



CPC TRADE UNION ACTION TO CONTINUE

- RANWALA OBSERVED THAT THERE IS A HIGH PROBABILITY OF FUEL QUEUES EMERGING DUE TO BOWSERS NOT BEING REFUELLED
MINISTER SAYS LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST CPC TRADE UNION ACTIVISTS OR EMPLOYEES WHO DISRUPT DISTRIBUTION
THE FUEL DISTRIBUTION HAS STOPPED FROM KOLONNAWA, MUTHURAJAWELA TERMINALS, SAPUGASKANDA OIL REFINERY AND FROM ALL FUEL STOCK DISTRIBUTION CENTRES, UNIONS SAY

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) employees have decided to continue to halt refilling and distribution of fuel from the oil refinery installation at Kolonnawa from today against the government's move to privatize the CPC.

Opening of local fuel market is welcomed - SJB MP

- Competitiveness will increase when there are several players in the market and thus pave the way for frequent price reductions

BY YOHAN PERERA
Opening up of the local fuel sales market is a welcome move, a Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP said yesterday.

Pyramid scheme defrauding USD 100 Mn TRAVEL BAN IMPOSED ON SIX DIRECTORS

- 57 bank accounts suspended

BY NIMANTHI RANASINGHE
Colombo Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis yesterday ordered the overseas travel ban for six directors of a company named Onmax DT (Pvt) Ltd due to the illegal trading of more than USD 100 million in a pyramid scheme by using a private company registered in Sri Lanka.

Amnesty International calls for transparency in IMF deal

- We know that there is a discussion around support from the IMF that has been discussed

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE
Senior Director for Regional Human Rights Impact at Amnesty International Deprose Muchena yesterday called for transparency in implementing Sri Lanka's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

No enrolment of students in intermediate classes until further notice

- Parents do not have to waste their time coming to the ministry for their student enrolments

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
The Education Ministry has decided not to issue letters pertaining to enrolling students in intermediate classes, the Minister of Education said.



Magisterial proceedings against Deshabandu Tennakoon further suspended

- Interim order staying proceedings against DIG Tennakoon, extended until May 19

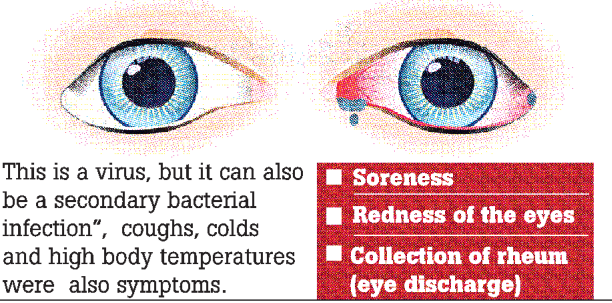
BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
The Court of Appeal yesterday further extended its interim order staying the proceedings against DIG Tennakoon in the Fort Magistrate's Court, until May 19.



MYSTERIOUS VIRAL FLU FAST SPREADING AMONG CHILDREN: PAEDIATRICIAN

symptoms
In addition to usual influenza symptoms, children have symptoms such as crusty eyes and red eyes

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF THE EYE DISEASE



This is a virus, but it can also be a secondary bacterial infection, coughs, colds and high body temperatures were also symptoms.

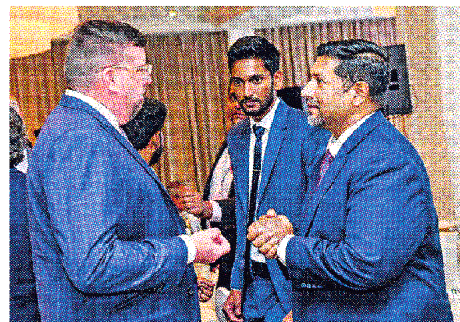
- Soreness
Redness of the eyes
Collection of rheum (eye discharge)

A mystery virus suspected to be the Adenovirus, which is highly contagious, especially among children is rapidly spreading these days, Consultant Paediatrician of the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children Dr. Deepal Perera said.

SL AIMS TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY IN 2050

- Government of Sri Lanka invites local and foreign direct investments to develop Renewable Energy in Sri Lanka

BY YOHAN PERERA
Whilst stressing that Sri Lanka aims to achieve carbon neutrality in power generation by 2050, Senior advisor to President Ruwan Wijewardene urged local and foreign investors to start up the renewable energy Sector, to achieve this goal.



Senior advisor to the President Ruwan Wijewardene speaks at Sri Lanka energy summit 2023

Appeal made by 'Tamil Mirror' journalist RTI Commission reserves judgement on info about LTTE members surrendered to army

BY KURULU KOJANA KARIYAKARAWANA
The Right to Information Commission (RTI) concluding a hearing of an appeal made by a 'Tamil Mirror' journalist requesting information about the LTTE members surrendered to the army yesterday reserved the judgement pending written submission by both parties.

POLITICAL GOSSIP

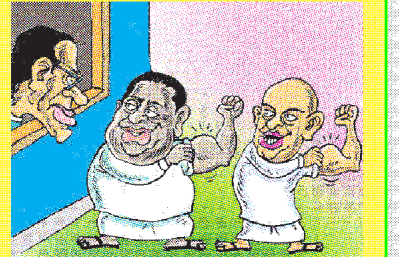
Goings-on inside the party are to come out at a media briefing!

While the well-known clash in the Blue party is continuing, several party organizers have planned to expose two former party seniors as the villains behind this trouble, they say.

Of the twosome causing a split in the party, one is said to be from the North-central while the other is from the West! In the meantime party sources say this twosome had told the party chief that if an assurance were given that they would be offered two high positions in the party, they would return to the party fold along with a group of other Diyawanna members who quit the party!

Though the party chief is not averse to complying with their request, he has, however, not given them the nod so far, they say.

The party secretary who has come to know about these informal talks, by the way, is said to be tactfully keeping away from the scene! Meanwhile, the party organizers concerned are getting ready to reveal all these goings-on in the party at a media briefing shortly, they say



Courtesy: GEMOS

Queues caused due to filling stations not placing orders fearing price cut

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
Due to the Government's assurance of reducing fuel prices by April 1, there is a delay for new orders by filling stations, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) affiliated Samagi United Trade Union Force (SUTUF) convener and spokesman Ananda Palitha said.



QUADRUPLETS AMONG NEW ENTRANTS

BY CHAMINDA JAYALATH
Admission of children to grade one in schools for 2023 all over the country took place yesterday and among them were quadruplets of Mawanella who were admitted to Mawanella National School.

Joseph Michael Perera passes away

Joseph Michael Perera the 17th Speaker of Sri Lankan Parliament passed away at the age of 81. He passed away at his residence in Ja-Ela last afternoon.



Advertisement for Robbialac paint featuring a woman painting a wall and the slogan 'ONCE YOU GO ROBBIALAC, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK'. Includes contact information and social media links.





# Daily Mirror

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CONTD.  
FROM PAGE 1

## Amnesty International calls for transparency in IMF deal

Muchena was addressing a forum in Colombo to mark the regional launch of Amnesty International's Annual Report on the state of human rights in the world in 2022.

"We know that there is a discussion around support from the IMF that has been discussed between your government as well as yourselves. Amnesty International calls for transparency on that deal so that everything that is being debated is within the public purview," he said. Muchena stressed that these agreements should prioritize social protections and ensure that human rights are enhanced.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis had a

devastating impact on human rights, Amnesty International's Annual Report found. The report said that South Asian countries seem to apply human rights' law on a selective basis in a staggering show of blatant hypocrisy and double standards.

Sri Lanka was one of the many countries in the region where the right to protest was curtailed, Amnesty International said. "From Cairo to Chicago to Colombo, we are seeing an attack on institutions by governments. We are seeing an attempt at scapegoating what is going on around the world in an attempt to distort the truth. Our Annual Report tries to present a picture of the world as we see it," he said.

## Queues caused due to filling stations not placing orders fearing price cut

Last week the Energy Minister said that at the upcoming fuel price revision, prices could be reduced by a considerable margin. Filling station owners refrained from placing new orders out of fear of prices being reduced.

Several fuel filling stations, said that

they could not afford to incur losses because of the Government's claim to reduce the price by a large margin.

"The Government should take measures to introduce a mechanism to recover any difference if we buy fuel at higher prices," they said.

## CPC TRADE UNION ACTION TO CONTINUE

CPC General Employees Union President Ashoka Ranwala during a demonstration in front of the oil installation in Kolonnawa told the media yesterday that fuel distribution in the country had come to a standstill due to the ongoing trade union action.

He added that CPC employees had taken over the protest from the trade unions and had decided to refrain from engaging in duties from this morning.

"The fuel distribution had stopped from Kolonnawa, Muthurajawela terminals, Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery and from all fuel stock distribution centres from 1 p.m. yesterday. We are awaiting a discussion with the Minister or the President to resolve the issue," he stated. Ranwala observed that there is a high

probability of fuel queues emerging from today due to bowlers not being refuelled, and the government should take the responsibility for inconveniencing the public if such a situation arises.

He challenged Power and Energy Minister Kanachana Wijesekera to privatize the CPC and asked the government not to underestimate employees' collective strength while claiming that they have the power to stop the distribution process across the country.

CPC General Employees Union President said that they have decided to engage in a massive countrywide trade union action with the support of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), if the Minister or the President did not listen to

the CPC employees.

Ranwala told that the minister should take immediate action to roll back the cabinet decision to sell the stakes owned by the government institutions to private companies, without provoking the employees to go for a massive trade union action.

He further stated that they would advise the minister on how to gain profit if the minister comes for a discussion with them.

Meanwhile, Minister Wijesekera said legal action would be taken against the CPC trade union activists or employees who disrupt the distribution of fuel, disrupt the work of other employees or act in violation of the essential services orders.

## SANATH NANDASIRI PASSES AWAY



Sri Lankan singer, musician, music director, composer, and playback singer Sanath Nandasiri passed away last morning. He was 81.

The President of the Sri Lanka Singers' Association Janaka Wickramasinghe told the Daily Mirror that Nandasiri passed away at his residence due to severe illness. He said funeral arrangements would be announced later.

Nandasiri was the Chancellor of the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Sri Lanka.

## SL aims to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050

He made this call during the Sri Lanka clean energy summit 2023 held in Colombo, "Sri Lanka is also a low-carbon emitting country, with emissions of approximately 1.02 tons per capita per year on average. As a party to the Paris Agreement, Sri Lanka is also committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 14.5% by 2030. Correspondingly, the country is further committed to achieving a 70% share of renewable energy (RE) in its electricity requirement by 2050, carbon neutrality by 2050 in electricity generation and no further capacity addition from unabated coal power generation. The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) invites local and foreign direct investments to develop RE in Sri Lanka," he said

## No enrolment of students in intermediate classes until further notice

Addressing the media, Minister Susil Premajayantha said the cabinet paper in this regard was approved yesterday.

Accordingly, an announcement will be made after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year due to ongoing grade one admissions and grade six enrolments after the grade five scholarship examination, he said.

Soon after the above enrolments are completed, an announcement will be made to enrol students in intermediate classes, he said.

"A sample application will be published after April 15 through

a public notice. The filled-out applications should be sent to the school where the parents expect to enrol their children. According to a circular issued to the schools, they are advised to make the selections according to the student vacancies under a certain marking scheme," Minister Premajayantha said. The list of the selected students should be sent to the Education Ministry to obtain approval, he said. With the new programme, the parents do not have to waste their time coming to the ministry for their student enrolments.

## MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DESHABANDU TENNAKON FURTHER SUSPENDED

The Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne and Justice M.A.R. Marikkar made this order pursuant to a writ petition filed by Senior DIG Tennakoon challenging the magisterial inquiry and issuance of summons against him.

The Court of Appeal had earlier issued an interim order suspending the operation of summons issued by Colombo Fort Magistrate on Western Province Senior DIG Deshabandu Tennakoon.

According to this order the Magistrate had been prevented from taking any steps including requiring Senior DIG Tennakoon to stand in the dock.

On January 26, the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court had issued summons on Deshabandu Tennakoon to appear before Court on February 16 over a criminal accusation that he had allegedly aided and abetted to commit criminal breach of trust with regard to Rs.17.8 million recovered by protesters inside the President's House on 9th July. Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage decided to name Senior DIG as an accused in a private plaint filed by activist Mahinda Jayasinghe as per the provisions of the section 136(1) (a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act.

Romesh de Silva PC instructed by Sanath Wijewardane appeared for Deshabandu Tennakoon.

## TRAVEL BAN IMPOSED ON SIX DIRECTORS

Accordingly, the six directors of the Onmax DT (Pvt) Ltd on whom the overseas travel ban was imposed were Sampath Sandaruwan, Athula Indika Sampath, Gayashan Abeyratne, Madhuranga Prasanna, Saranga Randika and Dhananjaya Jayan.

The Magistrate has directed the Court Registrar to dispatch the order to

the Controller General of Immigration and Emigration. The Magistrate also directed to suspend 57 bank accounts in five banks and several other financial institutions, used for transacting of the money. The Commercial Crime Investigation Unit of the CID had reported to the Court following a complaint from the Central Bank.

## RTI Commission reserves judgement on info about LTTE members surrendered to army

The RTI Commission full bench led by its Chairman Upaly Abeyratne concluded the hearing of an appeal made by former Tamil Mirror journalist Nirosh Kumar and ordered the parties, the SL Army and the appellant journalist to make further written submissions.

The case was heard for the fourth day yesterday since it was taken up for hearing for the first time on October 3, 2019.

Journalist Nirosh Kumar made an RTI application to the SL Army on April 4, 2019 requesting for the information of the former LTTE members who surrendered to

the army during the last stages of the war in 2009.

Since the army did not furnish any details the journalist made an appeal to the RTI Commission on October 3, 2019. Then the case was called again on January 4 and February 26 of 2020. Since the case was not called in for hearing for over two years Nirosh Kumar wrote to the commission in later 2022 asking what had happened to his case. In response to this the commission called the case for hearing on March 28, 2023 (yesterday) and after hearing a lengthy oral submission

by Attorney Swasthika Arulingham who appeared for the appellant journalist, decided to reserve the judgement pending further written submissions.

Attorney Swasthika Arulingham speaking to the media said the army has taken very contradictory positions during the hearing of this case and that they are expecting the truth to be revealed soon. "The army once said that they only transported the surrendered LTTE members to the IDP camps in their busses and that they do not possess any statistics of those who were transported."

## Mysterious viral flu fast spreading among children: Paediatrician

"In addition to usual influenza symptoms, children have presented with symptoms such as crusty eyes and red eyes. Some

of these children have tested positive for influenza, while others haven't," he said. "Children who present flu symptoms should

be kept home. If the illness persists, a medical professional should be consulted to rule out other infections," he said.

## STEAM education to launch on Friday: Minister

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA  
The initial programme to launch STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education for the local education sector will be introduced, and the official programme will be launched on Friday (March 31), in the Western Province at the Town Hall, Colombo, the Education Ministry said.

Addressing the media yesterday, Minister Susil Premajayantha said the programme will be launched at 8.30 a.m. and continue until 12.30 p.m.

In line with the main programme, the programme will be held at eight centres in the remaining provinces at the same time using the zoom technology.

The current education system, both secondary and tertiary is not based on science or technology, the minister said.

"The country's education system failed to change after the second industrial revolution and the third industrial revolution in information technology. We



need to be prepared for the fourth digital revolution. We have had many syllabus changes, but governments could not bring reforms to the education system," Minister Premajayantha said. A programme for international student assessment (PISA) is the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's programme. PISA measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics, and science. STEM education was introduced two decades ago, with more than 90 countries following and witnessing success, such as Singapore, Finland, and Vietnam. Unfortunately, we do not have it. In the near future, the country's education system will see changes in this area," he said. "Our present education system has no space for innovation. Innovation cannot be just a subject for a student who has performed poorly at the ordinary-level examination or as an advanced-level subject," he added. While adding arts and social studies to the education system, the ministry decided to add the arts subjects to STEAM education, the minister said.

### Death Acknowledgement



Virginia Charlotte Fleming (nee Rodrigue)

Beloved Mother of Daphne Pereira, passed away peacefully on 23<sup>rd</sup> March '23.

We the family members wish to thank and express our sincere appreciation to the clergy, relatives, friends, neighbours, who attended the funeral, sent messages of condolence, floral tributes and helped us in numerous ways during our bereavement. Your comforting expressions of sympathy will always be remembered with indelible gratitude.

Our profound appreciation goes out to Fr. Jayanath Panditharatne Vicar, St. Matthias, Church, Boralessgamuwa for officiating at the funeral service and also the interment. We are eternally grateful to Matron Christine, the staff of St. Nikolaas Home and the Management of the Dutch Burgher Union for their support and strength and loving care during her stay at the home. We regret our inability to thank each and everyone individually.

Daphne, Lester, Denham, Lindsay, Rozelle, Liam, Ryan.

### DEATH NOTICE



Past District Governor Lion Upali Samarasinghe

May 16, 1946 - March 28, 2023

With great sadness we announce the death of Past District Governor Lion

Upali Samarasinghe, beloved husband of Shanthi (previously of Bank of Ceylon), father of Kishan (365 Degrees) and of Dayangi (Fonterra, Dubai), father-in-law of Nishani Jayathilaka and of Matheesha Rajapaksa, loving grandfather of Nevin and Kiran, dearly beloved brother of late Ranji (Malaysia), late Mahendra, Manel (Bandarawela), Dr. Nihal (UK), late Mangala, Geetha, Lasatha (Canada), and Padmarani.

Lion Upali Samarasinghe was previously attached to Bank of Ceylon and later to Sampath Bank Plc. He previously held the roles of Secretary General, Insurance Association of Sri Lanka, and Secretary General, Ceylon National Chamber of Industries. Remains will lie from 10 a.m. on 29th March at his residence at No. 21/5C, Fernando Road, Karagampitiya to pay last respects. Cortege leaves residence on Thurs. 30, March at 1.30 p.m. for cremation at 2.00 p.m. at "Nisala Sevana" (Mount Lavinia General Cemetery).

## Opening of local fuel market is welcomed - SJB MP

SJB Deputy National Organizer and official Spokesman S.M. Marikkar was referring to Monday's cabinet decision to allow two more foreign companies to enter into the local fuel market.

"Opening up the fuel sales market is a welcome move as the consumers will benefit from it at the end of the day. Competitiveness will increase when there are several players in the market and thus pave the way for frequent price reductions," Marikkar ar said.

"It is advisable to open up the education and the health markets as well. Private sector should be allowed to open up more hospitals so that Sri Lanka will be able to attract people in countries such as Maldives to come to this island for medical treatment," he added.

"One must not think that I am favourable towards the incumbent President and the government when I welcome the opening of the fuel market. We welcome any move to which SJB could agree," he also said.

Further, he said there are different options when restructuring state owned enterprises. "One can follow the Singaporean model where an institution made up of both the state sector and the private sector could be set up to run government institutions while the private sector could be given the task of managing the institutions," he said in this regard.

## QUADRUPLETS AMONG NEW ENTRANTS

The quadruplets Sanuka Sankalana, Sasadi Sanuthmi, Sadasa Sanethmi, Sadathi Sadevmini included a son and three daughters delivered by D.R.D. Erandi Jayaratne on April 11, 2017 at Peradeniya teaching hospital. Their father Sumedha Jayaratne (41) is an airman attached to Diyathalawa air force base. They were admitted to school by Principal Kumudini Ratnayake in the presence of Zonal Director Priyanka Priyadarshani and Divisional Director Nirosha Priyadarshani.

## OBITUARIES

**CARVALHO - AJIT.** Beloved son of Therese and Gerard (late Gerry), husband of Neluka, father of Ilana, brother of Suresh, Arun (late), Ravi and their families, nephew of Adrian (late), Dr. Louis, Dominic and their families, peacefully passed away on 26th March 2023. **Cortege leaves A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour on Wednesday 29th March, for burial at 4.00 p.m. at the General Cemetery, Borella. 096817**

**RATNAYAKE - CHRISHANTHI.** At rest with Jesus. Dearly beloved daughter of late Cyril and Mildred Ratnayake, beloved sister of late Churhill, late Harold and also of Ira, Pauline, Daphne, Helen, Pastor Gemunu and Shirani, sister-in-law of late P.H.M. Ratnayake, late Lakshman Wijeyekoon, Chandra, Anton Jayawardane, Rev. Suresh Dias Bandaranaike and Prashantha Gunasekara. **Cortege will leave Nuwara Mal Shalawa, Kandy on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 2.00 p.m. for Interment at Mahaiyawa Chapel at 2.30 p.m. General Cemetery, Kandy (Anglican Section). 096835**



POINT OF VIEW

# HARSHA URGES GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS PLAN AHEAD



Dr Harsha De Silva

By **Damintha Gunasekera**

Opposition MP Harsha de Silva, in response to the President's speech on the IMF agreement, said that he was relieved that the Government had finally obtained the approval of the IMF Board for the USD 3 billion facility. He commended the President for convincing his majority SLPP Government on the IMF programme who until recent times was opposed to it.

Dr de Silva stated the only political party that tabled its plan out of the crisis was the SJB.

He said their plan, named the Blueprint, first tabled in August 2022 and an updated version in February 2023, contained a detailed plan on how to come out of bankruptcy and set the stage for sustained growth.

He said the Blueprint dealt with the sensitive issue of taxes. He criticized the highest marginal tax rate of 36% being applied at Rs 300,000 a month. Dr de Silva pointed out that the maximum rate for those earning approximately Rs 500,000 a month could be capped at around 24 to 25%, while the highest tax bracket would increase to 39-40% to achieve the expected income.

He said that they were ready to help the Government wholeheartedly to rescue the country from the crisis. De Silva stressed the need to come out of this IMF agreement victorious; as this could not be another failed attempt. He called for unity regardless of party allegiances, as the President stated, as this was only the start of a long road. The next biggest hurdle was the debt-restructuring process, and to do that, massive economic reforms were necessary.

De Silva clarified what these reforms were, stating that the Government revenue needed to increase from 8.5 per cent to 15 per cent of GDP.

He explained that over 95 per cent of Government revenue was tax revenue, and only 5 per cent was non-tax revenue.

He added that to increase revenue, the economy must expand.

But currently, it is contracting, with lending

**The Government revenue needed to increase from 8.5 per cent to 15 per cent of GDP**

**Over 95 per cent of Government revenue was tax revenue, and only 5 per cent was non-tax revenue**

**According to de Silva, there was roughly Rs 14 trillion domestic debt, out of which Rs 4 trillion was in Treasury bills, and Rs 9 trillion was in Treasury bonds. He questioned whose debt will be cut and what the roadmap for reducing this debt will be**

Rs 4 trillion was in Treasury bills, and Rs 9 trillion was in Treasury bonds. He questioned whose debt will be cut and what the roadmap for reducing this debt will be.

De Silva believed that extensive discussions are necessary as most of the local debt is from the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and local banks that consist of people's hard-earned money.

Another critical issue that de Silva highlights is the impact of the economic crisis on low-income households. In particular, he highlights the issue of electricity tariffs, which have increased by over 1,100 per cent in a short span of time for the bottom 25 per cent of consumers, who use less the 30 units a month.

De Silva suggested that it is not the responsibility of the Ceylon Electricity Board to provide subsidies to low-income households. He argued that if this is the case, the Board will

**It is not the responsibility of the CEB to provide subsidies to low-income households. He argued that if this is the case, the Board will never be able to become profitable. Instead, de Silva argued that it is the responsibility of the Government to cushion low-income households by providing subsidies to those who need them**

of the Government to cushion low-income households by providing subsidies to those who need them, while the Electricity Board focuses on becoming profitable.

De Silva emphasized the need to move away from traditional politics that advocate for providing subsidies to all or going on strike. He suggested that developed countries, or even developing ones like India with their Aadhar system, are able to determine who needs help and provide adequate assistance via budget allocations. He insisted Sri Lanka adopt a mechanism of targeted subsidies.

De Silva concluded by expressing his general agreement with Sri Lanka's IMF programme but urged the further discussion to resolve the contentious issues.

**THANK YOU PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY**

(Never Known to fail)

Oh! Most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel. Fruit wine Splendorous of heaven. Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin assist me in my necessity. Oh! Star of the sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh! Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh! Show me here you are my mother. Oh! Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Thank you for mercy towards me and mine, Amen. This prayer must be said for 3 days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published. **C.K**

**He said the Blueprint dealt with the sensitive issue of taxes. He criticized the highest marginal tax rate of 36% being applied at Rs 300,000 a month. Dr de Silva pointed out that the maximum rate for those earning approximately Rs 500,000 a month could be capped at around 24 to 25%, while the highest tax bracket would increase to 39-40% to achieve the expected income**

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**April 2**  
 3.30 PM @ 7.00 PM  
**Lionel Wendt**  
 Dayananda Gunawardana  
 ආර්ථික සමග ජනශාන්ති මෙන්ඩිසා  
 Tickets now available at the theater  
 inquiries: 0777-363633 Jude Srimal

**April 1**  
 Prof. Sarachchandra  
 3.30 PM @ 6.45 p.m.  
**Sinhabahu**  
**Elphinstone**  
 Tickets Now Available at The Theater  
 Inquiries: 0777 363633 Jude Srimal

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

VEHL NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	LOCATION
KT-1XXX	Tata	Nano	2012	Kadawatha
AAP-5XXX	Bajaj	4 Stroke	2014	Kadawatha
PD-7XXX	Nissan	Caravan	2008	Kurunegala
CAV-0XXX	Honda	Vezel	2017	Rathmalana

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  
 Kurunegala - Saman - 0714940027

**INVITATION TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES**

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Colombo would like to enter into an agreement with a prominent security company with extensive experience and well-trained young personnel and in possession of advanced security devices for the provision of Security Services to the Embassy and to the Residence of the Head of the Mission.

Interested Security Companies can send their company profile for evaluation within 4 weeks starting from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023 to the address as below or can email to the following email:

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia  
 43, Horton Place, Colombo 07  
 Email: [acc.siremb@mofa.gov.sa](mailto:acc.siremb@mofa.gov.sa)

A copy of the "Tender Specifications" booklet containing the terms and conditions will be given to the short listed companies to submit their tenders subsequently.

For further information or inquiries please call the embassy

**PHONE NUMBERS: 011 2682087 / 011 2682089**

**GAMPAHA PRADESHIYA SABHAWA Invitation for Bids**

**Additional construction to the building proposed to establish the Makewita Preschool of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa.**  
 Procurement number DS/02/2023

- Under the Western Provincial Council programme of activities - 2023 of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa, and based on the provisions made for provincial development, and as described in the table shown below, sealed Bids are invited from eligible and qualified bidders in order to set in place the necessary procurement for construction of an addition to the proposed building where it is decided to establish the Makewita preschool of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa.

Serial No	Name of Project	Estimated Amount In Rupees	Period of Contract	Registration of Contract
1	Construction of an addition to the building proposed to establish the Makewita Preschool of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa	7,183,546.24	03 Months	ICTAD C8 or C 7

- Invitation for Bids are conducted according to the National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Preference ratio for the Pradeshiya Sabhawa in the Western Province is 5%.
- Interested Bidders could call over at the Development Unit of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa from 29/03/2023 during office hours from 09.00 AM - 02.00 PM and examine the Bid documents, and for more details they could contact the Director of Works on Telephone Number 033-2220145 during office hours.
- On a written request made to the Development Unit and making a non-refundable deposit of Rs. 3000 (Three thousand only) a complete set of Bid documents could be obtained from 29/03/2023 - 18/04/2023 during 09.00 AM - 03.00 PM
- A Bid security to the value of Rs 72,000.00 valid until 31/07/2023 obtained from a Bank recognized by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or from an Insurance Company in favour of the Officer for the implementation of the powers, functions and duties of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa should be submitted along with the sealed Bids. If payment is made by cash a sum of Rs. 36,000.00 should be deposited at the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa and the relevant receipt submitted along with the sealed Bid.
- Bids prepared as original and duplicate should be sent under registered cover addressed to the Secretary, Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Miriswatte, Mudungoda before 02.00 PM on 19/04/2023 or instead deposited into the tender box kept at the Secretary's official room at the head Office of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa. **The Procurement Number, Name of the Project, Original or Duplicate should be clearly written on the top left hand corner of the envelope containing the Bid.** Bids received late will be rejected. No sooner the time for acceptance of Bids expires the Bids will be opened at the auditorium of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa in the presence of the Bidders / or their representatives.
- The Procurement Committee of the Pradeshiya Sabhawa reserves the right to accept or reject all Bids.

The Secretary of the Pradeshiya Sabhawa and the Officer for the implementation of the powers, functions and duties of the Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa  
**Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa**  
 Miriswatte  
 Mudungoda  
 2023/03/28  
 Tel: No. 0332222020 Fax: 0332220144



# EDITORIAL

*"When you stop chasing the wrong things, you give the right things a chance to catch you."*  
- LOLLY DASKAL

**OUR THOUGHT**

## KEEP INDIAN OCEAN, A 'ZONE OF PEACE'

Today once again a repetition of the 'Cold war' between the US and Russia is threatening to spill over into a military confrontation in the battlefields of Europe. The epicenter Ukraine - where the US is engaged in a proxy war with Russia. Sadly, the land of that country (Ukraine) has been laid waste, millions of its people made homeless and hundreds of thousands killed and wounded.

At the same time the US is now, confronting nuclear-armed China, world's the second most powerful country. Unable to face down China on its own, the US has formed a military pact with an ailing Britain and militarily weak Australia in a military pact titled 'AUKUS'

While the aim of the pact - AUKUS- is to 'maintain the freedom of Indo-Pacific Ocean', the reality is that, neither the UK, US nor Australia are situated in the Indian Ocean. The pact also aims to provide Australia with nuclear powered submarines capable of deploying nuclear missiles.

In effect, the AUKUS pact is effectively turning the Indian Ocean region into a virtual naval battleground for nations using these important and vital sea lanes.

After its resounding defeat at the hands of the Vietnamese people in March 1973, for a short while the US withdrew into its own country to lick its war wounds.

The 'Vietnam War Stats and Myths - US Wings' revealed one out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of 2.7 million who served.

The US used chemical weapons, defoliants and weapons mass destruction on civilian areas of Vietnam. In addition, it attacked Vietnam's neighbours Laos and Cambodia claiming the North Vietnamese were smuggling weapons through those lands; again, leaving a massive trail of destruction.

According to the US Department of Defence, the US spent about US\$168 billion (worth around US\$950 billion in 2011) in the entire war including US\$111 billion on military operations (1965 - 1972) and US\$28.5 billion on economic and military aid to Saigon regime (1953-1975).

In the aftermath of its defeat in Vietnam and the casualties it suffered; the world believed; nay hoped, that the US would learn the lessons thereof and stop interfering in the affairs of other nations.

But it was not to be, shortly thereafter the US attacked Somalia, invaded Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria leaving a trail of death and destruction in its wake - all in the name of maintaining freedom.

Today, once again the US using the AUKUS military pact claiming to seek 'maintaining the freedom of the Indo-Pacific Ocean.

None of the states in the Indian Ocean region looks to the US, our past colonial ruler UK or Australia who nearly wiped out the aborigines of that land, to maintain the freedom of the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean.

It was not surprising therefore, when President Wickremesinghe in a zoom interview with Harvard University on March 24 said, it is essential for Sri Lanka's future to ensure that the issues of the Asia Pacific, especially that of Taiwan, does not spill over into the Indian Ocean.

He added, Sri Lanka's access to the growing Indian and African markets should not be disrupted by any big power rivalry or conflict. The President also highlighted the rising competition between China and the Quad, which has been further aggravated by the newly formed 'AUKUS' pact between Australia, US and Britain.

The President's statement is in keeping with UN Resolution 2832 (XXVI), adopted by the UN General Assembly, which designates 'for all time' the Indian Ocean as a 'Zone of Peace'.

The resolution also calls upon the "... permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to enter into consultations aimed at the implementation of the Declaration whereby (a) warships and military aircraft would not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against any littoral or hinterland State; (b) the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by the vessels of all nations would be ensured; and (c) international agreement would be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

The idea of the Indian Ocean as a Peace Zone was first mooted by then premier Ranasinghe Premadasa, who forwarded the motion at the UN General Assembly, where it was accepted and adopted. We do not need the frigates, nuclear submarines or nuclear weapons of the US, Britain or Australia to maintain the freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean. It is already a designated 'Peace Zone' and we would like to keep it that way.



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



By **Amantha Perera**

Rahul Samantha Hettiarachchi, my colleague from the deep south is a bit of cocky character. Abrasive at times, hard to deal with. But he is a heck of a journalist.

he is one of the few who have mastered, at least somewhat how to pry open the secretive public information apparatus using RTI laws. He combines the RTI tools to add on to the feet on the ground journalism work.

Recently he wrote a series of stories on pyramid schemes. His persistence has led to more awareness and Central Bank intervention.

But when he investigates these types of stories, he not only does the level of work that is needed on the ground - reams of paper work, he also undertakes similar investigative dives into the deep online world. A world that is getting inhabited more and more. The overcrowded digital space is also full of crooks, thieves and swindlers.

**Post-Aragalaya, dozens are now openly activist journalists. Nothing wrong with that, expect when one insists on the privileges and rights of a journalists when disseminating personal opinion and emotional retorts**

We need the technical skills but they should be layered with safety skills that emphasise on personal wellbeing and mental safety.

We can not expect Rahul to feel safe when he is faced with attacks, abuse and accusations, staring at a screen in the middle of the night. More so when he knows that he has very limited recourse to organisational and community safety nets. Worse he feels betrayed by them.

It has been hard for those like Rahul to extricate their personal profiles from their professional profiles. They moved into digital platforms firstly as a form of personal interactions, it was thereafter, after they had been posting on personal details, that these very same platforms became important for their work.

When they began to use digital and online resources for their work, they did not think it was necessary to distil the personal details. They just kept going. And the performative nature of these platforms encouraged the personal interactions.

**Even now the journalism community is behind the curve in adjusting to these dangers. On the contrary, many have fallen into the trap of misdiagnosing journalism and activism**

**But exposure levels and attacks have risen by the time they realised that there was too much personal information on the public profiles. Some of them have limited or completely stopped engagement**

and activism. Post-Aragalaya, dozens are now openly activist journalists. Nothing wrong with that, expect when one insists on the privileges and rights of a journalists when disseminating personal opinion and emotional retorts.

**DM Poll**  
Do you agree with the continuous strikes by Trade Union members? Is it fair to be inconveniencing the general public in return for their demands?

- Yes
- No
- They have a right to protest
- They are crippling the economy further

Scan to Vote

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

Yes **72.1%** No **24.2%** Don't know **3.7%**

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

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## Enhanced fortune...?

A news item that went viral said that RAHUL GANDHI member of the Indian Parliament has been disqualified from the Lok Sabha consequent to the judgement given relating to a criminal defamation case in line with the provisions of the Constitution of INDIA. Gandhi was sentenced to two years imprisonment and suspended. The moment a legislator is convicted of any offence and sentenced to jail for two years he/she stands disqualified in India.

But in SL, Prasanna Ranatunga was sentenced to jail for extortion. HC imposed a sentence of two years "rigorous imprisonment and suspended for five years. He was also fined Rs.20 million and also ordered to pay one million to the complainant. The charge here was far more serious than the defamation case under reference. Ranatunga abused his position as Chief Minister of Western Province and resorted to extortion where a citizen was helpless. He was rewarded to get washed in to the National Legislature when Pohottuwa misled the public pedalling race and religion and also obtained a lucrative Ministry. Ranatunga today is the minister of urban development where his fortunes got enhanced. In this backdrop our Parliament is mostly known as a "den of thieves" continues to accommodate such types and permit them to hold Ministerial office, draw salary and enjoy perks and legislate for the citizens who live respectfully within the laws of the land, is mind boggling. Surely no sane persons will reject the battle cry today in the country well articulated by the young educated technocrats that a system change is imperative with checks and balances. Could some knowledgeable reader please tell the country via the media whether our Constitution provides space for such types to continue to bleed us based on decisions they take for themselves. It's common knowledge that the person in wig and gown is a part of the Pohottuwa who wisely solved his family employment issues irrespective of qualifications and like the three wise monkeys 'speak no evil, hear no evil, see no evil' and swim with the others who placed him there till the term ends.

- BRIAN DE SILVA

## Cabinet nod for key global fuel suppliers to enter retail market

**WEB COMMENTS**

**TRUTH** - Job opportunities in the State sector that doesn't require any brain or physical strain will dry up.

**JAYANTHA** - Very good decision. Govt should get rid of TU terrorists and some staff who are destroying this country more than politicians too. Go ahead with other sectors too.

**SOKRATES** - Not enough. SL market should be opened to any international fuel supplier without restrictions. This prevents price fixing and corruption.

**KARALASINGAM SIVALINGAM** - There should be competition in every trade to get maximum service to the nation.

**TRAVIS** - Good move, if our people can't do it, get someone else who can do it.

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



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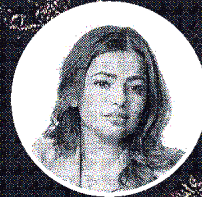
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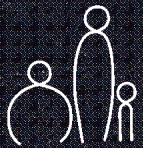
inclusivity  
IN GROWTH

SOCIETY + ENVIRONMENT

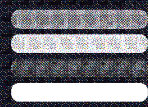
As societies evolve there is a need for Inclusivity of Society and Environment. Inclusivity should be part of the growth and no one should be left behind because opportunities were withheld, it should be presented equally. At CFW we look to the next 20 with 'Inclusivity in Growth' as the key pillar of growth.



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EMERGING MEDIA



FEATURE

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**DANCE EPICURE**

BY NAOMI RAJARATNAM

02 APRIL 07  
2023 PM

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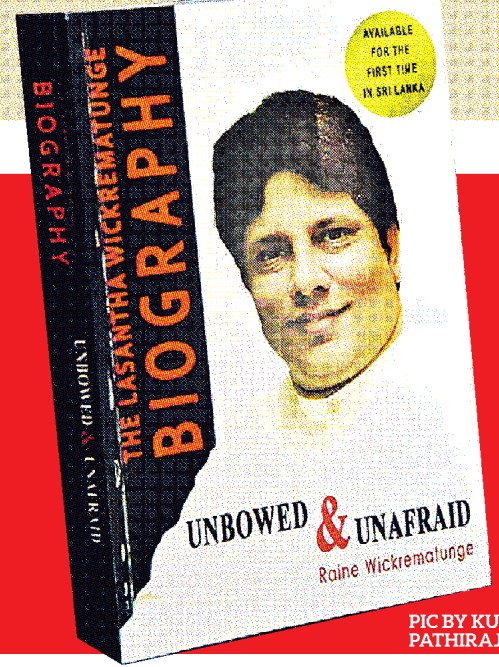


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**'UNBOWED AND UNAFRAID' ...**

BIOGRAPHY OF SLAIN JOURNALIST  
LASANTHA WICKREMATUNGE LAUNCHED



PIC BY KUSHAN PATHIRAJA

By **Kamanthi Wickramasinghe**

**"L**ife is slowly ebbing away. And the minutes that tick by seem like an eternity. He lies bleeding, moaning and suffering. The world is becoming a blur... Every crimson drop that falls tells the story of a good man, a visionary who would never give up his crusade for justice and equality, a man who in his own words, walked tall and bowed to no man."

Fourteen years have passed since a brave journalist was silenced by power hungry rulers. The name Lasantha Wickrematunge has left an indelible impression in the history of journalism in Sri Lanka. Even though the media, or rather the fourth estate is a pillar of democracy, oftentimes this pillar of democracy has been destroyed by those in power. 'Unbowed and Unafraid', the biography of murdered journalist and former Editor-in-Chief of the Sunday Leader Lasantha Wickrematunge penned by his former wife Raine Wickrematunge captures the story of a man who lived, breathed and finally died in the pursuit of truth.

"For me this book was a therapeutic journey but the main objective of writing this book was to gift Lasantha's remarkable story to the world," said Raine Wickrematunge at the recently held book launch. "I hope it will inspire a lot of people, especially upcoming journalists of the next generation. I like to thank all journalists carrying on Lasantha's

legacy. As we are painfully aware, the media in Sri Lanka hasn't had an easy run. Many journalists like Lasantha have been murdered. People like Keith Noyahr, a journalist from The Nation was abducted and mercilessly tortured. Prageeth Ekneligoda disappeared in 2010 and Sandya and her two children are still waiting for answers. Not only journalists, even media institutions have come under attack over the past 30 years. We had these experiences when the Sunday Leader presses were torched. Even our house was under attack. So journalists in Sri Lanka have had a very hard time. Editors are charged under the criminal defamation laws; journalists are taken into custody under the PTA and kept in incarceration for about two years of time. Journalism is a profession that is fought with danger but it's so addictive. Once the blue ink starts running in your veins there's no looking back."

Delivering the keynote address, actor and activist Peter D'Almeida reflected on memories he had with his childhood friend while admiring his courage as a journalist. "Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is the resistance to fear and a master of fear. Lasantha must have been afraid like all of us, when we do the kind of work we do. There is a sense of fear but that's when courage kicks in. While fear is a reaction, courage is a decision. Lasantha said the Sunday Leader stood for three things; to see Sri Lanka as a transparent, secular and liberal society. And he urges us to think about these three words. He said that the government has to be openly accountable and that secularism only offers the ground for us to be united. Thirdly he says liberal, where it recognises that all human beings are created different and we need to accept others for what they are, not what we want them to be."

He further said that Wickrematunge carefully documented all events and that he had a deep sense of curiosity. "This is what drove him. He

gets to the fundamentals; he gets to the heart of the problem. That is what causes fear, the courage he shows brings fear in those who abuse power. That is the dichotomy of the words fear and courage."

Speaking at the event, Raisa Wickrematunge, the niece of Lasantha Wickrematunge recalled how people held placards remembering the late journalist during the aragalaya last year. "Last year we saw people around the country standing out for what they believed in and calling for an end to corruption, nepotism and state-sponsored violence. It was incredible to see so many people remembering Lasantha on placards and posters during the protests. If he were here he would definitely have been busily at work trying to uncover the political machinations going on behind the scenes. He would be relying on his signature charm and the context on both sides of the political aisle, in order to get the story."

I entered journalism fulltime just after my uncle was killed and the nature of our work has changed a lot since then. We see newsrooms move away from investigative work and dedicated beats due to constraints in finances or different forms of censorship. We have seen how the freedom of the press has been restricted. We have also seen how the news landscape has changed with more publications trying to embrace the potential of social media platforms and the online space. This is also a time of eroding trust in mainstream media, not just in Sri Lanka but globally as well. In this uncertain environment it is all the more important to remember those who were able to carry out their work in extraordinary circumstances despite censorship, threats and limited finances. I hope this biography will encourage the younger generation to read and learn about Lasantha's life and work," she said in her concluding remarks.

**IEPSL**  
Institute of Environmental Professionals  
Sri Lanka

**INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS SRI LANKA (IEPSL)**

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Associated Sessions**

**"Sustainable Development: Pathways into the Future"**

**Message from the Guest of Honour, H.E. Denis Chaibli, the EU Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives**



Recent global events have underlined the interdependency of countries and regions where unanticipated external shocks can deeply impact countries and regions. A second lesson learnt is that multilateralism and global solidarity works.

In this context, science warns that climate change compounded by environmental degradation, is a looming threat to existence, perhaps the biggest one that humanity faces. Sri Lanka ranks among the top ten countries in the Global Climate Index. Therefore, now more than ever before, when the world is focussing on sustainable development, for Sri Lanka it is not an option, but a requirement to make a green economic recovery.

As part of the external dimension of the European Green Deal, the European Union is working to foster a green recovery to assist Sri Lanka in implementing the bold commitments to become environmentally sustainable and come out of its present crippling economic crisis, as a resilient and shock resistant economy. Through the EU's projects we share our experiences, promote ecological innovations and technologies through increased research and development, leverage access to finance, and assist in the development of an enabling policy environment.

Acknowledging the Institute of Environmental Professionals (IEPSL) - being a bedrock of environmental action which is oriented towards actual, visible impact - I cannot stress enough the importance of collaboration and communication among such professionals, and also with the government and private actors involved in responding in making a green recovery.

In this ever-evolving context, it is my pleasure to be the Chief Guest at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the IEPSL on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. I have no doubt that IEPSL will play a vital role in realizing the aspirations of the country in transitioning away from an unsustainable future.



**IEPSL Council 2022-2023**

Front row: Mr AUK Edingala (Secretary), Mr HS Premachandra (Immediate Past President), Prof Niranjanie Ramayake (President), Mrs Shiranee Yasaratne (President Elect), Mrs Kanthi de Silva (Vice President), Back Row: Mr Trishan Perera (Asst. Editor), Mr Kaushal Rajapakse (Council Member), Mrs Dhammi Pindeniya (Council Member), Ms Ranieshi Siriपाल (Council Member), Mr Janaka Wijesekera (Council Member), Mrs Anusha Edirivera (Council Member), Mrs Anusha Hemali (Asst. Treasurer), Mr Sena Pieris (Council Member), Eng Janaki Rathukumara (Council Member), Ms Dharsham Lalandapana (Council Member), Mr Sanjewa Chulakumara (Council Member), Absent: Mr Aela Iddawela (Sm. Vice President), Mr Randewa Malalasekera (Treasurer), Dr Sampath Wahala (Editor), Dr Nishanthi Perera (Asst. Secretary), Prof Hemanthi Ranasinghe (Council Member), Mr Saranga Gajasinghe (Council Member), Dr N Karthikeyan (Council Member)



**Message from the Guest of Honour, Mr. Anura Dissanayake, Secretary to the Hon Prime Minister of Sri Lanka**

It gives me great pleasure to issue a message on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka (IEPSL).

This is a difficult time for our country. Sri Lanka is emerging from an economic crisis which is unprecedented in our times. Yet in these challenges we can also see rays of hope, some of which map a way forward to a prosperous and successful Sri Lanka. Now more than ever, the subject of environmental management and protection has greater significance, as we live in a world that is plagued by enormous environmental challenges such as global warming which threatens the very existence of humankind. The Government is fully committed to supporting the Paris goals of limiting global warming to 1.5 Centigrade. For us as a climate-vulnerable developing country this is a matter of vital national security. If this target is not met, we will lose much of our coastlines, our ecosystems and our agriculture. While global environmental issues are undoubtedly dire, we in Sri Lanka face an even wider range of environmental challenges on a daily basis. In this context, the role played by environmental professionals, is of crucial importance.

The establishment of a professional body such as the IEPSL in 2006 and its subsequent incorporation through an Act of Parliament in 2020, has filled a long felt need in the country. The contribution of the IEPSL in maintaining professional standards and ethics within the environmental professional community in Sri Lanka is invaluable, especially if we are to successfully meet the environmental challenges we face today. Furthermore the IEPSL has been playing an invaluable role in the recent past, through its active participation in policy dialogues related to environmental issues in the country.

I warmly congratulate the IEPSL on the success it has achieved thus far, and look forward to continued close collaboration with the Institute in the years to come.



**Message from the President**  
Eng. Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjanie Ramayake  
BSc Eng (Cey), MEng (Wales),  
CEng, FIESL, CEnvP, MIEPSL,  
MIWA  
President, IEPSL

We are coming to the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Institute of Environmental Professionals, and it is my pleasure to pen these few words on the inauguration of the Annual Technical Sessions and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March this year.

During this session, while the pandemic situation had somewhat eased with the development of vaccines and effective administration of the immunization programs, our country faced the worst ever political and economic crisis in recent history. The power cuts, rising cost of living, fuel shortages and transport restrictions affected everyday activities so much, that voluntary professional activities had to be curtailed by most of us.

Despite these challenges, IEPSL Council and members were able to accomplish some success in the pursuit of our common goals of dissemination of environmental knowledge, inculcating professionalism and professional development through training programs and volunteering our services whenever requested for environmental educational programs for the public. We also provided our contribution to national policy formulation by responding to comments on draft policy documents.

A new group of 11 of our members obtained the Charter this year, after successfully completing the Professional Review, increasing the total number of CEnvP's to 106.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the excellent support extended to us by the Past Presidents, Council members, members and well-wishers of IEPSL and our sponsors for various activities in the past, and hope that an even greater enthusiasm will continue in the future. Thank you.

**Chartered Environmental Professional Awardees -2022/23**

1. W.G. Gnanadasa
2. Renugapathy Rajudevan
3. J.A.P. Jayaweera
4. Piyadi Gamage Aruni Damayanthi Premathilake
5. Ekanayaka Liyanarachchige S. Nilmini
6. Thatindu Rukshan Haputhanthri
7. Walpitage Harsha Ravindra
8. Manamendra Patabendige Priyantha
9. Wickrama Arachchige Ruwini Sobhagi
10. Agampodi Jagath Mendis Gunasekara
11. K.G. Chandrakumara

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**Message from the President Elect, Mrs. Shiranee E. Yasaratne**

Shiranee E. Yasaratne  
BSc (Zoology) MSc (Molecular Biology & Gene Technology)  
CEnvP, MIEPSL  
President Elect

It is with a sense of pride that I issue a message on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka (IEPSL). Having played an active part in the growth of the Institute since its inception, I look forward to being at its helm over the next session.

Sri Lanka is facing increasing environmental and climate challenges. Frequent natural disasters, deforestation and forest degradation, degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems, climate change and extreme weather, air and water pollution and loss of biodiversity hinder its sustainable economic growth. Sri Lanka is also one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world and it is estimated that additional investment of Sri Lankan Rupees 30 billion within the next five years is needed to achieve national biodiversity targets and to avoid future expenses related to biodiversity restoration and management.



Aligned with the 2030 Agenda, Sri Lanka envisions an 'Inclusive Transformation' towards a 'Sustainably Developed Nation for All', where economic transformation is underpinned by green growth and social inclusivity. Central to this transformation is the integration of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs into the National Policy Framework. These developments illustrate the need for sufficient institutional resilience and political consensus to facilitate Sri Lanka's macro-economic stabilization, leading to achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Given its mandate through Act of Parliament in 2020, the Institute looks forward to supporting the nation in sustainable economic growth, successfully meeting the environmental challenges of today.



# A LACK OF LEADERSHIP WAS ARAGALAYA'S STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

Amnesty International hosts panel discussion highlighting Sri Lanka's year of protests

By  
**Kalani  
Kumarasinghe**



insight

2022 was a year of reckoning of double standards, globally and in South Asia, Amnesty International said at the regional launch of its Annual Report on the state of human rights in the world.

The report's country profile for Sri Lanka highlighted key human rights concerns, including economic social and cultural rights, freedom of expression, association and assembly, arbitrary arrests and detentions, excessive use of force, impunity, right to truth justice and reparation as well as discrimination of minority groups.

"Memories of people standing in kilometre long queues waiting for hours, sometimes days at length, just to get access to fuel and gas are still fresh in our memories," South Asia Researcher for Amnesty International Thyagi Ruwanpathirana, moderating a panel discussion on Sri Lanka's protests said. "It's now been close to a year since small pockets, groups of people started gathering in their neighbourhoods, protesting largely about the economic crisis. At Amnesty International we have tried our best to follow what's going on and support the people's right to peaceful protest to the best of our abilities," she said.

The panel discussion featuring former Human Rights Commissioner Ambika Satkunanathan and Human Rights Lawyer and activist Swasthika Arulingam, reflected on Sri Lanka's tryst with freedom of assembly and expression.

Talking about her experience within the Aragalaya as a protester, activist, lawyer and a young Tamil woman, panellist Swasthika Arulingam said that the involvement of youth was one of the key takeaways from the protest movement.

"One of the lasting impacts of the protest is that several young people, particularly from the middle class -- who have up till that point, maintained a distance with politics and activism -- engaged themselves and found hope that they could actually bring about change. Till that point you would hear a lot of young people saying, 'what's the point of politics?' But I think the Galle Face Aragalaya changed that to some extent and in a sense, permanently politicized sections of the middle class. That is one reflection I had of the Aragalaya," Arulingam said.

Another interesting feature of the protest movement she said was the people's recognition of collective action to bring about change. "In the Rajapaksa regime, one of the things we saw is the beautification of Colombo, the gentrification, the removal of the urban poor from the vicinity of the more affluent classes of society. At the Aragalaya, people chose to occupy the Galle Face. People without political or economic power, chose to occupy one of the most prime properties in Colombo. We occupied it quite successfully for nearly six months. That also challenged the narrative. That was an interesting aspect," she said.

"The Rajapaksas spent so much effort and energy pushing people from lower classes out of the vicinity of Colombo and then we found them at the Galle Face Aragalaya, chasing the same Rajapaksas out of power," she recollected.

Arulingam believes that July 9, 2022 was a moment of pure sovereignty. "The executive presidential power was questioned on that day," she said referring to the day protesters stormed then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's residence. "But one of the strengths and weaknesses of the Galle Face Aragalaya was that it didn't have a leadership. It is the reason why July 9th happened but it is also its weakness



Swasthika Arulingam, Thyagi Ruwanpathirana and Ambika Satkunanathan (Amnesty International South Asia)

that without leadership, you can't take it beyond a certain point," she opined.

## WHAT CAN THE SOUTH LEARN FROM THE NORTH?

Asked about what the southern protesters can learn from the northern and eastern protesters, former Human Rights

Commissioner Ambika Satkunanathan commented that a great amount of inspiration can be drawn from the tenacity of the North-Eastern protest movements.

"The families of the disappeared in the North and the East, those are the most visible protests. They somehow mobilized with much difficulty, (in spite of) the surveillance, intimidation and the harassment by security agencies. Southern media doesn't really give them much visibility, even when they were attacked while on the way to see the President in February last year. Despite that they continued protesting. The tenacity of it, the singular purpose that they have, those are things that can be learned," Satkunanathan opined.

Another important point to make is about allyship, the Human Rights activist said. "From the South, if people are going to support them, how do we support them? We don't grab that space, we don't talk on their behalf, and we don't try to direct them. What we need to do is to listen to what they say. They will probably have complaints about how they've been let down. Having been part of the Human Rights Commission, believe me, I was under attack by everyone who kept telling me how the Commission had let them down. You just have to take it. But you also have to know that you can be and should be held accountable. That is very important," she stressed.

The panellists also discussed the recent 'Anti-Terrorism Bill' gazetted on March 22, 2023, which seeks to abolish the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and introduce an Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

"The PTA was used against the protesters at a time when the government itself had given a commitment to the international community that there would be a moratorium until they would repeal and replace it, with a law that's acceptable by international standards," Ruwanpathirana said urging the panellists to share their views.

The definition of the ATA itself, which is broad and vague, can be used against protests and activism, Satkunanathan opined. "You have the military being brought into perform law and order functions, to arrest people. You have the Deputy Inspector General of Police being given the power to issue detention orders, all of which can be used against civil society, activists and protesters," she said.

"We have the President being given the power to declare certain places prohibited places -- it doesn't say for how long this can be done. You have organizations which

can be proscribed by the President. The process is not transparent, it can go on forever, and it is merely on the recommendation of the Inspector General of Police. So there are many aspects," she explained.

The panellists also stressed that certain provisions can adversely impact protests, dissent, journalists and civil society. "People who have been affected by the PTA, have been asking for the repeal of the PTA. If you speak to the victims, none of them say, 'we want to repeal the PTA and bring another counter terror law,' Arulingam added. "The government is not listening for obvious reasons. But what is the role of international actors? What are you telling the government?" she questioned.



## Sri Lanka Malay Association Celebrates Heroes Day

The Sri Lankan Malays, to date are identified as a 'Martial Race', mainly because of their immense service and sacrifice towards the country, especially during the pre-independence era.

In remembrance of this great gesture by their ancestors, the Sri Lanka Malay Association (SLMA) celebrated Heroes Day 2023 last Sunday (March 19) at the Padang Complex Auditorium with Gen. Shavendra Silva, Chief of Defence Staff gracing this milestone event as the chief guest.

The gathering remembered the Malays who sacrificed their lives protecting the sovereignty of the country and to all those personnel of the Tri-Forces and Police who gallantly laid down their lives.

The President of the SLMA, Rilwan Lantra addressing the gathering, mentioned as to how obliged they are to the state for having recognized the seniors of their community and appointing them to high positions.

A few of them who were present at the occasion were, Maj Gen. (Rtd.) Royslan Sallay, Maj

Gen. (Rtd.) Suraj Bangsajayah, a very senior member Rtd. Brig. Kumban Bohoran and Rtd. Dy. Commander of STF Faizal Hadgie.

Also present were Wing Commander Ershad Muthaliph who had returned recently from the US after a professional military education training session.

In his speech he stated that the Malays were recognized as a trustworthy and a martial race.

The SLMA has focused on social services, helping the less-privileged in society and enhancing the awareness of its culture and living in harmony with all communities.

The SLMA said that the Heroes Day was inaugurated to seek blessings for the members of their community who laid down their lives for the country.

The event has been held every year coinciding with Poppy Day.

This year is special because it coincides with the Centenary of the SLMA and the 150th year of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (Chrishalle Augustin).



## VACANCY PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE MANAGER FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

Sri Lanka Cricket is recruiting a full-time Strength & Conditioning (S&C) Coach to take up the role as Physical Performance Manager. This senior position within Sri Lanka Crickets' Sports Science and Medicine Department will be based at the High Performance Centre, R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo.

### Reporting to:

- Head of High Performance Centre

### Main Roles and Responsibilities

- Design and implement the season training program for all contracted players aligned to SLC central contracts and NSL performance contracts
- Oversee the compliance of sport science and S&C services for SLC central contracted players
- Develop athletic qualities and physical performance of individual players to optimally prepare them for the demands of the modern game across multiple formats within high pressure environments
- Support the Sports Science & Medicine Department in improving athlete robustness through injury prevention and workload management strategies
- Support the Sports Science & Medicine Manager to further develop the department's working identity, determined by the department's key performance pillars, principles and philosophies
- Drive the development and delivery of education programs for players and staff across Sri Lanka Cricket's national talent pathway
- Manage a team of training/S&C staff and ensure objectives are met and effective delivery is evident, by achieving departmental KPI's as set by the Sports Science & Medicine Manager

### The Successful Candidate Should Demonstrate

- Experience within high performing team environment providing and managing S&C services to professional athletes
- Ability to identify strategic areas of focus regarding S&C for cricket performance
- Strong understanding of the principles of rehabilitation, reconditioning and exercise modification
- Ability to critically analyse subjective information and objective data to make informed decisions
- Effective communication skills, with the ability to promote idea sharing and collaboration

### Essential Requirements

- BSc in Sports Science, S&C or an appropriate equivalent post-graduate degree
- S&C accreditation with an established national governing body (e.g UKSCA / ASCA (minimum Level 3))
- Evidence of ongoing professional development
- Significant experience of working with high performance athletes
- Excellent practical knowledge of IT, specifically Excel and Power Point
- Experienced in the use of online information sharing systems
- Proficient with multiple forms of physical testing and monitoring, including GPS
- First Aid qualification

### Desirable Requirements

- MSc in Sports Science, S&C or an appropriate equivalent post-graduate qualification
- ISAK Level 1
- Experience of working in professional cricket
- Exposure and understanding of current research and theories of cricket specific sports science and medicine

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

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

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

\*Please ensure all employment criteria is met prior to applying

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



# SPORTS

## Darshana Ranumduh adjudged Mr. Sri Lanka 2022



Winner Darshana Ranumduh of Get Fit Gym (centre) poses for a picture with first runner-up M.G.W.M.C.N. Pushpakumara of Sri Lanka Army (left) and second runner-up Fazeel of Row Fitness Club (right)

BY SANDUN KODITHUWAKKU

Darshana Ranumduh of Get Fit Gym was adjudged Mr. Sri Lanka at the 74th National Bodybuilding Championship 2022 which was organized by the Sri Lanka Body Building and Fitness Federation (SLBBFF) and worked off at the Tower Hall, Colombo recently.

M. G. W. M. C. N. Pushpakumara of Sri Lanka Army and Fazeel of Row Fitness Club won second and third place respectively.

The winner of the tournament was awarded a trophy, a gold medal with a cash prize of Rs. 250,000, while the first runners up was awarded a trophy, silver medal and Rs. 150,000.

Third place was awarded a trophy, bronze and Rs. 100,000.

W. D. Ashen Perera of Zeus Fitness was crowned the 2022 junior title while the masters title went to V. Shanker Ganesh of Jaffna.

More than 150 competitors took part in seven weight group categories at this event.

The winners of the other weight group:

**Junior under 70 kg** - 1. W.D. Ashen Perera - Zeus Fitness, 2. S. Joseph - Lion Power Fitness, 3. D.A.T. Jaslin - T.S.P. Fitness; **Junior Over 70 kg** - 1. W.M.C.B. Bandara - Revolution Gym, 2. S.V.M. Silva - Gym Solution, 3. M.I.L. Fernando

**- Power House Gym; Junior Title** - 1. W. D. Ashen Perera - Zeus Fitness, 2. W. M. C. B. Bandara - Revolution Gym, 3. S. V. M. Silva - Gym Solution; **60kg** - 1. Dinuka Harshana - Power Shark Gym, 2. A. H. S. A. Hewage - Sri Lanka Army, 3. E. K. C. P. Amarasinghe - Sri Lanka Police; **65 kg** - 1. P. A. V. B. Madushanka, Sri Lanka Navy, 2. G. G. N. Wickramasinghe - Sri Lanka Army, 3. H. S. Perera - Power Fitness; **70 kg** - 1. Darshana Ranamudu, Get Fit Gym, 2. R.A.P.D. Rajapaksha - Sri Lanka Army, 3. W.D. Ashen Perera - Zeus Fitness; **75 kg** - 1. Fazeel, Row Fitness, 2. N. B. A. M. M. Namarathna - Sri Lanka Navy, 3. R. Joseph - Sri Lanka Army; **80 kg** - 1. K. P. M. Gunasekara - Sri Lanka Army, 2. W. A. J. Buddika - Sri Lanka Army, 3. H.A.M.V. Hettiarachchi - Sri Lanka Navy; **85 kg** - 1. Prabath Jayasekara - Power Fitness, 2. Hasintha - Sri Lanka Police, 3. Ashan Wijerathna - Max Burn Fitness; **Over 85 kg** - M. G. W. M. C. N. Pushpakumara - Sri Lanka Army, 2. M. Asanka Nandana - Dynamic Fitness, 3. Y. M. Yapa Bandara - Cut & Curve Gym; **Master** - 1. V. Shanker Ganesh - Jaffna, 2. P. T. M. G. U. Wijekoon - Sri Lanka Air Force, 3. Chamara Dias - Quick Silver Gym.

# DSI SPONSORS SCHOOLS SUPERSPORTS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT FOR 21ST TIME

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

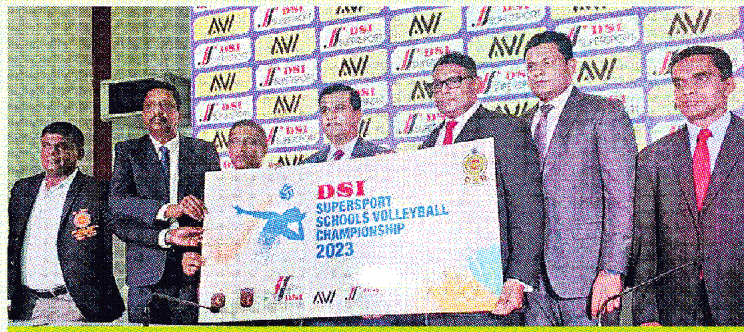
Samson & Company Pvt Ltd (DSI) management has decided to sponsor the Sri Lanka Schools Supersports 2023 Volleyball Tournament for the 21st consecutive time.

This is the only volleyball tournament organized at the national level with the participation of the largest number of schools in Sri Lanka.

The Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) and Sri Lanka Schools Volleyball Association (SLSVA) are jointly organising this tournament.

Organizers as well as sponsors expect more than 5,000 school volleyball teams to participate in this tournament which will be conducted in five age groups (U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17 and U-19).

The closing date for accepting entries is April 25 with the organisers having started accepting applications from March 28.



D. Samson & Sons Pvt Ltd Managing Director Thusitha Rajapaksha handing over DSI Supersports sponsorship to SLVB President Kanchana Jayarathna, SLVB Secretary A.S. Nalaka SLSVA Secretary Chaminda Luxman and Director of Sports Ministry of Education Upali Amaraturanga are in the picture.

The district level matches of the tournament will start from May 13-14 and the District champion and runner-up teams will qualify for the Province level matches. SLVB has made arrangements to hold Province Level matches from June 1 to August 13.

The National Level tournament is planned to be held from August 29 to September 3 and the final matches will be held on September 23 and 24 at the

Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium in Colombo, it was revealed at a press conference held yesterday (28) under the chairmanship of SLVB President Kanchana Jayarathna and DSI Managing Director Thusitha Rajapaksha.

The DSI Supersports Volleyball Tournament has been running since 1999. A large number of athletes have been introduced at the national and international level based on their performance at this tournament.

## Dambulla defeated as Jaffna record third win

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Dambulla, the only unbeaten side in the ongoing National Super League limited overs tournament, were finally defeated when Jaffna took sweet revenge with a comfortable five-wicket win at the R. Premadasa Stadium.

Dambulla taking first lease of the wicket fell into deep trouble as they lost their top four wickets within the space of six overs with the scoreboard reading just 22 runs.

They made a recovery thanks to a fifth wicket stand of 75 runs between Lasith Abeyratne and Sonal Dinusha who put on another valuable 51 runs stand for the sixth wicket with Dushan Hemantha.

The separation of the pair and the dismissal of Dinusha led to the loss of the final four wickets for the addition of 52 runs, eventually bowled out for 200 runs.

Jaffna in their run chase were given a sound start of 63 runs by openers Vishad Randika and Sohan de Livera who followed it up with a 77-run stand for the second wicket with Pasindu Sooriyabandara before de Livera was dismissed having made a quick fire 76 in 71 balls that included nine boundaries and a six which helped Jaffna to race to the target in the 34th over to record their third win.

Galle guided by half tons from Navod Paranavithana, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka and Kasun Abeyratne too recorded their third win of the tournament with a convincing seven-wicket win over Kandy in another match played at the SSC ground.

Galle in pursuit of 250 runs for victory were given a solid start by openers Paranavithana and Madushka who together put on 126 runs. Later Liyanage and Abeyratne shared a valuable 87 runs for the third wicket enabling them to reach the target with ease in the 40th over.

### RESULTS

**At R Premadasa Stadium - Galle won by five wickets**

**Dambulla 200 in 49.5 overs** (Sonal Dinusha 62, Lasith Abeyratne 37, Dushan Hemantha 29, Chamindu Wijesinghe 24, Duvidu Tilekeratne 17; Milan Ratnayake 4 for 41, Akila Dhananjaya 3 for 38, Ramesh Mendis 2 for 37)

**Galle 201 for 5 in 33.5 overs** (Sohan de Livera 76, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 41, Vishad Randika 34, Lakshan Edirisinghe 25; Dushan Hemantha 2 for 48, Duvidu Tilekeratna 2 for 51)

**At SSC - Jaffna won by seven wickets**

**Kandy 249 in 49.4 overs** (Sandun Weerakkody 62, Asel Sigeru 50, Lahiru Udara 39, Niroshan Dickwell 27, Movin Subasinghe 25, Oshada Fernando 18; Shiran Fernando 4 for 62, Dilum Sudeera 2 for 31, Jeffrey Vandersay 2 for 50)

**Jaffna 251 for 3 in 39.2 overs** (Navod Paranavithana 82, Janith Liyanage 53, Nishan Madushka 52, Kasun Abeyratne 54 n.o.)

# Rain washes out second New Zealand vs Sri Lanka ODI

Heavy rain and gusting winds forced the second one-day international between New Zealand and Sri Lanka to be abandoned on Tuesday without a ball bowled.

Steady rain kept the covers on at Hagley Oval in Christchurch and organisers called the match off at 1630 local time (0330 GMT) with more showers forecast.

The third and final ODI will be played in Hamilton

on Friday, with New Zealand leading the series 1-0 after romping to a 198-run win at Auckland's Eden Park on Saturday.

Sri Lanka have lost all three tour games played so far in New Zealand, including a 2-0 whitewash in the Test series.

(AFP)

# Gateway completes a clean sweep in football



The Winning Under 16 Team

Gateway's winning streak continued as they emerged victorious at the Under 16 International Schools' football championship, played from the March 4-15.

Having recently been crowned Under 18 and Under 20 champions, Gateway College Colombo gained a triple with a victory over Lyceum International School Wattala, winning 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at full time.

On route to the final, Gateway defeated Lyceum Rathnapura 3-0 and CIS Colombo 1-0 in the group stage. In the quarter-finals Gateway put 7 goals past Wycherley Colombo to win 7-0, before beating the British School in Colombo 3-1 in the semis.

Gateway's powerful midfield skillfully combined to score 15 goals across the tournament, with Abdullah Hassan and Ahamed Hijazzy both picking up four goals each.

Central midfielder Hijazzy was adjudged the Player of the Tournament for his commanding performance across the pitch, whilst Gateway's



Ahamed Hijazzy - Player of the Tournament with James Heath, the Head Coach

Nadal Senapala was awarded the Best Keeper for his assured performance at the back.

The tournament, also saw the Golden Boot awarded to Sridharan Krbaishdharan of Lyceum Wattala and the Player of the Final too was awarded to Lyceum's goalkeeper Vijayarathnam Rishoban.

## St. Anthony's well placed against St. Peter's

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

St. Anthony's College were well placed in their Under 19 Inter School cricket encounter against St. Peter's College which commenced at Katugastota yesterday.

Three fine half centuries by Lahiru Abeysinghe (73), Thisara Ekanayake (54) and Kavindu Shehan (54) helped the home team to score well over 350 runs in their first innings.

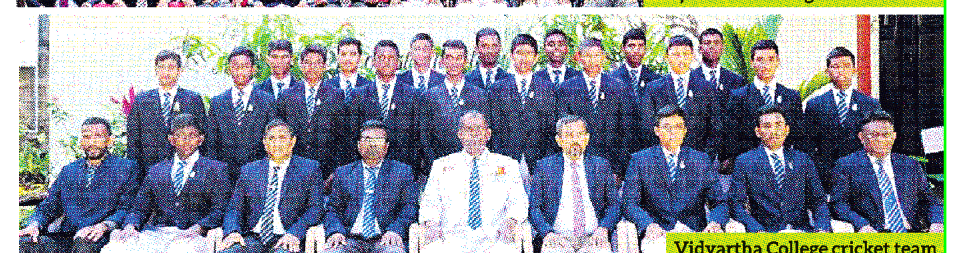
**St. Anthony's 352 for 9 in 78 overs** (Lahiru Abeysinghe 73, Thisara Ekanayake 54, Kavindu Shehan 54, Induruwa Galapitige 47, Mohamed Aaqil 32, Lashmika Perera 4 for 57, Shannon Rodrigo 2 for 81)

**St. Peter's 37 for 1 in 11.2 overs**

## Two equally balanced teams battle for honours



S. Sylvester's College cricket team



Vidyartha College cricket team

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

The 63rd Battle of the Babes between St. Sylvester's College and Vidyartha College will take place on March 31 and April 1 at the Pallekelle International Cricket Stadium (PICS).

Both teams are well balanced and a good encounter is on the cards for spectators.

The winner will be awarded with the Rev. Fr. Don George Trophy.

The series is led by Sylvester's with 15 wins to Vidyartha's 3 while the rest have ended in draws.

However, rain remains a threat for the Big Match encounter.

The Sylvester's Head Coach is Roshan Jayatissa.

Meanwhile Vidyartha College is led by Adithiya



Adithiya Kalalpitaya Vidyartha skipper



Malith Lakshan SSC skipper

Kalalpitaya who had an outstanding season taking 93 wickets this season. They have played 11 matches winning seven of those and drawing three matches while winning on first innings in one game.

Vidyartha is coached by former Rajans player, Senaka Dissanayake.

**Vidyartha:** Adithiya Kalalpitaya (Capt), Anishka Gunarathne, Shamal Priyabashana, Sahana Chandrasiri, Chamalka

Bandara, Bashitha Keshan, Charuka Mithrashinha, Shakila Rathnasiri, Dineth Bulankulama Anuja Rathnayaka, Pubudu Tharaka, Shevan Kanishas, Danupa Kodikara, Nishmika Kavishan and Janindu Ranaweera

Head Coach - Senaka Dissanayake, MIC - Ranga Jayasinghe

**St Sylvester's:** Malith Lakshan (Capt), Kanka Wickramasinghe, Sahana Dissanayake, Kavishka Imesh, Yoshitha Isuranga, Charuka Ayeshan, Dion Fernando, Chandupa Waduge, Akila Wickramasinghe, Isuru Gunasekara, Nimesha Silva, Arusha Mendis, Kashyapa Dissanayake, Pansilu Bandara and Sihina Bandara

Head Coach - Roshan Jayatissa, MIC - Palinda de Silva

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**Two equally balanced teams battle for honours**

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

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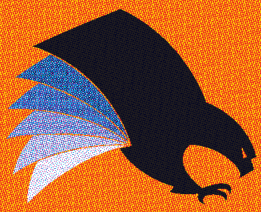
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**Vidyartha:** Adithiya Kalalpitaya (Capt), Anishka Gunarathne, Shamal Priyabashana, Sahana Chandrasiri, Chamalka

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Head Coach - Roshan Jayatissa, MIC - Palinda de Silva





# Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market P10

## Fresh tender to be called to procure coal for Norochcholai

The Cabinet nod has been granted to call for fresh tender to procure an estimated 2.25 million MT of coal required for Lakvijaya coal power plant in Norochcholai for the term 2023/2024 under the government procurement process.

Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera on Monday sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to take necessary steps to implement the procurement process in order to secure the required coal for the 2023/2024 period.

**MORE ON P10**

## China ramping up bailout loans to 'Belt and Road' countries: report

**AFP:** China has handed out US\$240 billion worth of bailout loans to 22 developing countries at risk of default over the past two decades, with the trend accelerating in recent years, a report said yesterday.

Almost all the funds went to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Turkey — mostly low- and middle-income nations that have received Chinese loans for infrastructure development, according to the study.

**MORE ON P10**

# Roadmap presented to CB to revive beleaguered construction sector

- Road map formulated by CIOB contains 30-point action plan
- Highlights need for soft loans to contractors to service existing loans
- Urges CB to look at establishing an infrastructure development bank/fund
- If implemented, CIOB says construction sector can aim for 10% contribution to GDP



CIOB President Dr. Rohan Karunaratne presenting the construction roadmap to Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandal Weerasinghe

Stakeholders of the construction sector presented to the Central Bank this week a 30-point action plan that will help improve its contribution to the economy—to levels before the economic crisis severely hampered its performance.

The road map was formulated by the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) with the aim of “restarting” the construction sector for the year 2023/2024.

“If these points are strategically executed, the Sri Lankan construction industry can stand back and support the economy like never before and can aim for a 10 percent GDP contribution,” CIOB said in a statement to the media.

Prior to the economic crisis and the implications that stemmed from the pandemic,

the local construction sector contributed to around 9.6 percent to the GDP. However, activities of the sector and the contribution to the GDP has fallen to a range below inflation, CIOB pointed out.

Some of the concerns raised in the road map include settlement of dues, settling industry issues with banks, re-commencing halted projects, imposing liquidated damages, encouraging funding agencies to provide a soft loan to the industry, establishing an infrastructure development bank/fund, and the calculation of construction inflation

index, among others. In the road map, CIOB has highlighted four key areas for Central Bank’s attention.

The first is to provide soft loans to contractors to service existing loans, partly, so that their credibility can be re-established. Such provisions will provide them with the ability to restructure their loans, CIOB said.

The second is to identify the most value-added projects to the country which are still underway and ensure their completion. This should be done via a task-force including stakeholders from the private sector, CIOB said.

**MORE ON P10**

## President to deliver keynote address at CA Sri Lanka’s economic forum

CA Sri Lanka is organising a CEO discussion forum called “Economic Dialogue - IMF and Beyond” to facilitate a productive conversation among key stakeholders, including business leaders, policymakers, and economics experts.

The event “Economic Dialogue - IMF and Beyond” aims to promote a deeper understanding of the challenges facing Sri Lanka’s economy and potential solutions to overcome them.

Participants will engage in lively discussions about various aspects of the country’s economic recovery, including the role of the IMF in supporting Sri Lanka’s economic policies and reforms.

The CEO Discussion Forum, scheduled for March 30th from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Galle Face Hotel, is set to receive a keynote address from President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

During his keynote address, President Wickremesinghe is expected to discuss in detail the corrective steps that Sri Lanka must take to overcome the economic crisis it currently faces. The President’s address is anticipated to provide a roadmap for Sri Lanka’s economic recovery.



Ranil Wickremesinghe

**MORE ON P10**

## LOLC Group announces internal restructuring of financial services

As part of the group’s internal restructuring of financial services, LOLC Group yesterday announced the transfer of LOLC Asset Holdings Limited (LAHL), a fully owned subsidiary of LOLC Holdings PLC to another

subsidiary, LOLC Ceylon Holdings PLC.

LOLC Ceylon Holdings PLC was set up in 2021 as part of LOLC Group’s global strategy to attract investors to its large finance companies.

**MORE ON P10**

## Government to set up road maintenance fund by charging annual fee from vehicles

The Cabinet of Ministers this week approved a proposal to establish a road maintenance fund with an initial capital infusion of Rs.100 million and to charge an annual fee per vehicle.

Minister Transport and Highways Bandula Gunawardana on Monday sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers establish the proposed fund through an Act of Parliament.

A midst fiscal constraints, President Ranil Wickremesinghe proposed to establish a fund for road maintenance with an initial

allocation of Rs.100 million in the 2023 budget.

It was also proposed to charge an annual fee not less than Rs.100 per vehicle when obtaining revenue licenses in order to maintain the fund.

The Ministry of Transport and Highways has been assigned the responsibility of preparing an appropriate system for establishing and maintaining the fund.

The fund is expected to provide allocations for all types of road maintenance annually including rehabilitation and construction.

## Disposal of govt.’s stake in SLT will take at least 8-12 months: Fitch

■ Places SLT’s ‘A(ika)’ rating on Rating Watch Positive amid govt.’s plan to sell its 49.5% stake in the company

The government’s plan to sell 49.5 percent stake in Sri Lanka Telecom PLC held by the Treasury will take at least 8 to 12 months, Fitch Ratings said yesterday.

In a new rating report, Fitch placed SLT’s National Long-Term Rating of ‘A(ika)’ on Rating Watch Positive (RWP).

Fitch said the potential upside in SLT’s rating is due to the government’s plan to sell its 49.5 percent stake in the company.

“The disposal is part of a plan to restructure state-owned entities (SOEs) to improve the

state’s financial position. SLT said steps have yet to be taken to identify potential buyers and it will take at least eight to 12 months to finalise the transaction. We believe the government will push through the disposal as SOE restructuring is an integral part of IMF’s financial support to Sri Lanka,” Fitch said. The rating agency noted that SLT’s ratings are currently constrained by its parent’s weak credit profile and SLT’s standalone credit profile being stronger than that of the state. SLT is the market leader in fixed-line services, has second-largest share in mobile, and owns an extensive optical fibre network. Meanwhile, Fitch said SLT’s revenue growth is expected to slow to a low single-digit percentage this year amid weakening consumer demand.

**MORE ON P10**

## CEB and India’s NTPC to jointly build 135MW solar power plant in Sampur

The Cabinet has cleared path for Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) to develop a 135 MW solar power project in Sampur, Trincomalee jointly with India’s National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at an estimated investment of US\$ 180.1 million.

Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera on Monday sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to move ahead with the proposed solar power plant which is to be jointly implemented by CEB and a joint venture entity of India’s NTPC.

NTPC and CEB inked an agreement

last year for the joint implementation of the 135 MW solar energy project in two phases at the same site where the earlier proposed Sampur coal power plant was to be built.

According to the Department of Government Information, it’s planned to construct a 50 MW solar power project with an investment of US\$ 42.5 million along with a 40 km long 220 KV transmission line from Sampur to Kappalthurai at an estimated cost of US\$ 23.6 million.

**MORE ON P10**

### MOU with India for renewable energy

■ Special focus on Northern and Eastern provinces

In line with the country’s renewable energy commitments, the government has decided to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the field of renewable energy with India with a special focus on Northern and Eastern provinces.

**MORE ON P10**

## Proposed new oil refinery in Hambantota receives seven EOIs

The proposed new refinery in Hambantota has received Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from seven companies, the Power and Energy Ministry shared yesterday.

Meeting the deadline, which fell on March 27 were; Grant & Shearer Ltd, Lagos - Nigeria, China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) - China, Petrichor Capital Sdn.Bhd - Malaysia, Vitol Group - Singapore, Matin Tejarat Co. - Iran, Harree

Management Services (Pvt) Ltd with Marka Invest - Sri Lanka and UAE based, and Dandeniya Engineering Sales & Service Syndicate - Sri Lanka.

In an update on Twitter, Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said the technical evaluation committee and other procurement committees will evaluate EOIs and issue the Request for Proposals (RFP) to suitable applicants.

**MORE ON P10**



Kanchana Wijesekera

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SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA	CHANG
<b>A MAIN BOARD</b>																							
ASPHEN HOT HOLD	35,935	158.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	120	LANKA VENTURES	1	40.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	0.00	ALUMEX PLC	324,150	8.30	8.10	8.30	7.90	8.00	(0.30)
ABANS	17	158.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	158.00	0	LANKA WALL TILE	136,570	47.70	48.00	47.00	47.20	(0.50)	AMANA TAKAFUL	2,500	12.10	11.70	11.70	11.70	11.70	0.10	
ACCESS ENGL SH	717,461	14.60	14.50	14.80	14.10	14.40	(0.20)	LANKEDEV	67,805	26.60	25.40	25.80	25.50	(1.10)	AMBEON HOLDINGS	25,033	8.00	8.20	8.30	8.00	8.20	0.10	
ACL	1,030,963	82.00	80.50	82.00	80.00	80.90	(1.10)	LAUGFS GAS	10,344	30.10	30.10	30.20	28.40	29.90	(0.20)	AMF COLTD	25,035	8.00	8.20	8.30	8.00	8.20	0.20
ACL PLASTICS	677	409.25	409.25	409.25	386.00	395.75	(13.50)	LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	21,779	20.20	20.40	20.40	19.60	20.20	-	ASIA SIVAKA	135,118	4.10	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.10	-
ACME	4,409	6.50	6.70	6.70	6.60	6.60	0.10	LAXAPANA	7,011	13.20	13.30	13.40	13.30	13.30	0.10	BERUWALA RESORTS	33,664	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.40	1.50	-
ACALAWATTE	12,174	31.00	31.00	31.00	30.60	30.70	(0.30)	LB FINANCE	26,036	52.20	52.20	52.20	50.10	51.50	(0.70)	BOGALA GRAPHITE	1,264	64.80	63.00	63.00	60.00	62.90	(1.90)
AHOT PROPERTIES	9,237	42.40	43.00	43.60	41.80	43.00	0.60	LION BREWERY	11,005	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.10	BOGAWANTALAWA	3,110	45.10	43.00	43.00	45.00	45.00	(0.10)
AITKEN SPENCE	13,081	129.25	131.00	132.00	127.00	130.00	0.75	LMP	874	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	141.00	1.00	BPFL HOLDINGS	1,500	20.60	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	0.40
ALLIANCE	656	64.10	64.00	64.50	64.00	64.10	-	LVL ENERGY	307	7.20	7.00	7.00	6.70	6.80	(0.40)	BROWNS	3,278	122.75	129.00	129.00	118.25	119.00	(3.75)
AMANA BANK	162,669	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.50	2.60	-	MELSTACORP	113,032	56.70	57.50	57.50	54.20	56.40	(0.30)	BROWNS INVSTMNTS	6,240,258	6.40	6.30	6.40	6.10	6.20	(0.20)
ASIA ASSET	50	8.00	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.00	-	MERC SHIPPING	7	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	-	CT LAND	2,001	28.70	25.20	27.00	25.20	26.10	(2.60)
ASIRI	579	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	-	MERCHANT BANK	67,160	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.50	-	C W MACKIE	30,375	80.00	80.00	80.00	79.00	80.00	-
ASIRI SURG	2,192	22.50	22.40	22.40	22.40	22.40	(0.10)	MULLERS	11,005	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.10	FIRST CAPITAL	476,858	30.00	29.90	30.00	29.80	30.00	-
BAIRAHA FARMS	2,549	146.25	148.00	149.00	146.00	146.25	-	NAMUNUKULA	140	361.00	360.25	361.75	360.25	361.25	0.25	CEYLON TEA BRKRS	21,410	4.00	4.00	4.10	4.00	4.10	0.10
BALANGODA	4,854	64.90	67.50	67.50	64.00	65.80	0.90	NAT DEV BANK	538,583	44.30	43.80	44.80	43.30	44.60	0.30	CITRUS HIKKADUWA	10,084	5.40	5.60	5.60	5.30	5.40	(0.10)
BUKIT DARAH	2	429.00	408.00	414.75	408.00	429.00	-	NATION LANKA	78,370	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	-	CITRUS WASKADUWA	772,307	2.90	3.00	3.00	2.70	3.00	0.10
CARGILLS	79	235.75	234.50	234.50	232.00	235.75	-	NATIONS TRUST	13,760	57.20	57.00	57.20	56.10	56.40	(0.80)	COM CREDIT	19,615	24.90	24.10	25.20	24.10	24.90	-
CARGO BOAT	101	47.20	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	2.30	OVERSEAS REALTY	79,479	15.50	15.50	15.70	15.40	15.60	0.10	COMMERCIAL DEV	3,997	108.00	102.50	103.00	102.50	102.75	(5.25)
CARSONS	16	271.75	268.00	268.00	260.00	271.75	-	PANASIAN POWER	48,407	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	-	EL CHANNELLING	68,077	18.00	18.30	18.90	17.90	18.20	0.20
CDI [CDB.X0000]	1,348	64.50	64.50	64.50	64.50	64.50	-	PEOPLES INS	8,566	22.20	22.20	22.50	21.70	22.10	(0.10)	ELPITTA	1,561	76.20	76.30	78.00	76.30	76.50	0.30
CENTRAL FINANCE	58,539	73.10	73.90	74.50	72.30	74.20	1.10	PEOPLES LEASING	317,497	8.10	8.10	8.30	7.60	8.00	(0.10)	EQUITY TWO PLC	100	40.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	(2.00)
CENTRAL IND	33,117	84.20	83.90	84.50	82.00	84.30	0.10	PGP GLASS	197,583	18.90	18.70	19.30	18.60	18.90	(0.10)	EXTERMINATORS	22,986	8.90	8.70	9.00	8.20	8.90	-
CEYLONIC INS. [CINS.X0000]	70	1054.00	1026.00	1026.25	1025.00	1054.00	-	PRINTCARE PLC	34,373	50.00	50.00	50.00	48.00	49.90	(0.10)	FCT TREASURES	179,161	21.80	21.50	22.00	21.10	21.60	(0.20)
CEYLON INV	20,508	23.40	23.40	23.40	23.40	23.40	0.40	PTI PROPERTY	149,248	11.90	11.80	11.80	11.70	11.70	0.10	FIRST CAPITAL	107,624	30.90	31.00	31.00	31.00	30.70	(0.20)
CEYLON TOBACCO	20,627	663.25	655.50	669.75	655.50	666.25	3.00	REGNIS	1,510	46.30	44.30	45.00	44.30	45.00	(1.30)	FORTRESS RESORTS	324,761	20.50	20.20	22.70	20.20	22.70	1.70
CHEMANEX	5	77.50	78.90	78.90	78.90	77.50	-	RENUKA AGRI	1,311,569	5.30	5.30	5.40	5.20	5.20	0.10	GALADARI	136,700	14.20	14.50	14.90	14.10	14.70	0.50
CHEVRON	104,244	93.70	93.00	93.00	90.10	90.90	(2.80)	RENUKA CITY HOT	102	366.25	380.00	380.00	364.25	364.25	(2.00)	HAPUGASTENDE	379	47.00	47.90	47.90	44.10	47.90	0.90
CIC [CIC.X0000]	45,188	74.00	74.00	74.00	72.30	72.60	(1.40)	RENUKA FOODS	12,500	22.10	21.40	21.50	21.40	21.40	(0.70)	HARISCHANDRA	6	4000.00	3810.50	3810.50	3398.50	4000.00	-
CIC [CIC.X0000]	65,185	50.80	50.70	51.90	50.00	51.50	0.70	RENUKA HOLDINGS	1,372	13.50	13.70	13.80	13.50	13.70	0.20	HATTON	115	20.30	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	0.70
CIYAWA LEISURE	53,934	6.50	6.90	6.90	6.40	6.50	0.40	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	1,065	13.10	13.70	13.70	13.00	13.10	-	EL CHANNELLING	12,058	5.30	5.20	5.30	5.10	5.10	(0.20)
COLD STORES	9,024	43.70	43.80	44.00	42.10	42.30	(1.40)	RESUS ENERGY	1,065	13.10	13.70	13.70	13.00	13.10	-	HNB FINANCE [HNBFX.X0000]	9,500	5.00	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	0.10
COLOMBO CITY	61	1051.50	1040.00	1068.00	1035.25	1051.50	-	RICHARD PIERIS	83,654	20.50	20.50	21.40	20.20	21.00	0.50	HVA FOODS	1,105	3.90	3.90	4.00	3.90	3.90	-
COLOMBO LAND	36,836	22.00	21.70	22.70	21.00	21.70	(0.30)	ROYAL CERAMIC	513,978	28.00	28.00	29.00	27.50	28.00	-	JANASHAKTHI INS	634	28.30	28.30	29.00	27.90	28.90	0.60
COMMERCIAL BANK	192,110	65.70	67.00	68.50	65.30	65.50	(0.20)	S M B LEASING	3,784	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.70	0.70	-	JETHWING SYMPHONY	105	7.10	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.20	0.10
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	65,423	54.50	55.00	55.00	54.50	55.00	0.50	S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	9,907,059	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.20	0.30	-	JOHN KEELLS	37	64.50	68.80	68.80	64.10	64.50	-
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	16,587	21.20	21.10	21.20	20.80	20.80	(0.40)	SAMPATH	1,327,311	51.00	50.70	51.50	50.30	51.00	0.10	KANAWATTE	19,877	20.00	20.00	20.00	19.80	20.00	-
DCE BANK PLC	5,434	43.00	43.00	43.00	42.00	42.50	(0.50)	SANSON INTERNAT	50	253.75	250.00	250.00	250.00	253.75	-	KEELLS HOTELS	3,027	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.10	18.40	(0.10)
DIALOG	600,605	10.40	10.40	10.50	10.30	10.50	0.10	SANASA DEV BANK	5,297	25.50	25.20	25.20	24.60	24.70	(0.80)	KELSEY	3,020	23.20	23.00	23.00	21.00	22.90	(0.30)
DIMO	305	469.50	470.25	478.75	469.50	470.00	0.50	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	1,120	10.50	10.90	10.90	10.80	10.90	0.40	LANKEA CEYLON	179	75.20	75.00	75.50	74.00	74.90	(0.30)
DIPPED PRODUCTS	164,563	27.60	27.90	27.90	27.30	27.60	-	SEYLAN BANK	8,265	36.10	36.20	36.30	35.10	35.20	(0.90)	LAUGFS POWER	245	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.50	8.80	(0.20)
DOCKRAY	3,376	66.00	66.00	66.00	63.80	64.00	(0.20)	SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]	9,955	23.80	23.70	23.70	23.30	23.30	(0.50)	LAUGFS POWER [LPL-X0000]	1,000	6.90	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	0.50
DOLPHIN HOTELS	16,587	21.20	21.10	21.20	20.80	20.80	(0.40)	SEYLAN DEVTS	11,901	13.80	14.00	14.00	13.80	13.90	0.10	LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL	312,464	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.30	2.40	(0.10)
DURDANS	184	134.75	128.25	134.75	128.00	128.25	(6.50)	SHAW WALLACE	26,379	7.10	7.10	7.10	7.00	7.00	-	LOLC GENERAL INS.	44,974	7.00	7.00	7.10	6.90	6.90	0.10
E B C																							



# Selyn pioneers blockchain technology with London College of Fashion

The students of the London College of Fashion (LCF), University of the Arts London (UAL), recently presented their groundbreaking use of blockchain technology in a handloom craft showcase in collaboration with Selyn, Sri Lanka's pioneer in fair trade handloom manufacture.

The launch event, held at the exclusive Sook, 42 South Molton Street in London, aimed to celebrate the immense potential of global crafts and the innovative role of future creatives.

The showcase featured a modern and stylish bag designed in a collaborative project between the LCF and Selyn called the 'Sandra' Clapping Bag. Over 25 LCF students were tasked with redefining the use and potential of handloom textiles to create a product that appeals to a global consumer with blockchain technology. The students were successful in creating a fully transparent and sustainable accessory, showcasing the future of ethical and sustainable fashion.

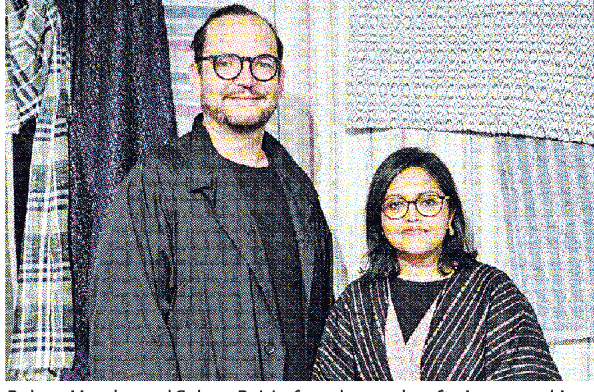
UAL LCF Interim Director Fashion Business Research Dr. Emmanuel Sirmal Silva stated, "Such unique and collaborative experiences are core to the development of our students; it allows them to challenge the industry and prove that better ways to create and manufacture are possible."

The partnership between the UAL, Selyn and PaperTale Sweden is a 'first' on multiple levels.

"A first for the LCF/UAL to engage directly with the value chain and blockchain technology, a first for Sri Lanka and the handloom sector to collaborate directly with these talented students and a first for a model of equal partnership and collaboration—a way forward to rewrite how we work between the global North and South," said Selyn Director Selyna Peiris.



Selyn Director Selyna Peiris presents High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in the UK Saroja Sirisena a vision of handloom to the world



Robert Meeder and Selyna Peiris, founders and craft pioneers talking to the world

The exhibition showcased unique and exclusive textiles ideal for home, lifestyle and fashion products for the conscious creative. All textiles were organic, fair trade, vegan and cruelty-free, handmade by local artisans supporting and inspiring communities around Sri Lanka.

Visitors to the launch event were able to scan an NFC tag to see the impact and transparency of the production process, including the fibre and dyeing process, the artisan who wove the textiles and the impact on communities and environment. This initiative was made possible through the partnership with PaperTale, a blockchain technology company that maximises transparency and traceability in the production process.

"We are thrilled to partner with the LCF and Selyn to showcase the potential of blockchain technology in the fashion industry," said PaperTale founder Bilal Bhathi.

"Our technology ensures environmental,

social and material transparency from the beginning to the end of a product's life cycle, promoting ethical and sustainable practices and helping consumers make more informed decisions."

The launch event also featured other exhibits, including the UAL's Central Saint Martin's alumni Ranura Edirisinghe's first Home Collection in collaboration with Selyn and 'The Unfolding Tesseract' NFT by Kesara Ratnavibhushana, a tactile, audio and visual experience, showcasing the essence of the handloom process in high definition.

The event celebrated craft and collaboration, representing an exciting milestone in the UAL's and Selyn's partnership. "This partnership is a way forward to rewrite how we work between the global north and south," said Peiris.

"We are committed to ethical and sustainable production and this partnership with the LCF and PaperTale has shown us that better ways to create and manufacture are possible."

## LOLC subsidiary Fortigrains Lanka achieves BRCGS certification

Health Gold Fortified Rice, manufactured by Fortigrains Lanka Private Limited, a fully-owned subsidiary of LOLC Advanced Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd, is the only rice fortification plant in Sri Lanka to have achieved certification from the British Retail Consortium Global Standards (BRCGS), a globally recognised food safety certification programme.

The BRCGS certification demonstrates Fortigrains' commitment in producing safe and high-quality rice products for consumers. The certification process includes rigorous audits of the plant's facilities, processes and procedures to ensure they meet the strict food safety and quality standards set by the BRCGS.

"We are pleased to receive this global certification," said LOLC Holdings PLC Group Managing Director/CEO Kapila Jayawardena.

"We have constantly placed great importance and responsibility in delivering high quality and authenticity to our customers. We are truly honoured to reach this significant milestone during a short time span within our fast-growing journey. This prestigious global status redefines our market dominance, trust and superiority in the products and services that we offer to the global market space, as a group."

LOLC Advance Technologies Chief Executive Officer Danesh Abeyrathna added, "This achievement speaks about our commitment in providing trusted solutions with a strong focus on health and wellbeing of our B2B and B2C markets. This accomplishment reinforces



LOLC Holdings Group MD/CEO Kapila Jayawardena



LOLC Advance Technologies CEO Danesh Abeyrathna

the standards and endorses the excellence that we maintain across our methodologies, within the entire production and supply chain. We will always continue to provide the best to the markets, together with the goodness of natural ingredients. I appreciate the effort of my technical and quality assurance teams for their untiring efforts. As a team, we are proud of Fortigrains, to be a Sri Lankan brand, setting high standards and to lead by example."

Rice fortification is the process of adding essential vitamins and minerals to rice, which can help to combat nutrient deficiencies in the population. Health Gold Fortified Rice is manufactured using a patented state-of-the-art technology and equipment to fortify its rice products, ensuring that they meet the highest nutrition and quality standards.

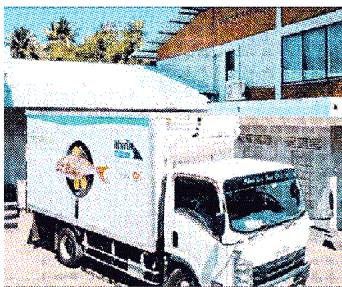
This certification will help Fortigrains to expand its reach in the global market and provide safe and nutritious rice to consumers worldwide. The company plans to continue to invest in new technologies and processes to ensure that it maintains its position as a leader in the rice fortification industry. LOLC Advanced Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd is the research and innovation arm of LOLC Holdings PLC.

## Lihini Seafoods enters Laugfs supermarkets

Lihini Seafoods, Sri Lanka's award-winning seafood exporter with over two decades of experience, has officially launched its Lihini Frozen Range of products at selected Laugfs supermarkets, giving the local customers the chance to enjoy the freshest seafood made to international standards.

Lihini Frozen Range includes an exciting range of high-quality frozen seafood such as fish, prawns and cuttlefish. All products are washed, cleaned and ready to cook for convenience and are individually quick frozen and packaged in durable resealable packages for easy storage that is guaranteed to maintain the high quality and freshness.

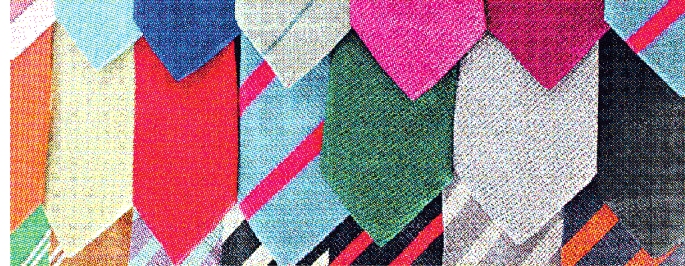
Lihini Seafoods Director Malintha Fernando stated, "As a Sri Lankan brand that has conquered the international market, we are proud to now have the opportunity to serve the national market thanks to our new partnership with Laugfs Supermarkets. For the past two decades, we have been contributing to the national economy and



helped bring in valuable foreign exchange to Sri Lanka, something that is of even greater significance during the country's economic challenges of today."

Lihini Seafoods is a fresh chilled seafood processor and exporter in the form of loins, whole fish, gilled and gutted fish and head gutted and gilled. All its products are mainly exported to Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, Spain, the USA, Japan, Australia and Russia.

## MOZ launches premium handloom necktie range



Sri Lankan men's accessories start-up MOZ has launched a premium neckwear range made from hand-woven (handloom) fabrics.

The MOZ Heritage neckties closely resemble famous Italian hand-made Grenadine ties made in the Como province in Italy as well as hand-made neckwear made in some provinces in Japan. Although Sri Lanka has a 2,500-year history of hand weaving, including the unique weaving tradition of Dumbura weaving, the handloom industry has not diversified and grown to meet the modern needs. MOZ has developed unique fabrics using traditional weaving techniques in collaboration with the Textile Industries Department. These fabrics have good commercial prospects, including the premium neckwear segment.

MOZ Founder Indika Hettiarachchi said, "It is possible to make beautiful textured fabrics using handloom

machines and this texture is not possible to achieve through power loom machines."

Simple solid and stripe neckties with textures are considered premium and sought after by gentlemen with refined tastes.

"We are currently experimenting how to make these fabrics using 100 percent natural yarn, as it is important to make all natural fibre neckwear to cater to the export market," added Hettiarachchi.

According to trade economist and MOZ investor Janaka Wijayasiri, "The international market for ties and bows is expected to continue to grow, driven by factors such as rising disposable incomes, changing fashion trends and the increasing adoption of formal attire in professional settings."

The MOZ Heritage Collection ties are available online at [www.tiesandbows.com](http://www.tiesandbows.com) and select Odel stores.

## Hayleys Aventura expands material handling and storage solutions portfolio

Premier industrial solutions provider Hayleys Aventura recently announced the expansion of its material handling and storage solutions portfolio, with the consolidation of its global partner network, enabling Sri Lankan enterprises to gain one-stop-shop access to best-in-class solutions.

Leveraging its strong relationships with global heavyweights Hyster, Prestar, Goodpack and A-Safe, Hayleys Aventura now offers an extensive suite of world-class equipment and services to commercial customers across a wide spectrum of industries.

"At a time when Sri Lanka needs to grow its export earnings, it is imperative that we support Sri Lankan manufacturers to unlock efficiencies within their supply chains, optimising their ability to get their products to market. By leveraging our partnerships with leading global brands, we are now able to provide affordable access to best-in-class material handling and storage solutions, on par with the highest global standards," Hayleys Aventura (Pvt.) Ltd Managing Director Wasaba Jayasekara said.

The company's expansion now includes a rental option for Hyster forklifts and trucks to facilitate customers looking to mitigate the heavy burden of capital expenditure on their operational costs, experienced at present. Meanwhile, Hayleys Aventura's recent partnership with Malaysia-based Prestar has strengthened its portfolio of storage solutions with high-quality racking systems.

Similarly, Hayleys Aventura has partnered with Singapore-based Goodpack to offer returnable solutions for safe and cost-efficient packaging for challenging payloads such as food and beverages, consumer products, chemicals, rubber and automotive components, using standardised Goodpack intermediate bulk containers (IBCs). These reusable, industrial grade metal IBCs can



MHE racking system

be used to export products to customers or for domestic storage and/or transportation purposes.

Rounding out the international coalition of brands partnering Hayleys Aventura is A-Safe, the world's leading manufacturer of polymer-based heavy-duty safety barriers for all industrial workplaces, working to ensure the safety of employees, essential equipment, buildings and structures from possible industrial accidents.

In addition to the comprehensive range of material handling and storage solutions, Hayleys Aventura also offers globally trusted weighing solutions ranging from industrial scales to weighbridges, under one roof.

Hayleys Aventura operates a fully-equipped workshop capable of handling specialised repairs and major overhauls of any reputed forklift brand, a 24-hour call centre, nine regional service centres across the island and an emergency attendance service. The company's highly technically proficient and experienced staff are committed to providing pre and aftersales consultancy and related services to address customer-specific requirements.

## Business World International Organisation awards HelpAge Sri Lanka

The USA-based Business World International Organisation recently awarded its Lifetime Achievers Award to HelpAge Sri Lanka Chairman Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa, who is a world-renowned business personality and a social worker.

In addition, HelpAge also received the Most Service-Oriented Organisation in Sri Lanka for the third consecutive year, considering its invaluable social and welfare service rendered towards vulnerable elderly citizens in the country.

The awards were accepted by HelpAge Executive Director Samantha Liyanawaduge at the presentation ceremony held at Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo.

Speaking at the ceremony, Liyanawaduge highlighted about the invaluable service rendered by HelpAge to uplift the living standards of



Former SL Navy Commander Dr. Bandula Wijemanne presents the prestigious award to HelpAge Executive Director Samantha Liyanawaduge in the presence of Dr. M.A.A. Jabbar, Senthil Thondaman, Prof. Rohan de Silva and Prof. Dietmar Doering

vulnerable citizens in the country and said HelpAge is engaged in several social services for elderly people living in every nook and corner of the country, completely free of charge.

Liyanawaduge also highlighted on its flagship programme of conducting free cataract surgeries for downtrodden elders over 55 years at its state-of-the-art HelpAge Eye Hospital in Wellawatta, Colombo 6. He said statistics have revealed

that over 46,000 cataract surgeries have so far been performed for people free of charge.

He said that in addition, HelpAge distributes free dry rations and clothing to needy people during

disastrous situations prevailing in the country. Guest speaker Prof. Dr. Dietmar Doering congratulated HelpAge for assisting needy senior citizens to improve their quality of life.

## Noritake Lanka becomes first in industry to obtain ISO-accredited Carbon Footprint Verification

Marking another milestone in its 50-year journey of excellence in Sri Lanka, Noritake Lanka Porcelain (Pvt.) Ltd (NLPL) obtained the ISO 14064-1:2018-accredited GHG Carbon Footprint Verification.

At an event recently held at NLPL's Colombo office, Environment Ministry Secretary Dr. Anil Jasinghe, who was also the chief guest gracing the occasion, presented the certificate to NLPL Deputy Chairman/Managing Director Kenji Obara.

NLPL is the first company in the porcelain and ceramic sector as well as inorganic and nonmetallic sector in Sri Lanka to receive ISO 14064-1:2018-accredited GHG Carbon Footprint Certification. The latest certification adds to NLPL's previous ISO certifications of ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 for Quality, Environment, Safety and Health, respectively.

Resting on the pillars of 'Good quality', 'Export' and 'Co-prosperity', the Noritake

group regards the conservation of the environment to be critical for management and seeks to contribute to the realisation of a sustainable society through all its business activities. Since Noritake first began manufacturing western-style tableware for export in 1904, it has grown in reach with 25 subsidiaries and seven affiliated companies in Japan and overseas as the Noritake group. The company began its operations in Sri Lanka in 1973.

Following the awarding of the GHG Carbon Footprint Verification Certificate, Dr. Jasinghe remarked that minimising the carbon footprint is very much an integral part of environmental social governance, which organisations take very seriously today. Sri Lanka Climate Fund affiliated to the Environment Ministry, which is the awarding body of Carbon Footprint Verification, is the first of its kind in South Asia to be accredited and it targets to achieve net zero CO2 by 2050.



From left: Head of Technical and QA Susil Samarasinghe, Director/General Manager Sujatha Egodagedara, Deputy Chairman/Managing Director Kenji Obara, Environment Ministry Secretary Dr. Anil Jasinghe and Senior Director T.C. Tennakoon at the ceremony

"The move towards reducing the carbon footprint also helps businesses to be sustainable," Dr. Jasinghe pointed out further.

Implementing the GHG system at NLPL and obtaining the GHG Carbon Footprint Certification is a means of benchmarking itself with its mother company in Japan, which aims to reduce the CO2

emissions by 50 percent in 2030 and zero emissions by 2050, remarked Obara.

"We have formulated this strategy with medium to long-term perspectives in mind," said Obara, who also noted that it is not merely a strategy but a commitment by Noritake towards the world at large.

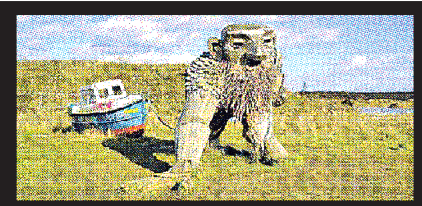
The quantification of carbon value by NLPL was done under

the five principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, accuracy and transparency. In a bid to translate the certificate to a system, which would provide results, NLPL was provided the able guidance of former Sri Lanka Standards Institution Director General Dr. Lalith Senaweera, an eminent consultant in quality and sustainability, who trained the NLPL staff to implement the GHG system within the organisation.

Senior Director T.C. Tennakoon remarked that in the base year of 2021, the inventory was equivalent to 10782 CO2 metric tonnes and that NLPL has taken strategic actions to mitigate the situation. NLPL's efforts to become a carbon-neutral company is not only in line with its mother company's commitment to reduce environmental burden but also the means of revisiting the 7Rs of 'Rethink', 'Refuse', 'Reduce', 'Reuse', 'Recycle', 'Repurpose' and 'Rot'.

"The certificate is also going to reflect very strongly on our branding strategy," noted Tennakoon further.





## DANISH ARTIST HATCHES EPIC GLOBAL TROLL HUNT

A Danish artist famous for his towering wooden trolls sent fans on a worldwide quest Monday to find his latest creation. Thomas Dambo has created a complex treasure hunt to find "Moon Mother", his 100th troll sculpture, who he said has "crawled into the most secret spot in the forest" to give birth. His giant figures inspired by Scandinavian folk tales are often located off the beaten track to tempt children and adults to venture out into nature, and to show what you can do with recycled materials. **AFP**

## COMEDY SUFFERING...

Jennifer Aniston said she wishes we could laugh more at ourselves, rather than having to police every word in comedies. "Comedy has evolved, movies have evolved," the "Friends" star, 54, told AFP in Paris, where her new film "Murder Mystery 2" with Adam Sandler, is set. "Now it's tricky because you have to be very careful, which makes it really hard for comedians, because the beauty of comedy is that we make fun of ourselves, make fun of life," she said. **AFP**



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## GOOD NEWS...

It was good news on the business front to hear that Overseas Realty net profit tops Rs 6 B mark in FY 22. They recorded a strong growth in Revenue and Profitability primarily driven by the Havelock City residential sales to record a Group Revenue of Rs 15,046 million and a Group profit before tax of Rs 7,025 million for the year 2022. All this does give us a glimmer of hope together with the IMF grant becoming a reality at long last. If we had gone to the IMF two years ago we would never have taken such a downward slide as we did. The Chairman Overseas Realty, Ajit Jayaratne and the Group CEO /Director Praveen Samarasinghe both deserve congratulations for achieving all this in spite of the problems facing the country at the moment. The prophets of doom and gloom must be disappointed but were seen at a meeting with a lavish array of refreshments at the most exclusive club in the country situated in a five star hotel recently.

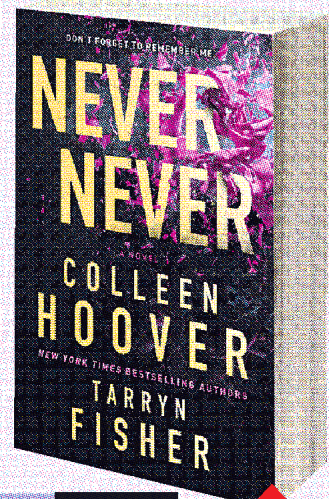
## Fiction

### NEVER NEVER

BY COLLEEN HOOVER

Charlie Wynwood and Silas Nash have been best friends since they could walk. They've been in love since the age of fourteen. But as of this morning...they are complete strangers. Their first kiss, their first fight, the moment they fell in love... every memory has vanished.

Now Charlie and Silas must work together to uncover the truth about what happened to them and why. But the more they learn about the couple they used to be... the more they question why they were ever together to begin with. Forgetting is terrifying, but remembering may be worse.



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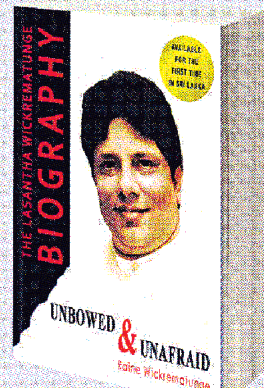
**Rs. 3240/=**

## Biography

### UNBOWED & UNAFRAID

BY RAINE WICKREMATUNGE

Lasantha Wickrematunge editor of the Sunday Leader was murdered in cold blood in 2009 by unknown assassins. He was a lone crusader who campaigned against nefarious governments and shady leaders and the rotten culture of corruption, cronyism, racism and impunity. A moving literary work by his ex wife Raine which tells the story of a brave journalist who sacrificed his life for truth: The right the leaders deny and the wrong they justify.



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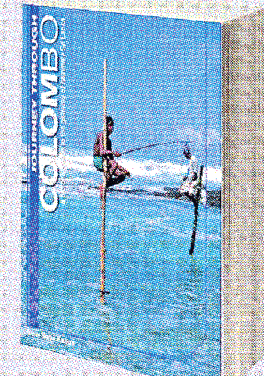
**Rs. 2,500/=**

## Photography / Guide

### JOURNEY THROUGH COLOMBO

BY SUNA KANGA

Colombo the capital city with a bustling commercial centre, has a long history including a colonial past that harmonises with a rich culture. People of various beliefs also mingle freely despite political differences. published by Marshall Cavendish Singapore.



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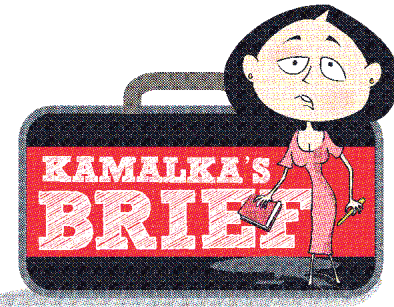
**Rs. 2,500/=**

## U AND I....

This beautiful poem was sent to me recently. How can you "SM-LE" without "I"? How can you be "F-NE" without "I"? How can you "W-SH" without "I"? How can you be "N-CE" without "I"? How can you be a "FAM-LY" Or a "RELAT-VE" without "I"? How can you be a "FR-END" without "I"? So "I" am very important.

But how can I achieve "S-CCESS" without "U"? How can I "LA-GH" without "U"? How can I take a "C-P of tea without "U"? How can I enjoy the "S-NSHINE without "U"? How can I have F-N without "U"? And that makes "U" as important as "I."

Therefore humans [U and I] + We need one another in life to be happy, work together and achieve greater things. Lets propagate positivity and shun negativity. WE ARE ONE. No man is an island and we all need friends.



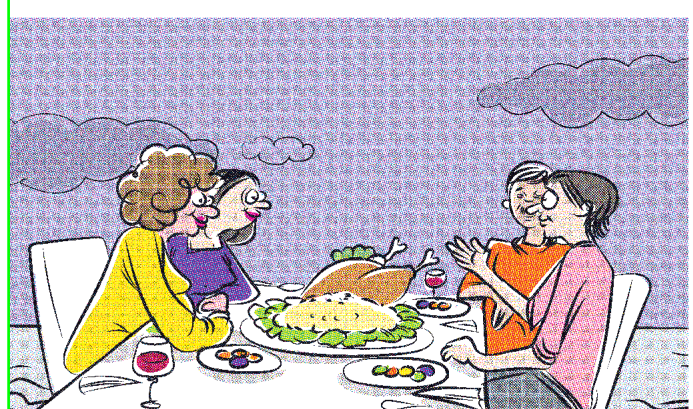
## Spiked Mixed Vegetables

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsps olive oil
- 1 clove crushed garlic
- 1 brinjal cubed
- 4 wedges tomato
- 2 b onions
- 2 sweet potatoes boiled and cubed
- 1 green pepper cubed
- 1/2 oz melted butter

### METHOD

Marinate brinjal with oil and garlic and marinate for 4 hours. Drain. Thread onion, brinjal, tomatoes, yam onion and pepper on a skewer. Brush with butter and baste, and turn many times with butter over a low flame in a pan.



## A lovely evening....

Sriyakantha Piyatissa hosted Professor Manouri Senanayaka, her husband Jayantha and me to a quiet dinner at The Golf club. I love going there, sitting outside, this is part of the land which the Late Charles Henry de Soysa gifted to the then British Government for a model farm.

Manouri is a former Professor of Paediatrics who once gave the memorial oration for my father, the late Professor C.C de Silva. She is an author too, among her publications are one on Women in Paediatrics on Sri Lanka. Sriyakantha was an excellent hostess and we had a pleasant, quiet evening.

## DINNER AT MAHARAJA PALACE

I enjoyed an evening out with Shiroml Cooray and her son Gehan, two of my favourite people at Maharaja Palace recently where Shiromal hosted us to dinner. I hadn't been there for ages and I must stress that both food and service were excellent. We enjoyed each others company as we always do chatting about Gehan's plans, Shiromal's work in tourism and of course the buzz of the moment on all fronts. Shiromal always has flawless manners and is

a generous hostess coupled with good business sense; somehow striving hard in the hospitality industry which has been through a bad patch recently. She has inherited the best instincts of her father the late Herbert Cooray, one of the first to respond when the late President Jayewardene wanted more people to venture into the hospitality industry. Gehan's first love is music as it comes from the heart, and he is a talented singer.



## LAUNCH OF SAHESH...

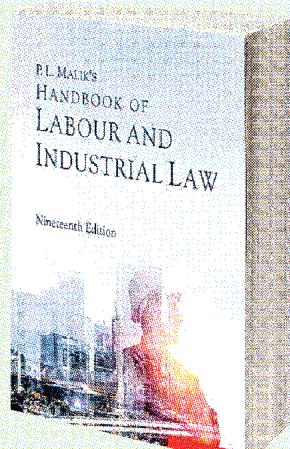
Heshani Bogollagama with her partner Niusha Shivaraj who began with Isle of Rataa [PVT Ltd] have begun a new venture SAHESH ---Timeless Elegance their first traditional jewellery line all handcrafted by skilled artisans whose families have been making jewellery for generations. They launched their first collection at The Design Collective store on Stratford Avenue recently, and the collection is on sale there. Heshani is fortunate to have the backing of her sister Sujani who has always been there for her and their mother Sumethra. It is a collection well worth seeing. We are all products of our genes and our environment but there's always an X factor which drives us forward to explore new fields and also help our artisans who always need a helping hand to guide on design for modern trends and to market their products.

## Law

### LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL LAW

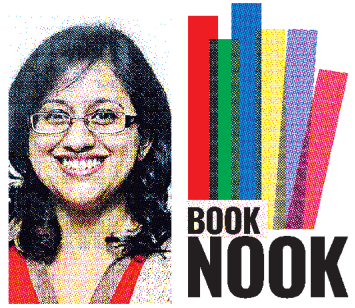
BY P L MALIK

This popular Handbook on Indian Labour and Industrial Law has been thoroughly revised and amended. It provides a thorough coverage of important labour legislations including Amendments made by various States. Remarkably it deals just not with organized labour but that of unorganized labour such as construction workers. Along with important Acts, many important case laws are given under the relevant sections throughout the book.



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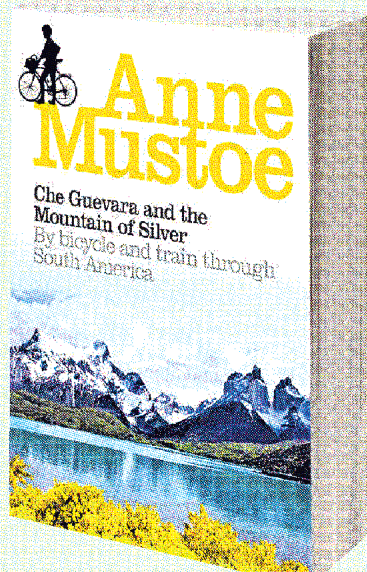
BY RIHAAB MOWLANA

## Travel / Nature / History

### CHE GUEVARA & THE MOUNTAIN OF SILVER

BY ANNA MUSTOE

Following in the tracks of Che Guevara, bestselling travel author Anne Mustoe gets onto a bicycle to retrace the route this iconic revolutionary figure once tread, as documented in the famous Motorcycle Diaries. A second route takes her to Potosi, the highest city in the world, as she travels to the Mountain of Silver. Beautifully written and wonderfully evocative, Che Guevara and the Mountain of Silver charts an epic journey by bike and train through South America's most colourful and historically interesting areas.



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