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A voice that has touched the hearts of millions of Sri Lankans, has been adjudged the most popular Newspaper in Sri Lanka for the **17th consecutive year** at the SLIM KANTAR People's Awards.



Sri Lanka's most popular newspapers for the 17th consecutive year, the 'Daily Lankadeepa' and the 'Sunday Lankadeepa' wish to salute our readers, the strength behind this landmark achievement



At the **SLIM KANTAR** felicitation ceremony held at the Monarch Imperial, Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte on Monday the 27th, the Editor-in-Chief Sunday Lankadeepa and Executive Director Wijeya Newspapers Ltd, Ariyananda Dombagahawatte was presented with the most popular newspaper of the year award by Mr. Manuja Hewawasam, Chairman of Royal Nursing (Pvt.) Ltd.



INTERNATIONAL



Maha Gammadu Mangalya

Maha Gammadu Shanthikarmaya will be held in the Gangaramaya premises

In the night of 30th March 2023 to invoke Blessings

of the Gods upon the country and its people.

The Shanthikarma, a form of dance in the ancient low country traditions will be held with the participation of about 50 dancers and other performers. all are welcome to participate and seek the blessings of Gods!



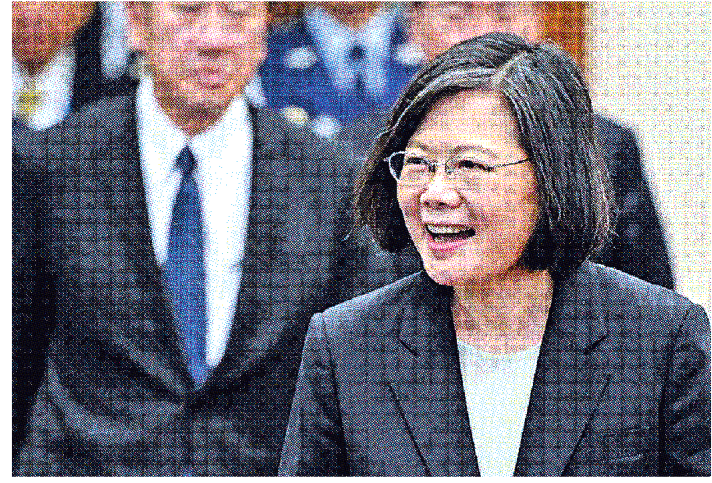
CHINA VOWS TO 'FIGHT BACK' IF TAIWAN'S TSAI MEETS US SPEAKER

China vowed on Wednesday to "fight back" should Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen meet the US House Speaker during a trip to the United States.

Tsai left on Wednesday for the United States, from where she will head to Guatemala and Belize to shore up ties with diplomatic allies. On her way back to Taiwan she will stop in California, where US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy had said he would meet her.

China claims the democratic island as part of its territory to be retaken one day and, under its «One China» principle, no country may maintain official ties with both Beijing and Taipei.

Beijing warned Wednesday



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen arrives at one of the boarding gates of the Taoyuan International Airport on March 29, 2023 (AFP)

that it was "resolutely opposed" to any meeting between Tsai and McCarthy and vowed to take "resolute measures to

fight back" if it goes ahead. "If (Tsai) engages with US House Speaker McCarthy, it will be another provocation that

seriously violates the One China principle, undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and undermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson Zhu Fenglian said.

Tsai's trip follows Honduras's decision this month to open diplomatic relations with Beijing, leaving Belize and Guatemala among just 13 countries that have official ties with Taipei.

"External pressure will not hinder our determination to go global," Tsai told reporters at the airport before leaving. "We are calm and confident. We will not succumb and we will not provoke (others)."

- AFP.COM, 29 MARCH, 2023

FRANCE French authorities raid banks in massive tax fraud case

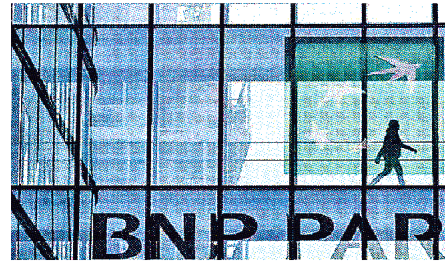
PARIS (AFP), 28 MARCH, 2023 -

French authorities raided five banks on Tuesday as part of an investigation into suspected cases of massive tax fraud and money laundering, prosecutors said.

Some 150 investigators conducted searches in Paris and the financial district La Defense, the financial prosecutor's office (PNF) said in a statement.

The raids follow five preliminary investigations that were opened in December 2021 in connection with suspected money laundering and aggravated suspected tax fraud related to dividend payments, the statement said. The operation "required several months of preparation", the statement said, and involved 16 investigating magistrates and more than 150 financial investigators.

Prosecutors from Germany, where similar tax frauds came to light in recent years, were also involved in the raids, the statement added.



BNP Paribas was one of the banks searched on Tuesday in the biggest-ever raid orchestrated by French financial prosecutors (Reuters)

A spokesman for Societe Generale confirmed to AFP that the French bank was being searched by authorities, but he said he did not know the reason.

French rival BNP Paribas and its Exane unit, financial group Natixis and British banking giant HSBC are the other targets of the raids, according to Le Monde newspaper.

PAKISTAN Islamabad court issues non-bailable arrest warrants for Imran

DAWN.COM, 29 MARCH, 2023- An Islamabad court on Wednesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for PTI Chairman Imran Khan in a case related to alleged threats made to a judge, and directed the authorities to present him before the court on April 18.

In the last hearing on March 24, the court converted the non-bailable arrest warrant issued for the PTI chief into a bailable warrant at the PTI's request while hearing a case registered against the ex-premier for allegedly using threatening language against Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry and the Islamabad police officials.

Today, prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi appeared in Judicial Magistrate Malik Aman's court. Imran was represented by his counsel Faisal Chaudhry.

At the outset of the hearing, the prosecutor objected to Imran's absence, saying his warrants should be changed from bailable to non-bailable as he failed to appear before the court.

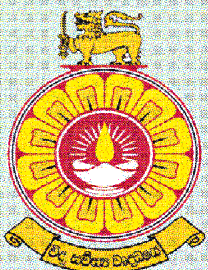
MSc in Energy for Circular Economy (2022/23)



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First celebration of International Day of Zero Waste today

The day has been announced as one more step to further strengthen the '2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development'

The first celebration of the International Day of Zero Waste is today (30). On a proposal by Turkey, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 30th as International Day of Zero Waste in its 77th Session held on December 14th, 2022.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Amnesty International to meet IMF representatives

Protection and promotion of human rights to be discussed

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE

Amnesty International officials will meet with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today to discuss the terms under which the USD 2.9 billion bailout package is granted to Sri Lanka.

SEE FULL STORY ON A2 >>>

Harak Kata seeks Supreme Court's intervention to safeguard personal safety

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Nadun Chinthaka Wickramaratne alias Harak Kata yesterday filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the Supreme Court seeking an order directing the police to take all necessary measures to safeguard his personal safety whilst in detention.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

IMPORTED EGGS CLEARED OF BIRD FLU, NEWCASTLE DISEASE

BY KELUM BANDARA

The Department of Animal Production and Health cleared the stock of imported eggs since the tests conducted for bird flu and Newcastle flu proved negative, an official said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Four years in custody without trial

While in illegal detention at the Navy Camp, he was continuously threatened by investigating police officers

BY T. FAROOK THAJUDEEN

An Associate Engineer, the 25th suspect in the Colombo High Court Trial at Bar case had moved for bail in the Court of Appeal claiming that he has been in custody for 3 years and 11 months, without any indication of trial.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



MILLIONS AFFECTED AS KANCHANA, TUs CLASH OVER PRIVATIZING CPC



PIC BY PRADEEP PATHIRANA

CPC Trade Unions were sternly against privatizing the CPC and as they did not receive any positive response from the Minister, they had stopped fuel distribution to "make their voices heard"

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Trade Unions yesterday blamed the government of state-sponsored terrorism while millions of people were affected by their sudden decision to withdraw from fuel distribution opposing the government's plan to privatize the CPC.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

1 Mar 26: Three foreign companies get cabinet approval for the importation, storage, distribution and sale of petroleum in Sri Lanka.

The three companies each will be allocated 150 dealer operated fuel stations which are currently operated by the state-owned CPC.

2 Mar 27: CPC workers launch Sathyagraha against privatization attempts.

3 Mar 28: CPC trade unions call off Sathyagraha and decide to engage in strike action, withdrawing themselves from activities related to the filling and distribution of fuel.

4 Mar 28: Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera instructs relevant authorities to take necessary disciplinary steps against trade union activists or employees disrupting the distribution of fuel.

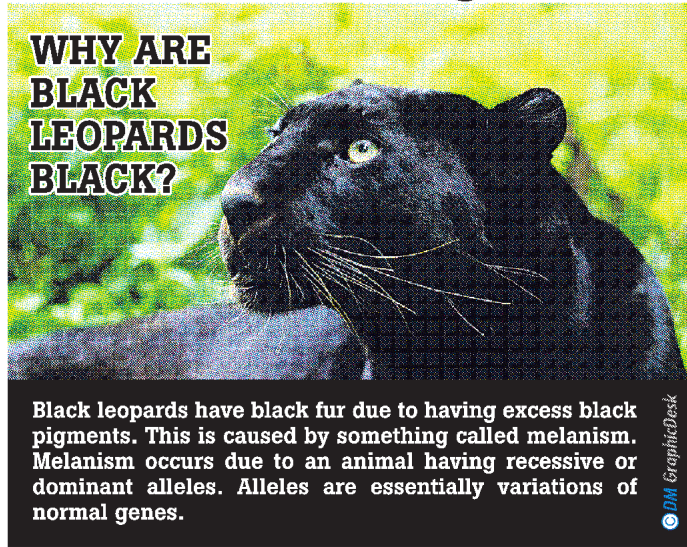
5 Mar 29: Fuel distribution recommences at Kolonnawa and Muthurajawela terminals at 6 a.m.

6 Mar 29: Twenty employees of the CPC including trade union leaders, sent on compulsory leave.

Source: News reports

DM GraphicDesk

Black leopard cub at Yala National Park: Conservationists urge caution



WHY ARE BLACK LEOPARDS BLACK?

Black leopards have black fur due to having excess black pigments. This is caused by something called melanism. Melanism occurs due to an animal having recessive or dominant alleles. Alleles are essentially variations of normal genes.

BY KAMANTHI WICKRAMASINGHE

A photo and a video of a melanistic black leopard cub spotted at the Yala National Park is being shared widely on social media since last Friday (March 24). According to records, a black leopard has been spotted in Yala after about 50 years.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A5 >>>

Fuel prices slashed

The price revision came into effect last night

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The fuel price revision which was scheduled to take place on April 1 went into effect last night, Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Death of Sri Lankan businessman in Indonesia SL yet to receive Indonesian forensic reports

BY KELUM BANDARA

Sri Lanka awaits the submission of histopathological and toxicological reports by the Indonesian authorities on the murder of Sri Lankan businessman Onesh Subasinghe, Daily Mirror learns.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Sarah Jasmine, wife of Katuwapitiya Church bomber, confirmed dead

Opposition question credibility of DNA

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA AND YOHAN PERERA

DNA tests have revealed that Pulasthini Mahendran, alias Sarah Jasmine, the wife of Katuwapitiya Church bomber, had died during the suicide bomb explosion in a safe house in Sainthamaruthu on April 26, 2019, days after the Easter Sunday bomb attacks, Police said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Contempt of court cases against Treasury Secretary to be heard today

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Two contempt of court cases filed by Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara and National People's Power Parliamentary Vijitha Herath against the Treasury Secretary are to be heard today (30) before a Supreme Court's

five-judge-bench.

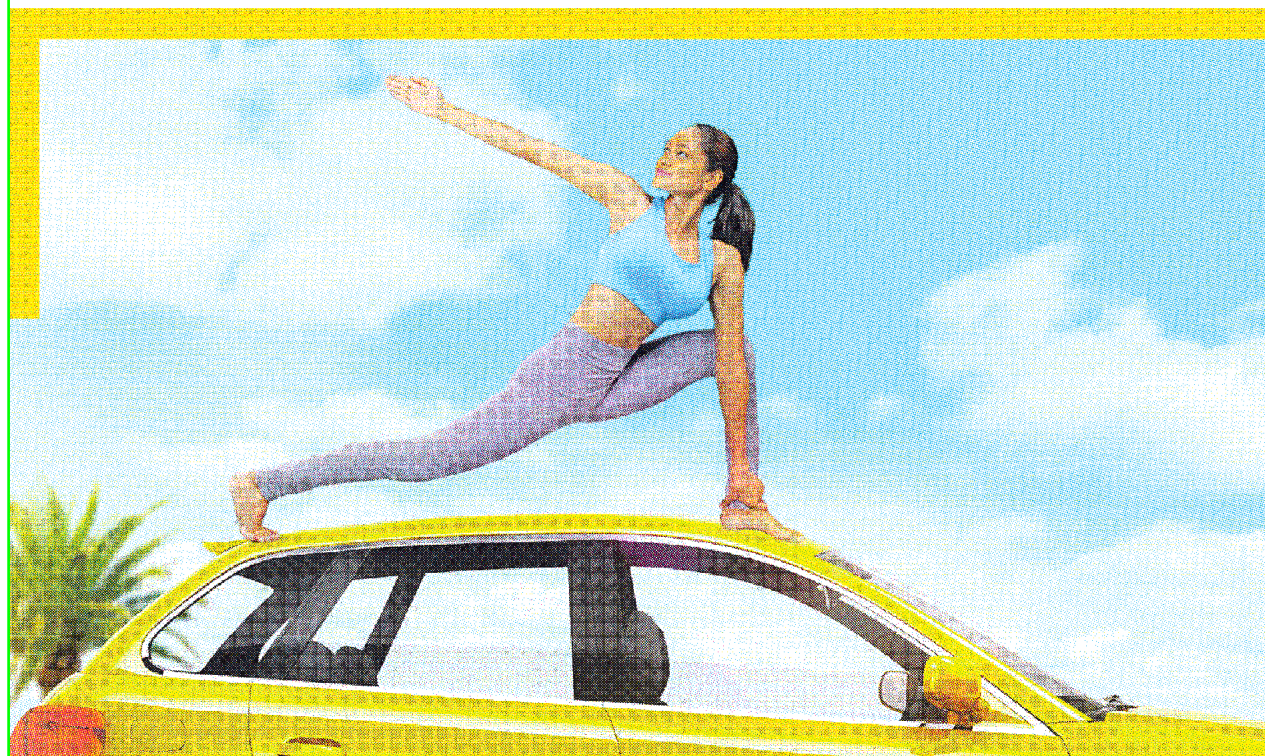
These contempt of court cases had been filed against Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardana for alleged failure to comply with the Supreme Court order issued regarding the Local Government elections.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

IFCN SIGNATORY FA CHEK K TRUE. The officials of the PUCSL were brought to the Presidential Secretariat and approval was obtained for the price hike while both the chairperson and the director general of this commission were away from the country...what the PUCSL has said is to increase a unit [of electricity] from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 [for the lowest tariff band]. But today, it has been increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 30. - ManthriLK Watch, 24 February 2023. SHANAKIYAN RASAMANICKAM

FA CHEK K TRUE. MP Shanakiyan shines a light on electricity tariff hike. To check this claim, FactCheck.lk consulted documentation published by the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), including correspondence between the Ceylon electricity Board (CEB) and the PUCSL. In his statement, the MP claims that "the PUCSL" recommended that the cost of a unit in the lowest band of tariffs be increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10, but instead of that, the price has increased to Rs. 30. The PUCSL in this case can refer to two possible groups (1) Expert staff and in directorate of the PUCSL (2) PUCSL Commission Members. In the larger context of the statement, the MP refers to group 1 as the PUCSL. Correspondence records show that on 5 January 2023, the CEB submitted a tariff structure proposal, which recommended increasing the cost of a unit in the lowest tariff band from LKR 8 to LKR 30. A PUCSL paper dated 13 February 2023, signed off by the directorate of the Tariff and Economic Affairs division of the PUCSL (group 1), rejected the CEB proposal and recommended instead to the PUCSL Commission (group 2) to increase the cost of a unit in the lowest tariff band from LKR 8 to LKR 10. SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>> FactCheck is a platform run by Verité Research. For comments, suggestions and feedback, please visit www.factcheck.lk.

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CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

MP Shanakiyan shines a light on electricity tariff hike

However, there is controversy, that is being litigated, over whether the PUCSL Commission (group 2) had a valid meeting/decision to reject the PUCSL's (group 1) recommendation and adopt the CEB's recommendation instead. Because the MP is correct in claiming that the CEB's tariff increase is not in line with the increase recommended by the PUCSL (group 1), we classify his statement as TRUE.

***FactCheck.lk's verdict is based on the most recent information that is publicly accessible. As with every fact check, if new information becomes available, FactCheck.lk will revisit the assessment.**

Harak Kata seeks Supreme Court's intervention to safeguard personal safety

The petitioner is further seeking an order directing him to be produced before Courts in any case where he has been named as an accused or a Suspect.

Eight suspects including the alleged drug kingpin Nadun Chinthaka alias "Harak Kata" and his accomplice identified as Salindu Malshika Gunaratne alias "Kudu Salindu" were arrested in Madagascar for alleged drug trafficking charges.

The Petitioner states, that in most of the instances where suspects in police custody have been killed, the police have taken positions such as, the suspect tried to escape from custody whilst pointing out a hidden weapon or

narcotics or tried escaping from custody and he was shot or that the Suspect attempted to grab the firearm of the police officer.

The Petitioner stated that he fears that he would be extrajudicially killed whilst in custody by police.

The father of Nadun Chinthaka Wickramaratne had also filed a writ petition in the Court of Appeal seeking an order directing the authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the detainee in accordance with the law. This petition had been filed through Attorneys-At-Law, Namal Karunaratne and Udara Muhandirange of Premier Legal Consultants.

IMPORTED EGGS CLEARED OF BIRD FLU, NEWCASTLE DISEASE

The government, through the State Trading Company, took steps to import eggs from Tamil Nadu, India following a shortage in the local market. The egg prices soared in the local market as a result. Department's Director Dr. Hemali Kothalawala told Daily Mirror that two tests were done at

the Veterinary Research Institute to detect viruses of bird flu and Newcastle disease, and the stock was proven risk free.

Further research was conducted by the Medical Research Institute.

The imported eggs will be released for manufacturing bakery items such as cakes.

Four years in custody without trial

The suspect claims that he is a respected citizen without any previous convictions, or police involvement whatsoever.

The petitioner in his application filed in the Court of Appeal states that, though the Detention order had determined the place of detention as sixth Floor of New Secretariat Building, Colombo 1, the suspect was illegally detained at the Navy Camp at Welisara, in violation of the decision of the Supreme Court in the PTA case, Weerawansa vs the Attorney General. He alleges that he was detained in the Welisara Camp after he refused to make a statement to the investigating police officer of an alleged plan to attack Churches and hotels, which the suspect was totally unaware of any such planning by anyone of any such attacks.

The petitioner has alleged that while in illegal detention at the Navy Camp he was

continuously threatened by investigating police officers to sign a prepared statement and the suspect was tortured employing many inhuman methods and his signature obtained. The petitioner has stated that in view of the said disclosures, the suspect fears for his safety in the remand prison.

The petitioner states that he was produced thereafter before a Magistrate, and the suspect had told the Magistrate that he was threatened and compelled to sign a statement, the contents of which he was unaware and that the Magistrate had noted the suspect's complaint in the Court record.

The Petitioner has said that the Court of Appeal in previous cases has considered the newly Legislated section 15 B of the PTA and held that a period of over 12 months in State custody as an unduly long period" and granted bail.

MILLIONS AFFECTED AS KANCHANA, TUs CLASH OVER PRIVATIZING CPC

CPC General Employees Union President Ashoka Ranwala told Daily Mirror that their trade union action was a success

CPC General Employees Union President Ashoka Ranwala told Daily Mirror that their trade union action was a success even as the Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekara sent 20 TU leaders and CPC workers on compulsory leave for hampering the work of the CPC.

Ranwala even went as far as to allege that when Ranil Wickremesinghe was in the post of prime minister, the CPC was in danger and it was now the same after Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the President.

He said the CPC Trade Unions were sternly against privatizing the CPC and as

citizens, Minister Wijesekara yesterday, in a hurriedly convened press conference said the trade union leaders who obstructed the duties of other workers and those who supported them will be sent on compulsory leave and the government had decided to take maximum disciplinary and legal action against them.

He said the names of 20 individuals, including candidates contesting the local government election and several union leaders, have been listed on the list.

"We cannot remove them from the service at once. After the investigations, a charge sheet would be issued against them. Then suitable action will be taken," the minister said.

The trade union leaders and their supporters were suspended from entering

the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) premises and the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL) warehouse terminal service premises and had declared the areas as prohibited zones. The other employees were asked to report to work yesterday.

According to reports of the current investigation, it was reported that most of them were involved in attempting to damage fuel pipelines and the distribution control panel, the Minister said.

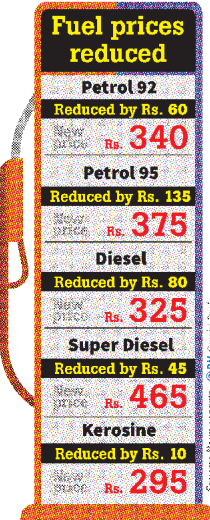
Accordingly, action will be taken against the said individuals without considering their respective positions, the minister said.

They will be charged with violating the Essential Services Act.

Fuel prices slashed

He said the president, as the Finance Minister, approved the announcement of the price revision according to the fuel price formula with effect from last night.

Addressing the media, he said a litre of Lanka Petrol 92 Octane would be reduced by Rs. 60 and Lanka Petrol 95 Octane Euro 4 by Rs. 135, a litre of Lanka Auto Diesel would be reduced by Rs. 80, Lanka Super Diesel 4 Star Euro 4 by Rs. 45 and a litre of Kerosene would be reduced



Source: Market Reporter

Protection and promotion of human rights to be discussed

Speaking to the Daily Mirror, Mishra said the organization wishes to better understand the IMF's agreement with the Sri Lankan government, while making clear the global human rights organization's position.

Amnesty International in the past has raised concerns regarding human rights protection in countries that have received IMF assistance in times of economic crisis.

Amnesty International will call on the IMF to prioritize the protection and promotion of human rights, including, economic, social, civil and political rights in its negotiations with Sri Lanka, Mishra said. "Whatever deal is negotiated, it should adhere to the safeguards guaranteed under international human rights law," she said.

The deals made with the Sri Lankan government should

NPP briefs Amnesty delegation about using chemical tear-gas against protesters

Representatives of Amnesty International drew the attention of the NPP to the 2022 annual report of their organization on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka

The National People's Power (NPP) has briefed the delegation from Amnesty International's South Asia Region about the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act, the disregard of court rulings, the use of tear gas containing banned chemicals against protesters and the government's human rights violations.

The NPP said they met a delegation from Amnesty International's South

Asia Region including its Director Yamini Mishra with a delegation from the National People's Power (NPP) including its Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake, National Executive Member Vijitha Herath, at the JVP head office yesterday.

The representatives of Amnesty International drew the attention of the NPP to the 2022 annual report of their organization on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

SL YET TO RECEIVE INDONESIAN FORENSIC REPORTS

The businessman, 45, was found dead mysteriously in an apartment in Jakarta on February 3, 2023. He along with his wife, daughter, and his wife's assistant had left for Indonesia on a vacation on January 20, 2023. Later, the Jakarta police said the family members had left Indonesia after the incident.

Inspector General of Police C.D. Wickramaratne ordered the

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to carry out investigations. A CID delegation also left for Indonesia.

According to sources, the Indonesian authorities are yet to submit histopathological and toxicological reports regarding the incident. The role of forensic histopathology is to establish the cause of death in particular cases.

First celebration of International Day of Zero Waste today

Turkish Ambassador R. Demet Sekercioglu will be the special guest at today's celebration to be held at Water's Edge, Battaramulla at 9.30am, under the chairmanship of Environment Minister Naseer Ahmed.

Director of the office of Economic Development of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Christopher Powers, Secretary of the Ministry

of Environment Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Chairman of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) Supun S. Pathirage and Director General CEA P. B. Hemantha Jayasinghe are other distinguished guests.

The Ocean Plastics Reduction Activity of USAID and the CEA has jointly organized this celebration in Sri Lanka under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment.

SARAH JASMINE, WIFE OF KATUWAPITIYA CHURCH BOMBER, CONFIRMED DEAD

SJB questioned the credibility of the latest report which said Sarah Yasmin is confirmed dead

They said that the Government Analyst Department had conducted the DNA test and submitted the report.


Police said DNA samples obtained from Sarah's mother and several bone fragments found at the blast site have confirmed a 99.9999 percent biological match between a mother and child.

Zaharan Hashim's brother

opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) yesterday questioned the credibility of the latest report which said Sarah Yasmin is confirmed dead. Former MP Mujibur Rahman questioned as to how the latest DNA test confirmed that she was dead when previous tests confirmed her remains were not there with the others.

"This sounds like a conspiracy. Bodies of those who died during the bomb blast should be exhumed," he said.

34th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



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13		30
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Wendy & Monte, Rozanne & Sunil, Shelley & Graeme, Tracy & Deshan, Tamara and great-Grandchildren Amani, Siddharth, Anoushka, Sameera, Aidan, Neha, Khavan & Sarea.

CONTEMPT OF COURT CASES AGAINST TREASURY SECRETARY TO BE HEARD TODAY

This order had been issued pursuant to a Fundamental Rights petition filed by SJB General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara

These two applications are to be taken up before Supreme Court five-judge-bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, Justice Vijith Malalgoda and Justice Murdu Fernando.

The SJB General Secretary and NPP Parliamentarian are seeking an order to charge Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardana for the offence of Contempt of the Court under Article 105(3) of the Constitution.

On March 3, the Supreme Court issued an interim order preventing the Treasury

Secretary and any other state official from withholding any funds allocated for the purpose of conducting Local Government polls 2023. This order had been issued pursuant to a Fundamental Rights petition filed by SJB General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara.

JOURNALIST FALSELY SEEKS ASYLUM?

A journalist who had worked for a tabloid has sought asylum from a European nation by falsely claiming that he had received death threats from the government, informed sources said yesterday.

This journalist who had run a YouTube channel had told the officers of a foreign mission in Sri Lanka that he needs asylum as he had been called before the CID on several occasions.

However, it was reliably

learnt that the officers of this foreign mission belonging to a European country has found out that the journalist concerned had not received any death threats and as such been denied asylum.

OBITUARIES

KARUNANAYAKE - NIMALKA. Beloved wife of Senaka, loving mother of Sasanka and Hirushka, mother-in-law of Gauri, dearest grandmother of Quinn and Avery, passed away peacefully in Melbourne on Monday the 27th. Funeral will be held on Saturday the 1st April at 7 Stratton Court, Basewaters, Victoria at 2 p.m. (DMR 097412)

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Home at Our Heart

Exposé

By **Prageeth Sampath Karunathileka**


Once a self-sufficient and prosperous nation in terms of food, Sri Lanka's agriculture industry has now changed completely. The Green Revolution of the 1960s brought the widespread use of chemical inputs and fertilizers to the sector. Had chemical agriculture been sustainable, there would be no need to discuss food safety and food security as of now.

According to Marginalized Organic Producer Association (MOPA) Chairman Dr. Sarath Ranaweera attracted by the 'Green Revolution' to uplift agriculture, Sri Lankan farmers set their sights on increasing yields at all costs; forgetting one crucial element which is the soil. Prior to the use of chemical inputs the soil was rich and consisted of beneficial micro-organisms and nutrients necessary for plant growth. These microorganisms were especially crucial for the absorption of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus components by plants. "However, the addition of synthetic chemical inputs to the soil to obtain higher yields turned the once-fertile soil into dead soil, which destroyed beneficial microbes. This left farmers dependent solely on chemical inputs to maintain their crops," explained Dr. Ranaweera.

Despite having a long history of farming, Sri Lanka lacks a deep understanding of the intricacies of agriculture. When farmers apply chemical inputs to their crops, they have little scientific knowledge of how the plants will absorb these chemicals; no matter how liberally they are applied. This emphasised the urgent need for a more understanding of the physical and chemical basis of plant growth.

"Inorganic nitrogen (N) that can be absorbed by plants is present in the soil in two forms: ammonium (NH4+) and nitrate (NO3-). Ammonium is held in soil particles and it can exchange with other cations. They can also be absorbed by plants. Ammonium does not degrade easily. But when we artificially add nitrogen to the soil, it does not remain in the soil and its efficiency dips. Different plants take up nitrogen at different rates and rates. Therefore, the frequency of applying nitrogen artificially to the soil has to be increased. It will also cost a lot of money. However, plants are not able to absorb all the chemical inputs added externally. Therefore, many external inputs, including urea, which we use in agriculture, will end up in reservoirs," said Dr. Ranaweera.

“In order to reduce the amount of nitrogen in river water, countries like Israel have reduced the mixing of nitrogen in river water. In those countries, arrangements have been made to supply the water required for cultivation through drip irrigation systems using advanced techniques



DR. SARATH RANAWEEERA

The Sustainable Nitrogen Management Status Report, published by the Mahaweli Development and Environment Ministry in 2019 has revealed some facts regarding this. About 64 percent of the imported urea in Sri Lanka is used for paddy cultivation, but only 20-40 percent of it is actually absorbed. In 2018, tea cultivation consumed 100.4 million kilograms of urea and 27.7 million kilograms of ammonium sulfate adding up to a staggering 51.88 million kilos of nitrogen. It is estimated that 40 percent of the total amount of nitrogen applied was wasted. Sri Lanka's agriculture sector ranks quite low on the EPI 2018 Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index, coming in at 124th place out of 180 countries.

"Synthetic chemical fertilizers have been widely used in Sri Lanka's agriculture sector. Past governments increased the use of artificial fertilizers by offering subsidies. NPK fertilizers, which are highly soluble in water, have had devastating effects on the entire ecosystem, particularly on water sources. Excess fertilizer that is not absorbed by crops is washed into nearby waterways, leading to an increase in nitrogen content in water. Research reports on the water have revealed that Sri Lanka's river system now has one of the highest levels of nitrogen among



TRUTH BEHIND THE TRAGEDY OF MODERN AGRICULTURE



About 64 percent of the imported urea in Sri Lanka is used for paddy cultivation, but only 20-40 percent of it is actually absorbed

There are farmers who overcame the challenge posed by the chemical fertilizer ban brought about in 2021 Government

In contrast to other countries, Sri Lanka shows limited interest in research related to organic farming

Ampara farmers cultivated using eco-friendly methods for 3 main seasons and achieved a successful harvest

all river tributaries in Asia. In order to reduce the amount of nitrogen in river water, countries like Israel have reduced the mixing of nitrogen in river water. In those countries, arrangements have been made to supply the water required for cultivation through drip irrigation systems using advanced techniques. But there is no evidence of such techniques being practised in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka lags behind in achieving its agricultural development goals. We boast about achieving sustainable development goals, but much needs to be done," he said.

"But instead, we have been squandering our country's economy. When nitrogen is produced naturally in the country, Sri Lanka relies heavily on imported urea to meet the nitrogen requirement of crops. Usually, plants absorb the required amount of nitrogen in a short period of time and release the rest to the environment. But

what Sri Lanka's farmers did was add imported urea excessively to plants, leading to wasted money and massive environmental damage.

Dr. Ranaweera further said that part from the accumulation of water on the ground surface, chemical nitrogen combines with water and infiltrates the ground contaminating groundwater sources. Nitrogen evaporation also releases nitrous oxide (N2O) into the atmosphere, which is a highly dangerous gas. Nitrous oxide has the ability to increase the temperature 300 times as much as carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. In addition, nitrous oxide is the most destructive gas for the depletion of the ozone layer.

According to him a global summary analysis published by academics Yuri Sherbok, Neville Mirer, and Philip Robertson shows that, according to non-linear responses of nitrous oxides, the increased use of nitrogen inputs in modern agriculture leads to higher emissions of nitrous oxide. The application of varying amounts of nitrogen based on crop needs also exacerbates this issue. Therefore, the 2021 United Nations Conference on Climate Change, COP26 allocated US\$ 130 million to protect the environment by reducing greenhouses.

UNSUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

The unsustainable agriculture practices in Sri Lanka have led to a disastrous situation, and there are various solutions available to address this issue. But there is a lack of interest from society due to a lack of proper knowledge and technology about organic and ecological farming methods. They have received less attention due to ignorance and myths surrounding them. Soil is a crucial element of sustainable farming. In farming, it is more appropriate to apply organic materials to the soil that do not destroy microorganisms and enhance their life and activity. Organic agriculture always protects the



“But instead, we have been squandering our country's economy. When nitrogen is produced naturally in the country, Sri Lanka relies heavily on imported urea to meet the nitrogen requirement of crops. Usually, plants absorb the required amount of nitrogen in a short period of time and release the rest to the environment”

soil and strengthens the absorption process whereas the chemical method destroys beneficial microorganisms in the soil, leading to dead soil. Chemical inputs make the soil dead and organic inputs protect the life of the soil.

"Restoring dead soil can take 1-3 years. Depending on the impact of chemical inputs on the soil, the time can extend even more. Soil restoration involves reactivating natural processes in the soil and creating a suitable environment for the growth of nutrients and microorganisms.

"However the question arises as to whether it is possible to achieve higher yields and profitable cultivation by solely using organic fertilizers in a plantation. The key is to thoroughly study the farming method. When comparing the yield from crops using organic fertilizers to those using chemical fertilizers, the yield produced from by using the former is often lower. In the last Yala season, ordinary compost fertilizers were used for cultivation in many districts where paddy cultivation is widely practiced. The yield was 84 bushels per acre. In the last five years, the yield using chemical fertilizers was 88 bushels per acre," he explained.

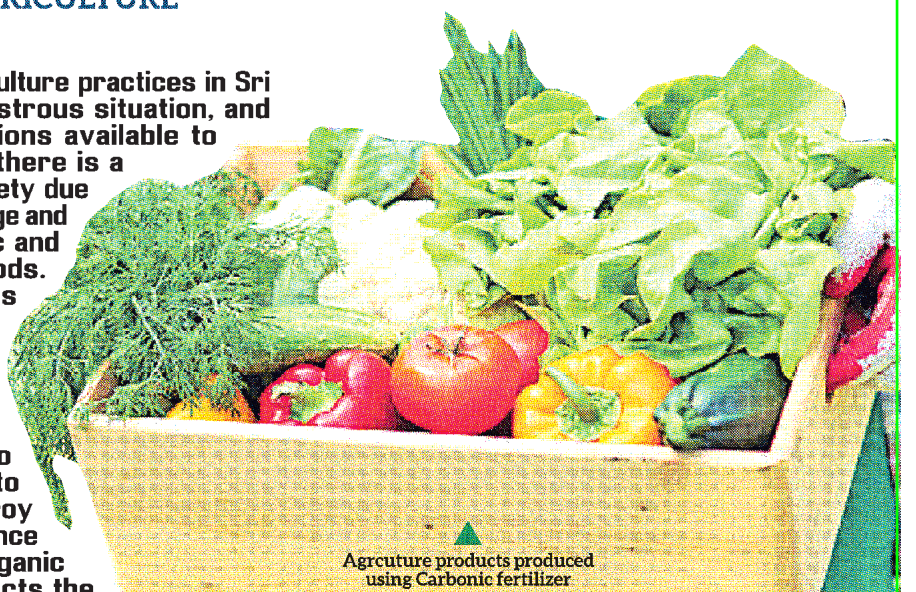
“However the question arises as to whether it is possible to achieve higher yields and profitable cultivation by solely using organic fertilizers in a plantation. The key is to thoroughly study the farming method. When comparing the yield from crops using organic fertilizers to those using chemical fertilizers, the yield produced from by using the former is often lower”

There are farmers who overcame the challenge posed by the chemical fertilizer ban brought about suddenly by the 2021 Government using environmentally friendly methods as seen in the Ampara district. Ampara farmers cultivated using eco-friendly methods for 3 main seasons and achieved a successful harvest. According to the Department of Agriculture, farmers were able to achieve a yield of 5800 kg per hectare from the 4660 hectares cultivated in Ampara district using biofertilizers. This is an increase of 27.6% compared to the average yield of 4,546 kg per hectare using chemical fertilizers in Ampara over the past five years. Some remain skeptical about the potential of organic farming to increase yields and it is unfortunate.

In addition, several agricultural lands have achieved remarkable outcomes from organic farming and are even exporting their products. For instance, the Dankotuwa Lunuwila Parabo Farmers' Organization in the North-West Province is successfully managing over 110 acres of paddy fields with the cooperation of more than 100 farmers. They harvest the paddy from these fields, process it into rice, and export it. Each farmer in the project was able to achieve a yield of 110 bushels per acre from 8 acres of organic farming.

"In contrast to other countries, Sri Lanka shows limited interest in research related to organic farming. Therefore, the knowledge on that field is lacking. Research conducted by Wayamba University using different types of organic fertilizers was released on January 05, 2022. According to the report, the research was conducted using Bio Foods/ Ecoplus bio fertilizers and regular organic fertilizers and two types of paddies in the Galewela area and its finding was that the yield of the cultivation using bio fertilizers was very high," he said.

Some farmers who do not believe in the old saying "if the soil is good, farming is good" are facing many challenges in cultivation. To overcome this, it is crucial to provide accurate scientific knowledge and new discoveries about farming to the people. This knowledge can be used to formulate national policies related to agriculture and new educational approaches. By doing so, the country and the world can be led towards a sustainable path.



Agriculture products produced using Carbonic fertilizer

Black leopard cub at Yala National Park :

CONSERVATIONISTS URGE PUBLIC TO ACT WITH CAUTION

By **Kamanthi Wickramasinghe**

A photo and a video of a melanistic black leopard cub spotted at the Yala National Park is being shared widely on social media since last Friday (March 24). According to records, a black leopard has been spotted in Yala after about 50 years. "There have been records of a black leopard some 50 years ago, but the most recent sighting of a black leopard is the one that was recorded a few days ago," said Yala National Park Warden Manoj Widyaratne. **"The leopard that has been spotted is a 5-6 month old male cub and from a wildlife point of view it is a rare species. Once the photos went viral on social media there has been a 90% increase in the number of visitors who are arriving at the park since Monday to catch a glimpse of the leopard. The number of vehicles in the area that the leopard has been spotted has now increased causing a heavy traffic and this may put the leopard and its mother under stress. The vehicles are so much that the two animals are even finding it a challenge to cross the road. With such an unnecessary burden the mother might even have a tendency to change the territory and take the cub elsewhere. The next location might be closer to a bordering village and in that case they are at risk of falling prey to traps including snares. If this visitor behavior continues we may have to close down the area to ensure the safety of the animals," Widyaratne cautioned.**

When asked what sort of awareness is being done to ensure that the leopard and its family is being protected, Widyaratne said that they have already informed wildlife guides, Jeep drivers and trackers to refrain from giving unnecessary attention to the black leopard cub. "Some have even gone to the extent of bypassing park rules and continuing their safari rides beyond 6.00pm just to ensure that the visitors catch a glimpse of the species. Such acts will not be entertained," Widyaratne underscored.

"Melanism occurs due to an animal having recessive or dominant alleles," explained Sethil Muhandiram, conservationist/carnivore researcher at Leocon, an organization exclusively dedicated to conserve the Sri Lankan leopard and its ecosystems. "Alleles are essentially variations of normal genes. In leopards, the pigment is caused by a recessive allele. In jaguars, it is caused by a dominant allele. It is believed that only 5-10% of total population become panthers and over the past couple of decades around 3-4 panther deaths were reported within the island and the sighting of panthers date back to 1821. In many cases there were confirmed reports within the dry zone landscape of the country and panthers were no strangers to the Sri Lankan wilderness."

"But unfortunately with their color, society has given them a higher value which have made them vulnerable. The deaths that occurred in recent past indicate that some of the deaths were intentional and the snares which cause these deaths were intentionally targeted at the animal. We have reports of panthers and their presence throughout the country and local authorities and other environmental organizations are very discreet towards their presence," he added.

Speaking about the recent incident at Yala National Park, Muhandiram said that conservation disciplines have never been more challenged than today because of technology. "Conventionally, conservationists have argued that sharing the locations of vulnerable species gives poachers a leg up on the animals, making those on-the-brink species even more vulnerable. It is undeniable that in some cases, poachers have used published data to hunt down rare animals for the illegal wildlife trade. Yet sometimes the attention may help protect wildlife as well," he said while adding that it is our responsibility to protect, not pursue for fame.

Issuing a statement, the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society urged the public to act responsibly at this critical juncture. "The sighting of an incredibly rare melanistic leopard has once again created a lot of hype, especially among wildlife photographers in Sri Lanka.

The WNPS urges all photographers and the public to act responsibly at this critical juncture, without overrunning the park to get the perfect photograph. We also encourage those who have already witnessed this sighting to avoid publishing its whereabouts on social media to minimise its exposure. It's at times like this that we must protect, not pursue. All species possess the right to roam their territory undisturbed, and if we run this vulnerable species to the ground, we may never catch a glimpse of it again," the statement read.

The leopard that has been spotted is a 5-6 month old male cub and from a wildlife point of view it is a rare species. Once the photos went viral on social media there has been a 90% increase in the number of visitors who are arriving at the park since Monday to catch a glimpse of the leopard





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FEATURES



By **Vinuki Medagama**

insight

It is no secret that the last few years have been interlaced with crisis after crisis on a local and an international scale. 2019 marked the start of some of the most turbulent years Sri Lankans have had to face since the end of the 30-year-long civil war in 2009. Bombings on Easter Sunday, 14/11/2019, COVID and, most recently, Sri Lanka's devastating economic crisis. Politics, the economy, health, human rights and the environment have all been "problem areas" globally, affected by both human and natural entities. Surviving crises is, in many ways, becoming a way of life. In an age of instant information, we have access to more data than ever before. Our devices create a sense of virtual proximity to events happening thousands of kilometres away. While this keeps us informed, the repeated consumption of negative data can be damaging; it is important that we care about world events, but it is equally important for us to care about our mental well-being. This begs the question: how is this recurrent exposure to negativity affecting us?

HEIGHTENED SENSITISATION

LEARNED HELPLESSNESS

When people are repeatedly faced with negative events, and when they believe that they have no control over these events, they begin to feel that these situations are inevitable and inescapable, even after a solution becomes available.

According to Dr. Pushpa Ranasinghe, Consultant Psychiatrist at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and Team Leader of the National Mental Health Helpline, "What is harmful is the belief that you cannot do anything to improve the situation and that nothing is within your control. This means the situation can worsen because you are not actively trying to improve it. However, this perceived lack of control is only a belief; it is not necessarily true. There are still things that remain within your control. In a stage of learned helplessness, people tend to give up".

CHRONIC STRESS

"When stress exceeds a healthy amount and becomes too much, a person can withdraw from situations and feel unable to handle it.



BAD NEWS OVERLOAD

How overexposure to crises is affecting our mental approach to tragedy

When stress becomes chronic, the amount of corticosteroid hormones present in the body can get affected. This hormone imbalance can also affect a person's physical health by worsening conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure", Dr. Ranasinghe said.

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

There has definitely been an increase in anxiety and depression since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis", said Dr. Sajeewana Amarasinghe, NIMH Consultant Psychiatrist.

"Symptoms like feeling low throughout the day, especially if it is worse in the morning, losing interest in things that usually bring you joy, losing motivation, constant tiredness and feelings of hopelessness and helplessness are telltale signs of depression. Anxiety can present in different ways, for example, palpitations, difficulties in breathing, headaches, body aches and issues with concentration and memory", Dr. Amarasinghe said.

MALADAPTIVE COPING MECHANISMS

In stressful situations, people use different ways to deal with problems. "Some people use healthy coping strategies like problem-solving. Some people use maladaptive strategies to temporarily relieve themselves of the problem. This includes taking substances and deliberately harming oneself. This can also make people histrionic and irritable, especially towards people they are closest to", revealed Dr. Ranasinghe.

THE STATS: MORE SRI LANKANS SEEKING SUPPORT

The number of calls received by the 24/7 1926 helpline was at its maximum during the lockdown in 2020, with a total of 28,508 calls. According to Dr. Ranasinghe, the call tally reduced slightly after this period, but it is currently on the rise again. The total annual number of calls since 2020 has been significantly higher than in preceding years.

The NIMH also has a 24/7 WhatsApp helpline.

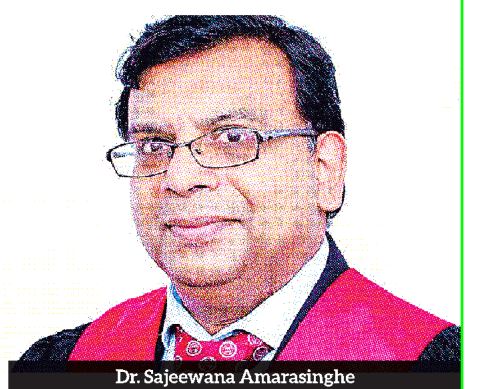
Dr. Ranasinghe stated that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of chats via WhatsApp. Most chats received are from the younger generation, particularly individuals between 16 to 23 years of age.

The doctors cited direct effects of crises such as unemployment, teens and young adults' inability to continue their education and having to financially support their family instead, family members moving abroad, increased rates of domestic violence and having to change lifestyles to adapt to the new economic situation as the most common factors causing people distress lately. "A lot of people are anxious about the future".

THE FLIP SIDE: DESENSITISATION

Is tragedy becoming so normalised that our empathy is getting adversely affected? How are we able to read about a catastrophic event and scroll past or turn the page so quickly?

"When there is a lot of violence and it becomes a day-to-day occurrence, it is possible for people to gradually become desensitised to it,



Dr. Sajeewana Amarasinghe



Dr. Pushpa Ranasinghe

especially if they are not directly affected by the situation", said Dr. Amarasinghe.

Dr. Ranasinghe also attributed this reduced emotional reaction to the focus on statistics when interpreting news. "If there is an emergency situation, we want to know how many people were affected or how many deaths have taken place, for example. More attention is given to the number", she said.

DOOMSCROLLING

The recently-coined term "doomscrolling" has been used to describe the tendency to continuously scroll through negative news, especially on social media. Fuelled by uncertainty in times of crisis, we may be inclined to repeatedly refresh our news feeds for updates. This behaviour became prevalent in 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has since become a negative habit that many individuals continue to perform, despite its damaging consequences.

"The overconsumption of media, in general, is not good, and this is especially the case if the information being consumed is negative. You need to find a healthy balance to stay informed without overdoing it", said Dr. Amarasinghe.

HOW CAN WE COPE?

According to the doctors, there are certain coping mechanisms and strategies that people can use to strengthen their overall mental well-being and minimise the negative impacts of crises and stressful situations on their mental health.

- Recognise the source of your stress and your body's reaction to stress.
- Recognise your personal contribution towards your stress, for example, overthinking, negative thinking patterns.
- Recognise your strengths, for example, supportive family and friends, intellectual capability, good personal qualities, and things to be grateful for.
- Set daily goals and be firm with reaching your goals.
- Avoid perfectionist expectations.
- Don't self-medicate. If you feel overwhelmed and/or are experiencing symptoms of anxiety and depression, reach out to a professional.
- Surround yourself with positive people.
- Meditation and positive affirmations.

The doctors emphasised the importance of continuing your daily tasks and leisure activities, spending time with friends and family plus focusing on things that are within your control.

RESOURCES:

24/7 NIMH Voice Helpline: 1926
24/7 NIMH SMS Helpline: 1926
24/7 NIMH WhatsApp Helpline: 0755551926

National Transport Medical Institute Brokers alleged to be conniving with doctors to issue fraudulent medical certificates



By **Chaturanga Pradeep Samarawickrama**

A pioneer in the medical field of Sri Lanka, the National Transport Medical Institute (NTMI) has become the only Government institute which certifies physical and mental fitness, conducting qualitative medical tests for all candidates who apply for driving licenses.

Their vision is a 'Healthy driver behind each steering wheel'. However, a Daily Mirror investigation has revealed that medical certificates have been issued to people whose vision was not suitable for driving.

A Daily Mirror team visited the NTMI Head Office in Nugegoda to find out more about these allegations.

Several officials and several minor staffers who wished to remain anonymous provided details of

irregularities which they claim are currently going on.

According to them, there are brokers who roam inside the NTMI premises and take bribes up to Rs. 50,000 to issue fraudulent certificates.

They provide the information that the examiners ask at the examination, enabling applicants to cheat.

These brokers charge a sum between Rs.15,000 to Rs. 30,000 from applicants to provide examination details.

Moreover, there were allegations that some of the doctor assistants provide fraudulent results of the eyesight tests of the applicants to pass the test, compromising the procedure of conducting vision tests.

These false medical reports will lead to the issuance of driving licenses to those who are not fit, putting other motorists and pedestrians at risk.

Meanwhile, an official at the NTMI claimed that a doctor who had recently taken measures to rectify the faults was removed from his post by the Ministry.



According to the official, the said doctor used to conduct vision tests on his own, and that had antagonized brokers.

Several complaints were lodged with the Ministry by the brokers and the Ministry then decided to remove the doctor from the post.

The same officials claimed that the doctor had

proposed several projects to the Transport Ministry to make it convenient for people. The programmes were especially beneficial for those who have speech and hearing difficulties in using public transport services.

He claimed that the doctor had proposed a lighting system to be installed in the bus as well as

near the driver for deaf people to use, instead of a bell.

The doctor had also requested to display the destination of trains prominently so that passengers with hearing impairment, and so that people who can't hear the announcements made at train stations can easily identify their intended trains.

Art as a witness of history

A retrospective of Kamala Vasuki's work

Kamala Vasuki (Born 1966) hails from Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Trained by A. Mark, a pioneering artist and art teacher who popularised modern art practices in northern Sri Lanka, she is among the few female visual artists from Sri Lanka in general and specifically from the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Having had her first solo exhibition in 1989 in Jaffna, she is the only female visual artist who has sustained an art practice while continuing to live through the war. She has lived through the trials and tribulations of war, shelling, the danger of sexual violence, displacement, loss of loved ones and all the other profound disruptions of ordinary life. She moved to Batticaloa in 1995 and has been an integral part of women's activist spaces for peace, non-violence and justice.

She experienced growing up as a young woman as a student at Vembadi Girls High School, the University of Jaffna and later as a youth volunteer in myriad progressive groups in Jaffna and Colombo.

Vasuki's artistic technique is vibrant

and has changed over time. When looked at together it is possible to trace journeys through technique, style and colour palette in her work. This can be artistically interpreted as reflexive of the context in which she was making art and there remains validity and truth to that interpretation.

When asked about these choices, Vasuki simply says "I made art with whatever material I had access to".

In the context of war when art materials were either impossible to obtain, Vasuki worked with any paper, colours or other material she could find. She made sculptures out of plastic pens and soap. The soap sculptures were eventually used by those in her household when soap was no longer available in Jaffna due to the war-related embargo.

She drew on any paper she could find and hungrily grabbed any material she found and learned to make art with it, with enormous encouragement of this mode of art-making from her teacher and mentor who she and others lovingly refer to as Mark Master.

Now, looked at together, Vasuki's art consists of landscape art, sketches, wash drawings, pastel paintings, cartoons and installations.

Her collective artwork, often with communities of women from different parts of the island often takes materials

from the everyday lives of women such as fabric, saris, objects, flowers, grains etc. to tell their own stories.

Vasuki has had individual and group exhibitions in different parts of Sri Lanka and abroad, including Nepal, Australia and the Netherlands.

In what is perhaps a fitting testament to her place in the world of visual art in Sri Lanka, her work was displayed and printed along with that of only nine other artists from the island in the book 'A to Z of Conflict', a trilingual collection of conflict-related words displayed around artistic works published by Raking Leaves in 2019.

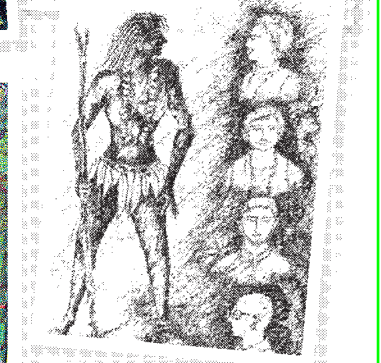
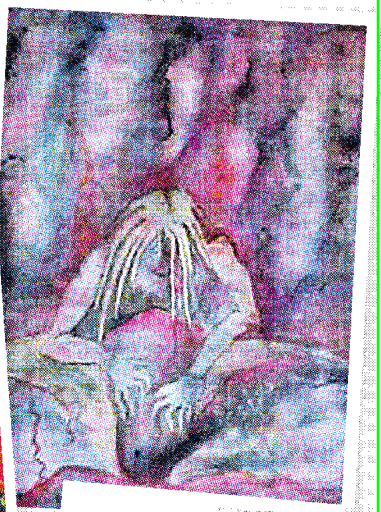
As a collection of specially commissioned works, it is one of the largest artistic works on conflict to emerge from the island.

Vasuki's art practice is deeply grounded in her life experiences and her feminist perspective on the world. Now almost 35 years later since she began making art, her work bears witness to the histories she has lived through.

Some of her paintings such as the painting related to the rape and murder of Krishanthi Kumaraswamy in 1996 and the 'My child is not for war' painting have become iconic symbols of histories of the war, especially from a feminist and women's perspective.



Artist Vasuki Jeyashankar



The exhibition titled Kamala Vasuki: A Retrospective (1989 - 2023), will take place on April 5 - April 10 between 9.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m at 55, Lady Manning Drive, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. The exhibition traces the artistic journey of a woman-artist from the north and east of Sri Lanka. Through multiple media, individual and collective art, her work bears witness to the scarred histories of pain, hope and healing of her island home over the past thirty years. Contact Nos: Jeya: 0778095587 Sarala: 0773134065

DailyMirror ONLINE

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In pursuance of Section 34 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, Application has been made to the Registrar of Companies for a license that an Association be formed under the name and style of WElektrik to be registered with limited liability without the addition of the word LIMITED at the end of its name.

(A) The Objectives for which the Organization is established are:-

- To carry out inclusive environmental protection initiatives through conversion of thermic engine three wheelers into electric (including solar electric) engine three wheelers with a view to reduce fuel consumption, carbon emissions air pollution and dependency on external fuel resources also allowing the possibility of solar energy generation to power the homes of the three wheeler owners during power cuts.
- Empower Sri Lankans to take ownership of this conversion process in a sustainable manner through standardization of the conversion process and creation of awareness, education and training programs on conversion.
- To promote the conversion process through supporting government and public institutions, collaborating with financial institutions with a view to make available funds to three wheel owners to convert their vehicles and to coordinate with national and global organizations with the same objectives.

The other objects of the Association are set out in extensor in the Articles of Association, a copy of which may be inspected at the office of the proposed Company Secretaries to the said Association, Acmi Comsec (Pvt) Ltd at No. 95/1, Station Road, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04 during office hours on working days.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person, company, or corporation objecting to this application may lodge such objections within three weeks from the date of this advertisement by a letter addressed to the Registrar of Companies, No. 400, Samagam Medura, D. R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.

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Bid forms & relevant document can be obtained from the purchasing department at Waters Edge Ltd. From 30th March 2023 until 25th April 2023 between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on weekdays, by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000/= per Bid form in cash.

Sealed Bid forms address to the Chairman Procurement Committee, Waters Edge Ltd. No. 316, Ethul Kotte Road, Battaramulla. Should be submitted by hand over to purchasing department on or before 11.30 a.m. on 25th April 2023. "Relevant Bid Name" should be Marked on the top of the left-hand corner of the envelop. Bids will be opened soon after the deadline in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. Please attached a copy of the receipt of your deposit with bid form. Suppliers are required to fill all the details requested in the bid form.

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Telephone: 0112863863/0112887050 (Ext 2103)

EDITORIAL

"You are never too young to lead, nor too old to act. And you should never doubt your capacity to triumph where others have not."
- KOFI ANNAN

OUR THOUGHT

HUMAN RIGHTS: THE WAY, TRUTH AND THE LIGHT

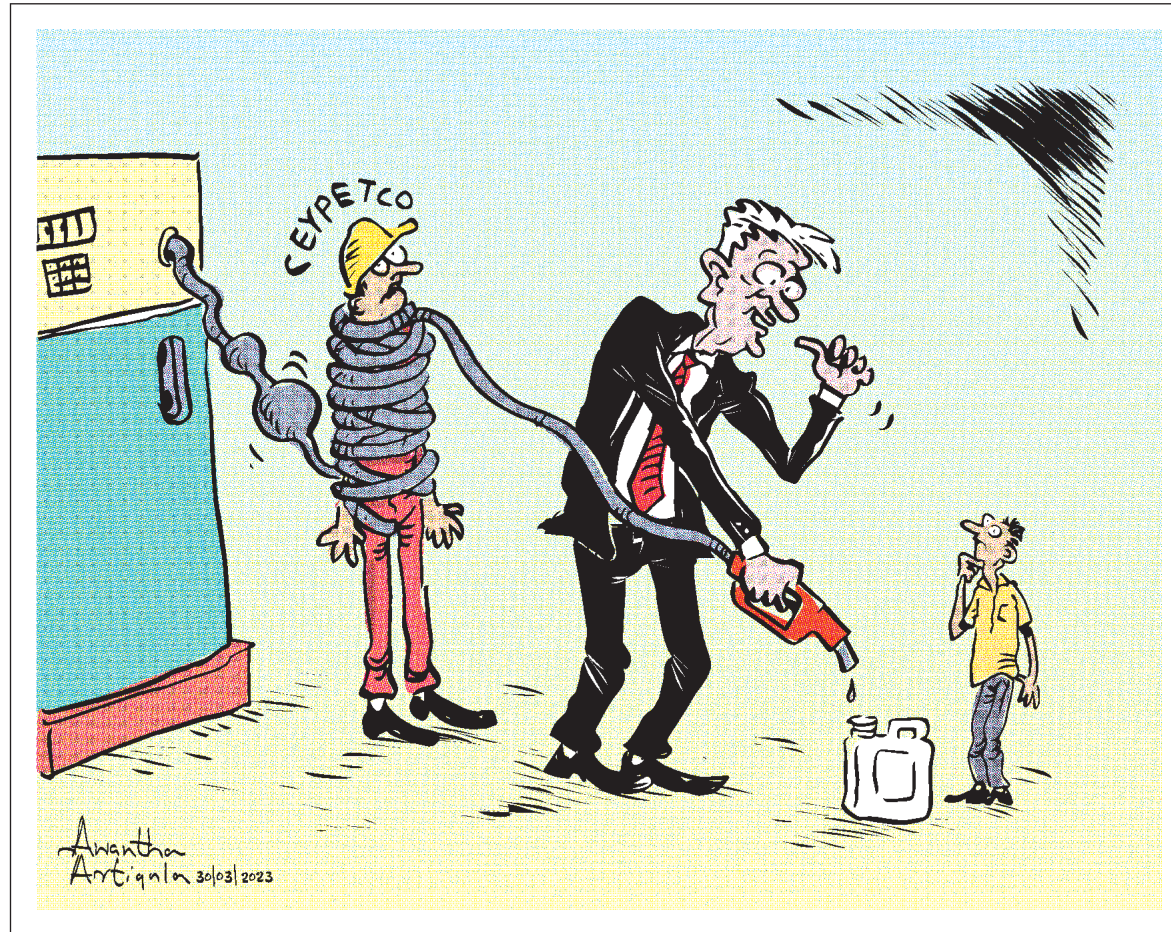
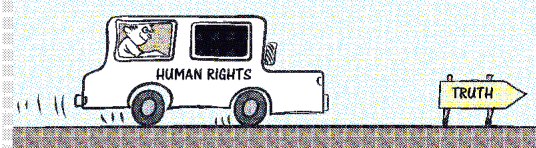
Today in Sri Lanka, President Ranil Wickremesinghe and the splintered Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) government are trying pull the country out of its worst ever socioeconomic crisis since independence in 1948. With the approval of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan of US\$2.9B the situation has improved and President says he hopes to bring down the unprecedented cost of living within few months. But with the media and especially the social media saying different stories at different times and sometimes giving a twisted interpretation to fit into the agendas of some political parties, the truth is in a lying mess.

It is in this context that we need to contemplate on the United Nations International Day for the 'Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims'. In a statement to mark this international day, which was on March 24, the UN says the right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearance, missing persons, abducted children, torture, require to know what happened to them. The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, and the reasons for them.

This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on March 24, 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador. The purpose of the day is to: Honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice; Pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all; Recognize, in particular, the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador, who was assassinated on March 24, 1980, after denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable populations and defending the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposition to all forms of violence.

On December 21, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 24 as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. The date was chosen because on March 24, 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated, after denouncing violations of human rights. In a study conducted in 2006 the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concluded that the right to the truth about gross human rights violations and serious violations of human rights law is an inalienable and autonomous right, linked to the duty and obligation of the State to protect and guarantee human rights. In a 2009 report on the Right to the Truth, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights identified best practices for the effective implementation of this right, in particular practices relating to archives and records concerning gross violations of human rights, and programmes on the protection of witnesses and other persons involved in trials connected with such violations. The Commission on the Truth for El Salvador was established in accordance with the Mexico Agreements of April 27, 1991 to investigate serious acts of violence that had occurred since 1980 and whose impact on society was deemed to require an urgent public knowledge of the truth. In its report of March 15, 1993, the Commission documented the facts of the assassination of Archbishop Romero by pro-government forces, the so-called "death squads". He was shot dead by an assassin as he celebrated mass on March 24, 1980.

In a message UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres says The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and the Dignity of Victims reminds us that truth is a powerful light. A light that shines on violations that perpetrators would prefer to remain hidden. A light that reveals a path towards peace, justice and reparation for victims, and compels countries to meet their obligations under international law. And a light that illuminates the underlying causes of these violations, so that we can prevent them from taking root. When the light of truth is extinguished, societies are plunged into a dark world of threat, lies and mistrust.



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

Improving Lankan women's access to economic opportunities:

THE BUSINESS CASE

By **Subhashini Abeysinghe and Sumini Siyambalapatiya**

If 2023 is just like any other year, as women's history month wraps up this Friday, slowly but surely, women's faces slowly fall off the panels, roundtables, stages and meeting rooms, and everyone's favourite buzzword, "empowerment" is retired for another year.

It is easy to make light of this corporate spectacle of course, but the myriad of barriers and challenges that women uniquely experience is very real, and because of it we are all losers - you, me, women and the economy.

As we in Sri Lanka explore the pathways out of the current crisis, it is imperative that we acknowledge the mammoth contributions that women make to the economy, hidden and unpaid, and seriously consider how to improve their access to paid, formal economic opportunities. If the evidence is anything to go by, very few countries (if any) have achieved successful economic development without creating and leveraging fair economic opportunities for women. In East and South-East Asia, women have powered their export-led manufacturing growth; over the past three decades, Vietnam's female labour force participation rate has consistently remained over 70%, Thailand's over 60%, and South Korea and Indonesia's over 50%. It isn't just a happy coincidence that across all of Asia's rapidly developing economies, women have access to and take up formal employment.

Sri Lanka's own female labour force rate has hovered in the low 30% for decades - in 2021, just 31% of women were in the labour force compared to 71% of men. According to the 2022 Global Gender Gap Report, Sri Lanka has the 13th largest gender gap in labour force participation in the world, dropping four positions since 2021. This poor performance is particularly notable because Sri Lanka fares remarkably well in terms of women's access to and performance in education. Sri Lanka has achieved gender parity far ahead of others in the South Asian region in terms of literacy rates and enrolment in primary, secondary and university education. A recent study by the World Bank revealed that girls outperform boys in educational outcomes at every level of the education system and across all national examinations. Most notably, women have made up over 50% of state university enrolments since 2001, taking up a share of over 60% at present.

It is generally (and fairly) assumed that equitable access to education results in equitable economic participation as well. This has unfortunately and clearly not been the case for Sri Lanka; significant investments in women's education have not translated to economic benefits for women, nor the country.

WHY IS THIS?

The short answer is that it's just not seen



Sri Lanka's own female labour force rate has hovered in the low 30% for decades - in 2021, just 31% of women were in the labour force compared to 71% of men, says the author

It is generally (and fairly) assumed that equitable access to education results in equitable economic participation as well. This has unfortunately and clearly not been the case for Sri Lanka; significant investments in women's education have not translated to economic benefits for women, nor the country.

as worth it. The long answer is that when employment is conceived as a rational choice, the "costs" Sri Lankan women have to incur to take up a job, outweigh the rupee remuneration they receive.

A study by Verité Research conducted in 2021 looked at exactly this, and the findings are startling. On average, every Rs.100 that employed (urban) women earn in Sri Lanka costs them Rs.160; costs exceed earnings. This study is unique because it considers both rupee costs that women incur like transport and childcare, and implicit non-monetary costs like the physical and emotional cost of the double burden. In Sri Lanka, much like the rest of the world, family and society is disproportionately reliant on the unpaid labour of women for household and care work. Women are often the primary caregiver for children, and spend 2.5 times more time on household tasks than men, according to the most recent time-use survey. Because of the patriarchal nature of the society we live in, these expectations remain unchanged even when women take up full-time paid work outside the home. This comes at a "cost" obviously, even if it is seemingly hidden. According to the previously quoted study, 57% of the total cost of doing a job for women is non-monetary.

The barriers that serve to restrict women's access to economic opportunities in Sri Lanka are multi-fold. This includes structural barriers like the lack of accessible, affordable, and quality

childcare options, attitudinal and cultural barriers like the patriarchal norms that expect women to prioritize and perform a lion's share of household and care labour, and discrimination in recruitment itself. Tackling these barriers is long overdue, not just for women at the top of the corporate ladder, but grassroots up. Stakeholders including policymakers and employers have long made excuses to avoid reform saying that it wasn't the right time. But if the economic success of our Asian peers is any indication, it is not just the right thing to do to improve women's access to economic activities, but the smart thing to do business-wise.

PROGRESS IN SRI LANKA IS NOT NON-EXISTENT.

A few of the heartening examples of progress made in recent years include the drafting of guidelines for quality childcare service provision by the government along with the involvement of experts, and the inclusion of state-funded maternity leave benefits in the 2018 national budget, although it was not implemented. A growing trend from the private sector also signals a shift to more inclusive policies with policies such as parental leave and remote working becoming more mainstream.

However, this is just the beginning and both the state and the private sector are yet to adopt policies that truly facilitate equitable economic opportunities for women.

The time to seize the opportunity is now - we can't afford not to.

Subhashini Abeysinghe a Research Director attached to Verité Research, holds a B.Econ (first class honors), a Master's Degree in Economics from University of Colombo. **Sumini Siyambalapatiya** a Senior Research Analyst at Verité Research, holds a dual B.A. in Mathematics/ Economics and Women, Gender and Sexuality studies from Lafayette College (USA)

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?

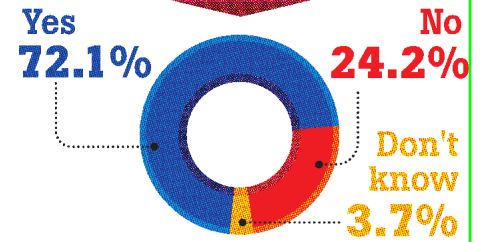
- Yes
- No
- They have a right to protest
- They are crippling the economy further



Scan to Vote

LAST POLL

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



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

IMF: EUPHORIA OR MORE PITFALLS?

The long lines of costly fire crackers that were lit in certain towns to celebrate the approval of the IMF bail-out package was utterly moronic. Those celebrations only made Sri Lanka the laughing stock of Asia, if not of the world!

Worse seems to be the parliamentary debate that followed. Political rhetoric were galore - not unusual though - and certain ministers painted a rosy picture for the country's economic recovery and for most it seems that IMF has become the panacea for all our economic ills!

Also, one is at a loss to understand as to how president Wickremesinghe claimed that Sri Lanka is no more bankrupt, no sooner receiving the green light from Washington? One wonders whether, international rating agencies have upgraded Sri Lanka overnight! Even the IMF approved loan of US\$3 billion is spread over a period of four years. Let it be said that although the govt. has received the first tranche of US\$ 330 million, the receipt of the remaining payments will solely depend on the fulfilment of the government's pledges to IMF.

In this background, top priority for the president and governor CBSL would be the most decisive and difficult foreign and local debt restructuring so as to make our debts sustainable. Secondly, the biggest bugbear for the govt. it appears is the privatization/ restructuring of state-owned enterprises, no doubt. Well, these are some of the pitfalls faced by the president and govt. to make sure that IMF obligations are met to pull SL gradually out of the present economic mess.

Amidst this background, it is quite obvious that the present economic struggle of the majority of citizens is a far cry from that of the politicians in power and rest of the elitist class, to say the least. However, a glimmer of hope is in the air for all patriotic citizens in general and for the lobbyists against bribery and corruption in particular as new anti-corruption laws, reducing corruption vulnerabilities, and governance reforms are included as major prerequisites in the IMF programme.

It is quite evident that even IMF has accepted that with rampant corruption in SL specially among most politicians and many state officials at all levels their funding without proper checks and balances could virtually be like water off a duck's back!

M. R. PATHIRAGE

Kanchana threatens legal action against employees

WEB COMMENTS

- SRI LANKAN** - Well done, get rid of these parasites
- RIP WINKLE** - Popular chap, aren't you?
- NM** - Highly politicized, utterly corrupt TUs such as CPC had been holding the nation for ransom for decades. Sack all the corrupt leaders. Entire nation will stand behind you.
- MAX** - At least we have now one minister with a backbone. He suits better to the present president more than the ex president!
- L JAYA** - The action of the minister shows that there were no consultations with the employees and trade unions. Is shows immaturity as Bandula Gunawardena said we have no brains to understand the overarching issues.

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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

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Under 19 Cricket Final

HOLY CROSS, ST. SEBASTIAN'S BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Holy Cross College Kalutara and St. Sebastian's College Katuneriya will battle it out for supremacy to lay their hands on the Under 19 Division Two Tier 'A' title in the final scheduled to be played today and tomorrow at S. Thomas' College grounds, Mt Lavinia.

In the run up to the final Holy Cross led by Sasindu Kaushan came out victorious against Vidyarthi and Sri Devananda MV Ambalangoda in the quarter and semi final encounters while St. Sebastian's led by Chathumal Fernando made it to the final having received a walk over from St. John's Jaffna in the quarters and overcoming Sri Sumangala Panadura in the semis.

The Teams:

Holy Cross College - Sasindu Kaushan (Captain), Deshan Perera (Vice captain), Hansaja Brian, Kethaka Silva, Pasindu Wimansa, Hiven Kenula, Sonal Perera, Dewmina Fernando, Hansaka Fernando, Cheran Silva, Gimhan Fernando, Nethru Silva, Sathsara Gamage, Abhishek Samaraweera, Steve Roshaka, Gayantha Nadeesha, Deshan De Silva, Tharuksha Silva, Steeva Thisera, Vishmitha Fernando, K.D.S.P. Samantha (Master in charge), Nimal Dabare (Head Coach), Lakshitha Ranasinghe (Asst. Coach)

St. Sebastian's College - Chathumal Fernando (Captain), Menura Fernando, Vishwa Fernando,

Venuth Kawmira, Ashen Dinuka, Nimesh Madusanka, Sithum Appuhami, Thisara Madushan, Lakshitha Fernando, Gayan Appuhami, Vihanga Appumami, Hasith Fernando, Daham Jayasiri, Rashmika Fernando,

Manaram Fernando, Dinuka Sandun, Dilan Fernando, Naveen Nethsara, Oshan Marasinghe, Rev. Bro. Mudith Sanushka (Master in charge), Samitha Costa (Head Coach), Shevon Jonathan (Asst. Coach)



Holy Cross team



St Sebastian's team

Cinnamon Lakeside lift Travel Trade Carom title beating Mt. Lavinia Hotel

Cinnamon Lakeside, whilst dethroning the defending champion, Sri Lankan Airlines in the Semi Finals, went on to win the **09th edition of the Travel Trade Sports Club Mens Team Carom Championship 2023**, beating Mt. Lavinia Hotel in the final on Saturday, March 25, at the Galadari Hotel "Arena" Hall.

The tournament was participated by 12 mens teams pooled in to four groups on a league format and five women on a individual knock out.

Buddhini Dias from Columbus Tours retained the Womens individual singles title and Sri Lankan Airlines duo, G.H.S. Priyadarshani and Nadeeka Weerakoon won the doubles.

At the completion of the league stage, the four group winners, Sri Lankan Airlines "A" (Group "A"), Cinnamon Lakeside "A" (Group "B"), Sri Lankan Airlines "B" (Group "C") and Mt. Lavinia Hotel (Group "D") advanced to the Semi Finals.

In the Semi Finals Cinnamon Lakeside "A" dethroned the defending champion, Sri Lankan Airlines "A" (3/2) and Mt. Lavinia Hotel beat Sri Lankan Airlines "B" (4/1)

Mens League Stage Match Results-

Sri Lankan Airlines "A" beat Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts (5/0); Galadari Hotel beat Hayleys Aviation (3/2); Sri Lankan Airlines "B" beat Turyaa Resort (3/2); Mt. Lavinia Hotel beat Ramada Colombo (4/1); Cinnamon Lakeside "A" beat Galadari Hotel (3/2); Turyaa Resort beat Walkers Tours (5/0); Mt. Lavinia Hotel beat Cinnamon Lakeside "B" (3/2); Cinnamon Lakeside "A" beat Hayleys Aviation (4/1); Sri Lankan Airlines "B" beat Walkers Tours (5/0); Cinnamon Lakeside "B" beat Ramada Colombo (5/0)

Men's Team Final :Cinnamon Lakeside beat Mt. Lavinia Hotel, 4/1

Singles (3): R.A.P. Anuradha (CLS) beat K.A.R. Fonseka (MTLH) 15/9; Chamara Pradeep (CLS) beat G.N.S. Fernando (MTLH) 25/0; BGA Rajapaksa (MTLH) beat Sanka Perera (CLS), 15/4

Doubles (2): Sanka Perera & Dinesh Silva (CLS) beat BGA Rajapaksa & Priyankara Peiris (MTLH) 9/5 RAP Anuradha & Nalin Hettiarachchi (CLS) beat KRC Fonseka & SDR Dissanayake (MTLH) 9/5.

Women's Singles Final: Buddhini Dias (Columbus Tours) beat GHS Priyadarshani (Sri Lankan Airlines) 20/0

Women's Doubles Final: G.H.S. Priyadarshani and Nadeeka Weerakoon (Sri Lankan Airlines) beat Nadeeka Wijesundara and Kavisha Sathsarani (Turyaa Resort, Kalutara) 6/0

The awards were presented by F&B Manager, Galadari Hotel, Harsha Guruge (Chief Guest) and the TTSC Officials, Adrian Jansz (General Secretary), Mani Sugathapala (Asst. Secretary), Anushka Perera (Treasurer) and Marvan Madanayake (Committee Member).

(BM)


NOTICE



We wish to bring to the notice of the General Public that **Mr. Kankanam Vitharanage Ajantha** bearing **NIC No. 743313593V** of No. 132, "Kings Court, Thalpapwila", Kekanadura, Thalpapwila, Matara is no longer in service of the below said Company with effect from 25th February 2023.

We wish to inform the Hospitality Industry, the Architectural Fraternity, Structural Engineers, MEP Consultants, Property Developers, Building Contractors, Suppliers and the General Public that the below mentioned Company will not be responsible for any action taken or transactions entered into by him with effect from 25th February 2023.

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Waters Edge Limited, Battaramulla invites sealed quotations from prospective bidders for the following goods and services. Bidders could submit bids for an individual category or multiple categories.

Bid Name: Supply of Kitchen Equipment /Bid No WE/PUR/KE/2023/08
Bid Name: Supply of Cutlery & Crockery - Bid No WE/PUR/CCG/2023/09
Bid Name: Supply of Glass ware - Bid No WE/PUR/CCG/2023/10
Bid Name: Supply of China ware (Ceramic) - Bid No WE/PUR/CCG/2023/11
Bid Name: Supply, Installation & Servicing of Touch Terminals. - Bid No WE/PUR/OE/2023/12

Bid forms & relevant documents can be obtained from the Purchasing Department at Waters Edge Ltd. from 30th March 2023 until 25th April 2023 between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 pm on weekdays, by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs.2,000/= (in cash only) per bid form.

Sealed Bid forms, address to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Waters Edge Ltd. No 316, Ethul Kotte Road, Battaramulla, should be submitted to the purchasing department at Waters Edge Ltd on or before 11.00 a.m. on 25th April 2023. Relevant Bid Name should be Marked on the top of the left-hand corner of the envelope. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids, in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who chose to attend at the address below at 11.00 a.m. on 25th April, 2023.

Please attach a copy of the receipt of your deposit with tender form. Suppliers are required to fill all the details requested in the tender form.

The Chairman
Procurement Committee
Waters Edge Limited
316, Ethul Kotte Road,
Battaramulla.
Sri Lanka.

For further details please contact:
Manager - Procurement
Telephone : 0112863863 / 0112887050 (Ext 2103)



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Al Foah through its distribution partners sell, market, and distribute the Dates brands in the Al Foah family in over 45 countries, including Sri Lanka.

The exclusive authorized importer and distributor in Sri Lanka for all Al Foah Dates brands above, is Best Food Marketing Private Limited, of No.32A, Old Moor Street, Colombo 12.

It is reliably learnt that certain traders are engaged in unlawfully importing into and distributing in Sri Lanka certain brands of the Al Foah brand family.


Consumers and traders are requested to take notice that any dealings in the unlawfully imported and distributed products is not lawful and will amount to a violation of the rights of Al Foah Company LLC, K.R.A.F.T. Foodstuff Trading LLC, and Best Food Marketing (Private) Limited.

**This Message is brought in the consumers' interest,
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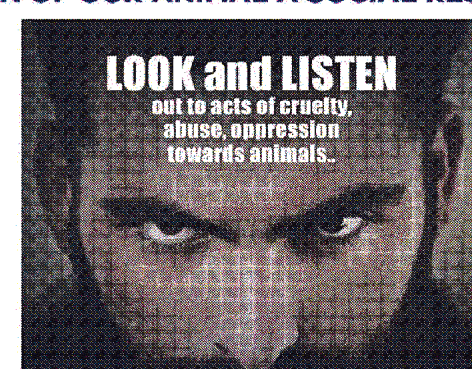
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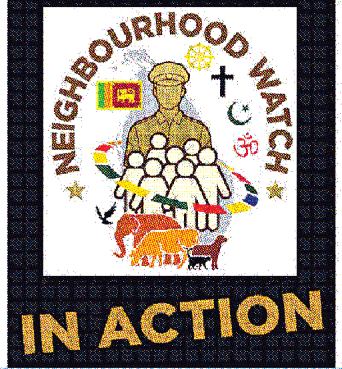


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- ♥ **Livestock 119 or direct to your Local Police**
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Chrishanthi Perera
Founder
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A Strong Voice For Animal Welfare



SPORTS

SRI LANKA DOCKED ONE SUPER LEAGUE POINT FOR SLOW OVER RATE



Sri Lanka were docked one ICC World Cup Super League point for maintaining a slow over rate in the first ODI against New Zealand last week, another blow to their chances of securing an automatic qualification spot for the Cricket World Cup. Sri Lanka are currently ninth in the Super League points table, on 81 points, and need South Africa to lose both their ODIs to the Netherlands to move into eighth place and secure the final direct qualification spot.

Dasun Shanaka's team were docked 20 percent of their match fees in accordance with the International Cricket Council's Code of Conduct, and since the captain accepted the charges there was no need for a formal hearing.

One place behind Sri Lanka are South Africa on 78 points and are favourites to qualify for the Cricket World Cup, but Ireland, who are tenth, can secure the final qualification spot if they beat Bangladesh 3-0 and secure a better net run rate.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League - Standings

Last updated on 28 March after New Zealand v Sri Lanka second ODI

RANK	TEAM	M	W	L	TIED	NR	POINTS	NRR	PO
1	New Zealand (Q)	23	15	5	0	3	165	+0.865	
2	England (Q)	24	15	8	0	1	155	+0.976	
3	India (Q)	21	13	6	0	2	139	+0.782	1
4	Bangladesh (Q)	21	13	8	0	0	130	+0.233	
5	Pakistan (Q)	21	13	8	0	0	130	+0.108	
6	Australia (Q)	18	12	6	0	0	120	+0.785	
7	Afghanistan (Q)	15	11	3	0	1	115	+0.573	
8	West Indies	24	9	15	0	0	88	-0.738	2
9	Sri Lanka	23	7	13	0	3	81	-0.294	4
10	South Africa	19	7	10	0	2	78	-0.410	2
11	Ireland	21	6	13	0	2	68	-0.382	2
12	Zimbabwe	24	6	17	0	1	65	-0.952	
13	Netherlands	22	3	18	0	1	35	-1.035	

M- MATCHES, W- WON, L- LOST, NR- NO RESULT, PO- PENALTY OVERS

DMSportsDesk

H. M. Muthalib no more

Former Antonian cricket captain and top class coach H. M. Muthalib passed away after a brief illness in Kandy recently.

He played for the Antonians from 1958 to 1961 and led the side in his final year. He also coached both St. Anthony's College

and Trinity College, doing a yeoman service for sports for over three decades. His janaza took place at Mawilmada two days back.

Exciting draw at Katugastota

The Inter-School Under 19 cricket encounter between St. Anthony's College and St. Peter's College ended in an exciting draw at Katugastota yesterday.

The Antonians, after putting up a massive 352 in their first innings, shot out the lads from Bambalapatiya for 149 and the visitors were 131 for 9 in their second innings at stumps on day two.

The highlight of the innings was some fine spin bowling by Thisara Ekanayake who finished with a

match bag of 10 wickets for the Katugastota lads.

St. Anthony's 352 for 9 dec in 63.5 overs (Nimruthu Gunawardena 36, Chamindu Perera 34, Ishira Ayupala 17, Thisara Ekanayake 3 for 20, Kaveesha Piyumal 3 for 27, Senura Abeysakera 2 for 17)

St. Peter's 149 and 131 for 9 in 56 overs (Sanshay Gunathilake 32 not out, Chamindu Perera 26, Thisara Ekanayake 7 for 80, Chanuka Ekanayake 2 for 12)

St. Joseph's crush Mahinda by ten wickets

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

St. Joseph's College recorded a crushing ten wicket win over the hapless Mahinda College Galle in the Under 19 inter-school cricket encounter played at the Mahinda grounds in Galle.

Meanwhile Kusal Wijetunge and Dinsuha Peiris shone for Trinity in their drawn match against Maris Stella Negombo played at the Navy grounds in Welisara.

Wijetunge slammed 165 in 182 balls inclusive of 16

boundaries and eight sixes while Peiris hit 105 in 107 balls with 13 boundaries and three sixes and the pair shared a 171 runs stand for the third wicket for Trinity to post a formidable score of 449 runs in reply to Maris Stella's score of 268 runs.

RESULTS

At Galle - St. Joseph's won by ten wickets

Mahinda 127 (Ranmina Hettiarachchi 33, Chandupa de Silva 29, Hiruna Gallage 17, Tharusha Dilshan 15, Lahiru Amarasekera 5 for 34, Yenula Dethusa 3 for 32, Muditha Dissanayake 2 for 23) **and 142** (Hareen Achintha 32, Dulana Rajapakse 32, Dhanuja Induwara 26: Lahiru Amarasekera 6 for 79, Yenula Dewtusa 3 for 23)

St. Joseph's 255 for 9 declared (Muditha Dissanayake 64, Sadeesh Jayawardena 53, Naren Muralitharan 41, Lahiru Amarasekera 41: Shehan Hasaranga 3 for 72, Dhanuja

Induwara 2 for 9) and 15 for 0

At Welisara - Match drawn
Maris Stella Negombo 268 (Shean Adithya 83, Ramith Bandara 33, Anshen de Silva 28, Kaveen Fernando 26, Nethum Basnayaka 26, Levin Fernando 22, Sadew Ratnayake 18: Dinuka Tennekoon 5 for 74, Jayavi Liyanagama 2 for 40) **and 30 for 0** (Kaveen Fernando 18 n.o.)

Trinity 449 (Kusal Wijetunge 165, Dinsuha Peiris 105, Jayavi Liyanagama 45, Rahal Amarasinghe 39, Vathila Udara 28, Vibawith Ehelepola 19: Sadeew Hasthika 5 for 113, Chirath

Adithya 3 for 51)

At Boyagane - Match drawn
Moratu MV 249 (Vihanga Nimsara 82, Rasindu Ilukshana 54, Deneth Sithumina 20, Sukitha Devthilina 17, Malith Shehan 16: Akila Wickramasinghe 3 for 48, Isuru Gunasekera 2 for 28, Khanka Wickramasinghe 2 for 31, Pansilu Bandara 2 for 50) **and 99 for 4** (Vihanga Nimsara 38, Isuru Fernando 20: Akila Wickramasinghe 3 for 16)

St. Sylvester's 179 (Charuka Ayeshan 77, Chandupa Waduge 18, Akila Wickramasinghe 17: Isuru Fernando 2 for 27, Malith Shehan 2 for 29)

Regent Battle of Maroons revived after 27 years

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Two schools in the Gampaha district Sri Pangnananda MMV Raddoluwa and Harishchandra National School Negombo will meet in the cricket field again after a lapse of over two and a half decades when they clash in the Negombo Regent Battle of Maroons big match scheduled to be played on March 31 at the FTZ ground in Katunayake.

The revival of the big match has been due to the efforts put in by the dedicated old boys of the two schools who together have not left any stone unturned to make it a reality since they last met each other way back in the year 1996.

The two schools are presently involved in the ongoing Under 19 inter-schools cricket tournament and have completed their quota of matches with fourth year player and all-rounder Suchira Mihiran leading Sri Pangnananda MMV and Theekshana

Silva leading Harishchandra National School.

Looking back at the performance of the two teams it seems that they are equally balanced with Sri Pangnananda MMV having played nine matches succeeding to record four outright wins and two first inning wins while on the other hand Harishchandra NS from the seven matches that they have played have recorded five outright wins.

Sri Pangnananda MMV skipper Mihiran will bank on players in the likes of Sachintha Sandaruwan, Achina Kanil, Sithum Vimarshana and Dinuk Aloka in the batting and bowling departments.

On the other hand Harishchandra NS led by Theekshana Silva who is their leading scorer will depend on Sithum Avishka, Shakila Ashen, Deneth Bimsara, Thevindu Chamath,

Rashen Shalinga, Devinda Dharshana and Randul de Silva to make their contributions to bolster the scoreboard and to restrict their opponents.

The Teams:
Sri Pangnananda MMV - Suchira Mihiran (Capt), Ishodya Yashohara, Yasintha Semal, Madupa Sudesh, Sachintha Sandaruwan, Sithum Vimarshana, Achina Kanil, Dinuk Aloka, Haritha Dinendra, Kanshuka Dulakshana, Chathura Nipun, Dineth Mihiranga, Nuwan Dilshan, Avishka Isuru, Pushpitha Buwenaka, Monila Buddika, Kaveesha Indusara, Tharushith Shemira.

Harishchandra NS - Theekshana Silva (Capt), Sithum Avishka, Chamod Indrachapa, Devinda Dharshana, Oshan Chanuka, Savitha Gimhana, Jayasri, Rashen Shalinga, Shakila Ashen, Randul de Silva, Himanka Sandamina, Deneth Bimsara, Sithum Nethsara, Dineth Eshwara, Thevindu Chamath.

Inaugural SALC Cup in Colombo from tomorrow

All arrangements have been finalized to conduct the inaugural South Asia Lawyers Cricket Cup organized by the Cricket Association of Advocates in conjunction with Sri Lanka Lawyers Cricket which is scheduled to be held in Colombo from tomorrow onwards.

The seven day tournament slotted to end on April 5 will see teams representing from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka which is held with the aim of encouraging the lawyers to participate in tournaments around the globe.

The initial edition of the South Asia Lawyers Cricket Cup will feature teams from Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata from India, Lahore and Karachi from Pakistan, Dhaka from Bangladesh and Colombo from Sri Lanka.

The opening ceremony is scheduled to be held on a grand scale at the Colombo Cricket Club (CCC) premises today with dignitaries expected to grace the occasion in the likes of Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya,

Judges of the Supreme Court, Justice Buwaneka Alivihara and Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, Minister of Justice Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Sabry, Minister of Tourism Harin Fernando, President of Sri Lanka Cricket, Shammi Silva and past Sri Lanka cricket captains Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva to name a few.

This is the second major international cricket lawyers cricket tournament being hosted by Sri Lanka Lawyers Cricket with the first being the Sixth Lawyers Cricket World Cup which was held in the year 2007.

The first round of the tournament is scheduled to be completed on April 2 and the semi finals are scheduled to be worked off on April 4. The matches are scheduled to be played at the Colts ground, BRC ground, Thurstan ground and CCC ground where the grand final is slotted to be played on April 5. (MSA)

Central Asia Men's Volleyball in October in Colombo

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) has selected Sri Lanka to host the Central Asia Volleyball Men's Championship 2023.

This is the second time that Sri Lanka will host the Central Asia Volleyball Championship. Accordingly, Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) has made arrangements to hold the tournament from October 9-15 at Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Central Asia volleyball includes 14 countries, of which seven countries are participating and have confirmed upto now, according to SLVB.

Meanwhile, the Central Asia 2023 women's tournament is scheduled to be held from May 22-28 in Kathmandu, Nepal, and SLVB has made arrangements for the Sri Lanka Women's National Volleyball team to participate.

A national squad consisting of 24 players has now started training for the related Women's tournament



Sri Pangnananda MMV team



Harishchandra National School team

Tamil Nadu spikers to open Sri Lanka tour on April 1

The Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) has made arrangements to hold the first match between the Sri Lanka National Junior Men's Volleyball team and the visiting Tamil Nadu National Junior Volleyball Team on April 1 at Radawana Golden Bird Ground, Gampaha.

The touring Tamil Nadu National Junior Volleyball team will arrive in the country on March 31 for a seven-day tour.

The Tamil Nadu team is scheduled to participate in five exhibition volleyball matches in Gampaha, Kurunegala, Kalutara, Vavuniya and

Jaffna. This will be the first time after 41 years since 1982 that a national volleyball team from Tamil Nadu will visit Sri Lanka.

Tour itinerary
April 1 vs Sri Lanka National Junior Team at Radawana Golden Bird Ground, Gampaha
April 2 vs Ceylon Electricity Board team at United Ground, Horana
April 4 vs Jaffna United team at Muttur Ground
April 5 vs Sri Lanka Army team at Public Ground, Vavuniya
April 6 vs Wayamba Combined team at Public Ground, Dambadeniya

Junior and Senior Beach VB Nationals to be held in Negombo

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) has decided to hold the National Junior and Senior Beach Volleyball Tournament 2023 on May 19, 20 and 21 at Negombo Beach.

The under 16 and under 19 boys and girls tournaments will be held as Junior National Championships and the under 22 and open men's and women's tournaments as Senior National Championships, said C. Rathnamudali, Secretary of the Beach Volleyball Division of SLVB.

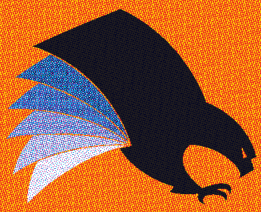
New athletes will be recruited to the national beach volleyball pool based on the performance of this year's beach volleyball national championship.

A national beach volleyball pool (men and women) is now operational targeting



several Asian championship beach volleyball tournaments including the Asian Games to be held this year.

The beach volleyball pool consists of eight men and eight women players.



Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market **P14**

T-bill yields continue to ease as sentiments, liquidity improve

The Treasury bill yields continued to ease, extending their months-long descent, reflecting that the government securities yields, which rose to extreme high levels, had more room to run their downward course before a pivot in the monetary policy.

MORE ON P14

SLVA emphasises strict adherence to protocols for imported eggs

Commends DAPH's efforts to safeguard citizens' health

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) yesterday emphasised strict adherence to protocols for imported eggs and commends the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) for its efforts to safeguard the health of citizens, before releasing the imported eggs from India to the local market.

MORE ON P14

Auto industry requests quota system from govt. to resume vehicle imports

Says allocation of US \$ 400mn would be sufficient for industry to manage businesses without bleeding

Says over 50% of Sri Lanka's vehicle fleet is over 10 years old as of now

Calls for vehicle import industry regulations to make sure minimal impact on foreign reserves

By Indika Sakalasooriya

Sri Lanka's automobile industry is requesting the government to consider a quota system for vehicle imports for its survival and the livelihoods of over 100,000



Charaka Perera

people, who are directly or indirectly employed by it.

The ban on vehicle imports has been in place for three years now. As the country began encountering severe foreign exchange shortages in 2020, vehicle imports became the first casualty, as the then

government imposed a ban on vehicle imports, which has continued up to now.

"Lately, we have been requesting from the government to regulate the industry and then consider a quota system for vehicle imports," Ceylon Motor Traders Association Chairman Charaka Perera told a forum that was organised by the industry association in Colombo, yesterday.

He said as of now, over 50 percent of Sri Lanka's vehicle fleet is over 10 years old. Making a strong case for resuming vehicle imports, at least through a quota system, Perera pointed out that many non-essential products were imported into the country in 2020 and 2021, without any restrictions whatsoever.

Citing the Central Bank data, he said in the calendar years 2020 and 2021, over US \$ 1.5 billion was spent on non-essential imports.

MORE ON P14

CB reiterates risks of using and investing in cryptocurrency

Public reminded that cryptocurrencies are unregulated investment instruments which are not recognised as an asset class in Sri Lanka

The Central Bank yesterday reiterated the risks of using and investing in cryptocurrency, considering the recent public inquiries and the developments observed relating to cryptocurrencies, which are also commonly referred to as 'crypto'.

"Cryptocurrency is a type of virtual currency that is generated by private entities and not by a monetary authority of a country. The term 'cryptocurrency' refers to a digital representation of value that is implemented using cryptography and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) or similar technology.

MORE ON P14

Dilmah Tea may quit Australian supermarkets amid cost dispute

Dilmah Tea is threatening to pull its popular products from the supermarket shelves in Australia amid a bitter price dispute with Coles and Woolworths, Australian media reports said.

Chief Executive Dilhan Fernando said that the major supermarkets are demanding discounts and refusing to pay a premium for their hand-crafted, single-origin Ceylon tea bags.

If the trend continues and an agreement can't be reached, the Sri Lankan company may refuse to supply Australian grocery chains.

According to Daily Mail Australia, while Dilmah remains the 10th biggest tea brand in the world, it hasn't made a profit



in Australia since 2009 and is seeing its market share dwindle.

In the past five years, sales in Australia have dropped from US \$ 37 million to US \$ 29 million.

Fernando said the way the Australian supermarket giants operate is fundamentally an 'unfair trading system'.

MORE ON P14

New regulation replacing GSP Plus has greater focus on environmental protection: envoy

The Sri Lankan companies that are currently exporting and are looking to export to the European Union (EU) will have to step up their efforts in adhering to environmental protection practices, as they are being made a key requirement for trade.

The new regulation that will come in place of the GSP Plus will ask for more environment-central certifications for products imported into the region, said EU Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Denis Chaibi.

He stressed that the private operators in Europe are now asking for a clear assessment of the carbon footprint of products exported from the other nations into the EU.

"It is important for Sri Lanka to anticipate that because otherwise, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Pakistan will do faster and better than Sri Lanka.

MORE ON P14



Denis Chaibi
PIC BY KITHSIRI DE MEL

Fourth round of SL-Thailand FTA negotiations conclude

Trade agreement is expected to be signed next year

The fourth round of negotiations on the proposed Sri Lanka-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (SLTFTA), which is to be signed next year, concluded yesterday.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe hopes to improve Sri Lanka's economic relations with countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which are large and

emerging economies.

A statement from the President's Media Division said Sri Lanka also expects to tap into other ASEAN markets through Thailand, once the free trade agreement is in place and reduce the existing-non tariff barriers.

A delegation of 35 Thai officials, headed by Thai Trade Negotiations Department Director General Auramon Supathaweethum, arrived in Sri Lanka on March 26, to participate in the fourth round of negotiations.

MORE ON P14

Japanese envoy in Colombo says no decision on reviving LRT project yet

Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Hideaki Mizukoshi yesterday said a decision has not yet been made on reviving the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-funded US \$ 2.2 billion Light Rail Transit (LRT) project, stretching from Colombo Fort to Malabe, which was abruptly terminated by the previous government.



Hideaki Mizukoshi

MORE ON P14

Sri Lanka seeks transaction advice from IFC to sell SLT, SriLankan Airlines and Lanka Hospitals

To advertise seeking transaction advisors for SLIC, Litro, Hotel Developers and Canwill

SRU says divestments will be carried out transparently and unsolicited proposals will not be entertained

Sri Lanka is negotiating with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, to seek its service as transaction advisor for the sale of the government's stakes in several state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

The State-owned Enterprise Restructuring Unit (SRU) yesterday said the Finance Ministry is negotiating with the IFC to obtain its services to divest the state ownership in SriLankan Airlines, Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) and Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry has decided to advertise in local as well as international newspapers and via LinkedIn on March 30, calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from consultancy firms interested in providing sell-side transaction advisory services for the sale of the government's ownership in Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation, Litro Gas Lanka Ltd and Litro Gas Terminals Ltd, Hotel Developers Lanka Ltd (The Hilton, Colombo) and Canwill Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd (Grand Hyatt, Colombo). The

SRU said the interested firms would be required to respond to Request for Proposal (RFP) documents as well when responding to the EOI.

Firms are free to express interest with respect to one or more of the SOEs that are identified for divestiture. Responses must be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., on April 27, 2023. The SRU said the Quality and Cost Based Selection method of the government's Consultant Procurement Guideline would be used to select transaction advisors.

MORE ON P14



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29.03.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA (MILL)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA (MILL)	CHANGE (%)	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA (MILL)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA (MILL)	CHANGE (%)	SECURITY	VOLUME	VWA (MILL)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VWA (MILL)	CHANGE (%)
A SPEN.HOT.HOLD	216,029	62.20	62.90	62.90	58.00	59.30	(2.90)	LANKA TILES	62,264	43.10	44.30	44.60	43.60	43.80	0.70	AGSTAR PLC [AGSTX0000]	2	5.00	6.20	6.20	6.20	5.00	
ABANS	15	158.00	157.50	157.50	157.50	158.00		ALUMEX PLC	187	40.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	(2.00)	AMBEON HOLDINGS	41,929	8.00	8.40	8.40	8.00	8.20	0.20
ACCESS ENG SL	66,328	14.40	14.70	15.20	14.50	14.50	0.10	LANKA WALLTILE	50,042	47.20	47.90	49.50	47.90	48.50	1.30	AMANA TAKAFUL	2,900	11.70	11.90	11.90	11.70	11.70	
ACL	170,157	80.90	81.20	82.30	80.10	81.20	0.30	LANK DEV	78,901	25.50	25.00	26.40	25.00	25.80	0.30	AMBEON HOLDINGS	1,260	36.10	36.90	36.90	35.00	35.80	(0.30)
ACME	8	6.60	6.50	6.70	6.50	6.60		LAUGFS GAS	11,607	29.90	30.00	30.30	30.00	30.00	0.10	AMF CO LTD	23,695	8.20	8.10	8.10	8.00	8.10	(0.10)
AGALAWATTE	2,663	30.70	31.30	31.40	30.70	30.90	0.20	LAUGFS GAS [LGLX0000]	19,393	20.20	20.00	20.30	18.30	19.70	(0.50)	ARPICO INSURANCE	8	20.60	20.90	20.90	19.60	20.60	
AHOT PROPERTIES	33,902	43.00	44.00	44.00	42.00	43.80	0.80	LAXAPANA	6,101	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30		ASIA SIVAKA	18,420	4.10	4.10	4.20	4.10	4.10	
AITKEN SPENCE	2,612	130.00	130.00	133.50	129.25	129.25	(0.75)	LB FINANCE	7,744	51.50	51.90	51.90	51.10	51.20	(0.30)	BERUWALA RESORTS	405,377	1.50	1.40	1.50	1.40	1.40	(0.10)
ALLIANCE	2,072	64.10	66.90	67.00	64.00	65.00	0.90	LMF	15,300	141.00	140.50	144.00	140.00	140.00	(1.00)	BOGALA GRAPHITE	4,076	62.90	65.00	65.50	63.00	63.30	(0.40)
AMANA BANK	399,423	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.50	2.60		LVL ENERGY	49	6.80	6.90	7.00	6.90	6.80		BOGAWANTALAWA	7,229	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	
ASIA CAPITAL	1,050	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	0.20	MALWATTE	100	79.50	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	(4.50)	BPPPL HOLDINGS	2,736	21.00	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	0.50
ASIRI	25,258	25.50	25.50	25.50	24.80	25.00	(0.50)	MELSTACORP	20,202	56.40	56.90	57.00	56.00	56.20	(0.20)	BROWNS	5,808	119.00	129.50	129.50	120.25	121.50	2.50
ASIRI SURG	6,044	12.40	12.40	12.50	12.40	12.50	0.10	MERC SHIPPING	1	190.00	188.00	188.00	188.00	190.00		BROWNS INVSTMNTS	1,917,021	6.20	6.30	6.40	6.10	6.20	
BAIRAHMA FARMS	4,307	146.25	145.50	147.00	145.25	146.50	0.25	MERCHANT BANK	34,852	3.50	3.60	3.70	3.50	3.60	0.10	CT LAND	1	26.10	26.10	27.50	27.50	26.10	
BALAWODA	18,548	65.80	68.00	68.00	62.00	62.30	(3.50)	MULLERS	49,010	1.20	1.10	1.30	1.10	1.20		C.W.MACKIE	10,049	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	
BAL HOLDINGS	4	63.10	66.10	66.20	62.00	63.10		NAMUNUKULA	1,135	361.25	368.00	374.50	368.00	368.00	7.25	CALT	464,687	30.00	30.30	31.50	29.90	31.00	1.00
CARGILLS	56	235.75	235.00	236.00	235.00	235.75		NAT. DEV BANK	492,101	44.60	44.80	46.90	44.80	45.50	0.90	CEYLON TEA BRKRS	23,895	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.10	
CARGO BOAT	128	49.50	50.60	53.50	50.60	51.70	2.20	NATION LANKA	143,782	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.40	0.50		CITRUS HIKKADUWA	80	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30	
CDB	14,163	196.25	191.75	200.00	191.75	197.75	1.50	NATIONNS TRUST	756,202	56.40	57.00	60.10	57.00	59.90	3.50	CITRUS WASKADUWA	610,786	3.00	3.00	3.10	2.90	2.90	(0.10)
CDB [CDB.X0000]	47	64.50	66.80	66.80	66.70	64.50		OVERSEAS REALTY	24,156	15.60	15.70	15.70	15.30	15.40	(0.20)	COM CREDIT	5,436	24.90	26.00	26.00	25.00	25.10	0.20
CENTRAL FINANCE	9,550	74.20	72.70	72.70	72.60	72.60	(1.60)	PAN ASIA	22,475	12.20	12.90	12.90	11.10	12.40	0.20	COMMERCIAL DEV.	2,188	102.75	102.75	106.00	102.75	103.00	0.25
CENTRAL IND.	6,563	84.30	84.50	86.00	83.00	84.70	0.40	PANASIAN POWER	47,052	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.30	3.30	(0.10)	DILMAH CEYLON	11	1060.00	1065.00	1065.25	1065.00	1060.00	
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	7	1054.00	1025.00	1055.00	1006.00	1054.00		PEOPLE'S INS	4,653	22.10	22.70	23.00	22.10	22.10		E - CHANNELLING	237,992	18.20	18.50	18.70	16.90	17.20	(1.00)
CEYLON INV	1,150	34.40	34.70	34.70	33.60	33.90	(0.50)	PEOPLES LEASING	124,074	8.00	8.10	8.20	7.50	7.90	(0.10)	ELPITTA	1,000	76.50	78.00	79.00	77.00	77.00	0.50
CEYLON TOBACCO	28,064	666.25	672.00	674.00	667.00	667.00	0.75	PGP GLASS	478,620	18.80	19.00	19.70	19.00	19.40	0.60	EXTERMINATORS	11,001	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.90	
CHEMANEX	4	77.50	78.10	78.10	78.10	77.50		PRINTCARE PLC	3,208	49.90	51.90	51.90	47.70	48.00	(1.90)	FC TREASURIES	82,552	21.60	22.90	22.90	21.60	22.60	1.00
CHEVRON	106,774	90.90	92.40	93.00	88.10	90.30	(0.60)	R I L PROPERTY	76,130	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.60	5.60	(0.10)	FIRST CAPITAL	184,756	30.70	30.90	32.40	30.50	31.20	0.70
CIC	30,723	72.60	72.10	72.50	71.00	71.20	(1.40)	REGNIS	711	45.00	45.00	47.00	45.00	45.00		FORTRESS RESORTS	4,005	22.20	22.50	22.50	22.20	22.20	
CIC [CIC.X0000]	32,093	51.50	51.00	51.70	50.00	50.60	(0.90)	RENUKA AGRI	307,687	5.20	5.40	5.40	5.20	5.20		GALADARI	71,773	14.70	14.60	14.80	14.40	14.50	(0.20)
CITRUS STORES	7,900	6.50	6.70	6.70	6.40	6.40	(0.10)	RENUKA FOODS	7,496	21.40	21.50	22.90	21.00	21.70	0.30	HAPUGASTENNE	231	47.90	44.00	48.00	44.00	44.00	(3.90)
COLD STORES	7,118	42.30	42.50	42.50	41.40	41.70	(0.60)	RENUKA HOLDINGS	51	13.70	13.90	13.90	13.70	13.70		HATTON	14,010	21.00	20.30	20.50	19.70	19.80	(1.20)
COLOMBO CITY	77	1051.50	1052.00	1052.00	1051.00	1051.50		RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	10	11.30	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.30		HNB FINANCE	12,002	5.10	5.30	5.50	5.30	5.40	0.30
COLOMBO LAND	40,281	21.70	23.00	23.00	20.00	20.30	(1.40)	RESUS ENERGY	309	13.10	13.70	13.70	13.30	13.70	0.60	HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-0000]	2	5.10	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.10	
COMMERCIAL BANK	47,158	65.50	66.00	67.50	65.30	66.60	1.10	RICHARD PERIS	15,726	21.00	21.40	21.40	20.50	20.50	(0.50)	HVA FOODS	85,414	3.90	4.00	4.70	4.00	4.10	0.20
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	127	1208.00	1210.00	1210.00	1208.00	1208.00		ROYAL CERAMIC	278,834	28.00	29.30	28.00	28.00	28.00		JAYAWARHTHI INS	522	28.90	28.90	29.00	27.50	28.00	(0.30)
CONVENIENCE FOOD	77,397	20.80	21.00	21.90	20.50	20.70	(0.10)	S M B LEASING	256,016	0.70	0.80	0.70	0.70	0.70		JETWING SYMPHONY	19,641	7.00	7.30	7.30	7.10	7.10	
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	53,256	42.50	42.50	47.00	42.50	42.50	3.70	S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	10,829,417	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.20	0.30		JOHN KEELLS	100	64.50	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	(0.50)
DFCC BANK PLC	78,486	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.30	10.40	(0.10)	SAMPATH	337,433	51.00	51.00	53.00	51.00	52.90	1.90	KAHAWATTE	10,027	20.00	19.90	20.10	19.90	20.00	
DIALOG	234	470.00	478.50	478.75	460.75	462.50	(7.50)	SANASA DEV BANK	3,370	24.70	24.50	25.50	24.50	24.50	(0.20)	KEELLS HOTELS	22,776	18.40	18.50	18.80	18.40	18.50	0.10
DIMO	144,066	27.60	27.60	27.80	27.50	27.70	0.10	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	25	10.90	10.70	10.70	10.70	10.90		KEELSEY	3,000	22.90	21.40	21.40	21.10	21.20	(1.70)
DIPPED PRODUCTS	3,600	64.00	64.50	64.50	64.00	64.10	0.10	SEYLAN BANK	13,242	35.20	35.00	35.00	34.60	34.80	(0.40)	LANKA CERAMIC	471	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
DOCKYARD	18,583	32.90	33.00	33.00	32.00	32.00	(0.90)	SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]	1,311	23.30	23.50	23.80	23.50	23.50	0.20	LANKA CEYLON	2,126	74.90	75.50	81.00	75.50	76.60	1.70
DOLPHIN HOTELS	5	100.00	99.90	99.90	99.90	100.00		SEYLAN DEVTS	7,021	13.90	14.20	14.20	13.80	13.90		LAUGFS POWER	1	8.80	8.90	8.90	8.90	8.80	
DURDANS [CHL.X0000]	71	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.80	19.80		SHAW WALLACE	40,200	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00		LCB FINANCE PLC	103,939	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.40	2.40	
E B CREAMY	623,722	8.20	8.20	8.90	8.20	8.70	0.50	SIERRA CABL	10,056	12.70	12.60	13.00	12.50	12.90	0.20	LOLC GENERAL INS	62,463	6.90	6.90	7.20	6.90	7.00	0.10
EAST WEST	25,516	9.60	9.60	9.90	9.50	9.60		SINGER FINANCE	17,132	10.90</													

Sri Lankans vote Dialog as 'Telecommunication Brand of the Year' for 12th consecutive year

Sri Lankan consumers voted Dialog as the 'Telecommunication Brand of the Year' for a record twelfth year running at the SLIM-KANTAR People's Awards 2023. Voted for by the public to recognise brands that have made a profound impression in the minds of the people of Sri Lanka, the People's Awards crowns the brands that have captured the hearts of the people.

Dialog was awarded the 'Telecommunication Brand of the Year' for an unprecedented twelfth consecutive year, a testament to its unwavering commitment to empowering and enriching Sri Lankan lives and enterprises, while recognising the company's pioneering role in innovation and digital transformation, driving Sri Lanka towards becoming a digital nation.

Commenting, Amali Nanayakkara, Group Chief Marketing Officer of Dialog Axiata PLC said, "We are grateful and humbled to have been recognised as the 'Telecommunication Brand of the Year' for the twelfth consecutive year. We are deeply



honoured to be recognised as a brand that has positively impacted the lives of Sri Lankan people, creating meaningful and lasting connections.

This award is a testament to our unwavering commitment to our customers and our continuous efforts to deliver 'The Future. Today'. We thank our customers for their trust and loyalty in choosing Dialog as their preferred telecommunication provider."

This year was the seventeenth edition of the 'SLIM-KANTAR People's Awards',

organised by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing, the national body for marketing in Sri Lanka. The awardees for various categories are chosen solely by people's verdict through a nationwide quantitative face to face research, covering males and females between the ages of 15 to 60 years, over a period of five months using a structured questionnaire. The Awards recognize brands and personalities that personally appeal to the minds of the people of Sri Lanka.

CMS celebrates 25th anniversary in Sri Lanka

CMS, one of the best-established IT companies in Sri Lanka, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala celebration on March 7, 2023, at the Lotus Ballroom, Shangri La Colombo. The Director-General of BOI, Renuka Weerakone, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

The event was attended by several dignitaries and affiliated partners from Europe, including Messrs. Ronald Reich & Dino Reich, co-founders of European Computer Services, Emmanuel Pouillet, managing director of Bluecorp, and Olivier Loschi (CTO) and Johan Abbink (CBDO) of Redcorp SRL.

CMS, which started with just three hires in 1996, has now grown close to 150 staff as it celebrated its 25th anniversary. The company currently has clients in Europe, the US, and APAC, across multiple industries, providing diverse technical talent from Sri Lanka. CMS is located at ISO/IEC 27001-certified offices at Access Towers, Colombo 02.

What sets CMS apart is that the original



partners and many management team members are still intact after 25 years, preserving the company culture and its focus on people. The long service award ceremony was a testimony to the success of CMS where 47 employees were awarded for their loyal service to the company ranging from five to twenty-five years. This included the very first employee, Nishantha Amarasuriya who is currently serving as a director at CMS.

In her speech, Renuka Weerakone

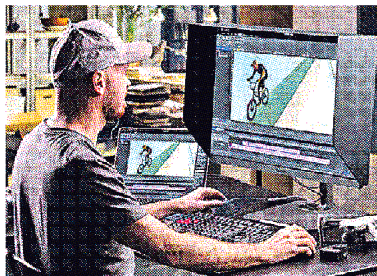
highlighted the importance of Foreign Direct Investments in Sri Lanka and said CMS has been a pioneer in taking Sri Lanka to the world for excellence as an IT offshore provider. She praised CMS for empowering Sri Lankan professionals to experience global trends in the industry and harness that experience and knowledge in their work with global clients. Weerakone also commended CMS for training hundreds of software engineers and uplifting the SLK tech industry.

ViewSonic launches world's first professional colour monitor for designers & content creators

ViewSonic Corp., a leading global provider of visual solutions, has launched the ColorPro VP76 premium monitor series in Sri Lanka, designed for content creators in fields such as photography, design, video editing, and animation.

These monitors offer precise color accuracy and come equipped with an extended ColorPro Wheel for OSD settings, photo and video editing software, and color calibration. The monitors are now available for purchase on ViewSonic's website and flagship store in Sri Lanka.

"When it comes to design, color is king, and calibration is key. We are proud to introduce our flagship model - the ColorPro VP2776, which takes color accuracy and creator-forward design to the next level," said Oscar Lin, General Manager of the Monitor Business Unit at ViewSonic. "With its advanced features and pro-creator tools, we aim to be the first choice for



professionals and prosumers."

These monitors are compatible with Mac and VESA DisplayHDR 400 and offer a film-standard wide color gamut of 98% DCI-P3, which is Pantone-validated. This enables users to view consistent and spectacular colors across different screens.

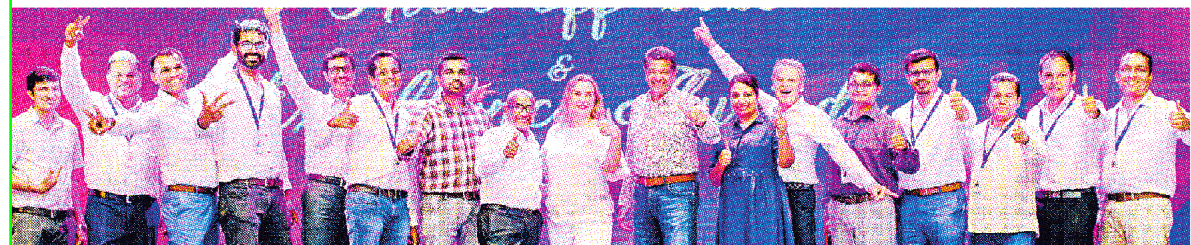
The Nano IPS technology allows for crisp and fine details, even for slow-motion captures. With a fast refresh rate of 165Hz, the VP76 Series is ideal for animators, video editors, and game developers who require

accurate color and smooth visuals for minute edits and movements.

The ColorPro VP76 Series has a 27-inch 4K VESA DisplayHDR 400 Nano IPS display with a resolution of 2560 x 1440. It comes with an exclusive ColorPro™ Wheel that allows for instant access to compatible Adobe Creative Suite and Capture One editing software, color calibration, and OSD settings. Other features include a magnetic shading hood and ambient backstage light, professional color accuracy validated by Pantone, and ICCSync Color Matching Technology.

The monitor's fast refresh rate of up to 165Hz ensures seamless graphics, and the ultimate connectivity is achieved with a 90W USB-C port. Overall, the ColorPro VP76 Series is a top-of-the-line option for content creators who require professional-grade color accuracy and seamless graphics.

99x celebrates top performers of 2022 and long-standing employees



99x kicked off 2023 recently at its annual kick-off ceremony themed 'To Reset and Rebuild', held at Shangri-La Colombo.

99x Chairman Dag Honningsvåg, Founder and CEO Mano Sekaram, the senior leadership team, and employees attended the event where the strategic plan for 2023 was presented to all the participants by Mano Sekaram.

During the ceremony, 99x Chief Operating Officer Shehani Seneviratne gave an operational overview of 2022 and explained how 99x was able to achieve tremendous success during a challenging year.

"Being able to triple our revenues from where we were in 2020 is a significant achievement for us. As we move forward into 2023, it's time for us to Reset and Rebuild to better respond to the new winds of change brought on by the prevailing

situation", said 99x Founder and CEO Mano Sekaram.

"We will remain committed to getting closer to our customers, moving up the value chain, fueling growth through new acquisitions, and executing through global delivery teams. Our ultimate goal is to create opportunities for all Xians to become global tech professionals".

During the same day, 99x recognized its best-performing employees in 2022 at the 99x Excellence Awards 2022, celebrating exceptional performance across all company areas. The winners were recognized for their outstanding achievements under each of the company's core values.

The award ceremony also included recipients of the CEO's award and those who had completed 10 and 20 years of dedicated service. In

addition, the best project team was also recognized for their outstanding contribution to the company's success.

The awards ceremony was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the entire 99x team and showcased the company's commitment to excellence in all aspects of its operations.

Headquartered in Norway, 99x is a product engineering company co-creating well-engineered, innovative digital products for the Scandinavian market. Its expertise has been proven through a portfolio of over 150 impactful global digital products developed since 2004, together with leading Independent Software Vendors (ISVs). 99x employs over 400 plus technology and product specialists, who are high achievers, creative thinkers, and team players.

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Local start-up Duzzcall set to revolutionize communication for businesses

Duzzcall, an innovative patented Sri Lankan start-up, is geared to revolutionize local and international communication in the country by allowing business subscribers to use traditional office phone lines free-of-charge, simply by using data calls.

Duzzcall is a cutting-edge app that enables corporates to have WhatsApp like data calls with their customers while having the calls connected to their P ABX system. Through a plug-and-play device, Duzzcall transforms any fixed-line calling system with internet connection into a data-enabled calling service that bypasses traditional landlines. This means Duzzcall cost is only your data usage.

Deepak Ramnani, Managing Director and Shageevan Sachithanandan, Director of Duzzcall stated, "For years now, we have all got used to connecting with loved ones all over the world on data through apps such as WhatsApp and Viber without having to spend on traditional voice calls that charge exorbitantly per minute. But this option was never available for companies and businesses. Now, for the first time in Sri Lanka and soon internationally, we are happy to announce that businesses can call their customers through data calls and reduce their phone bills tremendously while also enjoying all the call functionalities they are used to on their normal office phone system. If your customers have downloaded your business mobile app with Duzzcall Integration, calls will be charged as data calls, making them considerably cheaper than standard calls, and depending on your data package.



From left: Duzzcall Managing Director Deepak Ramnani and Director Shageevan Sachithanandan Pic by Pradeep Pathirana

Organisations of any size and across all industries can benefit from Duzzcall. Banks, insurance companies, telco operators, travel agencies, Hotels and similar organizations. The simple and affordable pricing structure of Duzzcall includes a one-time Installation Fee and monthly subscription charge per line with detailed E-bills.

Duzzcall, web site is www.duzzcall.com, mobile apps will be available for download from App Store, Google Play Store and Windows Store.



The Government of Sri Lanka Seeks Transaction Advisors to Assist in Divesting Selected State-Owned Enterprises

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has mandated the State-Owned Enterprise Restructuring Unit (SRU) to divest the following State-Owned Enterprises.

Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd

Canwill Holdings Pvt Ltd

(Grand Hyatt Hotel Colombo)

Hotel Developers Lanka Ltd

(Hilton Hotel Colombo)

Litro Gas Lanka Ltd including

Litro Gas Terminals (Pvt) Ltd

(LPG retailing, filling and storage)

To assist with such divestments, SRU seeks to appoint reputed, qualified and experienced firms to provide transaction advisory services.

Interested firms may refer to the link <https://www.treasury.gov.lk/web/sru> for details of the entities being divested and the information /documentation to be provided when responding to this advertisement.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) and responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) must be submitted no later than 16.00 hours (IST) on 27th April 2023.

State-Owned Enterprise Restructuring Unit

3rd Floor, Lotus Building, Temple Trees, Colombo 03. Sri Lanka.



for more info

Hemas Hospitals unveils modern mammography system for early breast cancer detection

With the rising number of breast cancer cases among women in Sri Lanka, one of the country's leading private healthcare providers, Hemas Hospitals, introduced its new, state-of-the-art Selenia Dimensions mammography system in an effort to combat the growing trend and facilitate advanced detection and prevention capabilities for patients.

With a shortfall of essential facilities and general awareness on breast cancer in Sri Lanka, the country suffers an alarming 42.5 percent mortality rate for breast cancer patients.

Consequently, Hemas Hospitals took proactive action to contribute towards minimizing the growing risk of breast cancer by introducing a new mammogram system at its Wattala premises on March 23rd, which was unveiled by Hemas Group Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Kasturi C. Wilson.

"As we unveil the latest addition at Hemas Hospitals, a state of the art mammogram machine with the latest 3D technology, we mark a significant milestone in our commitment to women's health.

This machine which also has the ability to perform biopsies will allow the detection of



From left: Dr. Lakith Peiris with Hemas Hospitals - Wattala General Manager, Prabhan Jayanath Gunawardena

early signs of breast cancer, enabling timely treatment and care. We encourage all women to prioritize their health and undergo regular mammogram screenings, as early detection is the key to successful treatment," she noted.

The mammogram system obtained by the hospital is a Selenia Dimensions System 6000 Package. Its 3D mammography imaging capabilities set new standards for earlier detection of breast cancers and clearer lesion images, allowing for easy and accurate detection, well before anything can be felt by hand.

In essence, a mammogram

is an X-ray image of the breast which doctors use to detect any early signs of breast cancer, and in some cases, the presence of a growing cancer in the breast can be detected up to three years before it can be physically felt. Most healthcare professionals opt for performing mammograms, as it has proven to be an excellent tool to spot breast cancer.

For the first time, patients in the Gampaha district can save time and money as they are no longer required to travel to Colombo, and don't have to undergo uncomfortable and painful screening sessions from existing mammogram facilities



Hemas Group CEO Kasturi Chelleraja at the opening of the new mammogram unit

in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, Hemas Hospitals Managing Director Dr. Lakith Peiris said, "The new state-of-the-art mammogram system has undoubtedly increased our capabilities to deal with breast cancer with the highest accuracy and confidence. We are excited to lead this evolution in Sri Lanka's private healthcare sector, and look forward to other innovations and state-of-the-art technologies that Hemas Hospitals will introduce in the near future."

Medicheks opens drive-in laboratory testing centre

Medicheks opened a convenient drive-in laboratory testing center at its flagship landmark at 104 Havelock Road Colombo 05.

The main objective of opening the new facility is to provide fast and easy medical testing to people in Colombo, especially for Colombo-based office executives, as they tend to neglect their regular testing and check-ups due to the inconvenience at current testing locations.

The new laboratory testing centre opening also demonstrates Medicheks' desire to widen its service portfolio beyond providing corporate and shipping medical certification and consultations and offer convenient healthcare access to people in Colombo. To mark this special occasion, the organization unveiled its new logo that redefines the values of Medicheks to the public.

The ceremonial opening was attended by Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Ajith Perera, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Nimali Uduwela, along with a host of distinguished invitees and members of the staff.

Medicheks said it is proud of its ISO accredited state-of-the-art laboratory which assures the public of quality laboratory testing. In addition, Medicheks provides services such as vaccinations, E.C.G., X-Ray, ultrasound scanning, audiology unit, physiotherapy, OPD consultations, pre-employment medicals and shipping and



Dr. Ajith Perera Dr. Nimali Uduwela

corporate medicals.

Commenting on the launch, Medicheks Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Ajith Perera said, "Since 1981, Medicheks has come a long way and I am extremely proud to witness the growth and evolution of our organization especially after I took over the company in 2015.

Investing in a state-of-the-art laboratory, introducing new technology and continuously focusing on staff training has enabled us to be market leaders when it comes to shipping medicals and earn a good reputation among leading corporates and hotels for our mobile corporate medicals."

Dr. Nimali Uduwela, CEO of Medicheks commented, "Our Strength is the tradition of personalized attention and caring provided to our customers. I passionately believe in prevention and certainly timely testing helps in prevention. Extending our services with a convenient testing facility in the heart of Colombo is another step in our journey towards preventing communicable and non-communicable diseases."

Dr. Gurpal Singh shares developments in Orthopaedic Oncology treatment at Annual SLOA Academic Session

Dr. Gurpal Singh, Orthopaedic Surgeon attached to Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital - Singapore, was recently in Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lanka Orthopaedic Association (SLOA).

He was the guest of honour at its 14th Annual Academic Session's Inauguration Ceremony and delivered the oration, "Evolution of Musculoskeletal Oncology" which explored the latest developments in the diagnosis and treatment of orthopaedic oncology or cancer in the musculoskeletal system.

Explaining the progress in the field of orthopaedic since he began his surgical training, Dr. Gurpal explained that the training of orthopaedic surgeons is more regulated now, with residency programmes offering frequent subspecialty rotations. Technology also plays a major role in the trainings, clinical practice, and surgeries.

"Some of the recent technological advancements in the field of orthopaedic include robotic-assisted surgery and 3D printing, new implant materials, engineered stem cells, fast-track rehabilitation, orthobiologicals, and minimally invasive surgical techniques," he said.

Detailing some of the limitations that have been

overcome in orthopaedic oncology, Dr. Gurpal explained how amputations which were considered the gold standard for local treatment of bone cancer are no longer the norm. "Surgeons can now operate safely on large tumors thanks to improved systemic cancer therapy, superior biomaterials, and enhanced implant designs.

Additionally, increasingly refined surgical techniques have enabled complex nervous and vascular reconstructions," he explained.

Additionally, patients who sustain bone breaks, known as pathological fractures, due to underlying bone cancer were traditionally treated with amputation. However, recent data indicate that limb-salvage surgery can be safely performed for patients with pathological fractures, subject to carefully following oncological principles.

Dr. Gurpal who sub specialises in orthopaedic oncology, joint replacement, complex limb reconstruction and sports injuries, has over 15 years of experience in treating bone and soft tissue tumors (benign and malignant), robotic-assisted joint replacement, complex limb reconstruction, and arthroscopic (keyhole) surgeries of the hip and knee, including sports injuries and meniscus/ligament reconstruction.



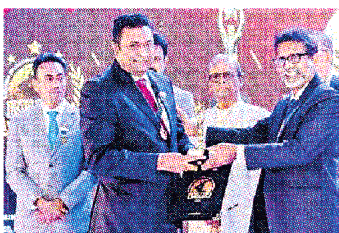
Dr. Gurpal Singh

Royal Nursing Home wins Platinum Award for 'Best Healthcare Provider of the Year'

Royal Nursing Home (Pvt.) Ltd., the elderly care service provider that adheres to ISO 9001:2015 standards, recently won the Platinum Award for the Best Healthcare Service Provider of the Year in the large scale category at the BWIO Awards organized by the Business World International Organization.

Manuja Hewawasam, Chairman of Royal Nursing Home (Pvt.) Ltd., received the award at a gala event held at the Taj Samudra Hotel.

The company has previously won many national level awards for its excellent service delivery. Hewawasam, commenting on the award said that they plan to open branches in England and Canada by the end of this year to expand its services, renowned for professionalism as well as warmth, to elders in other countries. This



Manuja Hewawasam receiving the award

would help Sri Lanka earn much needed foreign revenue.

Royal Nursing Home was established in 2007 with 10 nurses. By now, it is a very large organization that employs over 900 staff members and a total asset valuation of over Rs.3 billion. It managed to become a pillar of the economy by winning hearts and minds of the customers through providing the highest quality of service to the senior citizens.

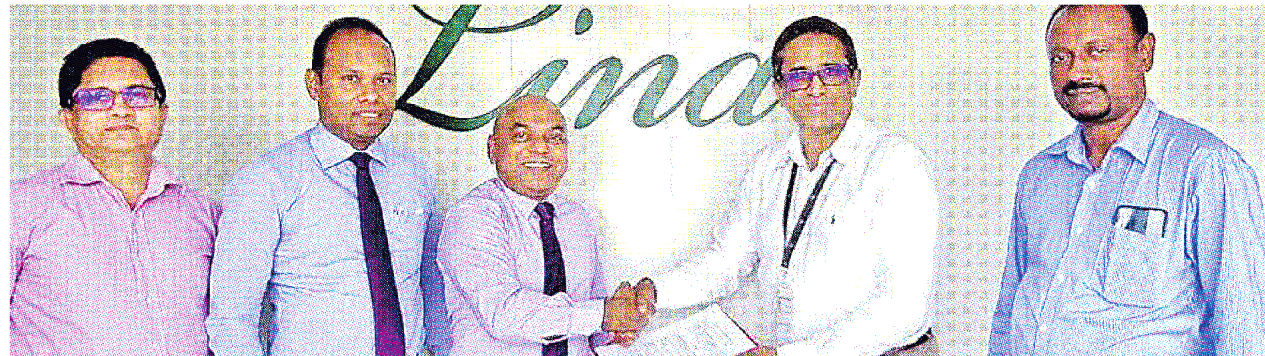
Lina signs contract manufacturing agreement with TRUVIC

Further committing to its nation-building efforts, Lina Manufacturing - the pharmaceutical manufacturing segment of Sunshine Healthcare Lanka (SHL), recently signed a contract manufacturing agreement with TRUVIC Private Limited.

The partnership will help Lina to fulfill its corporate purpose of bringing good things to the lives of Sri Lankans through quality, affordable pharma products.

Lina Manufacturing has been engaged in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector for over ten years and is a thriving local manufacturer supplying a large variety of respiratory products to the Government sector and private sector. Lina has pioneered the development of local respiratory products with its patented respiratory inhaler device and continues to invest significantly in R&D to introduce more products.

As Sri Lanka's first Respiratory Care Research and Manufacturing facility, Lina Manufacturing produces a range of respiratory pharmaceuticals and devices, including Beclomet, Flutivent, Salbuvent, Prazolin, Winterpan and the award-winning Ventohaler inhalers. In December



From left -Upul Bandara, Head of Plant Operations at Lina Manufacturing / Ajith Munasinghe, Head of New Business Development at TRUVIC, Palitha Thenuwara, Managing Director/ CEO at TRUVIC, T. Sayandhan, Chief Executive Officer at Lina Manufacturing and S. Niranjan, General Manager - Operations at Lina Manufacturing

2020, Sunshine Holdings announced its healthcare business's strategic merger consisting of Sunshine Healthcare Lanka and Healthguard Pharmacy with Akbar Pharmaceuticals, Lina Manufacturing and Lina Spiro—the business units of Akbar Healthcare.

The merger's finalisation elevated Sunshine Healthcare as Sri Lanka's first fully integrated healthcare company, starting from manufacturing up to

retailing healthcare products, including last-mile distribution across the country for all healthcare products. The company now operates in all five segments of the healthcare supply chain, namely research and development (R&D), manufacturing, importation, distribution and retail.

TRUVIC Private Limited markets high-quality pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare products, which are offered at affordable prices to

the general public in Sri Lanka and other Asian countries. Driven by the visionary leadership of its founder Palitha Thenuwara, TruVic has reached millions of people through its ever-growing supply and distribution network. The company is strengthened by its partnerships with pharmaceutical industry leaders in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Australia and Sri Lanka and other principals worldwide.

Vision Care expands Kurunegala branch

Vision Care has extended its Kurunegala branch by adding a state-of-the-art Eye and ENT Diagnostic Centre to provide customers with a wider selection of eye and hearing care solutions all under one roof.

The new wing of the branch was officially declared open by Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. Sarath Thennakoon, Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. Anoma Jayathilleka, Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. Pradeep Narangoda, Consultant ENT Surgeon Dr. A.B. Kiridena, Consultant ENT Surgeon Dr. Madawika Dayaratne, Vision Care's Chairman Dasantha Fonseka and Managing Director Janaka Fonseka, along with several Vision Care staff members and well-wishers.

Located on the 3rd floor, Aselro Building,



Opening of the new Eye and ENT Diagnostic Centre at the Kurunegala branch by Vision Care's Chairman Dasantha Fonseka, Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. Sarath Thennakoon, Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr. Anoma Jayathilleka and Consultant ENT Surgeon Dr. A.B. Kiridena

Kurunegala, the diagnostic centre is a continuation of Vision Care's longstanding presence of over 20 years in the city of Kurunegala and underscores the company's commitment towards delivering eye and hearing care of international standards to customers living in and around the city.

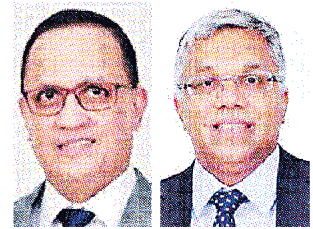
Patients visiting the newly-opened diagnostic centre will be able to gain access to eye and ENT consultations with some of the leading specialists in the region. They can also avail themselves to advanced Eye and ENT diagnostic tests including OCT, Visual Field Test, Fundus Photography and Vision Therapy.

Lanka Hospitals posts Rs.4bn pre-tax profit in FY22

Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC, in an announcement to the Colombo Stock Exchange stated that it posted a profit before tax of Rs. 4 billion for the financial year ended 31st December 2022 compared to the Rs. 2.2 billion PBT reported in the corresponding period of the prior year.

The group's financials indicated that it had also reported a profit after tax of Rs. 3.2 billion in contrast to Rs. 2.23 billion reported in the prior year with 47 percent growth in its EPS. The growth in profits attributable to a healthy operating profit and a high investment income as reflected in the group financial statements.

Commenting on the performance, Group Chairman Dr. Bandula Wijesiriwardena stated that the consistent performance of Lanka Hospitals has brought a greater sense of financial stability to the Group and is reflective of increased levels of customer confidence



Dr. Bandula Wijesiriwardena Deepthi Lokuarachchi

and the perseverance of all stakeholders involved in the business.

He went on to state that the Board of Directors is very optimistic that the two companies in the Group will continue to thrive towards reaching excellence while adding meaningful value to all stakeholders in the business. The Group Chief Executive Officer Deepthi Lokuarachchi said he is very pleased to share his thoughts on the Group performance which presents the dynamism displayed by The Lanka Hospitals Group in creating a positively differentiated approach towards maintaining high

standards of care in patient safety, accountability and the provision of medical services during one of the most difficult periods in the Group's history. He went on to state that the value additions made to Lanka Hospitals customers, shareholders, staff and other business partners remained noteworthy and immense

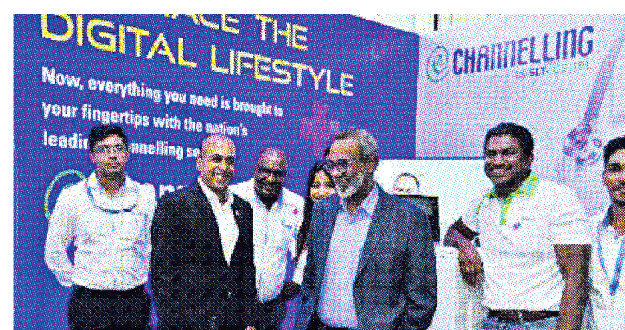
The hospital group serves over 300,000 patients annually with the capacity of 300 beds, six dedicated ICUs, 10 General Operating Theatres, two Cardiac Theatres, and a state-of-the-art Cath Lab. In its network, the hospital works along with 950 registered medical consultants and highly trained and skilled medical and support staff. The hospital's reference laboratory effectively functions with a large network of regional laboratories, 35 fully owned sample collection centres, and over 1,100 third-party affiliated sample collection centres.

SLT-Mobitel's eChannelling powers Medicare 2023 exhibition

Reaffirming its commitment to bringing cutting-edge digital health solutions, eChannelling, Sri Lanka's largest channelling network, powered Medicare 2023, one of the most anticipated healthcare exhibitions in the country.

Held recently at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), the event attracted participants from both B2C and B2B sectors, showcasing eChannelling's capacity in business and digital lifestyle services.

As the first software development and ICT service provider to enter the digital healthcare industry in Sri Lanka, eChannelling over the years has transformed the healthcare industry through ground-breaking solutions. In addition, Mindrone



technology which garnered significant attention, showcased how technology can help ease stress management and conduct stability analysis on individuals through a headband integrated to a drone system.

The event was graced by Chandika Vitharena, Chief Executive Officer of Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd, along


with other dignitaries who attended the opening ceremony. Partnering with the exhibition was a fruitful exercise as eChannelling was able to further expand its relationships with local and international hospitals and medical institutes, demonstrating its extensive knowledge and expertise in the digital healthcare industry.

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PAUL NEWMAN'S ROLEXES CELEBRATING HIS RACING CAREER UP FOR AUCTION

Two Rolex that carried "sentimental" value for actor Paul Newman will be auctioned as part of a broad collection of the late icon's personal effects, with the timepieces each expected to earn up to \$1 million. **AFP**

stripesandchecksinc.com Prices starting from Rs.5800/-

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Courtyard by Marriott Colombo celebrates the holy month of Ramadan



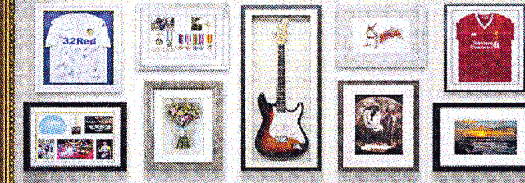
The recently launched Courtyard by Marriott Colombo, part of Marriott Bonvoy's extraordinary portfolio of 30 hotel brands, is marking the holy month of Ramadan with a special Iftar Buffet throughout the entire month. From 24th March until the arrival of the Eid

festival, guests can break fast at the Courtyard by Marriott Colombo and share the spirit of Ramadan with family and friends by enjoying the Iftar specialties at the **Beira Kitchen from 6pm to 10.30pm daily**. It will be followed by an expansive dinner buffet with culinary specialties

that make it on par with international standards. The sumptuous buffet starts off with a variety of Fresh Juices, Spring Rolls, Samosa, Congee, Healthy Salads and Dates before moving on to favourites from Arabic and other international cuisines such as Hummus, Moutab, Tabouleh, Pita bread,

Biryani, Sri Lankan hoppers, Pastas, Carvery and many more. Indoor and outdoor seating allows guests to enjoy the ambience of their preference while taking in the stunning views of the city of Colombo from the Beira Kitchen. **The Iftar Buffet is Rs. 6,600 per person.**

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International Hummus Festival at Hilton Colombo

text Nuzla Rizkiya

The Hilton Colombo is presenting their International Hummus Festival for the 2nd consecutive year in the form of an extravagant, mouth-watering international Ramadan dinner buffet at Graze Kitchen, which will be taking place from the 23rd of March to 20th of April 2023.

In addition to the array of special break-fast items offered through the international buffet, the hotel is showcasing 6 varieties of authentic hummus consisting the Plain, Cashew, Minced Beef, Sun Dried Tomatoe, Pumpkin and Cinnamon Hummus along with the special introduction of the hotel's special sweet 'Chocolate and Coffee Hummus.'

"The conceptual story behind the International Hummus Festival this year roots to our experience in UAE where we understood the real meaning of Ramadan" reveals Iromal Perera, Director of Cluster Marketing and Communication. "We understood that the festival is more about a celebration with family, your loved ones and people in order to bring them together rather than a ritual practiced only by Muslims every year."

The International buffet features a wide range of cuisine from all around the world including the non-traditional and traditional Sri Lankan corner, the expanded Middle Eastern cuisine range along with the specialised Shawarma corner, the Indian corner with both veg and non-veg options, the Japanese and Western sections. The buffet is also accompanied with an eye-catching and mouth-watering array of desserts, mocktails and cocktails.

The festival will consist of two sittings, starting at 06.30pm running till 09.00pm, and a second sitting from 09.00pm till 11.00pm with the starting price per person beginning at Rs 7,188 nett.

Striving to be the incomparable hotel brand in the country, the Hilton Colombo every year tries to present their Ramadan offerings under different thematic titles for the international Hummus Festival. Accordingly, diners arriving at Graze kitchen this time will first will be treated with a **Live digital art storytelling illustration by Niwanthi Weerathunga**, showcasing the Arabian tale live which will happen over the weekends of the holy month. Adding to this, diners can also visit the **Mehendi Art Corner** located in the lobby to have their preferred Mehendi designs drawn by the talented Mehendi artist Mrs. Ibrahim to take home a memory of their experience.

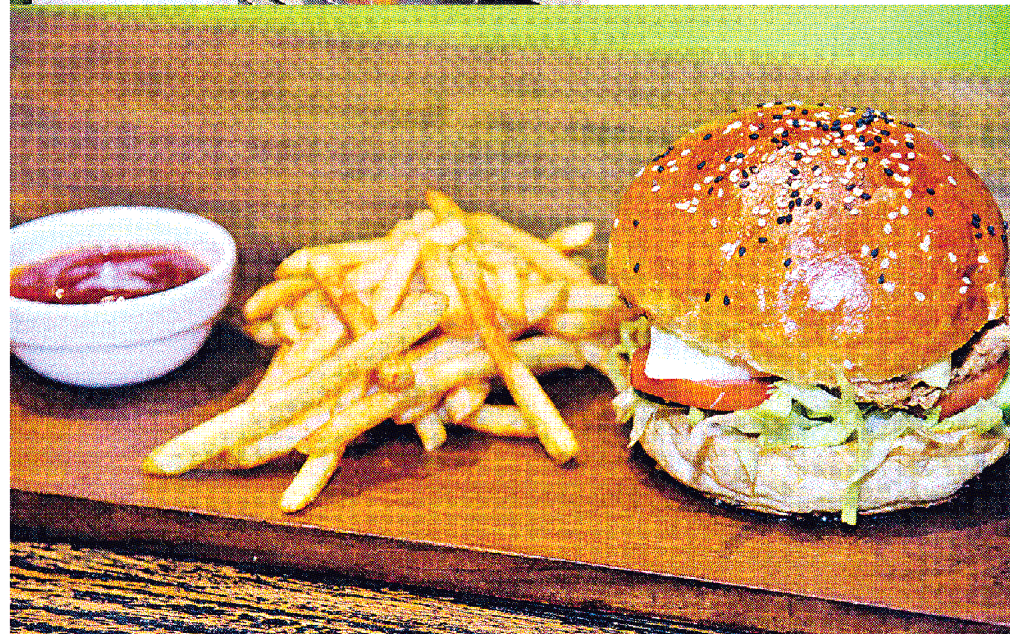
For diners preferring to enjoy Iftar in the comfort of their own homes, an iftar delivery menu consisting of **Arabic platters, chicken or mutton kanji, beef kibbeh, mains like chicken, beef and mutton biryani sawans** accompanied with delicious side dishes together with the **authentic range of hummus** are also available for delivery with free delivery services provided within Colombo and the surrounding areas. The service is accessible for reservation, orders or booking of tickets and iftar meals online through the website shop.hiltoncolombo1.com. Prior reservations are highly recommended.



text Panchali Illankoon

The newest restaurant entering the culinary scene in Colombo is ElPodio, a family-friendly restaurant that aims to offer unique culinary experiences to their guests. Located in the heart of Rajagiriya, casually tucked away at the busy but serene Royal Gardens, ElPodio officially opened for business on 24th March 2023.

PHOTOS NISAL BADUGE



The Newest Café In Colombo

Elpodio

ElPodio is the newest family friendly venture of the Podium Sports Restaurant and Pub in Thalawathugoda and differentiates itself by positioning ElPodio as a restaurant that combines classic techniques with modern influences and locally sourced ingredients in a casual, lounge setting that is suitable for all.

"We love to feed people and ElPodio is an extension of that love. We launched ElPodio because we want people to just come and enjoy themselves at the restaurant. ElPodio was created to cater to everyone; whether it's a casual coffee with friends, an intimate dinner, celebrations of a special occasion, an outing with friends and family or even as a space for business. Whatever the occasion, we've got the right ambience and good food in store for you" shared a representative of ElPodio.



The Food

ElPodio menu features an extensive variety of dishes ranging from salads, soups and snacks to succulent meat and seafood dishes, wraps and burgers and more. As a restaurant that has just launched, ElPodio wishes to offer a large variety to their diners during its early days in order to ascertain customer favourites to customise and specialise their menu over time.

The ElPodio Bakery produces fresh baked goods daily, including breads, cakes and other sweet treats and pastisseries. The Bakery is poised to be a valuable addition to the restaurant's aim to be a reputed place for parties and special occasions as customers can order and customise cakes directly from the ElPodio Bakery at the same venue. Over time, the ElPodio Bakery aims to offer gluten free products, sourdough variety of breads and seasonal treats made with generational family recipes.

The ElPodio Restaurant menu offers an exciting breakfast range with dishes the

likes of the full English breakfast, granola, French toast and more as well as a specially curated kids' menu. The food menu also includes soups, salads, grilled meats, pasta, rice/noodles, pizza, burgers, bites and desserts. For beverages, ElPodio offers fresh juices, freshly brewed coffee and tea and much more.

Every dish, be it a tuna steak or a crispy chicken burger, is made fresh to order and served to the customer at the earliest. ElPodio prides itself in using quality locally sourced ingredients and believes in serving portions that are value for money.

"We've got great plans for ElPodio and we invite everyone to come, dine and see for yourself what we offer. I believe ElPodio has what it takes to become a favourite among the foodie community thanks to our unique blend of classic and modern cuisine, friendly service and our warm ambience."

Every Day 06am 10pm



PHOTOS: Shareefa Nazlun



COLOMBO CULTURAL SHOW

An Enjoyable Outdoor Experience of Authentic Sri Lankan Dance

Weekly under the Nuga Tree at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour

There has always been a massive void in Colombo for anyone, local or foreign, to savour a regularly held authentic Sri Lankan cultural show that reflects the diverse dance and drums of Sri Lanka. The Colombo Cultural Show has filled that void with a sleek, professional and highly engaging cultural show encompassing a repertoire of ten dance and drum items that takes the audience on a journey of upcountry, low country, Sabaragamuwa and folk dances.

Held weekly under the beautiful expanse of the Nuga Tree tucked within the gardens of the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour on Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7, the dance troupe has been carefully curated by Transcend Drive (Pvt) Limited, specifically for the Colombo Cultural Show, with some of the best dancers and drummers in the country. Besides being a charming troupe dancing in perfect rhythm, feeding off each other's infectious energy,



Colombo Cultural Show showcases a beautiful capsule of Sri Lankan dance in a picturesque setting

the dancers also showcase amazing versatility in audience engagement, inviting them to join in some of the dances, which to a visitor is a most memorable experience.

Sitting on comfortable cushions under the canopy of the Nuga Tree which is an extraordinarily beautiful setting for the Colombo Cultural Show, while sipping a fresh fruit juice and munching on crispy cassava chips (all included in the entrance ticket), the show begins at a punctual 6.30 pm. It runs for a total of 70 minutes after which the audience is once again allowed to interact with the troupe, taking photographs and selfies as they please.

The show begins with a traditional pooja dance to the accompaniment of melodious lilting lyrics embellished by Sri Lankan drums, to the vibrant dance of the masks, going into the skillful artistry of the twirling rabanas (disc shaped drums). Add the comedic Salu Paliya, the Kandyan Ves danced originally only at the Temple of the Tooth, Thelme the most famous of low country dances and a trip to the paddy field for the harvest dance and you've got a pretty good idea of the diversity of Sri Lankan dance. The awesome fire dance is proceeded with the drum orchestra, bringing out some friendly yet skillful competition within the drum troupe and your journey of dance and drums in Sri Lanka is more than complete!

Tickets are available at all leading hotels and will even be delivered in and around Colombo, while transport is provided to and from the venue for in-house guests.



Today on the Buzz we are speaking to another young future leader, who is well on his way in making changes that this country deserves to see. Sameera Emal Wickramasinghe Gunasekera is the eldest of a family of 03 children. Emal was born to Earl Gunasekera and Sujatha Ranjani Gunasekera a reputed well established business family in the country. Emal Gunasekera is a proud student of Royal College.

On a personal note, knowing Emal for the past few years, his sense of love and loyalty towards Sri Lanka has always been remarkable although his opportunities in Australia seemed better, he believed in coming back, and being a part of this country's growth.

He is a firm believer in giving back and unity within the family. They have helped shape many in the community and helped people around the island to live a better life.

Today I speak to this young passionate individual about what keeps him buzzing.

WHAT WAS YOUR TOPIC OF INTEREST WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP? WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO BECOME? I was very eager to learn about Aviation and even wanted to join the Airforce and become a Fighter-jet Pilot when I was growing up. Although I didn't pursue this, I started PPL (Private Pilot License) as well.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO DO WHAT YOU DO? I always had a desire to learn about different fields. Every area of study; be it, economics, legal, business administration was an intellectual stimulation for me, which inspired me to explore more into those fields as a Professional.



Emal Gunasekera

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OUR YOUNG LEADERS, WHO ARE LEAVING SRI LANKA?

Sri Lanka is a country with a plethora of possibilities for everyone with potential. Yes, undoubtedly the country is at a struggling stage, but I believe as young leaders, it is us who has the strength to salvage this economy as well. I'm a product of free education system in Sri Lanka and I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to give back to the society and work in developing our country.

DO YOU SEE THE COUNTRY GOING IN THE CORRECT PATH FINANCIALLY?

There is a history of wrong decisions. But we cannot keep on passing the ball to whoever did wrong. At some point we have to stop thinking about the what ifs, should have and could have and start somewhere to build the economy and I believe although it would take time to see major results we are on the right track at least now.

WHERE DO YOU FEEL WE FAILED IN PROMOTING SRI LANKA?

Tourism of Sri Lanka is mainly sustained by the hospitality industry. However, certain unfortunate incidents over a period has instilled a wrong perspective about Sri Lanka in the global forum.

HOW WAS LIFE AT SCHOOL? Best days of my life!

IF YOU COULD MEET THE YOUNG YOU, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE HIM? Keep it simple. Live every second of your life! It's okay not to know answers for all the questions.

WHO HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST SUPPORTER?

My mother... My mother was there cheering me all the way to the top even on the days I felt like giving up...

WHAT QUALITIES IN PEOPLE REALLY MAKES YOU HAPPY / UPSET?

- **REALLY HAPPY** - Never giving up attitude.
- **REALLY UPSET** - Talking without knowing true facts.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OUR POLITICIANS IF YOU COULD ONE DAY ADDRESS THEM?

Make this country great, not yourself.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP 5 THINGS TO DO IN THE MORNING?

- Drink Water
- Listen to music
- Send a message to people that I care
- Discuss the schedule for the day
- Having breakfast

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY PUTS A SMILE ON YOU?

Seeing my favourite person.

TELL ME ABOUT LIFE AT HOME?

Nothing out of the ordinary. It's peaceful. It's rare to have all my family members together at home due to different schedules, but when we do, it's always a good time.

A BOOK YOU ENJOYED READING?

This answer might sound weird, but I enjoy reading materials regarding Law.

IF YOU CAN WAKE UP AS ANYONE, WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO WAKE UP AS? The President of Sri Lanka.

"At some point we have to stop thinking about the 'what ifs' and start somewhere to build the economy and I believe although it would take time to see major results we are on the right track at least now."



Unstoppable: Join ESAF in Raising Awareness for Endometriosis

The Endometriosis Support & Awareness Foundation (ESAF) is initiating an awareness event titled 'Unstoppable' which is scheduled to take place on the 31st of March 2023 at Nuga Rosmead from 6.45 pm to 9.00 PM. The event's core purpose is to raise awareness about Endometriosis and generate funding for ESAF, a non-profit foundation, which is currently self-funded.

The event promises to be an evening filled with insightful and inspiring conversations and will be led by Prof. Hemantha Senanayake. Participants will witness a thought-provoking panel discussion with other distinguished doctors as well and ESAF's founder, Rashani Meegama. In addition, the foundation will unveil a cinematic educational video produced by ESAF Sri Lanka. The evening will conclude with cocktails, music and dinner. If you wish to attend, tickets can be purchased by calling Himasha on +94 779988481. Each ticket is priced at Rs. 12,500

with proceeds going towards the foundation's fundraising activities. You can also choose to become a sponsor.

ESAF has mapped out a robust roadmap of awareness campaigns and projects to create broad awareness and promote early diagnosis and disease management. They work closely with medical and other experts in related areas, as well as global Endometriosis organisations and treatment facilities, to ensure that Sri Lankan women receive the best possible care and support.

What is Endometriosis?

Endometriosis is a debilitating disease that affects millions of women worldwide. It can cause immense pain, infertility/sub-fertility, chronic fatigue, and other debilitating symptoms. Unfortunately, there is no known cure for endometriosis. However, if diagnosed early, it can

be successfully managed. This is why it is crucial to create awareness at every level of society, including the primary medical care levels of our country. This is where the Endometriosis Support & Awareness Foundation (ESAF) comes in, striving to increase disease recognition, advocate for early diagnosis, and educate the public on successful disease management options.

Endometriosis is often misunderstood in Sri Lanka due to several reasons. There is a lack of awareness and education about the condition among the general public, healthcare professionals, and even among women themselves. As a result, many women may not be able to recognise the symptoms of endometriosis and may dismiss them as normal menstrual pain. Another aspect of this is the stigma surrounding women's reproductive health in Sri Lanka contributes to the misconceptions surrounding endometriosis. Women may be reluctant to seek medical attention

or discuss their symptoms due to cultural and social taboos surrounding menstruation and reproductive health.

Unfortunately, there is a severe gap with regards to primary medical care for early symptom recognition of patients who walk in with one or more symptoms that might be indicative of a possible endometriosis diagnosis. This means that affected women may not receive a proper diagnosis or treatment, leading to a delay in diagnosis and worsening of symptoms. Overall, the lack of awareness, stigma, and inadequate medical care for endometriosis in Sri Lanka contributes to the misunderstanding and underdiagnosis of the condition. This is why organisations like the Endometriosis Support & Awareness Foundation (ESAF) are working towards raising awareness and advocating for early diagnosis and treatment for endometriosis in Sri Lanka.



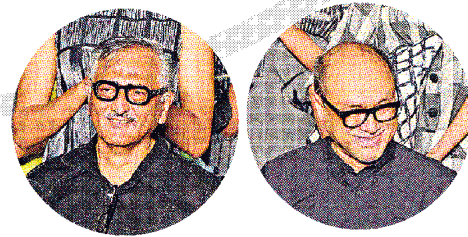
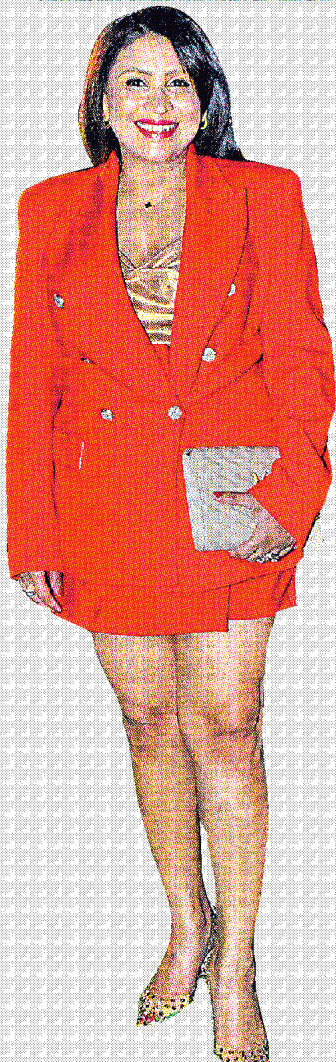
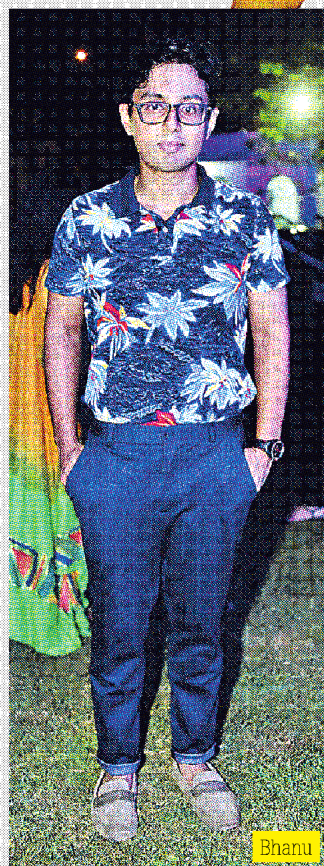
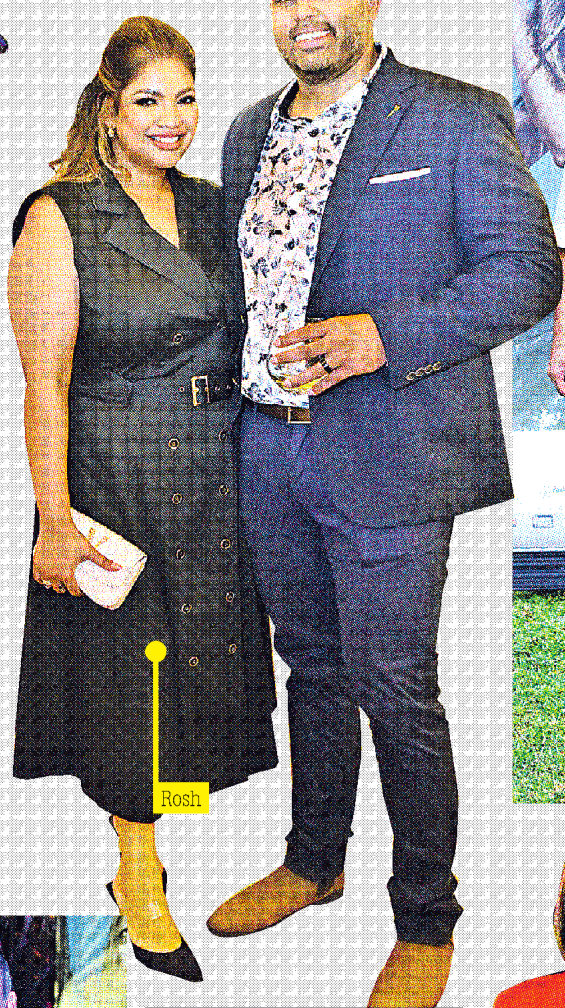
ESAF Sri Lanka Founder, Ms. Rashani Meegama

COLOMBO FASHION WEEK 2023



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PHOTOS BY Manoj Rathnayake, Nisal Baduge, Pradeep Pathirana, & Nilmal Siri Edirisinghe



CFW President, Ajai Vir Singh



CFW CEO Fazeena



Mayor of Colombo Rosy Senanayake



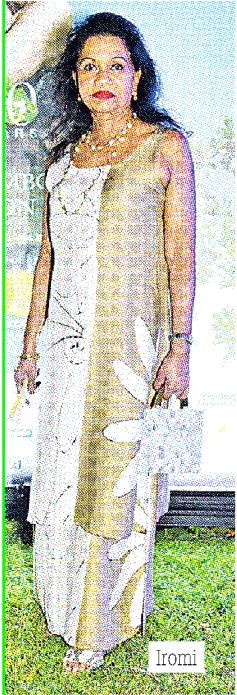
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Nadiya



Ramani



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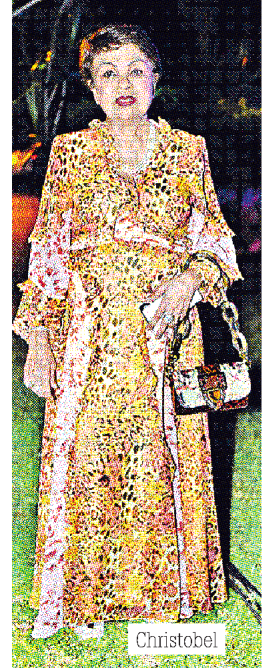
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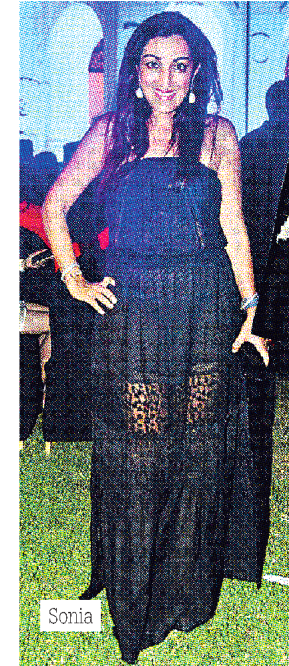
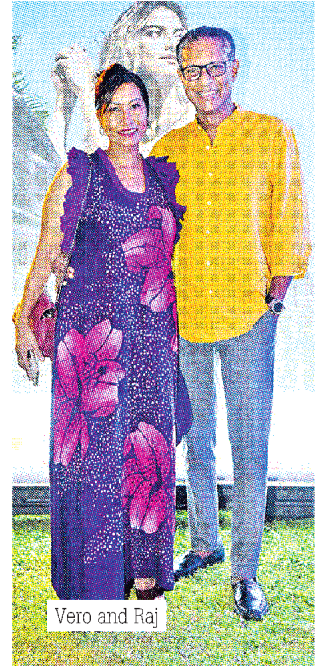
Christobel



Sonia



Vero and Raj



Editor-in-chief
Shyamalee Tudawe



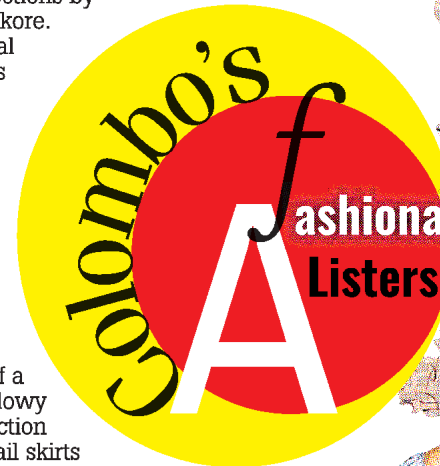
Hi!! COLOMBO IS TALKING ABOUT

COLOMBO FASHION WEEK SUMMER 2023



Prasad, Shyamalee, Aeshea and Dr Walter

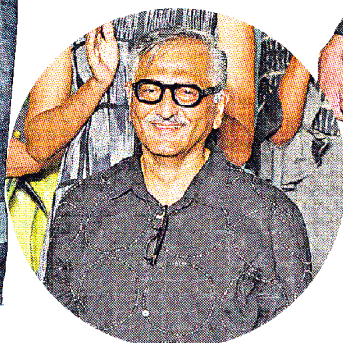
The 20th anniversary edition of Colombo Fashion Week took place last evening with a special preview of two collections by Dimuthu Sahabandu and Abraham and Thakore. The Mayor's Residence, an imposing colonial structure provided a formidable backdrop as Indian design duo Abraham and Thakore presented a fine collection that can be described as sharp. Monochrome outfits were punctuated with a green which can be described as a cross between lime and fluorescent. With India's rich textile heritage and easily available wide range of fabrics the design duo's choice of fabrics, colours and prints was simple but with an air of sophistication. Next up Sri Lankan design prodigy Dimuthu Sahabandu presented a collection of 16 garments that showcased his unbridled talent as a designer. Inspired by the recent events in Sri Lanka this collection conveyed a sense of a light at the end of the tunnel. Ethereal silhouettes in flowy fabrics formed the mainstay of his collection. His collection conveyed a vibe of being delicate yet strong. His fishtail skirts with pops of colour were exquisite. I was also delighted to see a couple of plus size models sporting his clothes on the runway. Finally, inclusivity on Colombo's fashion runways!



DIMUTHU SAHABANDU



ABRAHAM & THAKORE



Hi!!
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