and establish my place in the T-20 team," he said.

Vijaykanth will be in India at the earliest once his visa formalities are completed this weekend. He will be based at Nagpur for the team's training sessions.

CR & FC CENTENARY RUGBY 7'S FROM MARCH 31

The official draw for the upcoming CR & FC Centenary Rugby 7's Tournament was announced on Thursday (23) at a press conference held at CR & FC. The tournament is being organized by the Red Shirts in celebration of 100 years of excellence.

The tournament is set to feature both club segment as well as a school segment with all eight top division teams taking part in the club competition while 12 schools battling it out for the schools title.

CR who gave Kandy Sports Club a run for their money in the inter club league tournament will once again go head to head in the group A alongside side Police Sports Club and Army Sports Club.

Air Force Sports Club that has had a tremendous league competition may well start off as the favourites in Group B although they will face tough competition from Havelock Sports Club, CH and FC as well as Navy Sports Club.

In the school segment, the Group A is certainly the group of death with Royal College, St. Peter's College and Wesley College fighting it out.

Tournament favourites Isipathana College is drawn in Group C with Zahira College and Vidyarthi College while Trinity College is set to face St. Joseph's College and Piliyandala Central in Group B. Kingswood College might start off as favourites in Group D which also includes S. Thomas College as well as DS Senanayake College.

CR&FC President Ted Mutiah believes that this occasion marks a remarkable journey not just for the CR&FC but for rugby in Sri Lanka. The club was founded by Col. E.H. Joseph and dedicated to the Ceylonese, as the people of the land were known then. It thrived in the midst of much-fancied European competition and quickly established a highly regarded reputation in the ensuing decades as an integral part of the game in Sri Lanka.

CR head coach Dushantha Lewke who has done a fabulous job with the Longden Place club is excited for the tournament.

"As the host team we are really excited about the event and we are planning to play the best possible brand of rugby and entertain everyone who is coming to watch," the former Royalist said.



From Left to R- Secretary Centenary Committee Zulker Hamid, Chairman Centenary Committee Jehan Canaga Retna President CR & FC Ted Mutiah General Secretary CR FC Jakque Diaz and Tournament Director Dilroy Fernando at the press briefing yesterday



The Silverware on offer

Coffee Moments with LANKA WOMAN

A panel discussion on Cracking the code : Innovation for a Gender-Equal Future

Keynote Address **Gowri Rajan**
Group Executive Director/CMO, Sun Match

Panel **Zahara Ansary**
Country Manager, AICPA & CIMA

Dulith Herath
Founder & Chairman, Kapruka Holdings PLC

Vino De Silva
Chief Growth Officer, Wavemaker (GroupM)

Mahesha Amarasuriya
Director, Mastercard Sri Lanka

Moderator **Gayani Punchchihewa**
Head of Marketing Digital and Integrated Media, Wijeya Newspapers Limited

24th March 2023
Jetwing Colombo 07
3-7 PM

Empowered by **SINGER** Life Style Partner

Beauty Partner **vnya**

Beverage Partner **NESTLE GOLD**

Cosmetic and Wellness Partner **CHRISTELL**

Clothing Partner **HUF & DEE**

12 countries to participate in Asian Youth Netball

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Asian Netball Association has decided that 12 countries including Sri Lanka will participate in the 12th Asian youth (U-21) netball championship 2023.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in South Korea from June 10 to 17.

Accordingly, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, India and Maldives will compete under Pool 'A'.

Singapore, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Taiwan, South Korea and Pakistan will compete under Pool 'B'.

Malaysia, who won the last 2019 Asian Championship, will compete in Pool 'A', while Singapore, who won the runner-up, and Sri Lanka, who placed third, will compete in Pool 'B' in the Preliminary Round of the tournament.

The two teams that win the championship and runner-up in this year's Asian Netball tournament will qualify for the upcoming World Youth Netball Championship.

The world youth netball championship was scheduled to be held in 2021 but was canceled by the International Netball Federation due to the Covid-19 Pandemic at that time.

The year of the respective tournament has not been decided yet. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka Netball Federation has started training a squad consisting of 18 female players for the Asian Netball Tournament.

The National Netball Selection Committee has



decided to hold the Final Selection on April 2 to select the final twelve players representing the relevant tournament.

According to the history of Asian netball competitions, Sri Lanka has won the Asian youth netball championship on three occasions.

1998, 2002 and 2015 were the three occasions when they won the championship.

Beach netball tournament on March 25

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Mixed beach netball tournaments, conducted by the Sri Lanka Beach Netball Association, will be held on March 25 at Mount Lavinia beach park.

Accordingly, nine teams Colombo Municipal Council, Sports Ground Campbell Team, Sri Lanka

Police Sports Club, Lions Sports Club, Kalutara Sports Club, Ratnapura Sports Club, Net Fire Dehiwala Team, Anuradhapura Sports Club and Net Fire Ratmalana Team will compete.

The opening ceremony of this tournament will be held at 8:30 with Sri Lanka Netball Federation President

Lakshmi Victoria presiding over.

The closing ceremony and the final match will be held at 5:00 pm that day under the Chairmanship of Lasantha Amarasinghe, the founder and chairman of Chance Sports, which is the main sponsor of the tournament.

National Super League Limited Over Dambulla cruise through to fourth successive win

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Dambulla cruised through to their fourth successive win of the National Super League limited over tournament with a convincing 76-run win over Jaffna in the match played at the Rangiri Dambulla Stadium yesterday.

Dambulla taking first lease of the wicket helped by a knock of 66 made by Lahiru Samarakoon made a modest score of 233 runs.

Jaffna in their run chase revised to 226 runs fell into deep trouble as they

were struggling on 125 for 8 having faced 25 overs before the match was stopped due to bad light which ensured a convincing win for Dambulla.

Meanwhile a swashbuckling quick fire knock of 167 in just 133 balls inclusive of 13 boundaries and five sixes by Lasith Croospulle against Colombo played at the Pallekele Stadium was in vain.

Lasith's knock saw Kandy taking first lease of the wicket making a formidable score of 308 for 9 after which the match was called off due heavy rain.

Abeykoon century saves Std. Chartered Bank

A gutsy, unbeaten century by middle order batsman Thamasana Abeykoon (100 not out in 63 balls inclusive of three sixes and 11 fours) steered Standard Chartered Bank to a thrilling one-wicket win with one ball to spare, over Commercial Bank "B", in the on-going fifth Fairfirst Insurance sponsored MCA "F" division 25-over League 2023. The second centurion for the

week-end was Pasan Nelaka from Hirdaramani Group (100 in 69 balls, inclusive of one six and 15 fours), which helped his team to a four wickets win over Commercial Credit. The tournament will be continued this week-end, March 25, 26 and 28 with a match card of 17 half day matches, which will conclude the league stage of 105 matches. (BM)

MATCH RESULTS IN BRIEF

Geo. Stuart Health - 191/7 (25) beat Slim Pharma - 117 (23.5) by 74 runs; Commercial Bank "B" - 195/7 (25) lost to Std. Chartered Bank - 200/9 (24.5) by 01 wkt; Nations Trust Bank - 190/4 (25) beat Cargills Bank - 74 (16.4) by 116 runs; Certis Lanka - 90 (24.5) lost to Std. Chartered Bank - 94/0 (10.3) by 10 wickets; MAS Silueta - 176/9 (25) beat Commercial Bank "B" - 169/5 (25) by 07 runs; Astron Lanka - 151/8 (25) beat Dialog Axiata 94 (21.2) by 57 runs; HBN "B" - 133/9 (25) beat Emerchemie NB - 122/9 (25) by 11 runs; SAGT - 177/6 (25) beat Ceylon Tobacco Co. 172/6 (25) by 05 runs; Commercial Credit - 179/6 (25) lost to Hirdaramani - 182/6 (23.4) by 04 wickets; Slim Pharma - 116 (25) lost to Certis Lanka - 117/4 (23.5) by 06 wickets; SAGT - 110 (23.1) lost to Linea Aqua - 114/3 (17.2) by 07 wickets; Ansel Lanka - 205/7 (25) beat Commercial Credit - 195/5 (25) by 10 runs; Softlogic Life - 119 (21.3) lost to Unilever - 124/5 (19.4) by 05 wickets; Ansell Textiles - 136/8 (25) lost to Asiri Hospitals - 138/8 (23.3) by 02 wickets; Sri Lanka Telecom - 111 (20.5) lost to DPGC "B" - 112/3 (14.1) by 07 wickets; 3DH International - 146/8 (25) beat Union Bank 92 (21.3) by 54 runs; Atire - 289/6 (25) beat Synergen Health - 96 (22.1) by 193 - runs; Technomedics - 146/7 (25) tied with MAS Active - 146/9 (25)

TTSC open their season with Carom Championships tomorrow

The Travel Trade Sports Club will commence their multi-events sports calendar for 2023 with their 9th Mens and Womens Carom Championships, on March (25) at the Galadari Hotel, "Arena" Hall, commencing 8:30 a.m.

The tournament which is revived after one year is once again partnered by Galadari Hotel coming in as the venue and F&B Sponsor.

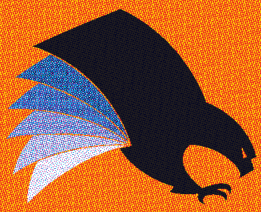
The tournament will be conducted in accordance to the internationally accepted Laws of

Carom; the men's tie, consisting three singles and two doubles and women's tie, consisting one single and one double.

In the previous tournament held on March 13, 2021 at the Galadari Hotel, Salon Anthurium, Sri Lankan Airlines won the men's team event beating Turya Resort, Kalutara and Buddhini Dias from Colombo Tours won the individual singles and doubles tournament. Buddhini's doubles partner was TAT Alwis from Galadari Hotel. (BM)

RESULT

At Dambulla - Dambulla won by 76 runs
Dambulla 233 in 48.1 overs (Lahiru Samarakoon 66, Pavan Ratnayake 26, Ashan Priyanjan 24, Sonal Dinusha 20, Abishek Liyanaarachchi 18, Lasith Abeyratne 17, Ranitha Liyanaarachchi 17, Minod Bhanuka 15; Jeffrey Vandersay 3 for 42, Ravindu Fernando 2 for 42, Shiran Fernando 2 for 50)
Jaffna 125 for 8 in 25 overs (Kasun Abeyratne 52; Ranitha Liyanaarachchi 2 for 10, Lahiru Samarakoon 2 for 26, Sonal Dinusha 2 for 30)
At Pallekele - No Result
Kandy 308 for 9 (Lasith Croospulle 167, Sandun Weerakkody 28, Ahan Wickramasinghe 26, Lahiru Udara 17, Asel Sigera 17; Dushan Vimukthi 3 for 34, Dhanushka Sandaruwan 2 for 55, Sachitha Jayatileke 2 for 76) vs Colombo



Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market **P08**

Exporters confident of IMF bailout creating conducive environment for intl. trade

- Believe IMF facility will create opportunities for low-interest credit, restore foreign investor confidence, and lay the foundation for strong new economy
- Urge govt. to increase attention towards exporters to help generate higher forex for the economy

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) yesterday expressed confidence in the finalised International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package paving the way to create a conducive environment for the island nation to trade with the world.

Applauding the efforts of the government in "rebuilding" the country after the massive hit it took

from April 2022, the chamber sounded upbeat in Sri Lanka witnessing improved prospects going forward.

"The IMF facility will create opportunities for low-interest credit, restore foreign investors' confidence, and lay the foundation for a strong new economy.

"This would lead to an impact on the exchange rate and thereby

the Cost of Production (COP), all manufacturing sectors will make adjustments and cope better as the exchange rate will be a fine balancing act between sustaining exports and reducing the COP," NCE said in a statement to the media.

The chamber acknowledged that bagging the IMF loan would result in economic

developments, and as a result, foreign importers would have more confidence to import from Sri Lanka. The influx of foreign exchange that would follow would make it easier for local imports to obtain finance facilities as foreign banks would have more confidence in dealing with Sri Lankan banks.



Jayantha Karunaratne

MORE ON P8

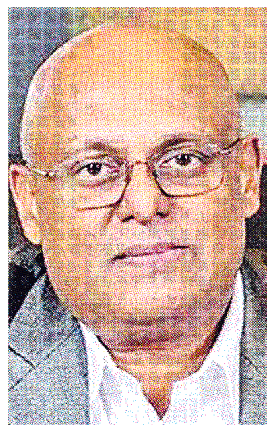
Sri Lanka to divest 7 SOEs including SLT, SLIC, SriLankan and Litro Gas

- State-owned Enterprises Restructuring Unit (SRU) to soon select transaction advisors to assist with sale process
- SRU says divestiture will be carried out in a transparent and credible manner and investor selection will commence with EO/RFP process
- SOE restructuring has been identified by IMF for reforms on priority basis

The State-owned Enterprises Restructuring Unit (SRU) yesterday said it would appoint reputed, qualified and experienced consultancy firms and/or development financial institutions to provide transaction advisory services to assist with the divestitures.

SRU said the process of selecting such transaction advisors would commence shortly.

The transaction advisors are expected to assist SRU with sell-side due diligence, valuation, data room creation, transaction strategy and marketing of the entities to be divested.



SRU Head Suresh Shah

under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies to restructure the SOE sector, which for many years has been a severe burden on the Sri Lankan economy.

Under Sri Lanka's ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, SOE restructuring has been identified for reforms on a priority basis.

SRU noted that the SOE reforms envisaged are expected to contribute towards higher economic productivity by reducing market distortions, increasing organisational efficiency and improving the quality of service to the public.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka expects to earn US\$ 4 - 4.5 billion from the sale of both profit-making and loss-making SOEs. According to recently released IMF documents on Sri Lanka, total exposure to the public sector accounts for over 40 percent of banks' assets, including two large state-owned commercial banks' exposures to insolvent SOEs.

MORE ON P8

The Cabinet of Ministers in principle has green lighted the divestiture of seven state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

They are Sri Lanka Airlines including Sri Lanka Catering, Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT), Sri Lanka Insurances Corporation (SLIC), Canwill Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (Grand Hyatt Colombo), Hotel Developers Lanka Ltd. (Hilton Colombo), Litro Gas Lanka Ltd. including Litro Gas Terminal Pvt. Ltd and Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC.

DFCC Bank opens INR Nostro account with HDFC Bank India

DFCC Bank PLC yesterday announced the opening of an Indian Rupee (INR)-denominated Nostro account with HDFC Bank in India.



Prins Perera

The move follows the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) classifying the Indian Rupee as a designated foreign currency. "With the opening of the INR Nostro account, we see great potential for trade, tourism, and investments between the two nations," says Prins Perera - SVP of Treasury and Investment Banking at DFCC Bank.

By establishing a Nostro account in Indian Rupees, DFCC Bank is acting as a facilitator to enable Sri Lankan and Indian importers and exporters to carry out trade transactions in Indian rupees in a manner that is beneficial to both parties. India has traditionally been among Sri Lanka's largest trade partners in the SAARC region, with ties in infrastructure, connectivity, transportation, housing, health, livelihood and rehabilitation, education, and industrial development.

MORE ON P8

Japan provides US\$ 1.6mn to Lankan women affected by seoci-economic crisis

The Government of Japan has provided US\$ 1.6 million to UN Women in support of humanitarian assistance for women mostly affected by the socio-economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The funding is part of a new project "Empowering women in crisis", running from February 2023 to December 2023, which will support at least 1,200 women, including their children who have faced sexual and gender-based violence.

It will further support 500 women-led micro-enterprises at risk of collapse and over 2,000 individuals at risk of poverty and malnutrition.

Mizukoshi Hideaki, Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka said, "Our goal is to ensure that women and girls who are most vulnerable to the ongoing crisis are not left behind in response and recovery efforts, and to ensure that their safety and security are prioritised during this time."

MORE ON P8



Raid Amazonas 2023 kicks off

The adventure trail 'Raid Amazonas 2023' kicked off in Kandy on March 22.

Nearly 250 female athletes from France are participating in the trail in Sri Lanka's hill capital. Raid Amazonas is the world's only itinerant women's adventure race and SriLankan Airlines is the Presenting Partner of the event.

The French group participated in a trail running race from Hanthane to Galaha on Wednesday, covering 11 kilometres in between. Yesterday (March 23), the participants had a blast canoeing across the enchanting waters of Lake Victoria. The group will run, bike and canoe in the days leading up to the grand

finale on March 28, chalking up a distance of over 70 kilometres of ground and water terrain.

The thrill of adventure is not the only draw for the French women. However, as each evening following the day's trail, they will get a glimpse of the local culture and traditions through food, sport and recreation.

No accountability from government towards policies introduced to tackle crisis: Verité Research

- 93% of policies regarding health, agriculture and power, have no record of implementation
- Says results reveal the 'closed culture' and lack of accountability present within govt.

Colombo-based think tank Verité Research said.

A recent assessment conducted by Verité Research showed that 93 percent of policies introduced by the government in 2022 pertaining to health, agriculture and power, have no record of implementation.

"The results reveal the 'closed culture' and lack of accountability present within government," Verité Research said.

The think tank tracked 15 cabinet decisions and proposals introduced in parliament by government MPs, spanning across health, agriculture, and power. The policy areas were selected on the basis that the crisis was most

India's Petroleum Ministry Secretary and IndianOil Corporation Chairman expected in Colombo today

Secretary to India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Pankaj Jain and IndianOil Corporation Ltd. Chairman Shirkant Madhav Vaidya are expected to arrive in Sri Lanka today for a brief visit, Mirror Business learns.



Pankaj Jain



Shirkant Madhav Vaidya

During their visit, they are scheduled to hold discussions with President Ranil Wickremesinghe and visit the Trincomalee oil tank farm.

IndianOil Corporation, which is a Fortune 'Global 500' company controlled by the Indian government, is the parent company of Lanka IOC PLC.

IndianOil Corporation's operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Early part of last year, Lanka IOC PLC and state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation formed a joint venture called Trinco Petroleum Terminal Ltd. to develop the World War II era tank farm. Lanka IOC

is also the smaller, private sector party in Sri Lanka's fuel distribution duopoly. The company recently received the approval from the Sri Lankan government to expand its network with 50 more filling stations.

Hatch opens applications for AccelerateHer 2.0

- An accelerator programme for budding female entrepreneurs from across the island

Hatch, Sri Lanka's leading startup hub partnered with the US Department of State to implement AccelerateHer, a bespoke accelerator programme for budding female entrepreneurs. Applications are now open for its second cycle.

AccelerateHer is designed to help female founders grow their businesses,

and gain access to funding and networks that will allow them to scale and compete more effectively in the global marketplace. The programme is 100 percent free-of-charge and does not ask for equity in the participant's business.

Applicants selected to be part of AccelerateHer will get capacity funding of up to Rs.1.5 million, curated workshops focused on strategy, operations, business development, product design, tech, growth, PR, brand, and talent to address the knowledge gap, access to a global network of mentors,

investors, and female founder networks, and a strong alumni network and lifetime relationships.

The programme duration is from April to July 2023, with a flexible schedule to accommodate the needs of the participants.

According to the Sri Lanka Development Update published by the World Bank in April 2021, women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka face a number of challenges, including limited access to finance, lack of business skills, and social norms that discourage women from starting businesses.

Bank of England raises interest rates for 11th time to combat inflation

BBC: After United States Federal Reserve's rate hike on Wednesday, UK's central bank, Bank of England yesterday raised interest rates to 4.25 percent from 4 percent an attempt to slow rising prices.

The Bank of England's decision to lift rates for the 11th time in a row comes after figures showed the cost of living rising by more than expected.

Inflation jumped to 10.4 percent in the year to February, despite

predictions it would fall. The rate rise comes amid lingering worries over the global financial system after two US banks failed. The bank has been steadily putting up interest rates in an attempt to tackle the soaring cost of living. Inflation, which is the rate at which prices rise, remains close to its highest level for 40 years - more than five times what it should be.

The Bank voted to increase its benchmark rate to a fresh 14-year

high following inflation increasing "unexpectedly", but it said price rises remained "likely to fall sharply over the rest of the year". Its rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee voted in favour of the latest rise, with a majority of seven to two, with the bank saying "cost and price pressures have remained elevated".

It means that mortgage costs for some homeowners will rise and some savers will be able to access better returns.

visible and burdensome to citizens through, shortages of essential medicine, shortages/prices hikes of essential food and lengthy power cuts. Information was requested via the Right To Information (RTI) Act No. 12 of 2016, which guarantees citizens the right to ask for information from public authorities.

Of the nine agencies responsible for the implementation of the 15 proposals, just three agencies responded to the RTI requests and only one agency provided relevant information that was sufficient to assess the implementation of the proposals.

"This is particularly concerning given that in September 2022, the Secretary to the President,

Saman Ekanayake, informed all Ministry Secretaries that it is their prime responsibility to work for the convenience of the public and that it is mandatory to create efficient response systems in all ministries and government institutions," pointed out Verité Research.

In previous years, Verité Research highlighted that 'lack of accountability' is a major and consistent feature of government policy making through its 'Budget Promises' series.

Particularly in the context of the current crisis, accountability regarding the use and effectiveness of tax payer money is a critical step to building public trust and a sustainable economic recovery, asserted the think tank.



SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC

1319 www.sarvodayafinance.lk



23.03.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A	CHANG																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
MAIN BOARD								LANKA WALLTILE	178,839	49.50	50.30	48.80	49.20	(0.30)	AMANA LIFE	67	36.80	36.80	36.80	36.80	36.80	36.80																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
ASPN HOT HOLD	20,386	59.60	58.30	61.40	57.00	61.20	1.60	LANKEM DEV	29,489	26.00	25.70	27.50	26.80	(0.80)	AMBEON HOLDINGS	27	37.50	36.00	37.50	36.00	37.50	36.00	37.50	36.00	37.50	36.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
ADANS	107	153.50	160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	6.50	LAUIGFS GAS	77,178	29.50	29.90	27.00	28.90	(0.60)	AMF CO LTD	228,099	7.80	7.90	8.20	7.90	8.20	7.90	8.20	7.90	8.20	7.90																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
ACCESS ENGL	764,658	15.40	15.20	15.30	14.60	14.90	(0.50)	LAUIGFS GAS [LGL X0000]	44,935	20.10	20.50	21.50	19.10	(0.50)	ARPCO INSURANCE	601	21.00	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
ACL	419,794	80.70	81.20	82.90	79.00	80.90	0.20	LAXAPANA	32,200	13.20	13.20	13.40	13.20	13.40	0.20	ASIA SIVAKA	391,854	4.20	4.10	4.20	4.00	4.00	(0.20)	BANSEI RESORTS	7,371	11.10	11.30	11.30	10.50	10.70	(0.40)	BERUWALA RESORTS	28,340	1.40	1.30	1.40	1.30	1.30	(0.10)	BOGALA GRAPHITE	9,508	66.10	65.10	67.40	64.10	65.00	(1.10)	BPPH HOLDINGS	77,242	22.00	22.70	22.70	21.50	21.50	(0.50)	BROWNS	11,112	130.50	127.75	130.00	125.25	129.50	(1.00)	BROWNS INVSTMNTS	6,131,527	6.70	6.80	6.80	6.50	6.50	(0.20)	CT LAND	1,129	24.70	25.90	26.00	25.80	25.90	1.23	C W MACKIE	26,941	82.30	81.70	82.50	80.00	82.00	(0.30)	CALT	533,733	32.60	33.60	34.50	31.80	32.20	(0.40)	CEYLON BEVERAGE	29	1045.50	1098.00	1100.00	1000.00	1045.50		CEYLON TEA BRKRS	23,176	4.10	4.00	4.10	4.00	4.00	(0.10)	CITRUS HIKKADUWA	8,415	5.30	5.20	5.30	5.00	5.00	0.30	CITRUS WASKADUWA	134,908	2.60	2.50	2.70	2.50	2.50	0.20	COM CREDIT	2,481	25.00	24.80	25.00	24.00	24.90	(0.10)	COMMERCIAL DEV	210	113.50	113.00	113.00	102.50	108.00	(5.50)	DILMAH CEYLON	107	1060.00	1059.50	1060.00	1059.25	1060.00		E - CHANNELLING	2,024,871	17.60	18.50	20.00	16.60	18.40	0.80	ELPITTA	8,723	76.50	76.80	76.80	76.00	76.50		EQITY TWO PLC	502	39.90	39.90	40.00	39.90	40.00	0.10	EXTERMINATORS	25	8.20	8.70	8.70	8.50	8.20		FC TREASURIES	312,592	22.50	23.40	23.40	22.50	22.80	0.30	FIRST CAPITAL	670,284	31.60	33.50	33.60	31.00	31.90	0.30	FORTRESS RESORTS	39,121	22.10	22.50	22.50	21.60	21.60	(0.50)	GALADARI	85,353	14.30	14.50	14.50	13.50	14.30		HAPUGASTENNE	4,350	21.80	21.80	21.80	21.20	21.30	(0.50)	HATTON	2,533	20.10	20.90	21.00	20.00	20.00	(0.10)	HNB FINANCE	75,264	5.30	5.20	5.40	5.20	5.30		HVA FOODS	58	3.90	3.90	4.00	3.80	3.90		JANASHAKTHI INS	106,870	29.80	29.00	29.00	27.20	27.20	(2.60)	JETWING SYMPHONY	62,404	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.10	7.20		JOHN KEELLS	1,012	68.00	68.00	68.00	65.50	65.80	(2.20)	KAHAWATTE	56,170	20.40	21.10	21.10	19.80	20.00	(0.40)	KALAHOTI	128,225	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.40	18.40		KELSO	4,350	21.80	21.80	21.80	21.20	21.30	(0.50)	LANKA CERAMIC	1	100.00	107.00	107.00	107.00	100.00		LANKEM CEYLON	958	67.50	82.40	82.40	77.50	81.20	13.70	LAUIGFS POWER	4,150	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.60	8.70	(0.20)	LCB FINANCE PLC	1,935,675	2.70	2.80	2.90	2.60	2.60	(0.10)	LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL	3,700	28.30	29.40	29.40	29.40	29.40	1.10	LOLC GENERAL INS	201,487	7.20	7.10	7.20	7.00	7.00	(0.20)	LOTUS HYDRO	2	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.20	7.90		MACKWOODS ENERGY	2,184	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40		MAHAWELI COCONUT	29,100	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	0.20	MAHAWELI REACH	150	36.30	36.50	36.50	36.50	36.50	0.20	MARAWILLA RESORTS	4,000	12.80	12.60	12.80	12.60	12.70	(0.10)	MASKELIYA	577,080	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.10	2.10	(0.10)	MILLENNIUM HOUSE	29,620	36.00	35.10	37.40	35.00	35.90	(0.10)	MYLAND	4,354	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.20	3.20	0.10	NESTLE	2,590	9.20	9.30	9.30	9.00	9.00	(0.20)	NIJWARA ELYA	118	1086.50	1080.00	1080.00	1065.00	1078.25	(8.25)	PALM GARDEN HOTEL	4	1490.00	1400.75	1477.50	1400.50	1490.00		PEGASUS HOTELS	876	59.80	58.10	59.00	58.00	58.00	(1.80)	PEOPLE'S MERCH	9,100	33.30	32.00	33.60	32.00	33.50	0.20	PRIME RESIDENCES	61,068	8.10	8.00	8.30	7.90	7.90	(0.20)	RAMBODA FALLS	49,309	6.80	6.70	6.90	6.70	6.70	(0.10)	RICH PIERIS EXP	14,949	28.40	25.20	31.00	25.20	28.10	(0.30)	SATHOSA MOTORS	165	560.25	565.00	568.75	559.25	562.00	1.75	SERENDIB HOTELS	20,702	25.90	25.60	26.40	25.60	26.30	0.20	SERENDIB HOTELS [SHOT X0000]	115	140.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	5.00	SINGER IND	3,037	36.40	36.70	36.90	32.70	33.20	(3.20)	SOFTLOGIC FIN	5,633,989	12.00	12.50	12.70	11.80	12.30	0.30	SOFTLOGIC LIFE	1,273	8.80	8.70	9.10	8.50	9.10	0.30	TALANKA	331,261	92.60	97.00	97.00	91.60	94.60	2.00	TESS AGRO	115	15.30	15.50	15.50	14.90	15.00	(0.30)	TESS AGRO [TESS X0000]	230,120	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.80	0.90	0.10	UNION BANK	2,963	80.50	78.00	79.90	75.50	75.90	(4.60)	VALLIBEL ONE	854	33.90	33.40	33.90	32.30	32.80	(1.10)	VIDULLANKA	139,967	39.00	40.00	40.00	38.20	38.40	(0.60)	WATCH LIST	180,190	3.50	3.50	3.60	3.40	3.50		WAWALOKA	95,757	6.10	6.20	6.30	6.10	6.10		ODEL PLC	1,025	16.70	17.30	17.50	17.30	17.50	0.20	RADIANT GEMS	900	30.40	28.10	28.10	28.10	28.10	(2.30)

Exchange Rates

23.03.2023

(1) The average rates of the following currencies quoted by commercial banks in Colombo for Telegraphic Transfers (TT) at 9.30 a.m. are as follows:

CURRENCY	BUYING RATE	SELLING RATE
Australian Dollar	207.9029	221.9914
Canadian Dollar	226.3141	241.2163
Chinese Yuan (Renminbi)	44.7253	48.4998
Euro	338.2864	358.1529
Japanese Yen	2.3743	2.5191
Singapore Dollar	233.6937	248.2344
Swing Pound	332.1861	404.2407
Swiss Franc	335.6628	360.7523
US Dollar	311.2617	328.6083

(2) The approximate exchange rates of GULF Currencies based on previous day's market weighted average rate for the US\$ are as follows:

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	INDICATIVE RATE
Bahrain	Bahrain Dinar	841.2737
Kuwait	Kuwait Dinar	1,036.6272
Oman	Oman Rial	824.2395
Qatar	Qatar Riyal	85.7932
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian Riyal	84.4779
UAE	UAE Dirham	86.3927

Crossings drive turnover

Indices closed in red as a result of price losses in counters such as Sampath Bank, Commercial Bank and Hatton National Bank with the turnover crossing Rs. 3.4 bn.

Crossings were witnessed in Agalawatte Plantations, Ceylon Tobacco Company and Cargills, accounting for 55.4% of the turnover.

Mixed interest was observed in Sri Lanka Telecom, Hayleys and Lanka IOC whilst retail interest was noted



in SMB Leasing nonvoting, LOLC Finance and Browns Investments.

Foreign participation in the market activity remained at subdued levels with foreigners closing as net sellers. Food,

Beverage & Tobacco sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Agalawatte Plantations and Ceylon Tobacco Company) whilst the sector index lost 0.44%.

The share price of Agalawatte Plantations increased by Rs. 0.40 (1.27%) to close at Rs. 31.90. The share price of Ceylon Tobacco Company lost Rs. 15.25 (2.32%) to close at Rs. 642.75.

Capital Goods sector was the second highest contributor to the market

turnover (due to Hayleys) whilst the sector index decreased by 0.50%.

The share price of Hayleys recorded a gain of Rs. 0.10 (0.13%) to close at Rs. 79.70. Sri Lanka Telecom and Lanka IOC were also included amongst the top turnover contributors.

The share price of Sri Lanka Telecom moved down by Rs. 0.50 (0.44%) to close at Rs. 112.00. The share price of Lanka IOC declined by Rs. 5.25 (2.99%) to close at Rs. 170.50.

Contd. from Page 7

Sri Lanka to...

Sri Lanka's IMF programme, which got the Board Level approval this week, will strengthen the governance of SOEs and address their debt overhangs.

The SOE reforms included in the programme are: Cabinet approval of a comprehensive strategy to restructure the balance sheets of CPC, CEB, the Road Development Authority, and SriLankan Airlines by June 2023 (structural benchmark), prompt publication of audited financial statements for all 52 major SOEs, and prohibition of new FX borrowing by nonfinancial SOEs with limited FX revenues.

In addition, the authorities are expected to further strengthen SOE governance by clarifying the mandates of key SOEs through Statements of Corporate Intent, and

by reviewing the framework for selecting SOE board members. Carrying out SOE reforms in Sri Lanka is not at all an easy task as sale of privatisation of SOEs are strongly opposed by trade unions.

DFCC Bank...

In the present context, where Sri Lanka is facing a dollar shortage, traders can now resort to Indian Rupees for settlements.

This move also allows hotels to invoice in INR and accept INR currency notes in the future. As per available statistics, Indian tourists make up 13 percent of new arrivals in the first two months of 2023, which means this effort will help better facilitate and promote tourism between the two countries. HDFC Bank Ltd is the largest private sector bank in India, with 7,183 branches across the country.

Exporters confident...

"The EFF is just another loan but will help stabilise the economy and set a path to growth to create credibility and confidence for Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and exports," said newly elected NCE President Jayantha Karunaratne.

He added that the chamber hopes and suggests the government to increase its attention towards exporters in the country as it is one of the biggest paths where the country can gain foreign exchange.

According to projections made by the IMF for Sri Lanka, the country's export revenue is expected to grow by over US\$ 16 billion by 2026 from US\$ 13 billion achieved in 2022.

Japan provides...

As reports on the ground reflect a continuing increase in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, the ongoing crisis and economic instability have hindered access to state services such as safe houses and shelters resulting in devastating implications for women and girls.

Through this project, UN Women will provide safe houses with continued access to commodities including food and other essential items. Additionally, it will ensure that shelters and safe houses where facilities were improved and refurbished continue to function rather than face closure due to inadequate funding and support. This will ensure that more safe houses are available for women and girls fleeing abusive circumstances.

Moreover, due to a lack of access to

viable employment opportunities and soaring food inflation, there is an urgent need to ensure that households – particularly those already vulnerable and marginalised – have access to basic food and necessities to support their survival. "We are grateful for the contribution provided by the Government of Japan to address the urgent needs of women and girls", said Prashani Dias, Head of Office a.i. at UN Women Sri Lanka. "This will provide income-generating resources and life-saving support to vulnerable women, and ensure that the status of women and girls in the country does not regress further".

To support these efforts, this project will work with women-led enterprises to strengthen their business resilience and livelihoods through the provision of in-kind support and business development trainings, in the districts of Ampara, Colombo, Monaragala, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu.

Latest news at your fingertips!



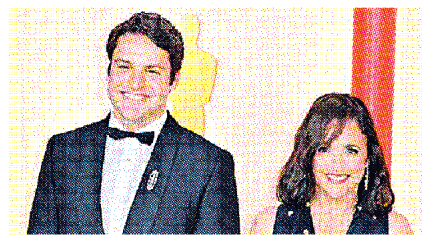
Daily Mirror www.dailymirror.lk

Log on to www.dailymirror.lk

DailyMirror

Life

FRIDAY
MARCH 24, 2023
WWW.LIFE.LK
P-09



'VEEP' ACTRESS GETS (REAL) WHITE HOUSE HONOUR

It will be the recognition that her bumbling character in "Veep" always longed for when actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus on Tuesday is awarded the nation's highest honour for artistic contribution by President Joe Biden at the White House. Louis-Dreyfus, cited by the White House in a statement as "one of the most decorated comedic actors of our time," will be among a dozen recipients of the National Medal of Arts. **AFP**

From 11th March to 12th April 2023

HUNTERS AVURUDHU SALE

Rs. 500/- upwards

HUNTER & COMPANY PLC PARK N SHOP Colombo 10 Tel: 2693902. LIBERTY PLAZA Col. 03 Tel: 2310137. SANGARAJA MAWATHA Col. 10 Tel: 2328171. NAWALA Tel: 2809633. RAJAGIRIYA Tel: 2076544. DEHIWELA Tel: 2713606. MAHARAGAMA Tel: 2089631. KANDY Tel: 081-2234420. MORATUWA Tel: 2647407. JA-ELA Tel: 2059192.

Hunters.lk @hunters.lk Daraz

SIMPLY THE FINEST FRAMING SHOP IN TOWN

AND @ PRICES THAT WILL AMAZE YOU

Joseph Louis GALLERY

51,53, Dickmans Road, Colombo 5.

Tel: 2598888/ 2598889

ADJOINING THE POST OFFICE

WHERE MEMORIES BECOME ART

PRESERVE YOUR SPECIAL FLOWERS AND BOUQUETS

KENT PICTURE FRAMING

CONTACT US: 0112 448844 0718734728

OF PUMPKIN AND JAK

The conversation at a casual Sunday lunch at Trixie's segued to an article in the past week's Daily Mirror where it stated that 59% of the Sri Lankan population either do not have access to or have a wholesome single meal for the day. Trixie's neighbour, Haughty Katha Petti, callously butted in saying that the information was inaccurate as villagers have access to pumpkin or jak at any given time since both grow in their gardens and, therefore, they cannot be starving. Haughty was airing her opinion whilst her plate was practically overflowing with food.

Trixie was not ready to play the polite host by allowing Haughty to get away with this ridiculous statement. She pointed out to Haughty that her statement did not hold water and asked her whether she would be able to live only eating pumpkin and jak for all meals every single day.

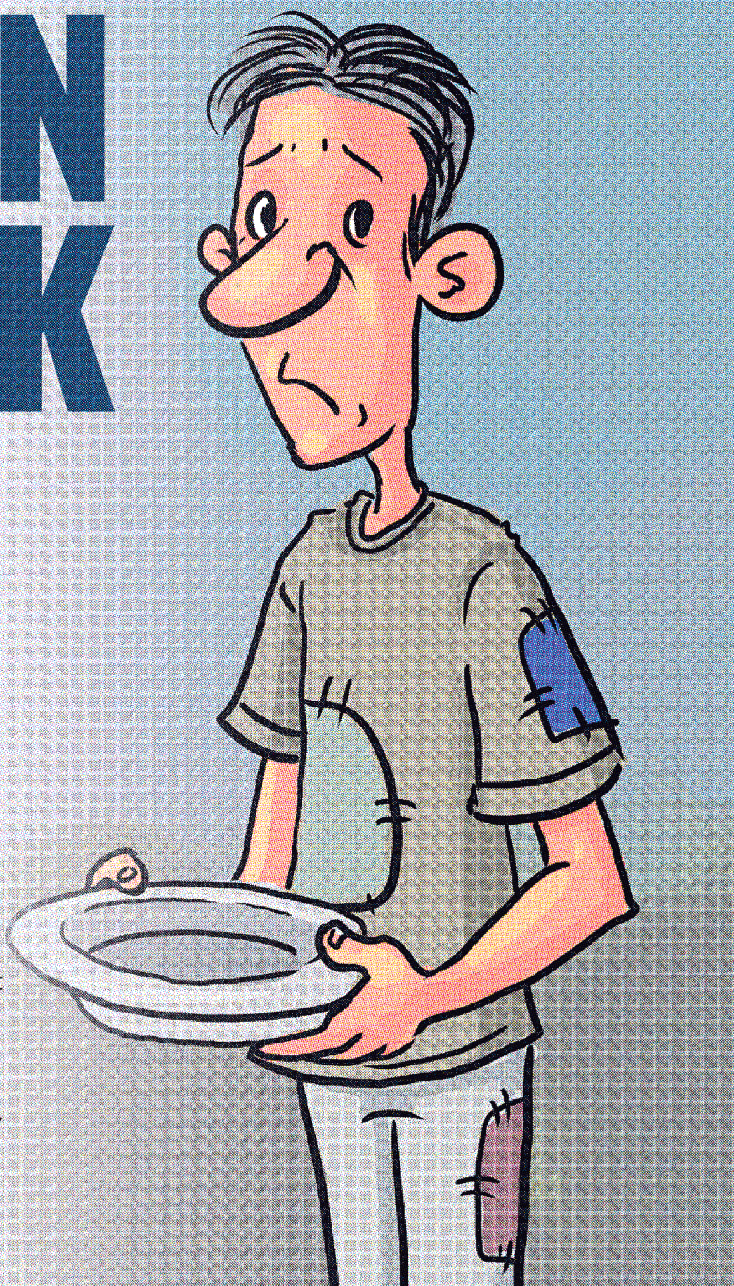


I agree with Trixie and cannot imagine anybody being happy eating only pumpkin and jak every day. People in the cities also eat these two vegetables. However, there is a huge difference in that these items are cooked in varying ways and eaten with

other accompaniments. The same goes for other vegetables, such as manioc and sweet potatoes, which the elite in Colombo believe villagers are happy eating daily. Picture going to the market and being unable to afford the cost of a coconut, condiments, cooking oil and other basic necessities that we take for granted.

It is another story when chatting with villagers. They all have tales to relate about their sad existence. The cost of living has affected them all - looking after children, educating, feeding and clothing them is near impossible with what they earn, whatever the job may be. The majority of employers rarely increase wages as they have lost a lot of their businesses. Bonuses will not be paid to many employees to celebrate Avurudhu next month. Nevertheless, money will be sourced to follow the traditions and rituals, a custom that cannot be taken away from them.

As for the statement that villagers will not be starving owing to what is available in their backyards, it is all bunkum and typical Colombo chitter chatter of the thoughtless, whilst indulging in a fancy meal, with no empathy for the less fortunate.



'Soul of a City' photography exhibition showcasing the soul of Kandy

Soul of a City, a photography exhibition and sale showcasing a selection of black and white photographs taken during the COVID pandemic in the city of Kandy by Nadija Weeraratne, will be held on Sunday, 26th March 2023, from 10 am to 6.30pm at the Harrold Peiris Gallery, Lionel Wendt, Colombo 7. Nadija hails from a business background and look up photography purely as a hobby. With over 40 images, the photographer hopes to take you on a journey across time, space, and reality during uncertain times. Each photograph captures moments of stillness alongside its rich beauty in people and places in a state of isolation and a moment in time that had left an indelible mark on people's lives. Despite the prevailing movement restrictions at the time, Nadija followed his passion and turned his isolation into a rich palette of reflections. The photographs depict the impact of a global pandemic on individuals, a city, and homeless people on the streets.



Nadija Weeraratne, Photographer and Organiser of 'Soul of a City' exhibition

Commenting on the exhibition, Nadija stated, "One of the most beautiful aspects of humanity is how we tend to put our best forward in the worst of times. For many people, the COVID-19 pandemic brought an aura of uncertainty and a level of insecurity that primarily affected low-income earners. But, we could also witness the very best that humanity had to offer, with people from all walks of life coming together to help those in need." Having had his first introduction to photography by his father at the age of 12, Nadija took years to master photography to produce superior-quality pictures. The turning point in his career was inviting the famous author Carl Muller for a photoshoot.

Despite many early rejections, his persistence finally made Muller agree to a photoshoot. Muller was clearly impressed, as he later even used one of these photographs on the cover of one of his books. His early work also includes a Coffee Table edition covering the "Kandy Esela Perahera," the first of its kind ever published in Sri Lanka. Most photographs were captured while commuting to work and some while accompanying a very dear friend who was distributing much-needed food and rations among low-income earners in and around Kandy town during the height of the first COVID pandemic. During this time, he noticed the silence and tranquility of a city, which would typically be bustling with activity. He decided to capture some images of the tranquility and the people. These are the images that will be showcased at the exhibition. "Taking a picture is like giving a piece of your soul away. You allow other people to see the world through your eyes. In these images, we will not only see sorrow, pain, and desperation. But we also see love, sacrifice, and resilience" Nadija further stated.

Ongoing Research at Dilmah's Endana Nature Corridor Paves Way for Discovery of New Bloom



Dilmah's Endana Nature Corridor is a landmark project aimed at linking two fragmented forest reserves running through an abandoned tea land that is in the vicinity of biodiversity-rich only rainforest of Sri Lanka, the Sinhajaraja Forest Complex in Ratnapura District. Since its inception much research related to biodiversity has been carried out in the research site of the Endana Nature Corridor establishing it as an area rich in biodiversity that is worth preserving. However, its most celebrated research finding up to date is the discovery of a new species of orchid found in part of the Endana Nature Corridor project site: Walankanda Forest Reserve. The discovery was made during one of the project's mandated research work in 2021 by a team that included Dilmah Conservation Centre Coordinator,

Amila Perera, along with other research team members including Bathiya Gopallawa, Indrakeela Madola, Deepthi Yakandawala, Pankaj Kumar, Harsha Jayawickrama, and Mark Chase. The discovery was published recently on a peer-reviewed Scientific Journal for rapid publication on any aspect of systematic botany. The name of the orchid refers to the yellow sapphire known locally as Pushparaga in the city of gems: Rathnapura and even the colouring of the flower with a red tint is like a yellow sapphire. The species are not known to be threatened but due to the small population size can be classified as threatened as per IUCN guidelines. The Endana Nature Corridor along running project to establish a 3 Km-long forested pathway was initiated by Dilmah Tea Founder Merrill J. Fernando

who wanted to rewind a portion of one of Dilmah's Tea Estates. The lead scientists are Profs. Nimal and Savitri Gunathilake and Dr. Nalaka Geekiyanage. The tea garden lying between two fragmented forest reserves made establishing a nature corridor a strategic choice. The corridor is spread across 80 acres taken from the Endana Tea Estate, 2.1 acres taken from active tea plantations and a few more acres of abandoned tea lands in the area. Dilmah Conservation is the environmental sustainability arm of Dilmah Tea and has 4 centres in different locations of Sri Lanka including the centre in Endana, Ratnapura District. The work of Dilmah Conservation focuses on environmental advocacy, protecting biodiversity, climate resilience, conserving species, community empowerment, environmental education.

Raja Jewellers' 'Be Yourself' campaign empowers women on International Women's Day 2023

'Be Yourself' campaign of Raja Jewellers, the undisputed monarch of the gold world, offers many discounts in celebration of International Women's Day 2023. The campaign focuses on celebrating the multi-talented women who do what they love and showcase their passion and strength in the jewellery industry. Commenting on the campaign, Ranmini Eliyapura, Director at Raja Jewellers, stated, "Raja Jewellers celebrates the fearless and unstoppable spirit of women this International Women's Day 2023, with our 'Be Yourself' campaign. We believe that every woman should embrace her unique qualities, pursue her passion, and thrive in her multi-talented abilities. We stand by women who are breaking stereotypes, taking charge, and doing what they love. Through our campaign, we aspire to inspire women to be unapologetically themselves and shine bright like the jewels they are." The recently launched Raja Jewellers' 'Be Yourself' campaign celebrates the involvement of passionate women in the jewellery industry. The campaign featured an interactive photobooth that allowed customers



to capture their unique personalities and receive instant photographs as a keepsake. As a part of the campaign, Raja Jewellers released a video on their social media channels showcasing the inspiring stories of multitasking women who are deeply involved in

every aspect of the jewellery business, including manufacturing, designing, crafting, sales, and customer care. The video also encouraged women to pursue their passion, be inspired, and wear jewellery in their own unique style. Raja Jewellers invited its followers

and clients to participate in the campaign by submitting a photo or video showcasing their work and passion. By celebrating the diversity and strength of women in their own industry, Raja Jewellers believes that they can inspire others to embrace their individuality and

unique style. Raja Jewellers is dedicated to fulfilling the requirements of every woman by offering a wide range of jewellery options. The Paragon - Diamond Jewellery Collection and Opera Work Wear Jewellery Collection were available at discounted prices, along with instalment plans for selected credit cards. These discounted prices were available across all three Raja Jewellers showrooms in Bambalapitiya, Negombo, and Kandy. The Paragon - Diamond Jewellery Collection isn't just aesthetically beautiful; it's an enduring symbol of love, romance, and commitment. The stone's name is derived from the Greek word Adamas, which translates to "unconquerable." This symbolic meaning lends itself to the diamond's historic commemoration of eternal love.

For more information on Raja Jewellers' extensive collections, visit its Website at www.rajajewellers.com, Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Rajajewellers.lk/>, or its Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/rajajewellers.lk>.



Pramodha Weeraratna and Villa Team

'CINNAMON EXPERIENCE' AT

VILLA MAYURANA

BY SANATH WEERASURIYA

The history of cinnamon dates back to about 2800 BC. Cinnamon was considered a precious spice by the West during 14th - 15th centuries and the quest for cinnamon was a major factor which led to exploration of the world in the 15th century. By that time the real cinnamon was said to have originated in the central hills where seven wild species of cinnamon occur in Kandy, Matale, Bellihull Oya, Haputale, Horton Plains and the Sinharaja forest range. Presently the cultivation is concentrated along the coastal belt from Negombo to Matara, it has also made inroads to Kalutara and Ratnapura. Currently Sri Lanka is said to produce about 90% of world's supply of true cinnamon.

Apart from tea, still Ceylon Cinnamon is considered the best in the world. It is said that Portuguese traders made their way to Ceylon in the 15th century, enslaved the natives and had the control of the trade from Arabs. In Sri Lanka, cinnamon seems to have originated in the central hills where seven wild species of cinnamon occur in Kandy, Matale, Bellihull Oya, Haputale, Horton Plains and the Sinharaja forest range. Presently the cultivation is concentrated along the coastal belt from Negombo to Matara, it has also made inroads to Kalutara and Ratnapura. Currently Sri Lanka is said to produce about 90% of world's supply of true cinnamon.

Apart from the huge export market, 'Cinnamon Experience' is the newly

initiated tourism related activity in cinnamon plantations in Galle, Matara and Kalutara. Travellers are encouraged to visit the cinnamon plantations. 'Cinnamon Experience' is experiencing the real life drama of entire cinnamon production mechanism at the plantation in-person. This latest Cinnamon Experience is now hosted by 'Villa Mayurana' in Imaduwa off Ahangama.

Guests can have a closer look at the chain of events from the growing of the trees, harvesting, peeling and the final processing of the cinnamon in the factory, just as it happened for the past 500 years



The visiting guests can have a closer look at the cinnamon experience or the chain of events from the growing of the trees, harvesting, peeling and the final processing of the cinnamon in the factory, just as it happened for the past 500 years' explained Pramodha Weeraratna, the expert on cinnamon cultivation, who handles the 'Cinnamon Experience' for Villa Mayurana.

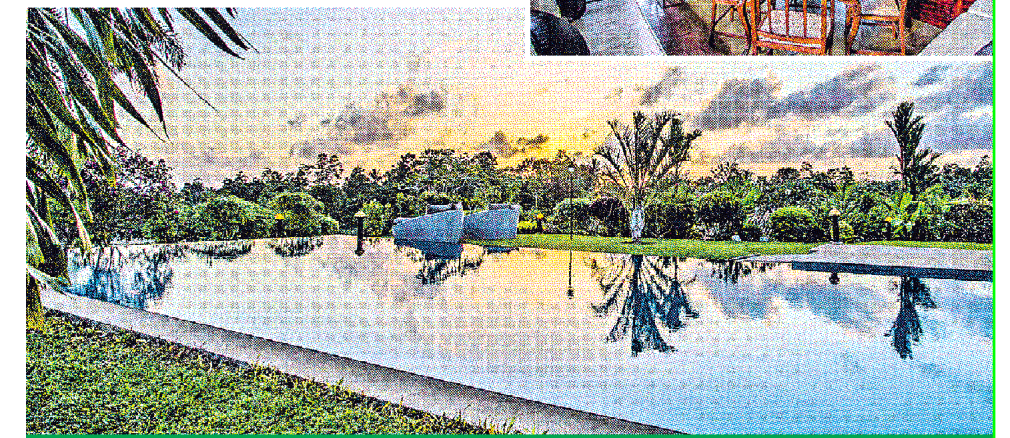
The Cinnamon Experience is the main feature at Villa Mayurana, which is situated on top of a cinnamon hill with unique 360° views over the most picturesque part of Sri Lanka's Southern Coast, the Koggala Lake and the misty mountain ranges in the distance.

This 'Experience' ranges from one hour to two hour programmes including field visits

and hands on experience in peeling, cutting and drying of cinnamon coils. The guests can enjoy the Cinnamon in-fused beverages and lunch served at the plantation's production hut. They can choose between Asian and Western cinnamon inspired cuisine prepared by our experienced chefs' said Pramodha Weeraratna.

'Villa Mayurana' offers a peaceful escape surrounded by stunning scenery on the outskirts of Koggala Lake. The Villa has been designed to enjoy luxury, providing absolute privacy, relaxation and peace of mind.

PIX BY Shan Bandu Weerasinghe



For more details log onto <https://edwardscollection.com/cinnamon-experience>

Interbrand

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

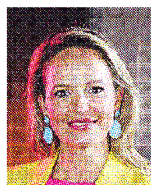


International Women's Day 2023

DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality #EmbraceEquity

Welcome address by Ashish Mishra, Managing Director, Interbrand Mumbai

PANELISTS



Leadership & Management
Maud Meijboom-van Wel
Managing Director
HEINEKEN Lanka Limited



Banking & Finance
Shashi Kandambi Jassim
Snr Deputy General Manager
International Banking
Sampath Bank PLC



Marketing
Mahesha Amarasuriya
Director
Mastercard Sri Lanka



Peace and Women's Rights
Nabeela Iqbal
Founder
Sisterhood Initiative



Technology & Innovation
Urmila Chandrasekeram
Co-founder/COO
Mintpay



Art & Entertainment
Dinara Punchihewa
Actor

Friday 7th April, 7.00pm Cinnamon Grand Ballroom

The Evening Luxury door gift | Cocktail hour | Curtain raiser | Fashion Show #EmbraceEquity | Panel Discussion | Dinner (Six course, sit down, white glove, silver service) | Entrance draw | Music for dancing

For Inquiries/Table Plan 0779082341 / 0777585998 anusha@headlinesprsl.com / julianne@srpiti.com

STRATEGIC PARTNER



Official Pouring Rights



SUPREME FLORA



SPONSORS



SCAN TO REGISTER



T G I F

WEEKEND OFFERS

LAW BOOKS

1. PL Malik's Handbook of Labour and Industrial Law, This 19th Edition is a thorough work which also considers latest updates on organized AND unorganized labour, as well as containing important case law. Rs 8970.00.
2. Torture and Deaths in Custody in Sri Lanka by Prof. Ravindra Fernando Rs 500.00.
3. Laws of Sri Lanka by Jayatissa De Costa PC, Rs 3000.00.

Other Titles of Interest

4. The Greatness Guide by Robin Sharma Rs 1450.00
5. Mathew - Spiritual Healer Turned Killer Rs 450.00
6. First Book Good Habits-With colour graphics Rs 220.00.
7. Presidential Wit and Wisdom -Full colour book of 250 Quotable Quotes from American Presidents. Rs 2850.00

BOOKLAND 45/1, Marine Drive, Colombo 06.
Phone - 011 2 555 824

Personal Collection FOR SALE

Old Antique Box

Dutch Period Antique Cupboard With Hand Work

Old Antique Table Lamps with Crystal Shade

Antique Grandfather Chair (Pair)

English Blue and White ceramic plates

Contact: 0777 324 295

MIRAGE COLOMBO
THE MOST EXCITING CITY HOTEL

Hospitality at its best...

Our expert team of Chefs is standing ready to delight our guests with a tantalizing blend of classic dishes, together with a unique array of fruit spreads, desserts and other delicacies.

Any time happy hour, 25% discount at Mirage Pub

- Banquet Hall with a capacity for 250 guests
- Swimming Pool - Rs.1200/-per person for 2 hours
- 60 well located and spacious luxury rooms
- Conference facilities that can cater to 10 - 200 guests

Live Music on Friday & Saturday

FOR RESERVATIONS:
0766661422/
0766736000/0766556000
HOTLINE: 0112363472
MIRAGE COLOMBO
Marine Drive, Colombo 06.
www.miragecolombo.com

Barbet

RAJASTHANI HAND BLOCK PRINTS
100% cotton, AZO-free dyes.
Ages 3-4/ 4-5/ 5-6

POP UP! 24 MARCH BLACK CAT CAFE 10am-5pm

KURTI and more!

SHORTS and more!

TROUSERS and more!

Instagram: @barbetkids *Black Cat Cafe, 11 Wijerama mw, Colombo 7

Chamathka

Set in 925 Sterling Silver studded with a majestic 11x9mm Aquamarine Cabochon gemstone of 3.20Cts in total.

0777 675 777

Rs. 35,000/-
Rs. 24,500/-

30% OFF AQUAMARINE
BIRTHSTONE OF MARCH

SCAN ME For full Collection

One Galleria Mall | Crescat | Colombo City Center | K Zone Moratuwa & Ja Ela | Kandy City Center | All Arpico Super Centres
17 branches island-wide. Contact: 0777 675 777 | www.chamathkajewellers.lk | f @chamathkajewellers

VLCC

LOSE STUBBORN FAT WITHOUT ANY SURGERY

with **coolsculpting** (US FDA APPROVED)

30% OFF

*Terms & Conditions apply.

Nugegoda:
No. 4, Pagoda Road, Nugegoda.
Tel: 011-2828765 / 66

Colombo:
No.14, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7.
Tel: 011-2674174 / 75

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH CUSTOMIZED JUST FOR YOU ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Dubai | Oman | Bahrain | Qatar | Kuwait | Malaysia | Sri Lanka | Bangladesh | Nepal | India
www.vlccwellness.com

Rosewall Interiors

WAREHOUSE SALE

A variety of options in Commercial & Residential Carpets, Carpet Tiles, Rugs, Laminate Flooring, Wood Vinyl Planks, Vinyl Tiles, Vinyl Rolls, Office Chairs, Sofas, Leisure Chairs, Rechargeable Fans, Hot Plates, Infrared Cookers, Manholes, Instant Water Heaters, Geysers, Taps and Accessories

24th & 25th March 2023
from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm
at No.51, Stork Place, Colombo 10.

DISCOUNTS UP TO 50%

Introductory offer on the latest range
Credit Cards accepted

For more details
0772 444 016 | 0772 443 439
Rosewall Interior Solutions (Pvt) Ltd.

stripesandchecksinc.com

Prices starting from Rs.5800/-

POLO T-SHIRTS

Stripes & Checks Inc.

L3-57, One Galle Face Mall, +94 11 7108633
202, Havelock Road, Colombo 05, +94 11 7745430
70, Rosmead Place, Colombo 07, +94 11 2680134
421, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia, +94 11 4344861



Yeheli's "Home Cooked Like Mum Would!" **Lagoon/Sea Crabs!**

SL Murunga Crab Curry **Pepper Crab**

Singapore Chilli Crab

Whatsapp/ SMS for Menus/ Prices **0767 879 257**

REPAIRS / SALE

Grandfather Clocks
D.M.D. Roanos 18 Years of Excellent service.

Service, Repairs, Replacement of "Grandfather" and all Wall Clocks undertaken.

We undertake any Condition of your Antique Clocks.

WATCH Repair & Service

Original German Grand Father Clock FOR SALE
Brand New Cases of Grand Father Clocks also available undertaken in Colombo and any outside places.
Damaged cases of Grand Father Clocks are Newly made by us.

0777 658 621 / 071 7371 122 / 0112 754 545
No.620B, Highlevel Road, Wijerama, Nugegoda.



SUPER LUXURY HOUSE FOR LONG TERM LEASE

Rajagiriya

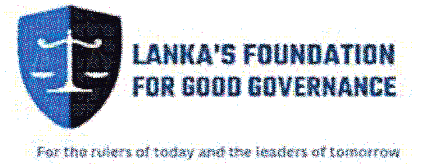
- Situated in a very peaceful, quiet neighborhood.
- Walking distance to supermarkets, banks and restaurants.
- An excellent view of the Colombo city from the fully equipped rooftop bar which is ideal to host parties.
- The house is furnished and air conditioned.
- Four big bedrooms (master bedroom with a walk-in - closet)
- Fully equipped kitchen with all modern amenities big store room, solar powered, 3 phase 60 amp electricity supply. back up generator (Brand new high capacity)
- Separate quarters for drivers and maids.
- Parking for 4 large vehicles, security system.



CONTACT - 077 776 0121

OPEN LETTER TO H.E. THE PRESIDENT

24th March 2023
His Excellency Ranil Wickremasinghe,
President,
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
President's Office,
Colombo 1



Your Excellency.

THREE NATIONAL INITIATIVES

We presented the People's Convention for Good Governance on the 25th of February 2023 at the BMICH in the presence of a gathering of over 400 which included Civil Society leaders, Parliamentarians, Professionals, Senior School students and a cross section of Sri Lankans from all 25 districts.

Mr. Murtaza Jaferjee delivered a lecture on Economic Recovery, Prof. Arjuna Parakrama was the Moderator of an Education Reforms Forum for which Dr. Tara de Mel, Prof. Harendra de Silva and Ms. Nilu Anandappa participated, Ms. Shehara de Silva and Mr. Sharjah Muhseen shared their perspectives on Production and Services and Dr. Pakiasothy Saravanamuttu moderated a forum on Ethnicity (Unity and Inclusion) which included Mr. Jeremy Liyanage, Ms. Selvi Sachithanandam, Mr. Ishan Jalil and Mr. Arun Siddarth. Mr Omar Khanspoke on what he termed as a Visionary Catalyst. Mr. Maithri Gunaratne P.C. recalled candidly the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of the post-independence era.

The cornerstone of good governance is education. The Ministry of Education implements policy and is responsible for guiding young children right up to the point that they are on the threshold of manhood or womanhood. However, it needs a few vital reforms that will be instrumental in ushering in successive generations of united and prosperous Sri Lankans.

The three national initiatives that is proposed to be implemented by The Ministry of Education, are as follows.

1. Teaching Ethics to children from Playgroup (above 2 years old) to Year 3 in all pre-schools and primary schools respectively. The President's directive has to be obtained to enforce implementation in the Pre-schools.
2. Making a firm step to implementing English as the common medium of instruction within 3 years. The infrastructure needed to commence this initiative is already in place together with 900 English Teacher Trainers.
3. Three counselors to be appointed in each and every school to advise probable dropouts, who should be channeled to their chosen vocations and monitored right up to the point that they are gainfully employed.

The vast majority of Sri Lankans firmly believe that these three initiatives will bring about the perfect solution to cure most of our ills and pave the way for a united nation.

We look forward to an opportunity to discuss in detail, the above proposals with you and provide the expertise necessary to implement these vital initiatives that would be an example to the world.

In appreciation,
Yours faithfully,

Richard de Zoysa
Convener, People's Convention for Good Governance,
LANKA'S FOUNDATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE
Copies to, Hon. Susil Premajayantha M.P.
Minister of Education

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena M.P.
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Board of Directors

Mr. Richard de Zoysal Dr. Walter Jayasinghe | Ms. Visakha Tillekeratne
Ms. Aeshea Jayasinghe | Mr. Ishan Jalil | Ms. Selvi Sachithanandam | Ms. Nilu Anandappa

199/2, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka
+94 764 445 555
goodgovernances1@gmail.com