



YOUR PAPER TODAY 18 PAGES

Harsha, Kabir and Eran RUMOURS ABOUT BACKING RW

- PARTY POLITICS IS NOT IMPORTANT-HARSHA
- READY TO MAKE A DECISION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRY-KABIR

BY YOHAN PERERA

In response to a query made by journalists as to whether himself, Harsha De Silva and Eran Wickramaratne are to back President Ranil Wickremesinghe, SJB MP Kabir Hashim said they are ready to make a decision on behalf of the country.

"We are ready to make a decision on behalf of the country. Difficult decisions have to be made now for the sake of the country. However we are not in a hurry as Minister Harin Fernando," Hashim said.

Meanwhile, Dr. De Silva said that party politics is not important at this point. "Party politics is not important at this point of time. What is important now is to adopt a right ideology to build up the nation," he said.

"What one could understand from the speculation about us is that there are able people in SJB who could build up the nation," he added.

He reiterated that whoever wants to build up the nation needs a fresh mandate.

Expressions of Interest over proposed new refinery in Hambantota

CHINA'S SINOPEC ONLY QUALIFIED CONTENDER AMONG SHADY BIDDERS

- How transparent really are they on their latest project in establishing an export oriented oil refinery in Hambantota
- At least 4 out of the six remaining companies who have applied have no experience in oil refineries with some even facing serious allegations
- Allegations have been rife that only one out of the seven companies stand a good chance in competing for the project

BY JAMILA HUSAIN

Millions of angry consumers were left in a panic this week as Trade Unions attached to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation stopped distributing fuel to fuel stations opposing the government's move to privatize the CPC.

Infact queues lined up outside fuel stations in Colombo as soon as the news broke of the Trade Union strike

in fear that sheds may run out of fuel. However due to the firmness of the government, the army was deployed at the main petroleum terminals and distribution resumed on Wednesday morning, ending the queues.

While the Power and Energy Ministry has got tough on the Trade Unions and is earning many a praise from a majority of the citizens, how transparent really are they on their latest project in establishing

an export oriented oil refinery in Hambantota?

On February 24, 2023 the Ministry of Power and Energy called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to establish an export oriented petroleum refinery and associated product processing centre in Hambantota, on a "Build, Own, and Operate" basis.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



The registered address for the Nigerian company reveals a slum area in Lagos when searched on Google Street View

The shady bidders...

DAILY MIRROR LOOKED INTO THE SIX COMPANIES WHO SUBMITTED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OVER THE PROPOSED NEW REFINERY IN HAMBANTOTA

- One company registered in Lagos remains inactive according to the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission
- Directors of Petrichor Capital named defendants in \$4.6 million US fraud case
- Vitol group repeatedly blacklisted for supplying substandard fuel to Sri Lanka

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE

The Daily Mirror looked into the six companies who had submitted Expressions of Interest over the proposed new refinery in Hambantota. Our investigation revealed concerning information regarding six companies, excluding Sinopec, with one company even being listed as 'inactive'.

Following are the results from the brief research. SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Alone...

Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa seen here sitting alone when the remains of late former Speaker Joseph Michael Perera was brought to the Parliament premises last morning. President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene, former Speakers Karu Jayasuriya and Chamal Rajapaksa were also present at the occasion.

PIC BY PRADEEP PATHIRANA

No decision taken to deny police bail for drunk drivers

- OICs of the respective Police stations had the authority to decide whether certain drunk drivers would be granted bail or denied bail and produced in court

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

No decision has been taken to suspend the system of providing police bail for drunk drivers, the police spokesperson said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Teacher arrested for sexually abusing schoolgirl

BY DILEEP JAYASEKARA

A teacher from the primary section of a school in Hambantota was arrested yesterday by Hambantota Harbour police on suspicion of sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl from the school.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Tremor in Beruwala

BY THUSITHA KUMARA

A tremor of 3.7 magnitude was experienced yesterday in several Grama Niladhari areas in Beruwala division.

Residents of the area said the tremor took place between 1 and 1.10 p.m. and that it caused a vibration of the roofs.

Assistant Director Kalutara District Disaster Management Centre Pradeep Kodippili said the tremor had been experienced in several areas including Polkotuwa, Payagala, Pinidiyamulla and Weniwelketiya. He said the tremor had lasted about 30 seconds but no casualties had been reported.

NO ARREST YET OVER MURDER OF CHEEKY MONKEY RESTAURANT OWNER

BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

The Midigama Police has launched investigations to arrest the suspects wanted over the shooting of the owner of Cheeky Monkey restaurant in Midigama. The 32-year-old victim, Pasindu Sandaruwan, a resident of Midigama, succumbed to injuries last morning after he was shot by a gunman who arrived in a van with a group of unidentified individuals wednesday night.



SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

CHINA, BRAZIL REACH AGREEMENT TO DITCH INTERMEDIARY US DOLLAR

- The deal will enable China and Brazil to conduct their massive trade and financial transactions directly, exchanging renminbi for reais and vice versa instead of going through the dollar

China and Brazil have reportedly reached a deal to trade in their own currencies, ditching the US dollar as an intermediary, as part of the rising global use of the Chinese renminbi.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

ACTIVITY-BASED ORAL ENGLISH PROGRAMME FOR GRADE 1 LAUNCHED

- The Ministry had already trained 13,800 primary school teachers for the programme

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Education Ministry yesterday launched an activity-based oral English Language programme for Grade One students, which aims to provide practical speech training to students from their first day of school and build their confidence.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Suraksha safe houses Unregistered house maids will not be accepted from April 1: SLBFE

- Suraksha Safe houses have been established under the labour welfare sections of foreign embassies for women

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau has decided to suspend the acceptance of women for Suraksha safe houses from April 1, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

FR against granting presidential pardon to Royal Park murder convict fixed for further hearing

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A Fundamental Rights petition filed challenging former President Maithripala Sirisena's decision to grant Presidential Pardon to Royal Park murder convict Don. Shramantha Jude Anthony Jayamaha was today fixed for further argument by the Supreme Court.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

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CONTD.
FROM PAGE 1

INDIA, JAPAN ANNOUNCE JOINT INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH SL

BY KELUM BANDARA

The envoys of India and Japan envisaged joint cooperation with Sri Lanka for enhancing regional connectivity.

Japanese ambassador Mizukoshi Hideaki and Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay made remarks in this regard at the function to mark the launch of the report compiled by the Pathfinder Foundation themed "A Medium and Long-term Strategy for Indo-Japanese Collaboration to Support the Economic Transformation of Sri Lanka" with inputs from a group of experts.

The Indian High Commissioner said India and Japan share wide ranging interests in a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and the Japanese Prime Minister recently visited India and outlined his vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Asserting that Sri Lanka is an important member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries, he said there is a great deal of opportunity for India, Japan and Sri Lanka to work together for the prosperity of people here and the benefit of all sides.

"This should be in accordance with the priorities of Sri Lanka," he said.

"Sri Lanka is at the happy confluence of three important pillars of India's foreign policy," he said.

The Japanese ambassador said over the years, Japan and India

have had a positive impact on the region.

"I believe that connectivity is the best area to showcase how two countries can bring tangible benefits to the entire region including Sri Lanka. To this end, perspectives and insights from countries in the region are critical, and this report precisely addresses that."

He said, during Japanese Fumio Prime Minister KISHIDA's recent visit to India, the two leaders exchanged views on cooperation with Sri Lanka and agreed to work closely together, including on Sri Lanka's debt issue.

"As for the debt issue, on March 20, the IMF Executive Board green-lighted the Extended Fund Facility to Sri Lanka. Japan highly values this as a significant step forward for the revitalization of the Sri Lankan economy. Japan also appreciates India's letter of financial assurance in January. I am confident that Japan and India will continue to contribute to Sri Lanka's economic development, utilizing our expertise and complementarity."

Outlining the Japanese prime minister's vision on a free and open Indo-Pacific, he said Mr. KISHIDA stressed the importance of "multi-layered connectivity" as a core element of cooperation, to increase each country's options to pursue economic growth in a way that benefits everyone.

CHINA, BRAZIL REACH AGREEMENT TO DITCH INTERMEDIARY US DOLLAR

The deal will enable China and Brazil to conduct their massive trade and financial transactions directly, exchanging renminbi for reais and vice versa instead of going through the dollar, AFP reported on Wednesday, citing the Brazilian government.

"The expectation is that this will reduce costs...promote even greater bilateral trade and facilitate investment," AFP quoted the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency as saying.

This followed what the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said in February about it signing a memorandum of cooperation with its Brazilian counterpart on establishing renminbi clearing arrangements in Brazil. (China Daily)

TEACHER ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING SCHOOLGIRL

Investigations revealed that the girl had been on her way to school on Tuesday morning (28) when the teacher who offered to drop her at the school premises, took her in his car to a guest house and sexually abused her.

When the girl was late to return after school, the parents made inquiries from the principal to find that she had been absent from school.

However, they had received information that she had been seen getting a lift in a car while walking to school. The parents were looking for the whereabouts of the girl when she returned and told them that a teacher had taken her to a guest house.

Police arrested the suspect teacher during investigations of her father's complaint and he was to be produced before Hambantota magistrate today.

NO ARREST YET OVER MURDER OF CHEEKY MONKEY RESTAURANT OWNER

The vehicle used by the suspects for the shooting was found in the Panugalgoda area a few hours after the incident.

Police said the restaurant owner was shot at with a T56 assault rifle when he was sitting on a motorcycle outside his restaurant.

It is reported he had been shot several times in the stomach.

He died while undergoing treatment at the Matara Hospital.

Police said investigations are underway to determine the cause of the shooting and to arrest the suspects.

ACTIVITY-BASED ORAL ENGLISH PROGRAMME FOR GRADE 1 LAUNCHED

The programme was inaugurated at the Primary Section of Samudradevi Balika Vidyalaya, under the patronage of Education Minister Susil Premajayantha.

Speaking at the event the Minister emphasized the

importance of English as a learning tool and the need for a good education to be suitable for future professional fields in the country.

He said that the Ministry had already trained 13,800 primary school teachers for the programme.

CHINA'S SINOPEC ONLY QUALIFIED CONTENDER AMONG SHADY BIDDERS

The Ministry said the call for EOLs was a result of the Ministry receiving unsolicited proposals from various investors seeking approval from the government and the Board of Investment for a project of this nature.

Meeting the deadline on March 27, 2023 were seven companies which submitted EOLs, Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said in a tweet.

The companies were Grant & Shearer Ltd, Lagos of Nigeria, China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) of China, Petrichor Capital Sdn.Bhd of Malaysia, Vitrol Group of Singapore, Matin Tejarat Co. of Iran, Harree Management Services (Pvt) Ltd. with Marka Invest, Abu Dhabi from Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates. The only Sri Lankan company to have met the deadline was Dandenya Engineering Sales and Service Syndicate.

Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera in a Tweet said the technical evaluation committee and other procurement committees will evaluate EOLs and issue the Request for Proposals (RFP) to suitable applicants.

These companies were required to submit a company profile, annual reports of the last three years, a preliminary project proposal and details of experience in similar projects. They were also

required to submit details of expected key investors, consortiums or joint ventures and their contribution and stake in the subject proposal.

The companies would then be shortlisted based on documentary evidence of experience in carrying out similar projects, management expertise demonstrated in the past and the financial capability of the company.

However, since the announcement, allegations have been rife that only one out of the seven companies stand a good chance in competing for the project, with speculation that the project will be awarded to none other than China's SINOPEC based on the qualification requirements.

Extensive research conducted by the Daily Mirror shows that at least 4 out of the six remaining companies who have applied have no experience in oil refineries with some even facing serious allegations.

This clearly shows that Sinopec is the possible clear contender for the project but EOLs have been called in by interested parties to allegedly make the process look transparent.

A delegation from Sinopec arrived in Sri Lanka mid March and according to a Tweet by the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, the 'top delegation' was in Sri Lanka to enhance

cooperation and further investment on petroleum and chemicals, trade and port and industrial park operation.

The top Sinopec delegation had also met President Ranil Wickremesinghe and during discussions Wickremesinghe had said the government had taken a principled decision to expand the distribution of fuel and the President also noted that Hambantota had been identified as a primary energy hub.

According to a statement from the President's Media Division, Sinopec had also pledged to invest in a refinery in Hambantota, during the discussions with the President.

During the discussions, the representatives informed the Sri Lankan Government that their organization had adhered to the existing system and had applied accordingly. They further conveyed their readiness to fully finance the construction of a refinery in Hambantota.

China has always had a 'winning' edge with the Sri Lankan politicians when it comes to investments in Sri Lanka especially in strategic locations.

The Hambantota export oriented oil refinery may turn out to be another classic example of this with Sinopec right now being the possible clear contender for the project despite Minister Kanchana Wijesekera's efforts to make the entire process look transparent. Only time will tell when the companies are shortlisted and selected.

FR AGAINST GRANTING PRESIDENTIAL PARDON TO ROYAL PARK MURDER CONVICT FIXED FOR FURTHER HEARING

Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprising Justices S.Thurairajja, Yasantha Kodagoda and Janak de Silva fixed the petition to be taken up for further argument on June 9.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court directed the Attorney General to produce the document which authorised the Presidential Pardon granted to respondent Jayamaha.

Women & Media Collective organization had filed this Fundamental Rights petition seeking an order suspending the Presidential Pardon granted by former President Maithripala Sirisena to Royal Park murder convict Don Shramantha Jude Anthony Jayamaha. The Supreme Court has already issued an interim order directing the Controller General of Immigration and Emigration to prevent Royal Park murder convict Don Shramantha Jude Anthony Jayamaha from

leaving the country, without court permission.

The Supreme Court had granted leave to proceed with this petition for violating Article 12(1) of the constitution.

Women & Media Collective organization filed this Fundamental Rights petition naming Attorney General, Don. Shramantha Jude Anthony Jayamaha, Commissioner General of Prisons, Controller General of Immigration and Emigration, Inspector General of Police, Justice Minister, President of Bar Association of Sri Lanka as respondents. The petitioners are further seeking an order to issue guidelines governing the grant of Presidential Pardon by the Head of State in terms of article 34 (1) of the Constitution.

Jude Anthony Jayamaha was indicted before the High Court by Attorney-General

for committing the murder of Yvonne Jonsson (who was 19 years of age at the time), on or about 01.07.2005 in terms of Section 294 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 296 of the Penal Code.

Jude Anthony Jayamaha was tried before a single judge of the High Court sitting without a jury. By the judge dated 28.07.2006, the High Court judge pronounced a finding of culpable homicide not amounting to the murder; thereby convicting the accused and sentencing him to a term of 12 years of rigorous imprisonment in conjunction with a fine of Rs. 300,000.

Subsequently, the Attorney General had filed an appeal in the Court of Appeal on the basis of the inadequacy of the sentence, as well as to have the finding of culpable homicide not amounting to murder set aside and converted to one of murder and sentenced to death.

Unregistered house maids will not be accepted from April 1: SLBFE

It said the women who went abroad for employment through various illegal means without registering with the SLBFE and arriving at embassies facing problems at workplaces would not be accepted by the Suraksha safe houses.

The Suraksha Safe houses have been established under the labour welfare sections of

foreign embassies for women, who have left the country for foreign employment under the registration of the SLBFE.

Although these shelters were established only for women who have gone abroad for legitimate employment until now, the SLBFE has been working to provide all necessary welfare facilities from safe houses to

a decision to suspend the acceptance of women migrant workers who had gone without registering with the SLBFE for Suraksha safe houses from April 1, by the time of receiving these women at the Suraksha safe houses, they are involved in various legal issues where even the Police had to get involved to control the situation," an official said.

The SLBFE had taken

NO DECISION TAKEN TO DENY POLICE BAIL FOR DRUNK DRIVERS

Several reports have been circulating in recent days claiming that the police had decided to stop granting police bail to drivers who were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and that arrested drunk drivers would be produced in court without granting them police bail.

However, Police Spokesman SSP Nihal Thaldudwa said that no such decision had been taken.

SSP Thaldudwa said the OICs of the respective Police stations had the authority to decide whether certain drunk drivers would be granted bail or denied bail and produced in court.

Depending upon the type of specimen provided and/or the results of the alcohol breath test, a person can either be released without charge, bailed and informed to attend the police station at a later date or charged and bailed to appear at a Magistrates Court, according to the police.

Launch of "What Went Wrong" book by Chandrasena Maliyadde

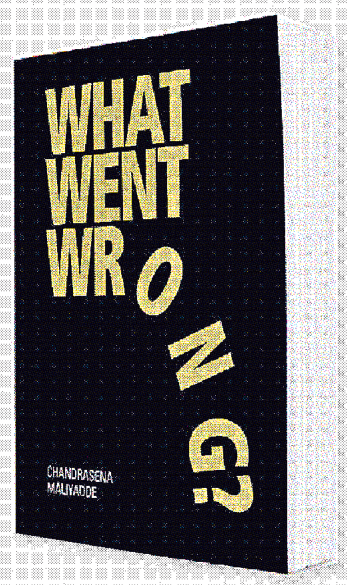
● With the intention of sharing my experience and reflections in the public service, I wrote a series of articles to leading newspapers

A book titled 'What Went Wrong' written by Chandrasena Maliyadde will be launched at the BMICH Lavender Hall, today (31) at 2.30 pm. The Chief Guest of the event will be former Speaker in Parliament Lankabhimanya Karu Jayasuriya.

Mr. Maliyadde is the Vice President of Sri Lanka Economic Association, the premier Association of economists in academia, Banks, Corporate sector and the public sector in the country. Prior to his retirement from public service in 2005, he was the Secretary to

Ministry of Plan Implementation and several other Ministries and Chairman and a Board member of several key institutions in the country. He had been a Council member of several Universities and Higher Education Institutes.

"With the intention of sharing my experience and reflections in the public service, I wrote a series of articles to leading newspapers. I published a book with a collection of these newspaper articles under the title of 'What Went Wrong,' Mr. Maliyadde said.



The remains of late former Speaker Joseph Michael Perera were brought to Parliament premises yesterday March 30 2023. President Ranil Wickremesinghe, incumbent Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene, former Speakers Karu Jayasuriya and Chamal Rajapaksa are seen bringing in the remains of the former Speaker to the premises. Pic by Pradeep Pathirana.

The shady bidders...

Grant & Shearer

Grant & Shearer Ltd of Nigeria has been listed as a commodity trading company, classified as a private company limited by shares. Incorporated in 1992, the company is currently listed with the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission as inactive. The company's last registered address in 2009 with the Commission, currently shows a slum area in Lagos, Nigeria when searched on Google Street view. Grant & Shearer's business registration number has also been linked with another business entity named ABDUL RAZAK ENT which is also inactive.

Petrichor Capital Sdn Bhd

Petrichor Capital Sdn Bhd, registered in 2017 lists its principal place of business in Malaysia with an office in the United Kingdom. The company's directors were named as defendants in a court case filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in 2021.

A leading importer of food service and safety equipment in the US alleged that the Petrichor defendants jointly engaged in a fraudulent scheme to defraud the US company over \$4.6 million.

The agreement, according to court documents, was made during the height of COVID-19 pandemic when personal protective equipment (PPE) was in short supply. Petrichor defendants were involved in a deal where the company was allegedly paid to supply nitrile protective gloves but failed to deliver the procurement.

The Vitrol Group

The Vitrol Group is an energy and commodities company, also recognized as the world's largest independent oil trader. Vitrol offers crude oil and product trading, shipping, refining, terminals and investments services, with its largest offices based in Geneva, Houston, London and Singapore.

However, the Singapore-based Vitrol Asia Pte Ltd, which has been awarded contracts for the import of diesel and petrol in Sri Lanka has been blacklisted several times.

The company was first blacklisted in 2009, for supplying a stock of High Sulphur Fuel Oil mixed with waste lubricants. Vitrol later paid \$ 150,000 to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation in 2011. In 2012 Vitrol was once again blacklisted on the endorsement of then Petroleum Industries Minister Susil Premajayantha, following hundreds of complaints by motorists.

Most recently Vitrol Group agreed to pay \$95.7 million to resolve bribery charges with law enforcement authorities in the United States and Brazil in 2020. Vitrol did not admit nor deny the charges of corruption-based fraud and attempted market manipulation, but agreed to the payout related to bribery and offering kickbacks to employees of certain state-owned entities in Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico in exchange for "preferential treatment and access to trades," according to the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Other contenders

Harree Management Services (Pvt) Ltd is listed as an accounts management company, which is partnering with Abu Dhabi based Marka Invest. Marka Invest is a company which specializes in real estate development, although the company profile lists itself as a brokerage firm dealing in investment, general trading and oil products.

No business information exists on Matin Tejarat in several business registries. The company's website indicates that it is a trade company primarily dealing with the imports of food, polymer, cosmetics, pharma and feed raw materials, based in Iran.

Dandenya Engineering Sales and Service Syndicate, the only Sri Lankan company to submit an EOL, also does not have public listed information.

No probes on complaints against Police

Complaints made against the police by the people with the police head quarters are referred back to the police station concerned

It has been revealed that there have been no probes on the complaints people have made against the police.

Inquiries have revealed that complaints made against the police by the people with the police head quarters are referred back to the police station concerned. "This is the main reason as to why no action has been taken against complaints made by the people against police officers," research revealed.

A large number people have complained against the inaction of the police.

OBITUARIES

DE ALWIS - SURENDRA PRIYALAL (S.P). Beloved husband of Priyanganie, loving father of Shermal and Shanindra and father-in-law of Dinithi and Maheeka, much loved brother of Asanka De Mel and uncle of Prasanna, Dineli and Dinesh, expired. Remains lie at "The Restpect" Jayaratne Funeral Parlour, Borella from 8.30 a.m. onwards on Friday (31st March), followed by service at 3.30 p.m. and cremation at 4.30 p.m. at the Borella cemetery. 099733

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STEAM EDUCATION TO BE LAUNCHED TODAY: MINISTER

● The initial STEAM programme will be launched from the Royal College, Colombo and will commence at 7.30 a.m. and continue until 12.30 p.m.

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The official programme to launch STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education for the local education sector will be launched today, the Education Ministry said.

They said the launching of the programme will be held from the Western Province.

Accordingly, the initial STEAM programme will be launched from the Royal College, Colombo.

The programme will commence at 7.30 a.m. and continue until 12.30 p.m.

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

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

“The country’s education system failed to change after the second industrial revolution and the third industrial revolution in information technology. We need to be prepared for the fourth digital revolution. We have had many syllabi changes, but governments could not bring reforms to the education system,” Minister Premjayantha said.

A programme for international student assessment (PISA) measures 15-year-olds’ ability to use their reading, mathematics, and science. STEM education was introduced two decades ago, with more than 90 countries following and witnessing success, such as Singapore, Finland, and Vietnam. Unfortunately, we do not have it. In the near future, the country’s education system will see changes in this area,” he said. “Our present education system has no space for innovation. Innovation cannot be just a subject for a student who has performed poorly at the ordinary-level examination or as an advanced-level subject,” the Ministry said.

Institute Of Chemistry hosts Open Day on Saturday, April 01

● Interested individuals can contact the Institute via phone on 011-2861653/ 011-2861231

The Institute of Chemistry would host an Open Day at its premises on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 1 p.m., the Institute said in a media release.

For any queries regarding the Open Day, interested individuals can contact the Institute via phone on 011-2861653/011-2861231. The Institute is located at Adamantane House, 341/22, Kotte Rd., Rajagiriya, near the Department of Official Languages.

“The event will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn more about the Institute and its study programmes,” according to a media release.

The Institute of Chemistry is a Government-approved charity and professional body, which is also recognized as a degree awarding institution that offers a four-year full-time BSc Hons degree in Chemical Science.

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EDITORIAL

"If you want to succeed you should strike out on new paths, rather than travel the worn paths of accepted success"
- JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

OUR THOUGHT

REFUSING TO SEE POSITIVITY IN A LAND SANS QUEUES

The Sinhala-Tamil New Year is fast approaching and people are having mixed thoughts about how much they should spend on purchases. This is the time to buy garments because by the time April dawns (Which is Saturday by the way) it could be a tad too late. If one doesn't buy garments now one will be left with the riff-raff, or the ones that are slow movers in terms of sales.

In fact as a nation we citizens have been slow movers. We've moved slowly when those who think fast and are ambitious have immigrated abroad. Those who have remained here in the island have no such luxury.

They have to live with the reality of being stuck in an island which has crashed economically. There are few success stories of a selected few, but the majority really isn't bothered to hear these stories. This is the tragedy of this nation.

People are focusing more on the negativities around. Just the other day we saw on national television how an entrepreneur is engaged in exporting seahorse and bringing in the dollars to Sri Lanka.

There are other entrepreneurs who are engaged in profitable ventures and helping Sri Lanka to raise its head from the dumps. It's in this environment that some individuals are carrying out strikes.

The Head of State recently was quoted in the media stating that it is the same faces that are seen at protest sites.

This is not the time for trade union action. If one scrutinises the state sector a good number of its employees have got used to obtaining perks in a very unethical manner.

There was a time when people found only the government or all past governments at fault. Now we see how greedy or overly ambitious some people are. There is little thought given to ethics, fair play and decency when one gets into the mood of winning in life at any cost.

This is the time when unnecessary expenses need to be slashed and people need to save for the future. Will the New Year celebrations go into a can wait list? Certainly not!

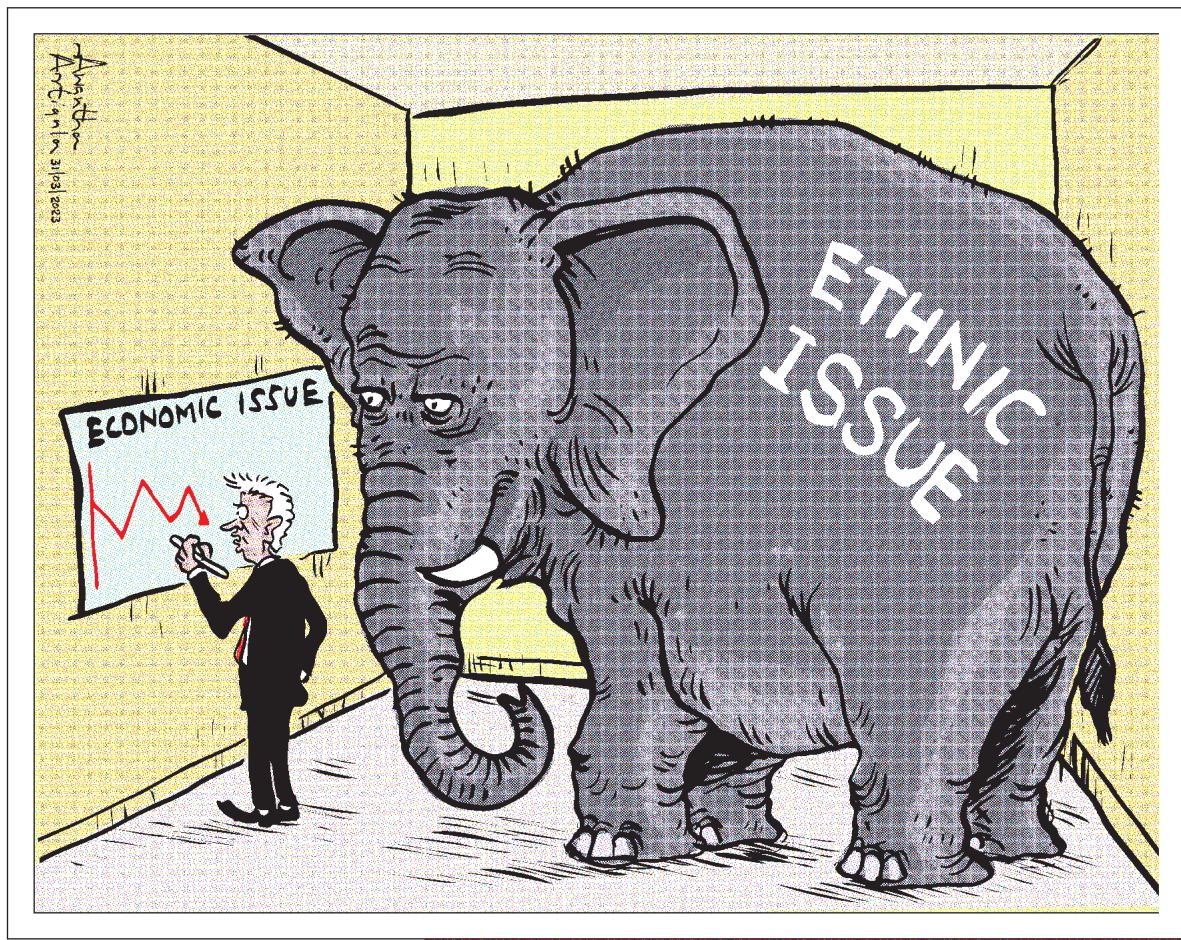
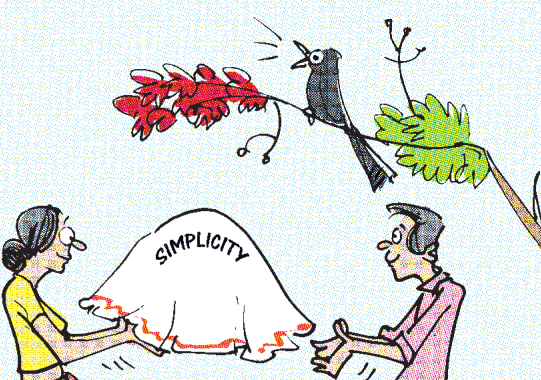
But we sure can have a much simpler menu on the table when the auspicious time arrives to the partaking of meals. This will sure take us back to the good old days when the breakfast table during the April New Year festive season comprised just a few traditional sweetmeats made with products turned out of produce that didn't contain chemical substances. In a way this is where we should be heading towards; in terms of direction.

Sri Lanka as a whole needs to get back on to the drawing board. We need to focus on old lessons on surviving, producing, living and leading happier lives. Our ancient people ate little and worked a lot. Those ways of life ensured our sustenance and lengthened the work life of people. Open heart surgery was unheard of; not forgetting that people were quote happy with two meals a day!

Now when economic hardships force us to consider dropping our third meal for the day we start complaining. We're a nation of complainers. We're complaining against a president who was not elected by the people, but we are not appreciating the fact that there is gas and petrol available without having to join queues.

If one wishes to join the bandwagon that's loaded with economists who are not giving Sri Lanka a chance to beat the blues consider the fact that Sri Lanka just received the 1st Tranche of US\$ 330 million of the IMF bailout programme.

More success stories will come, but only if Sri Lankans have the will to survive. The old people of this country who don't have health on their side have the will to stare uncertainty in the face and keep breathing for a few more days. The problem is with the young ones who don't have faith in themselves and the much desired will; something that if nurtured properly will ensure that the unthinkable is achieved.



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

CHINA'S SOFT POWER BEHIND IRAN-SAUDI DEAL; CHANGES IN MIDDLE EAST GEOPOLITICS

By **Ameen Izzadeen**

Politics is the art of the possible. As long as politics remains, this quotable quote famously uttered by 19th Century German statesman Otto Von Bismarck will also remain. In real politics, nations and politicians try to achieve the next best or what is possible if the best is not attainable.

If this phrase gives a positive view of politics, Canadian-American economist Kenneth Galbraith famously expressed a more negative view of political pragmatism when he said, "Politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable."

These two phrases form a key analytical tool to understand miracles, the unbelievable, and the unexpected in politics. One such shock was the recent Iran-Saudi Arabia détente brokered by China. It was seismic with a political Richter scale reading high enough to shake world politics. There were casualties, too.

But before dealing with the casualty, a peep into the past is in order. Iran-Saudi relations formally began with the signing of a Friendship Treaty in 1929, three years before Saudi Arabia was officially established. Before World War I, much of the Arabian Peninsula, including the territory of today's Saudi Arabia, was part of the Ottoman Empire.

Ever since the treaty was signed, ties grew from strength to strength with leaders of the two nations visiting each other's country and even extending friendly advice on matters of governance through exchanges of letters.

Worth mentioning is one such exchange of letters between Iran's Shah, Reza Pahlavi, and Saudi King Faisal in the 1960s. Urging the King to modernise Saudi Arabia, the Shah wrote, "Please, my brother, modernise. Open up your country. Make the schools mixed -- women and men. Let women wear miniskirts. Have discos. Be modern. Otherwise, I cannot guarantee you will stay on your throne." In response, King Faisal, who was indisputably the most loved Saudi monarch by the Saudis and most Muslims all over the world, wrote, "Your majesty, I appreciate your advice. May I remind you, you are not the Shah of France. You are not in the Elysee. You are in Iran. Your population is 90 percent Muslim. Please don't forget that."

King Faisal was a fearless leader who dared to face up to the Americans and Israelis. He was an ardent backer of the Palestinian cause, while his Iranian counterpart was an American lackey and had established diplomatic relations with Israel.

Before the 1979 Islamic revolution in Shiite-Muslim-majority Iran, and Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's famous vow to export the revolution to all parts of the Muslim world, the relations between the two countries were more than brotherly. Both were on the same side of the Cold War. Shia-Sunni sectarianism, which is now exploding

IRAN-SAUDI ARABIA RESTORATION OF RELATIONS

Mar. 10, 2023: Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to restore diplomatic relations, after seven years.

The agreement was signed by secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran Ali Shamkhani and Saudi Arabian national security advisor Musaed Al-Aiban.

A joint statement announced that their embassies would re-open within two months.

The path to the agreement was paved by five rounds of reconciliation talks that hosted by Iraq over several years.

Under the deal, the countries would restore agreements related to security, trade, and culture.

Mar. 20, 2023: Iran says Saudi Arabia has invited Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi for an official visit

Source: Wikipedia © DM Graphic Desk



However, intermittent protests continued in Saudi Arabia's eastern region populated by the country's Shiite minority. The pro-democracy protests were spearheaded by a popular Shiite imam, Ayatollah Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr. He was arrested in 2012 and executed in 2016. The execution triggered protests in several countries, including Iran where the protesters attacked the Saudi embassy and set it on fire. This prompted Saudi Arabia and, at its behest, several other Arab countries to sever diplomatic ties with Iran.

Ever since it had been a case of daggers drawn and backstabbing for nearly seven years. But what caused the change and brought the two countries to the peace table? Was China the catalyst?

Yes, the major geopolitical tectonic shift was caused by China's soft power force. Signs of Chinese soft power were evident when President Xi Jinping met Arab leaders during a visit to Saudi Arabia in December last year. Among them was Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, whose presence indicated China's willingness to use its soft power to solve the longstanding Palestinian issue and win the hearts and minds of the Arab people. The visit also marked the beginning of the era of petro-Yuan with oil-selling Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries agreeing to accept China's currency.

It was against this backdrop that China mediated, albeit secretly, in the Iran-Saudi reconciliation. Peace is always in energy-dependent China's interest. Wars and tensions in the region disrupt supply chains and shoot up energy prices, apart from being major obstacles to China's Belt-and-Road Initiative. After Russia, Saudi Arabia is the second largest oil supplier to China, while Iran, to avoid sanctions, uses camouflaged avenues to export oil to China at undercut prices.

China's entry into the Middle East as a peacemaker is part of its effort to vie with the US for influence in the region. Iran and Saudi Arabia are showing interest in joining BRICS. This week, Saudi Arabia's cabinet approved a move to be a dialogue partner of the China-dominated Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, of which Iran is an observer.

In this tectonic shift, the major casualties are the United States and Israel. The US, though it claims to be an honest broker in the Israeli-Palestinian issue, is out-and-out biased towards Israel. Another casualty was Israel. The Iran-Saudi thaw has dealt a severe blow to Israel's efforts to drive Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states away from Iran.

The Iran-Saudi deal has triggered a chain reaction. In the aftermath of the deal, Saudi Arabia and Syria have expressed willingness to restore diplomatic ties, Turkey and Egypt are taking steps to normalize strained ties while Iran is moving towards a thaw in relations with Jordan, Egypt and Bahrain.

These developments indicate that the choice was not between the disastrous and the unpalatable. The choice was between peace and prosperity and war and disaster.

DM Poll

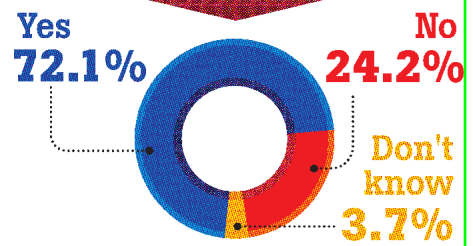
Do you agree with the continuous strikes by Trade Union members? Is it fair to be inconveniencing the general public in return for their demands?

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



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 grant not the panacea for an ailing economy

The IMF is on board and we have received the first Tranche, but this is only the first step towards economic recovery. Infusion of Capital from International Lending organisations is at a price and a repayment schedule along with interest payment. The Government Authorities maintain that the need of the hour is cautious spending and monitoring development from all fronts. All organisations which contribute to Capital infusion and thus substantially boost our Foreign exchange reserves have an important part to play. In the light of this situation where productivity in all areas have to increase by leaps and bounds all Trade unions in the Government and the private sector should not impede progress of the nation by initiating strikes and go slows which can be a deliberate attempt to impair progress and cause inconvenience to the hitherto suffering people. Presently at the time of writing several Unions are up in arms for a variety of reasons; some against the possibility of privatization, others politically motivated to embarrass the Government. But the General Public will echo the slogan in one voice and say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. We are presently on a war footing to resuscitate a dying economy and the people have suffered. Poor innocent students have been hampered by teacher strikes for long periods. Suffering patients have been sent away from hospitals as the Medical fraternity seek reduced taxation. Petrol queues are forming once again due to strike action caused by fear of privatization. Students unions do not voice their grievances but rampage the streets in the guise of a strike with political demands. The threat of power cuts loom in the air. In a war normal rights and privileges do not prevail and drastic measures have to be taken. Curtailing the right to strike in the current situation will be applauded by the suffering masses. It is common knowledge that employees of certain corporations draw princely salaries and some have even their income tax paid by their organisations. Considering the present circumstances though it will raise a hornets nest, serious thought should be given to restrict strikes by law for a period of three years and conciliation Boards be set up manned by independent persons for each Corporation for this period to look into employees/workers grievances. It is unfortunate that the Political parties in the opposition are motivated by one objective that of discerning the mindset of the masses; not being focused on the economic development of the nation. Victory at an election will not in anyway help them to alleviate the sufferings of the masses.

A CONCERNED CITIZEN

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

WEB COMMENTS

- PRIANKA NALIN SENBATTANE** - Why are the Japanese pushing a massive new project without helping revive the existing public transport system? If they can help revamp the public transportation and electronic traffic control, people will shift to public transport and drivers will behave better in fear of the eye on the sky.
- MALIJ** - You can see the extent of the damage we had done to sour the relationship with a genuine friend of SL.
- JUDE** - If juppa (Japan) can't do it get our friend China to do it!! The city urgently needs a LRT to reduce the congestion immediately!!
- NS** - Sri Lankan government! Same old ingredients in new packing. Corrupt is not the word

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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 E-mail: dmnews@dailymirror.wnl.lk

A MAGNIFICENT HOLY WEEK CHORAL PRESENTATION

The much-awaited Lenten choral presentation by St. Cecilia's Choir of St. Joseph's College will take place at 6.00 pm on Wednesday, April 5 2023 at the chapel of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10.



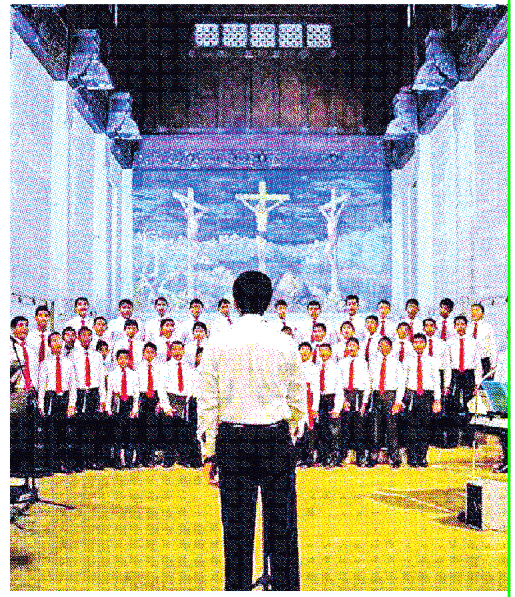
Organized under the aegis of the Sri Lanka Pueri Cantores Federation, a national wing of the international federation, the event will involve more than 200 singers including boys, girls and youth. Most Rev. Dr Brian Udaigwe will preside over the programme.

St. Cecilia's Choir of St. Joseph's College will lead with the chant Pueri Hebraeorum and the glorious Palm Sunday anthem, Lauda Jerusalem; followed by the exquisite Ave Verum Corpus by William Byrd - recalling Christ's farewell Last Supper and

the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Joining the Josephians will be the choir of Ave Maria Convent, Negombo. Thereafter, the choir of Good Shepherd Convent will sing the modern hymn Remember Me and the hymn Gethsamane. Two senior Josephian (A/L and post-A/L) groups will then render the famous African Baba Yetu (Our Father), followed by Jesuni, Ai Metharam Mata.

The past Shepherds will enter to vocalize the tuneful piece Above All Powers, depicting the tragedy of the crucifixion. Among other Sinhala and Tamil renditions,

there comes Handel's composition, Worthy is the Lamb. The final segment opens with the congregational hymn Jesus Christ is Risen Today; followed by Regina Coeli and And Can It Be - both presented by the international award-winning Old Joes Choir. After a brief message and blessing by the celebrant, the Josephian Choir will render Handel's masterpiece, the Hallelujah Chorus; followed by the resounding finale of Gloria Te, the Italian Millennium anthem. All are welcome with free entrance.



Prof. Sarachchandra's

TOMORROW

April 1 3.30 6.45 p.m.

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Sinhabahu

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Tickets Now Available at The Theater
Inquiries: 0777363633 Jude Simal

April 2 3.30 7.00 PM

Lionel Wendt

Dayananda Gunawardana's

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NOW SCREENING

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St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, Old Boys' Union, Ja-Ela Wattala Branch

Notice of 35th Annual General Meeting
22nd April 2023

Notice is hereby given for the 35th Annual General Meeting of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, Old Boys' Union Ja Ela - Wattala Branch, which will be held on Saturday the 22nd April 2023 at Clements Restaurant, Wattala at 7.30 pm.

Resolutions if any are to be forwarded to the Secretary to be received on or before 15th April 2023 via email (sjcobujaelawattala@gmail.com) or by post: 14, Edward Lane Wattala or WhatsApp: 0774586940.

Please confirm your participation latest by 18th April 2023.

Gerard Tisseverasinghe
Honorary Secretary

Please call: 0774586940 (Gerard) 0773930800 (Dilan) 0755168974 (Ashan) 0777374788 (Dr. Naomal) for confirmation of participation

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, a German Government owned enterprise operating under the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as funded through The European Union is geared towards a future oriented, sustainable development of the country.

GIZ is pleased to invite proposals for The Green Innovation Lab. We are seeking a qualified vendor who can provide the planning and implementation of an accelerator programme to make startups and SMEs investor-ready through workshops, peer to peer mentoring sessions and showcase them in a final event.

The objective of this service is to support SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) and Startups in the Agriculture (Agri Tech/ Food Processing/ Nutrition/ Supply Chain etc) Sector of Sri Lanka through preparing them towards a goal of "Investor Readiness". The programme is designed to identify scalable business models and provide them with business development support through mentors, workshops, hands-on support, and exposure to the Sri Lankan business community. It offers a platform for collaboration opportunities between a plethora of companies. In several workshops the selected companies are encouraged to work together on problem solving through design thinking methods. Close follow-up, reporting and provision of expertise through the programme organizers will ensure that the selected companies can reach their milestones in time.

Professional consultant/ company who is interested in bidding can collect the detailed bidding documents and complete terms of reference by sending request email to LK_Services_Quotation@giz.de from 31.03.2023 to 09.04.2023

All request emails must include the following information in the email header:
Tender no: 83435395, Title: Company to conduct Green Innovation Lab

If you are interested and have collected bidding documents, the deadline for submitting a detailed proposal is on or before April 9, 2023. More information can be found in the detailed tender documents.

WINNERS

Winner of the Grand Draw (2022)
Rs.10 MILLION

M.A. SURANJANA PERERA
COLOMBO - 06

Winner of Rs.1 MILLION
for the Month of December 2022

G. L.R. SAMPATH GUNATHILAKA
SOUTH KOREA

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SECURITY OF A STATE BANK

Daily winners for the period (2022.12.13-2022.12.19) - Prize Rs. 10,000/- each			
Name of the winner	Place	Name of the winner	Place
M. FATHIMA MUBEENA	MALWANA	G. ANTONY PADUICKAGE	SOUTH KOREA
K. JAYANTHA KALUBOWILA	POKUNUWITA	W.G. SURANGIKA DAMAYANTHI	KALAWANA
G.R.S. MAHESH KUMARA	SOUTH KOREA	N. FATHIMA RIKA	KINNIYA
A. SASHIKALA	PANWILA		

Daily winners for the period (2022.12.20-2022.12.26) - Prize Rs. 10,000/- each			
Name of the winner	Place	Name of the winner	Place
T.K. DILUSHA MADHURANGA	HENEGAMA	J. SELLAPPA ANANDARAJA	COLOMBO 08
V. SATHIYASEELA	HATTON	R.A.G.S.W.B. DISSANAYAKE	SOUTH KOREA
S. PAHAVATHY	PANICHCHANKERNY	W.M. NAVARATHNA BANDA	KEGALLE

Weekly winner for the period (2022.12.20-2022.12.26) - 22K Gold Sovereign	
Name of the winner	Place
M. SALAHUDEEN SIRAJIDEEN	WELIGATTA

Daily winners for the period (2022.12.27-2022.12.31) - Prize Rs. 10,000/- each			
Name of the winner	Place	Name of the winner	Place
D. GAYANI WANNIARACHCHI	HEIYANTHUDUWA	K.M. CHANDRIKA	GINIGATHENA
K. DASINY PALKKIS	MULLAITIVU	S.L.W.I.P. KUMARA	SOUTH KOREA
M.U. THAHIRA UMMMA	ODDAMAVADY		

Weekly winner for the period (2022.12.27-2022.12.31) - 22K Gold Sovereign	
Name of the winner	Place
S.H.P. KUMARA	SOUTH KOREA

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FEATURE

Attack on Puttalam Quazi

A JUDICIAL SYSTEM CANNOT BYPASS THE REGULAR JUSTICE SYSTEM



Puttalam Quazi Dr. Mohamed Rahmathulla Mohamed who came under attack

The Women's Action Network also wishes to stress the urgent need to reform the Quazi System as a part of the country's regular administration of the justice system ensuring the independence of Quazis in all parts of the country within the mainstream justice system

Women's Action Network, a women's rights activist group has condemned the alleged physical assault on Puttalam Quazi Dr. Mohamed Rahmathulla Mohamed on March 26 and has called for an impartial investigation into this crime and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Issuing a statement, the organization which comprises a collective of eight women's groups said that this is the third instance where a Quazi had been assaulted in Puttalam alone. "Dr. Rahmathulla has been appointed Quazi by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) recently and has commenced his work in Puttalam. However, several factions are not happy about his appointment. A letter sent by the Puttalam Grand Mosque to MP Ali Sabry Raheem is being widely circulated expressing disapproval of his appointment and that their nominee has not been appointed while requesting him to intervene and review this appointment. Interestingly, the letter also adverts to 'regionalism' in an attempt to mention that the Quazi is not from Puttalam."

Further explaining the incident, the statement reads that the Quazi had visited MP's house in Puttalam upon invitation. "However, we learn from several sources that there have been arguments and subsequently the Quazi has been beaten up by the MP and his relative."

"Quazis are appointed by the Judicial Service Commission. Should there be any concerns or complaints about the manner a Quazi is functioning or his conduct, they should be taken

up with the JSC. No one is entitled to take the law into his own hands. However, there have been instances where Quazis encounter threats and intimidation in the community when they do not abide by the instructions of religious institutions and politicians.

We also want to highlight the recent protest organized by Puttalam mosque on January 13, 2023, against the proposed reforms to the MMDA and most specifically targeting women who are working on MMDA reform with the victims. We are well aware of how in the past the mosques and their Members (pulpit) have been abused to attack legal and religious scholars, activists and victims whenever they raise the need to reform the MMDA.

The most recent assault on the Quazi vindicates the call that has been made for well over four decades and reiterates the urgent need to reform the MMDA to be fully on par with the fundamental rights chapter of the Constitution. The Women's Action Network also wishes to stress the urgent need to reform the Quazi System as a part of the country's regular administration of the justice system ensuring the independence of Quazis in all parts of the country within the mainstream justice system. All judicial institutions should be protected against intimidation from powerful or influential persons or bodies including mosque administrations. The Judicial Service Commission which is vested with appointment and disciplinary authority over Quazis and the Ministry of Justice should treat this as an urgent matter and provide protection to all Quazis.



Amana Bank PLC (PB 3618 PQ)

(Registered under Reference No. PB 3618 PQ a banking public company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007)

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

It is hereby notified that under Section 8 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990 that at a meeting held on 28.01.2023 by the Board of Directors of Amana Bank PLC it was resolved specially and unanimously.

Branch - Ratnapura

Whereas Mohamed Ajwad Ahmed Arafath as "Obligor" have made default in payments due on Primary Mortgage Bond No.5942 dated 16.12.2021 attested by N.R. Bandara Notary Public of Ratnapura in favour of AMANA BANK PLC bearing Registration No. PB 3618 PQ a company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007 and having its registered office and principal place of business at No.486, Galle Road, Colombo 03 in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and there is now due and owing to the Amana Bank PLC as at 31 st July 2022 a sum of Rupees Seventeen Million Three Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight and cents Ninety Four only (Rs.17,396,778.94) on the said Bond and the Board of Directors of Amana Bank PLC under the powers vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990, do hereby resolve that the property morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to said AMANA BANK PLC by the said Mortgage Bond No. 5942 to be sold by Public Auction by Nishantha Upul Jayasuriya, Licensed Auctioneer of No.369/1, Dutugamunu Mawatha, Lewella Road, Mawilmada, Kandy for recovery of the said sum of Rupees Seventeen Million Three Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight and cents Ninety Four only (Rs.17,396,778.94) together with profit/markup/rental/ at the rate of AWPLR+4.5% per annum with a Cap of 16% per annum and Floor of 11.5% per annum from 1 st August 2022 to date of sale together with costs of advertising, any other costs and charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked as Lot 01 in Plan No.12804 dated 23.08.2020 made by S.B. Abeykoon Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called Innawatta situated in Pannala Village in the Grama Niladhari Division of Pannala within Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Pannala within the Divisional Secretary's Division of Pannala in Meda Pattu Korale (West) of Katugampola Hathpattu in the District of Kurunegala North Western Province and the said Lot 01 is bounded on the North by 10 feet wide Road and Building and Premises bearing Assessment No.25/1 previously owned by Dayaratne Ratnasekara and presently claimed by Abdul Careem Abdul Razak, East by Building and Premises bearing Assessment No.25/1 previously owned by Dayaratne Ratnasekara and presently claimed by Abdul Careem Abdul Razak, South by Main Road and Building and Premises bearing Assessment No.21 owned by the heirs of Kodithuwakku Arachchige Jinadasa and on the West by Building and Premises bearing Assessment No.25 owned by the heirs of Kodithuwakku Arachchige Jinadasa and 10 feet wide Road and containing in extent Five Decimal Eight Perches (00A-00R-5.8P) or Hectares 0.01467 together with buildings fixtures trees plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered in the Kuliyaipitiya Land Registry under folio E 352/99.

It is also further resolved to authorise Mr. Rizah Ismail, Head of Remedial Management, Amana Bank PLC to sign the above Board Resolution at the time of publication.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rizah Ismail,
Head - Remedial Management



Amana Bank PLC (PB 3618 PQ)

(Registered under Reference No. PB 3618 PQ a banking public company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007)

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

It is hereby notified that under Section 8 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990 that at a meeting held on 28.01.2023 by the Board of Directors of Amana Bank PLC it was resolved specially and unanimously.

Branch - Kalmunai

Whereas Mohamed Saleem Mohamed Shilmy and Mohamed Saleem Mohamed Shiyam as "Obligors" have made default in payments due on Mortgage Bond No.1702 dated 20 th February 2013 attested M. K. Perinrajaya Notary Public of Kalmunai in favour of AMANA BANK PLC bearing Registration No. PB 3618 PQ a company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007 and having its registered office and principal place of business at No.486, Galle Road, Colombo 03 in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and there is now due and owing to the Amana Bank PLC as at 31 st August, 2022 a sum of Rupees Fourteen Million Nine Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy only (Rs.14,983,770.00) on the said Bond and the Board of Directors of Amana Bank PLC under the powers vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990, do hereby resolve that the property morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to said AMANA BANK PLC by the said Mortgage Bond No. 1702 to be sold by Public Auction by Nishantha Upul Jayasuriya, Licensed Auctioneer of No.369/1, Dutugamunu Mawatha, Lewella Road, Mawilmada, Kandy for recovery of the said sum of Rupees Fourteen Million Nine Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy only (Rs.14,983,770.00) together with costs of advertising, any other costs and charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

An allotment of land called " Vembu Thottam and Buhari Thottam (combined) situated at Morakkoddanchenai Grama Sewa Division in Divisional Secretary of Koralaipattu North in the District of Batticaloa, Eastern Province. According to the surveyor Plan No. B/173/2012 made by V. Rajendran Licensed Surveyor containing in extent Nineteen Acres and Three Rods and Thirty Three decimal Eighty Two Perches (A19-R03-P33.82) bounded on the North by the land belong to Sinhalamasini Thavikappu, East by the land belongs to S.M.Mohamed Isma Lebbe, South by Kaluwankerry Road and West by the land reserved for Housing Scheme. The whole of this together with everything therein contained and registered in the Land Registry Batticaloa in Vol/Folio G 267/172

According to the figure of recent Survey Plan No. KK/BT/2012/1006a dated 21/11/ 2012 made by K.Kamalananthan Licensed Surveyor, described as follows :-

An allotment of land called "Vembu Thottam and Buhari Thottam" (combined), situated at Kaluwankerry Road, Koralkaneri within the limits of Pradeshiya Sabha and the Divisional Secretariat of Koralaipattu in the District of Batticaloa, Eastern Province containing in extent Nineteen Acres and Three Rods and Thirty Three decimal Eighty Two Perches (A19-R03-P33.82) or 8.0781 Hectares bounded on the North, East and West by Presently the land claimed by K.Rasammah and South by Kaluwankerry Road.

It is also further resolved to authorise Mr. Rizah Ismail, Head of Remedial Management, Amana Bank PLC to sign the above Board Resolution at the time of publication.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rizah Ismail,
Head - Remedial Management

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: KATUGASTOTA

D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 26th January 2023 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD as the Obligor and RANASINGHE ARACHCHIGE DHANUSHKA PRABATH RANASINGHE AND PRASADINI MAHOJI KUMARI SENEVIRATHNE as the mortgagors mortgaged and hypothecated properties morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 4774 dated 28.02.2017 attested by K S B Wijeratne Notary Public of Kandy in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Permanent Overdraft facility of Rs. 6,500,000.00 (Rupees Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Only) granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD.

And whereas the said D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD has made default in payment of the sums due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Permanent Overdraft facility of Rs. 6,500,000.00 (Rupees Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Only) extended to them among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 22nd September 2022 a sum of Rs.9,028,969.02 (Rupees Nine Million Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Nine and Cents Two Only) on the Said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged property as described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 4774 be sold by Public Auction by N U Jayasuriya Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 9,028,969.02 together with further interest at the rate of 14.5% p.a from 23rd September 2022 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that Unit 4 in the Ground Floor depicted in Condominium Plan No. 3777 dated 15th July 2002 made by C D Adihetthi Licensed Surveyor Containing in Extend Floor area of Five Hundred and Twenty Three Square Feet (523 sq.ft) bearing Assessment No. 133A, Dipana Road situated at Nattarampotha within the Grama Niladhari's Division of Nattarampotha in the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits Kundasale within the Divisional Secretariat of Kundasale in the District of Kandy Central Province and bounded as Follows.

NORTH by :Space over CE1 **EAST** by :Space over CE2 Steps
SOUTH by :Common Elements CE3 **WEST** by :Unit 5
ZENITH :Centre of concrete slab of Unit 11 **NADIR** :Cement floor of this Unit

Together with everything else standing thereon

Together with Common Elements marked CE1 - Passage, CE2 - Steps CE3 - Barend & CE4 - Staircase.

By order of the Board of Directors.

K A L T RANAWEEERA
DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: KATUGASTOTA

D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 26th January 2023 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated properties morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 4780 dated 22.12.2017 and 5190 dated 05.02.2019 both attested by M S Perera Notary Public of Kandy in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Development Loan I Facility of Rs.39,000,000.00 and Development Loan II facility of Rs.20,000,000.00 totalling of Rs.59,000,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Nine Million Only) granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD.

And whereas the said D P HOTEL LAGONE (PVT) LTD has made default in payment of the sums due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Development Loan I facility of Rs. 39,000,000.00 and Development Loan II facility of Rs. 20,000,000.00 extended to them among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 22nd September 2022 a sum of Rs.33,366,632.44 and Rs.22,737,555.99 totalling of Rs.56,104,188.43 (Rupees Fifty Six Million One Hundred and Four Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Eight and Cents Forty Three Only) on the Said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged property as described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 4780 and 5190 be sold by Public Auction by N U Jayasuriya, Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 33,366,632.44 and Rs.22,737,555.99 totalling of Rs.56,104,188.43 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR +3.25% p.a each respectively from 23rd September 2022 on the capital outstanding of Development Loan I facility Rs. 32,000,311.13 and Development Loan II facility Rs. 19,427,480.57 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 161 dated 03.01.1991 made by W M E Uduwawela Licensed Surveyor (being a portion of Lots 1, 2 and 3 in Plan No. 1163 dated 07.12.1984 made by C A O Dierckx Licensed Surveyor) from and out of the land called "TALWATTA ESTATE (also known as GAlMADUWA ESTATE)" situated at Nattarampotha within the Grama Niladhari's Division of Nattarampotha - 684 in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Kundasale, within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Kundasale in Uda Gampaha Korale of Patha Dumbara in the District of Kandy Central Province in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and which said Lot 1 is bounded on the NORTH by Talwatta Estate alias Gamauduwa Estate of R A D Chandrasekara on the EAST by Private Road to Houses and on the SOUTH-EAST by Private Road to Houses on the SOUTH-WEST and SOUTH by PP Maha 3375/21 and on the WEST by Talwatta Estate alias Gamauduwa Estate of J W Jayatilake and containing in extent Thirty Eight Perches (AO-R0-P38) and together with buildings plantations and everything else standing thereon.

Which said Lot 1 is now resurveyed and depicted as Lot 1 in Plan No. 3657 dated 29th May 2011 made by G Heenkenda Licensed Surveyor and described as follows.

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 3657 dated 29.05.2011 made by G Heenkenda Licensed Surveyor (being Lots 1 in Plan No. 161 dated 03.01.1991 made by W M E Uduwawela Licensed Surveyor) from and out of the Land called "TALWATTA ESTATE (also known as GAlMADUWA ESTATE)" situated at Nattarampotha within the Grama Niladhari's Division of Nattarampotha - 684 in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Kundasale, within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Kundasale in Uda Gampaha Korale of Patha Dumbara in the District of Kandy Central Province in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and which said Lot 1 is bounded on the NORTH by Part of Talwatta Estate alias Gamauduwa Estate claimed by Ariyapala on the EAST by Road Leading to Houses and Lot 3 in Plan No. 161 and on the SOUTH by Lot 21 in PP Maha 3375, state land on the and on the WEST by Part of Talwatta Estate alias Gamauduwa Estate of J W Jayatilake and containing in extent Thirty Eight Perches (AO-R0-P38) or 0.0961 Hectares and together with buildings plantations and everything else standing thereon.

Together with the Right of ways over and along Lot 3 and Lot 2 depicted in Plan No. 161 dated 03.01.1991 made by W M E Uduwawela Licensed Surveyor and which said Lot 2 depicted in Plan No. 161 has been resurveyed and marked as Lot 2 depicted in Plan No. 3657 dated 29.05.2011 made by G Heenkenda Licensed Surveyor.

By order of the Board of Directors.

K A L T RANAWEEERA
DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: PETTAH

CROWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 27th October 2022 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas CROWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated the lease hold rights of the property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by Virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 2803 dated 02.02.2011 attested by S S Halloluwa, Notary Public of Colombo, 4255 dated 29th December 2011 and 4286 dated 09th February 2012 both attested by N C Jayawardena Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan facility of Rs. 235,160,000.00/- granted by Hatton National Bank PLC CROWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED.

And whereas the said CROWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED has made default in payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Term Loan of Rs. 235,160,000.00 extended to CROWN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (PRIVATE) LIMITED among other facilities and there is now due owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 01st August 2022 a sum of Rupees Two Hundred and Nine Million Eight Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Nine and Cents Eighty Five Only (Rs. 209,883,349.85) on the said Bonds and the Board of Director of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 do hereby resolve to sell the Lease hold rights of the property mortgaged as described in the Schedule Hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 2803, 4255 & 4286 be sold by Public Auction by K P N Silva Licensed Auctioneer of All Island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 209,883,349.85 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR +3.5% p.a from 02nd August 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs. 195,060,000.00 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charged incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

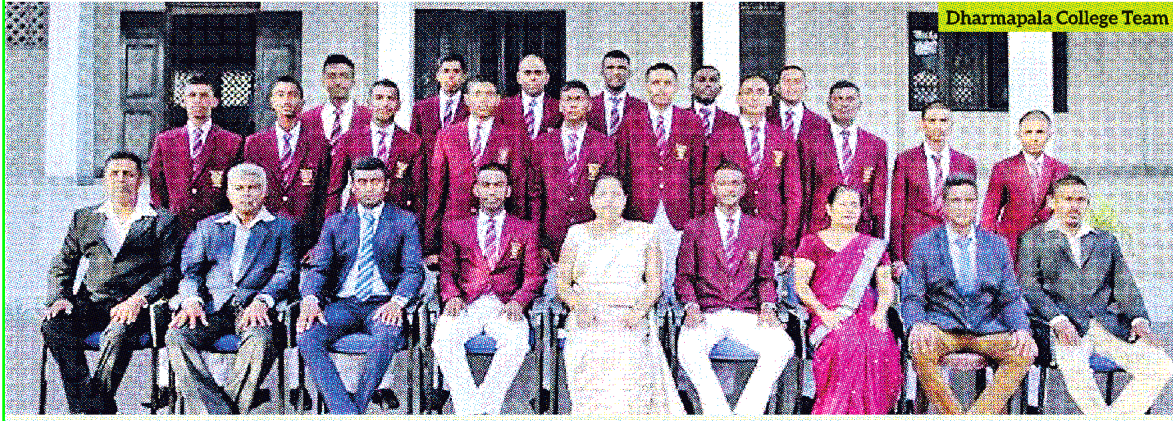
All that divided and defined allotment of land Marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. Co. 6137 dated 27th January 1984 authenticated by the Surveyor General together with the buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 314 and Presently bearing No. 318, Galle Road (Now Bamalapatiya Road) situated at Thimbrigasaya in Ward No. 42, Havelock Town within the Municipal Council Limits and District of Colombo Western Province and Which said Lot 1 is bounded on the NORTH by Road and a part of Premises bearing Assessment No. 314, Galle Road Owned by the Commissioner of National Housing Development on the EAST by Galle Road on the SOUTH by Kingross Mawatha and on the WEST by Premises bearing Assessment No. 6, Kingross Mawatha claimed by K G A De Silva and a Part of Premises bearing Assessment No. 314, Galle Road Owned by the Commissioner of National Housing Department and Containing in extent Nought Decimal Nought Eight Eight Five Hectares (0.0885 Hec.) according to the said Plan No. Co. 6137 [Excluding Lots 1 and 2 depicted in Plan No. 10/89 dated 08.07.1989 made by A J B Wijayakoon, Licensed Surveyor and containing in extent Nought Decimal Five Five Hectares (0.55 Ha.) and Naught Decimal Four Seven Hectares (0.47 ha.) respectively].

The aforesaid property according to a recent survey is described as follows.

All that divided and defined allotment of land Marked Lot X depicted in Plan No. 8472 dated 22th July 2005 made by S Wickramasinghe, Licensed Surveyor together with the Buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 318, Galle Road (Now Bamalapatiya Road) situated at Thimbrigasaya in Ward No. 39, Milagiriya within the Municipal Council Limits and District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot X is bounded on the NORTH by Road (Pvt) and premises bearing Assessment No. 314/1, Galle Road on the EAST by Galle Road on the SOUTH by Kingross Avenue and on the WEST by Premises bearing Assessment No. 6, Kingross Avenue and Premises bearing Assessment No. 314/1, Galle Road and Containing in extent Thirty Five Perches (AO-R0-P35) according to the said Plan No. 8472.

By order of the Board of Directors.

K A L T RANAWEEERA
DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY



Dharmapala College Team

12th Battle of the Golden Lions

RAHULA HOST DHARMAPALA AT UYANWATTA TODAY

TEXT AND PICTURES BY P D DE SILVA

Rahula College Matara will host Dharmapala College Pannipitiya for the 12th edition of the two day big match at the Uyanwatta Stadium Matara today and tomorrow.

The big match between the two schools is also known as the Ruhunu Maya encounter and was first played in 2012. It has been played annually except in 2020, 2021 and 2022 and Dharmapala College who won the 4th encounter lead the series one nil.

Hosts Rahula would be looking forward to register their first win and level the series in their centenary year. The 8th limited over encounter in the series will be played at the same venue on April (2).

The Rahula team led by Thathsara Dilshan who has Pasindu Shehan Liyanage as his Vice Captain will be selected from Minuga Lakvindu, Sadev Gamage, Dineth Thathsata, Sasinu Battage, Rithika Himesh, Senura Lakshitha, Akash Ambepitiya, Nadil Sandesh, Imeth Manamperi Dilmith Laktharana, Sandaneth Ranvinda, Risinu Rupasinghe, Janiru Wijewardena,



Rahula College Team

Aayu Kaviraj, Senuk Dewditha, Ishantha Gimhan, Hasika Kumarapperuma, Selak Peiris

Officials: D P M C Waidyarathna (MIC), Tharindu Narasinghe (Coach), Yuraj Chalaka (Assistant Coach), Pabasara Jayaweera (Assistant coach)

The Dharmapala College team led by Praveen Kumarapperuma who has Dihindu Herath as his vice captain will be selected from Uditha sandaruwan, Kavindu wijesinghe, Ashen Wickramasinghe, Pasindu chamika,

Rukshan Devinda, Dinuth Thenuwara, Nirmal Colabage, Dumanga Niketh, Dilosha Anuhas, Timoth Pathinayake, Chithma Hettiarachchi, Sithum Chamalka, Nulan Senevirathne, Chithum Baddage, Menusha Pabasara, Praveen Ranhiru Kavindu Dodangoda

Officials: Varuna Witanakanda (Head Coach), Sumeda KodiTuwakku (Assistant Coach), Kalum Peris (Assistant Coach), Tharidu Rupasinghe (Physical Trainer)



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SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC) ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL NOTICE OF ELECTION

Nominations were received for election of members to the SLMC under Section 12(1)(c) of the Medical Ordinance. The following were duly nominated:

- PADMA SRIYANI GUNARATNE
- YATIWALA VITHARAMALAGE NALINDA DHARSHANA SIRISENA
- EPITAKADUWE GAMAGE DILAN CHANDIKA EPITAKADUWA
- HARITHA PUNU ALUTHGE
- CHANDANA SUDASSI DHARMARATNE
- WICKREMASINGHE ARACHCHIGE DON THENUWAN THARANGA WICKREMASINGHE
- RAJAKARUNA NAWARATHNA ATHAPATHITHU MUDIYANSELAGE UBAYA KUMARA BANDARA WARAKAGODA
- PANAPITTIYAGE WIJAYALAL CHANDRASIRI PANAPITTIYA
- INDIKA MAHESH KARUNATHILAKE
- MANUJ CHRISHANTHA WEERASINGHE
- HATHURUSINGHE ARACHCHILAGE CHITRANANDA WIJESIRI HATHURUSINGHE
- YAKUPITI HIMAN SHASHEDARA DE SILVA
- ROHAN AJITH DHARMADASA
- HADUNNETHEGE TYRONE CHRISHANTHA SILVA ABEYSENA
- AMARAKOON MUDIYANSELAGE DON MOHAN INDIKA DE LANEROLLE
- MUDITHA HANSAKA WIJEMUNI
- ANUSHIKA MADHAVI JAYATILEKA ABEYNAYAKE
- WELPALLE ARACHILLAGE CHAMENDRA CHANDRASIRI RANASINGHA
- MESTRIGE RUKSHAN EDWARD BELLANA
- DON DESHPRIYA ANANDA WIJEWICKRAMA
- SUMANASIRI HEWA KOLAMBAGE
- VITHARANA PATHIRANA DHAMMIKA

An election shall be held for electing of Eight (08) Members from the above candidates. Medical Practitioners with valid registration under Section 29 of the Medical Ordinance are eligible to vote, which could be done either by post or in person.

Voting in person shall be held at the Mihilaka Madura of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7 from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Tuesday 23rd May, 2023 and Wednesday 24th May, 2023.

A postal vote should be requested in writing and individually. A letter addressed to the Returning Officer should be sent stating the full name registered with the SLMC, the SLMC registration number, the National Identity Card number and the residential address of the applicant as registered with the SLMC using the application for a postal vote is published along with this notice. The application can be downloaded from the SLMC website (www.slmc.gov.lk). A photocopy of the SLMC Identity Card or National Identity Card or Passport should be sent along with the application. The application should be sent to the Returning Officer only by registered post to reach the SLMC office on or before the closing date stated below. Applications submitted by hand or other means of communication shall NOT be accepted. If there are more than one application in an envelope they will be rejected as the applications have to be submitted individually.

Applications for postal vote shall be closed at 3.00 pm on Friday 21st April 2023. All applications received after 3.00pm on 21st April, 2023 shall be rejected. Please note that the signatures and all other particulars shall be verified with the registration documents available at the SLMC.

A postal ballot papers will be sent only to the applicant's address as registered with SLMC. A separate instruction sheet on marking postal ballots and certification will be sent along with the ballot paper. Marked postal ballots should be sent to the Returning Officer only by Registered Post to reach the SLMC office before 3.00 pm on Monday 22nd May, 2023. All marked ballot papers received after 3.00 pm 22nd May, 2023 will be rejected.

According to the "Sri Lanka Medical Council Election Procedure Regulations" any Medical Practitioner who is found to be involved in any kind of Election Malpractice shall be considered as an offender and shall be reported to the Council under the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations of the SLMC.

Prof. Vajira H.W. Dissanayake
President / Returning Officer
Sri Lanka Medical Council
No. 31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.
31 March 2023.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC) ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL APPLICATION TO BE TREATED AS A POSTAL VOTER

Shall be sent by registered post to the Returning Officer
The Returning Officer,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
No. 31, Norris Canal Road,
Colombo 10.

Applications for postal votes shall not be accepted by hand. A photocopy of the SLMC Identity Card or national Identity Card or Passport should be sent along with the application. According to the 'Sri Lanka Medical Council Election Procedure Regulations' any Medical Practitioner who is found to be involved in any kind of Election Malpractice shall be considered as an offender and shall be reported for professional misconduct under the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations of the SLMC.

Full Name:
SLMC Registration Number:
National Identity Card Number:
Address Registered with the SLMC:
Contact Telephone Number: Mobile Phone Number:
Email Address:
Name and Address of the Hospital/Institution if relevant:

Returning Officer
Election of Members of the SLMC: May 2023

Dear Sir,

Election of Members of the SLMC under Section 12(1)(c) of the Medical Ordinance

I wish to cast my vote in the above election as a postal voter. Please send a postal ballot paper to the address of my residence registered with SLMC. I will abide by all rules and regulations pertaining to the election of members of the SLMC.

Date: Signature of the Applicant:

For Office Use only

Date of receipt of the application:
Serial No:
Status: Accepted / Rejected
Signature of the Returning Officer:

SPORTS

Dhananja Edirisinghe bags 7/7 for Softlogic Life

Off spinner Dhananja Edirisinghe with mesmerizing figures of 3.5 overs, seven runs, seven wickets, helped Softlogic Life to snuff Ceylon Tobacco Co. by four wickets, in the on going fifth Fairfirst Insurance Trophy - MCA "F" division 25 over League Tournament 2023, continued last weekend.

The weekend's batting honours went to Unilever opening batsman Gayan Rupasinghe, who hit a hurricane 96 runs in 53 balls, inclusive of 11 sixes and a boundary vs. Ansell Textile; Unilever won the match by 25 runs.

The tournament will be continued this week-end (April 1) and (2) with the Pre-Quarter finals. (BM)

Match Results in brief :
Commercial Bank "B" - 194/6 (25) beat Cargills Bank - 152 (22.4) by 42 runs; George Steuart Health - 162/4 (18) beat NTB 111/8 (18) by 51 runs (Match reduced to 19 overs a side, due to wet ground condition); Slim Pharma - 110/8 (25) lost to Std. Chartered Bank - 113/2 (17.3) by 8 wickets; MAS Silueta - 216/7 (25) beat Certis Lanka 70 (17.2) by 140 runs; Unilever - 172/7 (25) beat SAGT - 149/9 (25) by 23 runs; Synergen Health - 106/7 (25) beat Union Bank - 87 (21.4) by 19 runs; Atire - 108 (21.2) lost to Astron Lanka 109/5 (18.2) by 5 wickets; Unilever - 229/9 (25) beat Ansel Textiles - 204/7 (25) by 25 runs; Union Bank - 109 (24.4) lost to Dialog Axiata 112/1 (18.1) by 9 wickets; Hirdaramani - 116 (24.4) lost to Expolanka Group - 117/1 (18.1) by 9 wickets; Dialog Axiata - 141 (23.4) lost to Technomedics - 145/4 (22.1) by 6 wickets; Commercial Credit - 117 (24) lost to DPGC "B" 121/5 (14.4) by 5 wickets; Ceylon Tobacco - 154 (22.5) lost to Softlogic Life - 158/6 (23.5) by 4 wickets; Ansell Lanka - 183/7 (25) beat Emerchemie NB - 169/9 (25) by 14 runs; MAS Active - 168/8 (25) beat 3DH International - 151/8 (25) by 17 runs; HNB "B" - 177/7 (25) beat Hirdaramani - 136 (24.5) by 41 runs.

Sports Minister asks for meeting with ICC to address allegations of political interference at SLC

Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe has sought a meeting with the International Cricket Council (ICC), to address reports that it appointed a three-member committee to probe allegations

of political interference in the operation of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

In a letter addressed to ICC Chairman Grey Barclay, Ranasinghe said that while he believed in the

autonomy in the administration in all sports bodies, he also expected them, as Sports Minister, to operate with transparency and in keeping with the law of the land.

In this light, the Minister had

requested a meeting with the ICC after it emerged that a three-member committee headed by Board of Control for Cricket in India Secretary Jay Shah and including ICC Deputy Chairman Imran

Khawaja and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan, had been appointed to look into allegations of interference by the Minister in the running of SLC.

ROYAL FACE WESLEY IN CR 7S OPENER

BY HARSHA AMARASINGHE

The inter-school segment of the CR & FC Centenary Rugby 7s Tournament will kick off today with Royal College taking on Wesley College at Longden Place on Friday (31).

The opening game of Group A, which could also be considered a Group of Death, is scheduled to start at 10.30 a.m. In addition to Royal and Wesley, Group A also features St. Peter's College which makes it a very tough group.

Arguably the favourites for the inter school segment, Isipathana College, is drawn in Group C with Zahira College and Vidyarthi College while Trinity College is set to face St. Joseph's College and Piliyandala Central in Group B.

Kingswood College might start off as favourites in

CR & FC CENTENARY RUGBY 7S			
Day 1 - Schedule			
G - A	Royal College	Wesley College	10.30
G - B	Piliyandala Central	St. Joseph's College	10.50
G - C	Zahira College	Isipathana College	11.10
G - D	D.S. Senanayake College	S.Thomas' College	11.30
G - A	St. Peter's College	Wesley College	11.50
G - B	Trinity College	St. Joseph's College	12.10
G - C	Vidyarthi College	Isipathana College	12.30
G - D	Kingswood College	S.Thomas' College	12.50
G - A	Royal College	St. Peter's College	13.10
G - B	Piliyandala Central	Trinity College	13.30
G - C	Zahira College	Vidyarthi College	13.50
G - D	D.S. Senanayake College	Kingswood College	14.10

LUNCH			
CUP / PLATE QF 1	G-A 1st	G-D 2nd	3.40
CUP / PLATE QF 2	G-B 1st	G-C 2nd	4.00
CUP / PLATE QF 3	G-C 1st	G-B 2nd	4.20
CUP / PLATE QF 4	G-D 1st	G-A 2nd	4.40

Group D which also includes S. Thomas College as well as DS Senanayake College.

All the round robin fixtures are expected to be completed in the afternoon with the quarter-finals set to be held from 3.40 p.m.

Inter club matches will begin on Saturday with a

Group A match between Kandy Sports Club and Police Sports Club while that Group also includes CR & FC as well as Army Sports Club.

In Group B, Air Force Sports Club, Havelock Sports Club, Navy Sports Club and CH & FC will battle it out for the top spot.

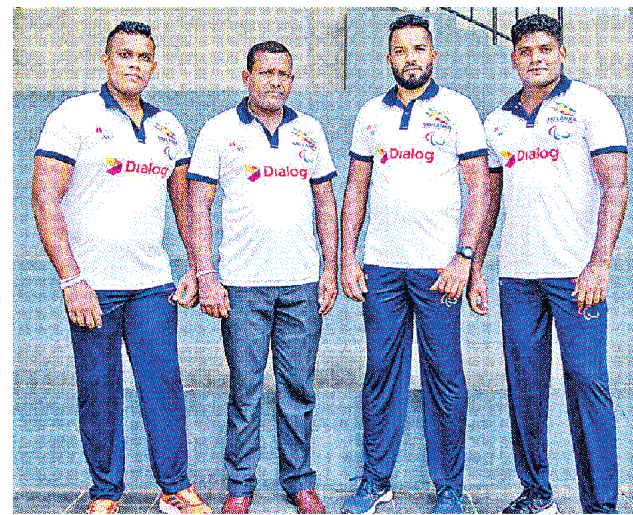
Sri Lankan Paralympians vie for Gold in Australia

Sri Lanka's Para Javelin stars, Dinesh Priyantha (F46) and Samantha Dulan (F44) and shot put (F42) national para record holder, Palitha Bandara will be competing for medals at the Australian National Para Athletics Open Championship which will be held at the Olympics stadium Brisbane, Australia.

Dinesh Priyantha, with a distance of 67.79 metres entered the record books with a Gold for the longest throw at the 2020 Tokyo Games for F46 Javelin, while his team mate Samitha Dulan (F44) secured a Bronze at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2020.

1450 Paralympians representing 23 countries will compete at this year's games in Australia.

Sri Lanka's premier



connectivity provider, Dialog Axiata is the proud sponsor of the Sri Lanka National Paralympic team.

Pictured (L-R): Samitha Dulan - Coach, Predeep Nisantha, Dinesh Priyantha and Palitha Bandara

Rajans Soccer Carnival today

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

The Old Rajans Football Club organized Junior Schools Football tournament will take place today (March 31) starting at 8 a.m. at their school ground at Lake View.

A group of past soccer legends will get together to support and

uplift Rajans Soccer. They will be identifying talent of the youngsters at a tender age and give them ample opportunities to participate at schools level and later on to represent the country.

This is organized with the support of Rajans Sports Council and Old Rajans Football Club.

There will be around 30 teams playing in this event which will be from grade 6 to 10.

Chief Guest will be Principal - Dharmaraja College Kamal Ariyasinghe with Sanjeeva Alahakoon, Sales Manager Distribution - Prima Ceylon Ltd and OBA President Panagala too gracing this occasion.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NATIONAL SUPER LEAGUE (NSL) 50 OVER TOURNAMENT - FINALS TV PRODUCTION & BROADCASTING

Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to call 'Expression of Interest' from local and International firms for TV Production and Broadcast of Sri Lanka Cricket's 'National Super League (NSL) 50 Over Tournament - Finals'.

The tournament's final (Day/Night) match is scheduled to be played at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, Colombo on the 6th April 2023.

The final match of the 'National Super League (NSL) 50 Over Tournament will be held with features unparalleled to an international tournament is expected to attract wide scale attention from the cricketing fans in Sri Lanka.

SLC is seeking sponsorships on any of the following rights or as a combination of rights.

» TV Production

Interested firms should be able to carry out a LIVE production on par with accepted broadcasting standards, with the deployment of 10 HD cameras as a minimum with the capacity to provide TV umpiring facilities.

» Broadcasting Rights

Exclusive Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Rights with the exclusion of terrestrial YouTube Broadcasting Rights (Limited to the territory of Sri Lanka)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting, gambling shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- This EOI will be available only for direct sponsors and therefore marketing agencies shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Sub-licensing of the rights to be granted herein will not be permitted.
- Each firm/organization is eligible to show interest and acquire one or more rights categories

Interested firms/organizations are called upon to submit their letters of **Expression of Interest [EOI]** for each of the rights category which it wishes to acquire **together with the financial proposals/right fee** (as a .pdf password protected file) **that is intended to be offered for each such category** separately along with a summary of credentials, and corporate profile of the firm/organisation to SLC via e-mail to sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk to reach on or before **12 Noon [Sri Lankan Time]** on the **3rd April 2023**.

The SLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The SLC also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time.

Chief Executive Officer
Sri Lanka Cricket



Wenappuwa HA Team



Kandy HA Team

Kandy and Wennappuwa joint champions in Junior Nationals Men's hockey

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Kandy Hockey Association (KHA) and Wennappuwa Hockey Association (WHA) emerged joint champions at the 43rd Hockey Junior Nationals Men's Championship 2023 at Peradeniya University Ground.

Wennappuwa HA last won the Junior Nationals Hockey tournament

in 2019. The Junior Nationals Men's Tournament conducted by the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation (SLHF) after 2019 was interrupted by rain even before the start of the match and the SLHF Tournament Committee took steps to declare both teams as joint champions. This year, 13 District Association teams participated in the Junior Nationals Men's Hockey

Tournament. In the semi-finals, Kandy HA beat Colombo HA 2-1 and Wennappuwa HA beat Matala HA 4-2.

Meanwhile, Colombo HA beat Matala HA to claim third place. In the quarter-finals, Kandy beat Combined University 2-0, Wennappuwa beat Mercantile 2-0, Colombo beat Kalutara 1-0 and Matala beat Sri Lanka Schools (A) 1-0.

National Super League Limited Over Dambulla come back to winning terms

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

Dambulla after having undergone a defeat to Galle in their previous outing came back to winning terms when they came out victorious against Kandy by one wicket in the National Super League limited over encounter played at R. Premadasa Stadium yesterday.

However they were made to work hard for their win in their run chase of 240 runs and the foundation for the win was laid by top scorer Sonal Dinusha and Ashan Priyanjan who together put on a valuable stand of 66 runs for the fifth wicket which helped them to reach the target with seven balls to spare and in the process they chalked their sixth win of the tournament.

The morning session saw Kandy taking first lease of the wicket lost two early wickets with 35 on the board in the sixth over before Oshada Fernando who made 76 in 75 balls inclusive of ten boundaries and a six and Lahiru Udara who scored a run a ball 52 with seven boundaries put on 110 runs

for the third wicket enabling them to make a score of 239 which proved to be insufficient.

Meanwhile Colombo recorded their first win of the tournament with a comfortable 71 runs win over Galle in another match played at the SSC ground. Galle having chalked up three wins who came into the game as favourites put themselves in a spot of both in pursuit of 226 runs for victory. The top order batting seemed to have their grip as they were made to struggle for their runs.

Within the first 20 overs they were in a bad position of 71 for 5 and never recovered as they lost the remaining five wickets for the addition of 83 runs being bowled out for 154 runs.

Earlier Colombo taking first lease of the wicket made a modest score of 225 runs which came on the back of a knock of 58 by Sachitha Jayatileke who shared a partnership of 92 runs for the sixth wicket with Dushan Vimukthi.

Results:
At R. Premadasa Stadium - Dambulla won by one wicket

Kandy 239 in 47.1 overs (Oshada Fernando 76, Lahiru Udara 52, Anhan Wickramasinghe 23, Asel Sigera 23, Pulina Tharanga 20, Niroshan Dickwella 15; Lakshan Sandakan 4 for 37, Lahiru Samarakoon 2 for 24, Sonal Dinusha 2 for 32)

Dambulla 240 for 9 in 48.5 overs (Sonal Dinusha 53, Pavan Ratnayake 34, Kamindu Mendis 26, Ashan Priyanjan 24, Ranitha Liyanarachchi 21, Lasith Abeyratne 16; Ashan Daniel 3 for 39, Movin Subasinghe 3 for 46)

At SSC - Colombo won by 71 runs
Colombo 225 in 48.3 overs (Sachitha Jayatileke 58, Dushan Vimukthi 46, Sithara Gimhana 44, Ashan Bandara 19, Isitha Wijesundara 16; Milan Ratnayake 4 for 37, Thilanga Udeshana 2 for 45, Krishan Sanjula 2 for 54)

Galle 159 in 39.4 overs (Akila Dhananjaya 27, Suminda Lakshan 26, Pathum Kumara 22, Kavishka Anjula 21, Sohan de Livera 19; Nuwan Pradeep 3 for 31, Dushan Vimukthi 3 for 34, Udith Madushan 2 for 15)

Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

P10 Full Stock Market

P11 Alumex solidifies global presence with innovative...

P12 ComBank launches LankaPay cards in Sri Lanka



Both Lankan and Indian traders saving over 50% in transaction costs by using INR

By Nishel Fernando

The use of Indian rupee (INR) in Sri Lanka-India bilateral trade is facilitating traders from both countries to cut transaction costs by over 50 percent while enabling same day trade settlements.

Joining a panel discussion themed 'Indian rupee denominated trade settlements between India and Sri Lanka and the impact to importers' organized by Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Ceylon Deputy General Manager - International Treasury and Investments, R.M.N. Jeewantha highlighted that

traders from both countries are able to make over 50 percent saving in transaction costs by using INR.

"The transaction charges are quite high when you are sending money through New York or U.S account. The banking charges alone comes to about US\$ 30-35. If you conduct the transaction using INR, there won't be any charges like that. So, it's a very cost-effective method," he said.

Further, he noted that Sri Lankan importers do not need to allocate margins for exchange rate fluctuations when trade is conducted in INR.

"When you invoice Indian exporters in INR, they are not exposed to any exchange risk, because exporters in India, anyway, conduct their businesses in INR. So, there's no need to put any margins for exchange rate appreciation or depreciation," he added.

Further, he pointed out that same-day settlements have a distinct advantage in INR trade as earlier same-day trade settlements were not possible under the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism.

According to the Central Bank, around six Sri

Lankan banks have opened Nostro accounts in India and 10 more banks are in the process of opening Nostro accounts to facilitate trade settlements in INR. With more banks coming onboard, Jeewantha noted that exporters and importers would get more competitive exchange rates moving forward.

As of February, he noted that BOC performed around 180 transactions in INR. In order to promote trade settlements in INR, he stressed that educating Indian exporters remains crucial.



MORE ON P10 R.M.N. Jeewantha

Reyaz Mihular appointed to SLT board

Sri Lanka Telecom PLC yesterday announced the appointment of Reyaz Mihular to its board as an independent non-executive director with effect from March 30, 2023.

Mihular is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and was the former Managing Partner for KPMG Sri Lanka & Maldives.

He was a former non-executive director of Ceylon Electricity Board and Lanka Transformers Limited and Independent Television Network.

He is also a past Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka.

Mihular currently serves as the Chairman of Bairaha Farms PLC, independent non executive director of Nestle Lanka PLC, Melstacorp PLC, Agility Innovation Private Limited and as a Commissioner of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission.

Sri Lanka hopes to finalise debt relief deal in six months

■ Prez says hoping to arrive at comprehensive debt restructuring agreement with creditors by the time first review under EFF takes place in six months

■ SL kicks off discussions with commercial creditors and investors for debt restructuring via virtual presentation

■ Following fiscal adjustments and debt treatment, Sri Lanka is expected to reduce public debt below 95% of GDP by 2032 from 128% of GDP in 2022

■ Prez says this is the last chance for Sri Lanka to carry out growth enhancing structural reforms

By Indika Sakalasooriya

Sri Lanka expects to conclude the discussions with its creditors—both official and

private—and reach a debt relief deal by the first review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme that received Executive Board approval early last week.

"We hope to conclude the discussions and arrive at a comprehensive restructuring agreement with the creditors by the time the first review under the EFF in six months takes place," President Ranil Wickremesinghe told a discussion organised by the professional body of the country's chartered accountants, CA Sri Lanka yesterday.

The discussion themed 'Economic Dialogue-IMF and Beyond' was the first public discussion President Wickremesinghe took part in after the approval of Sri Lanka's IMF programme.

Sri Lanka has already held two meetings with its official creditors, which include China, India and Parsi Club nations including Japan, and their financing assurances helped the country to unlock the US\$ 3 billion IMF bailout package.

The country yesterday initiated discussions with its commercial creditors and investors with

Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe and the Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardana outlining the key objectives of the IMF programme and the next steps towards



Ranil Wickremesinghe

creditor engagement via a virtual presentation.

As at end of 2022, Sri Lanka had US\$ 41.4 billion foreign debt, which fell under international law and US\$ 42.1 billion of domestic debt, which fell under local law.

Following fiscal adjustments and debt treatment, Sri Lanka is expected to reduce public debt below 95 percent of GDP by 2032.

Sri Lanka's debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to have reached 128 percent of GDP in 2022, due to exchange rate depreciation, the fiscal deficit, and negative real GDP growth.

MORE ON P10

Hemas looking for consumer and healthcare acquisitions

Hemas Holdings PLC is looking expand its presence in consumer and healthcare segments, as the corporate behemoth remains acquisitive in the two fields.

Hemas commands the market leadership in pharmaceutical and stationary businesses which engages in both distribution and manufacturing while its home and personal care (HPC) segment demonstrated resilience despite some slowdown in the recent past.

"Hemas' domestic HPC business, which operates in the mid to premium price categories, continued to innovate, offering value propositions such as smaller pack sizes and product variants that gained traction among customers.

This helped the company to defend its market share despite falling demand", Fitch Ratings said this week.

"Hemas is looking at acquisitions in the consumer and healthcare segments to further improve its market position, given the attractive valuations in the current environment," it added.

The rating agency affirmed Hemas' AAA rating with a Stable outlook considering its defensive cash flows stemming from pharmaceutical trading and manufacturing and consumer businesses.

They together account for 90 percent of the group's Earnings Before Interest and Taxes, a performance matrix equivalent to the operating profit.

MORE ON P10

SL signals willingness to consider rupee debt for restructuring

■ T-Bills held by CB to be considered for treatment

■ DDO without coercion envisaged for T-Bonds

In a major move to gain trust and cooperation of its foreign creditors, Sri Lanka yesterday expressed its willingness to include rupee debt in the debt restructuring exercise.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe and Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardana yesterday said only Treasury Bills held by the Central Bank will be considered for treatment to create some fiscal space for the government.



Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe

Mahinda Siriwardana

Their presentation to the country's commercial creditors and investors said a voluntary domestic debt optimization (DDO) operation without coercion is envisaged for Treasury Bonds.

It also said the Sri Lankan government and its advisors will initiate consultations with major

Treasury Bond holders to gauge options and constraints.

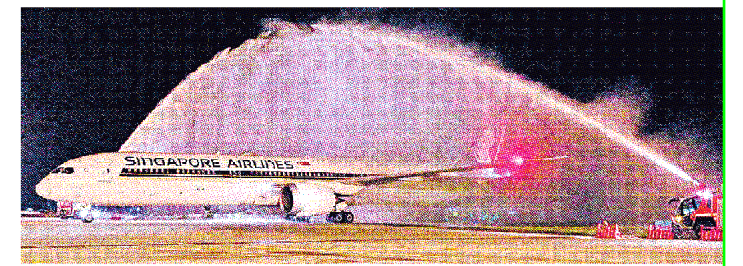
Out of the total Treasury Bill stock, the Central Bank holds 62.4 percent. Superannuation funds like Employees' Provident Fund hold 42.7 percent of Treasury Bonds.

The presentation stated that the envisaged domestic debt optimisation will help reduce the efforts required from external creditors to restore debt sustainability, but taking into account financial stability objectives.

"We envisage to finalise domestic debt optimisation by May 2023 and external debt restructuring by September 2023," Governor Weerasinghe said.

MORE ON P10

SIA launches Boeing B787-10 Dreamliner on Colombo-Singapore route



Singapore Airlines (SIA) commenced operation of Boeing B787-10 Dreamliner between Colombo and Singapore on March 27.

The airline currently operates four flights per week on the Colombo-Singapore route and expects to increase the frequency to daily flights by end of October.

Constructed using lightweight composite materials, the 68-metre B787-10 is the longest variant of Boeing's Dreamliner range. Passengers can look forward to a comfortable journey, experiencing large electronically dimmable windows, low cabin altitude, generous headroom, and a quiet and smooth ride.

MORE ON P10

January credit card balance slips as cardholders turn cautious on spending

The credit card balance, a distant proxy for consumer spending, bucked the recent trend to show a decline in January, reflecting some pullback in spending amid higher interest rates and inflation.

The data showed that in January, the total outstanding card balance in commercial banks falling by Rs.1,037 million after rising by Rs.2,675 million in December 2022.

Consumers hit by record high prices and increased borrowing costs appear to have cut back on their purchases.

However, usually in January, consumer credit shows a slowdown after reaching a seasonal high in December until



April festive season, the other major shopping season for Sri Lankans.

In 2022, overall credit declined in response to the economic crisis that sparked a sharp rise in interest rates and inflation, which made financial conditions extremely tight for both businesses and individuals.

MORE ON P10

ITC's new electronic system cuts down processing time of 'Certificate of Origin' by 94%



Minister of Trade, Commerce, and Food Security Nalin Fernando with the teams from ITC and the Department of Commerce

Sri Lankan exporters will be able to obtain the 'Country of Origin' certification much faster with the International Trade Center (ITC) presenting to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce a new electronic system for the same.

Implemented by the Department of Commerce (DoC), the new electronic certificate of origin system is a fully digital solution that would help improve trade by simplifying and significantly accelerating the issuance of Preferential Certificates of Origin, which are crucial in determining the origin of

goods and their eligibility for preferential treatment under all trade agreements.

With the system, on 27 March the DoC went fully digital under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. The system was presented to Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security Nalin Fernando by the ITC team led by Programme Manager and Trade Facilitation Advisor Raghad Altalli.

According to the ITC, the new system cuts down the time required to obtain a Country of Origin certificate by 94 percent, bringing the total processing time to 30 minutes.

MORE ON P10

SL should ban sale of single-stick cigarettes if serious about reducing smoking prevalence: IPS

■ Nearly 107 countries have already taken steps to ban single-stick sales

■ Study recommends amending SL's current tobacco legislation to enable banning single-stick sales

Sri Lanka should immediately look at banning sale of single-stick cigarettes if it is serious about reducing the smoking

prevalence in the country, a new study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) revealed.

The study notes that despite Sri Lanka's progress in implementing most of the tobacco control measures, there are some critical demand and supply reduction measures that Sri Lanka has not introduced yet.

Authored by Dilani Hirimuthugodage and Nimesha Dissanayaka, the study titled 'The Case for Banning Single

Stick Cigarettes: Options for Effective Implementation' recommends that the most appropriate legislative approach for Sri Lanka is to amend its current tobacco legislation or the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) Act.

The implementation of the ban would have a significant impact on reducing smoking prevalence as it will likely reduce smoking among minors, lower-income groups, and the 'last mile' of smokers in the country.

Across the world, 107 countries, including those in Asia, have already taken several steps to ban single-stick cigarette sales. The most common policy adopted was to have specific laws or legislation to ban the selling of single-stick cigarettes. The case study analysis suggests that effective implementation and monitoring are important to ensure the success of, and compliance with, any ban on single stick sales.

MORE ON P10



SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC

1319 www.sarvodayafinance.lk



30.03.2023

Table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A. TODAY'S, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, CHANGE. Contains multiple columns of stock market data including Main Board, Security, and various company listings.

Exchange Rates

30.03.2023

Table of exchange rates for various currencies including Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Chinese Yuan, Euro, Japanese Yen, etc.

Indices close in red

Indices closed in red as a result of price losses in counters such as Commercial Bank, National Development Bank and DFCC Bank with the turnover crossing Rs. 912 mn.



The share price of Sampath Bank gained Rs. 1.20 (2.27%) to close at Rs. 54.10. The share price of Nations Trust Bank moved down by Rs. 0.80 (1.34%) to close at Rs. 59.10.

Contd. from Page 09

Sri Lanka hopes ...

Meanwhile, President Wickremesinghe said his target is not merely to stabilise the country's economy, but to ensure its growth. Sri Lanka's economy contracted 7.8 percent in 2022, and is expected to contract by about 3 percent this year.

The authorities are also exploring options for a domestic debt optimisation (DDO) operation aimed at liquidity relief while preserving financial stability to avoid further erosion of Sri Lanka's repayment capacity.

It is envisaged that this DDO will be conducted on a voluntary basis and be based on our consultations with major T-Bonds holders," the statement said. (IS)

SIA launches...

With exceptional operating efficiency and advanced technology, the B787-10 aircraft is also environmentally friendly with a small carbon footprint. The operation of a young fleet of new generation aircraft reaffirms Singapore Airlines' long-standing commitment towards sustainability.

January credit ...

However, from the early 2023, some easing in the conditions was seen as both interest rates and inflation showed signs of deceleration. While the lending markets have shown signs of slowly picking up with the sharp decline in the prime rate, credit card interest rates still remain at 36 percent, which may prevent people from using their pre-approved card balance for their purchases.

While credit card usage in Sri Lanka may not provide a full picture of the consumer spending habits given the extremely lower number of active cards, compared to its population, it provides some insights into the direction of consumer spending.

In January, the number of active cards also fell by 10,719 cards to 1,942,272, a fraction of Sri Lanka's working population of roughly 8.5 million.

Both Lankan ...

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan branch of State Bank of India (SBI) is currently in the process of enabling INR letters of credit for Sri Lankan importers. Moving forward, State Bank of India (SBI) Country Heads, Ravindra Kumar Jha opined that both countries are set to benefit from conducting bilateral trade in INR as it would help to lessen fluctuations in exchange rate.

Hemas looking ...

"The rating is supported by Hemas' exceptionally strong balance sheet and high rating headroom. Its EBITDA net leverage is likely to remain below 1.0x over the next two years, compared with the 4.5x leverage threshold for the current rating," Fitch added. However, the rating agency expects the revenue growth to slow to high single digits in the next financial year ending March 2024 following 42 percent growth in revenues in the nine months in the FY2023 amid weaker consumer spending.

ITC's new ...

The electronic system also eliminates all processing costs, making it a highly efficient and cost-effective solution for exporters, who no longer need to travel to the DoC or banks and can complete the process online without printing any documents. The electronic certificate of origin system was developed in response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, subsequent economic crisis, and fiscal crisis, which made it difficult for exporters to travel and be physically present at the DoC for documentation purposes.

SL should ban ...

Accordingly, the study recommends the implementation of three key reforms. The first is to introduce an amendment to the country's current tobacco policy or the NATA Act. The second is to effectively implement existing laws banning all forms of tobacco promotion, advertising, and sponsorship related to cigaretttes.

Dulux colours Architect 2023 exhibition with vibrant and engaging presence

Dulux, Sri Lanka's leading manufacturer of paints and coatings, is celebrating the successful close of its participation at Architect 2023, also taking home an award for the Best Trade Stall with Innovative Use of Colour.

Organised by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) and now in its 41st year, this year's edition of the Architect 2023 annual trade fair took place from February 24-26, at the BMICH and witnessed greater participation from leading companies and entrepreneurs actively involved in the various construction and architecture sectors, both locally and internationally.

Dulux established a strong presence at the event, with a spectacular exhibit themed Colour Futures '23, featuring its 2023 Colour of the Year: Wild Wonder. The visitors to the stand were able to explore the four-colour palettes, Lush, Buzz, Raw and Flow, inspired by the nature-influenced theme, with Dulux

colour experts on hand providing unique trade insight and also advising visitors on how best the shades can be implemented into their own work and living spaces. The popular mascot 'Dulux Dog' was also present to playfully engage with exhibition attendees and brighten up the vibrant Dulux stall even further. The Dulux exhibit proved widely popular among attendees at Architect 2023, due to its powerful display of colour in both interior and exterior spaces.

"Architect 2023 was a great opportunity for Dulux to learn from fellow trade professionals and also to introduce visitors to the latest trends and insights from the global paints and coatings landscape," said AkzoNobel Paints Sri Lanka Head of Marketing Upendra Gunawardhana.

"We've maintained a strong longstanding relationship with the SLIA and have every intention of being back again next year as well!"

SLT-MOBITEL partners with Prime Group's The Grand for comprehensive IT solutions



SLT Chief Regional Business Officer Imantha Wijekoon and Prime Lands Residencies PLC Managing Director Manjula Weerakkody exchange signed agreement

SLT-MOBITEL, the national ICT solutions provider, signed an agreement recently with Prime Lands Residencies PLC to provide comprehensive ICT solutions with SLT-MOBITEL fibre connectivity for its prestigious and ultra-luxury masterpiece residences, The Grand, located at Ward Place, Colombo 7.

The agreement was signed between SLT Chief Regional Business Officer Imantha Wijekoon and Prime Lands Residencies PLC Managing Director Manjula Weerakkody, in the presence of the officials representing SLT-MOBITEL and Prime Lands Residencies PLC.

Brilliantly designed The Grand's elegant apartments offer true comfort and privacy, bringing a sense of flair and discernment, creating the ultimate standard in luxury for every aspect of the living experience. Comprising 37 floors and 160 meters in height, The Grand also offers over 50,000 square feet areas for leisure and recreation, featuring several levels of curated indoor and outdoor amenities.

Sharing his thoughts on the partnership Weerakkody stated, "The Grand has been celebrated as providing residents an extraordinary lifestyle experience. Partnering SLT-MOBITEL, we have full confidence in receiving superior fibre capabilities, smart home and ICT solutions to meet the high standard of expectations synonymous with upper echelon lifestyles."

SLT-MOBITEL will power The Grand's entire suite of apartments with fibre solutions infrastructure, enabling ultra-fast internet connectivity, crystal clear voice communication as well as world-class entertainment with access to high definition TV content via PEO TV.

Wijekoon commented, "We are proud to partner with the Prime group's flagship apartment complex The Grand Ward Place. Smart apartments represent a fundamental shift in changing consumer lifestyles. Through its state-of-the-art ICT and fibre solutions, SLT-MOBITEL can provide world-class ICT services that meet international standards."

Alumex solidifies global presence with innovative export strategies

- Product portfolio expansion to support export revenue earnings
- Announces launch of DIY portfolio for local markets
- 2022 an inflection point; Alumex tops industry for export contributions, good governance and business excellence



Alumex PLC, a leading manufacturer of high-quality aluminium profiles and a subsidiary of the Hayleys group, has set its sights on expanding its value-added offerings and solidifying its position as the leading exporter in the industry.

With a string of national recognitions bestowed by major awarding bodies in 2022, Alumex PLC is well on its way to making a significant impact on the local and global market.

The manufacturer is now launching an exciting new do-it-yourself (DIY) product portfolio for the local market. Consisting of a wide range of products, the new range will cater to the needs of the residential market segments offering uniquely innovative solutions for their homes.

Following on investments channelled into its state-of-the-art melting plant in Sapugaskanda, Alumex will continue to drive sustainable innovation in the construction sector with the launch of its groundbreaking low-carbon aluminium range Ozon and Re_AL.

"The past two years have been challenging for us all. However, the success of our future and our resilience in overcoming these difficulties are anchored in our ability to expand our export portfolio, generate the much-needed revenue and look after our industry stakeholders.

"In working towards this vision, we will continue to add new products to drive export revenue while strengthening our training and capacity-building sessions for fabricators,

craftsmen, students and professionals to enhance and create industry experts, who can support our vision," Alumex Managing Director Pramuk Dediwela.

Alumex won prestigious awards in 2022 across multiple illustrious platforms and facets of business, including the Gold award – Machinery and Light Engineering Products Sector – 2022 NCE Export Awards, for the outstanding achievement of introducing aluminium extrusions to Sri Lanka's export portfolio.

The manufacturer further strengthened its reputation among industry heavyweights with a Gold award and a Top 10 Winners rank at CNCI Achiever Award 2022 and by topping the manufacturing sector at the National Business Excellence Awards.

Further solidifying its reputation of transparent reporting to its stakeholders, Alumex won international acclaim with Gold – manufacturing category for its integrated report, at the CA Sri Lanka's TAGS Awards 2022 and the Bronze award – Best Annual Report at Asia Integrated Reporting Awards 2021. Similarly, the company was ranked among the Top 10 Best Integrated Reporting Awards – CMA Excellence

in Integrated Reporting Awards 2022.

"The awards won in 2022 reflect the hard work and dedication of our team and serve as an inspiration for us to continue setting new standards of excellence," said Dediwela.

Founded in 1986, Alumex PLC is a subsidiary of Sri Lankan multinational and diversified conglomerate Hayleys group. Alumex is a fully integrated manufacturer of aluminium profiles in Sri Lanka. Endorsed with over 35 years of industry expertise, the company develops and manufactures aluminium extrusions for an extensive suite of applications and systems such as the fabrication of doors, windows, shop fronts, curtain walls and other specialised commercial applications, including globally renowned aluminium proprietary door, window and façade systems under licence.

With a wide range of architectural, residential and industrial products made available through its national and retail distribution system, Alumex provides customers with products on par with the highest international standards. Alumex exports its pre-engineered products to the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy and Germany.



AS SRI LANKA'S #1 & THE MOST TRUSTED ALUMINIUM BRAND,
WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALUMEX PLC BAGGED 7 MAJOR AWARDS IN
2022



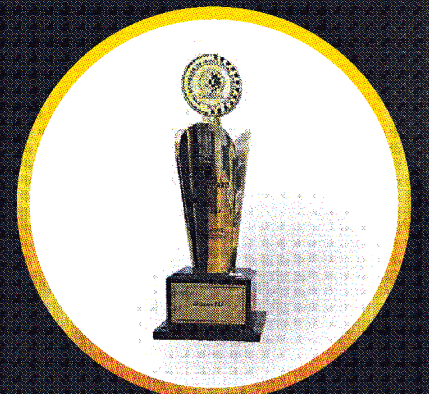
Ten Best Integrated Reports
CMA Excellence in Integrated Reporting Awards - 2022
Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka



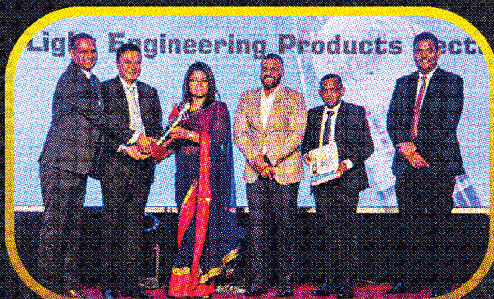
Winner
National Level - Extra Large Category Under Manufacturing Sector
CNCI Achiever of Industrial Excellence - 2022
The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries



Winner
Under Manufacturing Sector (Group Turnover Upto LKR 10 Bn)
TAGS Awards - 2022
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka



Top 10 Award Winner
CNCI Achiever of Industrial Excellence - 2022
The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries



Winner
Large Category Machinery & Light Engineering Products Sector
NCE Export Awards - 2022
National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka



Bronze Award
7th Asia Integrated Reporting Awards - 2021
CSR Works International



Winner
Manufacturing - Engineering Sector
National Business Excellence Awards - 2021
National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka

THANK YOU FOR PUTTING YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR COMPANY.
WE WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE BEST FOR YOU!

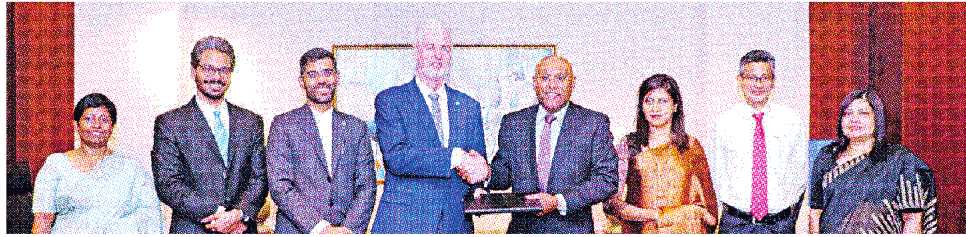


NDB initiates preparatory measures for future issuance of sustainability bonds

Furthering National Development Bank PLC's (NDB) commitment towards a greener planet and a sustainable business model, the bank entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) recently, at the boardroom of NDB Bank, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2.

GGGI Director General Dr. Frank Rijsberman signed on behalf of the GGGI while NDB Bank Director/CEO Dimantha Seneviratne and NDB Bank Vice President Project Finance and Corporate Credit Control Ishani Palliyaguru signed on behalf of NDB Bank.

Through this partnership, NDB is poised to initiate preparatory measures for the future issuance of sustainability bonds. The GGGI will lend its technical expertise to support NDB in designing a robust



sustainability bond framework. Through a sustainability bond issuance, NDB plans to finance a diverse array of green and social projects, spanning from renewable energy and sustainable transportation to green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, climate-smart agriculture and other nascent green industries.

The groundwork for this partnership was laid by a high-level event on Strategies and Actions to Accelerate Sri Lanka's Transition to a Green Development Pathway, convened on February 6, 2023, by the Environment Ministry and GGGI.

The event brought together important stakeholders

from the government, private sector, development partners, academia and civil society, under the patronage of President Ranil Wickramasinghe and Assembly President, Council of the Global Green Growth Institute Chair and United Nations Eighth Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The high-level event included a panel discussion on strategies to enhance Sri Lanka's transition to a green economy, which was chaired by GGGI Asia Regional Director and Head of Programmes Dr. Achala Abeyasinghe. At the panel discussion, Environment Ministry Climate Change Director Kumudini Vidyalankara underscored the need for creating enabling environments in Sri Lanka to mobilise sustainable financing.

As a panellist, Seneviratne further highlighted the

urgent need for a green growth model, emphasising the crucial role of the private sector in fostering sustainable financial products. Such collaboration could greatly bolster government-led development efforts. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka's launch of the Green Finance Taxonomy has further strengthened the framework for eco-conscious financing in the country.

NDB has been at the forefront of gaining access to sizeable financial sources and has led the banking sector to finance green investments domestically and abroad while also partaking in building the necessary institutional capacity to play this role. With this extensive history of financing green projects for development, NDB is well-positioned to serve as a financial catalyst for Sri Lanka's transformation to a green economy.

LOLC General Insurance joins forces with Union Bank



From left: LOLC General Insurance Channel Manager Nandun Vivipem, Head of Bancassurance Saraka Liyanage, Head of Underwriting and Operation Karthigun Siva, LOLC Life Assurance Director/Chief Executive Officer Nadika Opatha, LOLC General Insurance Director/CEO Kithsiri Gunawardena, Union Bank Director/Chief Executive Officer Indrajit Wickramasinghe, Senior Vice President Retail Banking Chaya Jayawardena and Vice President and Head of Retail Liability Products and Alternate Channels Manisha Fernando

LOLC General Insurance PLC, one of Sri Lanka's finest and fastest growing insurers, recently entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Union Bank.

The partnership focuses on strengthening the portfolios of both entities, offering a wider customer base a range of best-in-class insurance solutions, comprising of personnel and asset protection, coupled with best insurance advisory services.

The official agreement signing ceremony was held recently, at the Union Bank head office. The event was concluded with the participation of the official signatories from each entity, LOLC General Insurance Director/CEO Kithsiri Gunawardena and Union Bank Director/Chief Executive Officer Indrajit Wickramasinghe.

Commenting on the significant tie-up, Gunawardena

mentioned, "With the launch of this strategic partnership, LOLC General Insurance will be able to leverage on the strong brand presence of Union Bank footprint. Both Union Bank and LOLC General Insurance shares a common synergy in terms of committing for customer value creation and exceptional customer service, thus, this partnership will reach greater heights. We are truly enthused to embark on this journey for the greater good."

Adding to that, Wickramasinghe said, "This strategic partnership will help both Union Bank and LOLC General Insurance to strengthen the brand equities. As a result of this tie-up, Union Bank customers will now have the opportunity to experience the vast array of products and services offered by LOLC General Insurance."

ComBank launches LankaPay cards in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's payment cards domain took a giant leap when Commercial Bank of Ceylon in collaboration with LankaPay launched a national credit and debit card with international acceptance.

This national card scheme is an initiative implemented by LankaPay in partnership JCB International Co. Ltd, the Japan-based international card, with over 150 million cardholders around the world.

This is the first launch of LankaPay credit cards in Sri Lanka and the first time five variants of LankaPay cards -- three credits cards and two debit cards -- were launched by a Sri Lankan bank.

LankaPay card is an internationally accepted card, which is cost-effective and equipped with the latest technology and highest security features. All domestic transactions via LankaPay cards are routed locally and when the cards are used overseas, the transactions are routed via the JCB International network. This initiative will ensure that no foreign exchange outflow takes place for any local card transaction, which could potentially save the country a considerable amount of foreign exchange, the bank said.

The commencement of the issuance of LankaPay cards by Commercial Bank in Sri Lanka was celebrated at an event in Colombo this week, at which senior representatives of Commercial Bank, LankaPay and JCB emphasised the value of the additional width of the payment options, value-added services and customer choice the new card will offer Commercial Bank cardholders.

LankaPay cards issued in Sri Lanka by Commercial Bank will feature dual interface functionality, enabling both contact and contactless transactions at point-of-sale (POS) terminals connected to the LankaPay payment network. The cards can also be used at all automated teller machines (ATMs) linked to the LankaPay platform and over 42,000 merchant points islandwide. The card will enable Sri Lankans to enjoy JCB's global merchant network comprising of more than 41 million acceptance locations. The bank will issue LankaPay-branded credit cards in the Platinum, Gold and Classic tiers while the debit cards will be in the Platinum and Classic tiers. The debit card will be the first dual interface card in the country where the user can perform both contactless and contact-enabled transactions at any POS device.

Speaking at the launch of the ComBank-LankaPay



From left: JCB International Executive Vice President Koya Sakuma, LankaPay Chairman Kenneth Zilwa, Commercial Bank Chairman Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer Sanath Manatunge and LankaPay General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Channa de Silva at landmark ComBank-LankaPay-JCB credit and debit card launch
PIC BY PRADEEP DILRUCKSHANA

cards, Commercial Bank Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer Sanath Manatunge said, "We are delighted to offer LankaPay credit and debit cards under the National Card Scheme, with both local and global acceptance and support a national initiative, which is more pertinent now than ever before. Commercial Bank has been associated with JCB for several years and was one of the first banks in Sri Lanka to acquire both LankaPay cards and JCB cards under the National Card Scheme. The JCB cards have also been accepted at our ATMs for the past four years. We believe that this partnership will further strengthen our relationship with JCB while supporting the national economy at a critical time."

Speaking at this occasion, LankaPay GM/CEO Channa de Silva said, "The launch of ComBank LankaPay cards in Sri Lanka is a giant leap in furtherance of our quest to empower every Sri Lankan with faster, convenient, secure and affordable payment solutions, thereby creating financially inclusivity. LankaPay is committed to bring best-

of-breed solutions to Sri Lanka's national payment infrastructure and has been at the forefront in revolutionising the country's banking and financial services sector by keeping the elements 'innovation' and 'convenience' at its core. We are delighted to have Commercial Bank aboard to issue LankaPay credit/debit cards, which will no doubt give a fresh impetus to this initiative of national significance."

Representing JCB at the event, the company's Executive Vice President Koya Sakuma said, "JCB has been the leading credit card company in Japan for 50 years and a global payment brand for 30 years. We provide an unparalleled experience for our partners and their customers. Our flexible approach with our partners allows us to exceed expectations, which in turn, helps customers achieve their aspirations. We are excited to have partnered with LankaPay to issue the first-ever LankaPay credit card under the National Card Scheme together with Commercial Bank. We are proud to be a partner in this monumental venture."

NAMAL at forefront of innovation in unit trust industry

National Asset Management Limited (NAMAL), set up in 1991, is Sri Lanka's pioneering unit trust company. NAMAL is a subsidiary of Union Bank of Colombo PLC, in association with DFCC Bank PLC.

The NAMAL High Yield Fund is an open-ended money market unit trust fund launched in 2012 and approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka. The fund invests in short-term fixed-income products and enables investors to enhance returns on their savings whilst ensuring a low-risk profile through a diversified portfolio of securities and provides immediate liquidity. The fund is managed by NAMAL's experienced team of fund managers. The NAMAL High Yield Fund is ideally suited for both individual and institutional investors.

The NAMAL High Yield Fund is rated A- (Stable) by Lanka Ratings.

NAMAL launched Sri Lanka's first equity unit trust, the National Equity Fund, in 1991 and Sri Lanka's first listed unit trust, the NAMAL Acuity Value Fund, in 2009. NAMAL has been at the forefront of innovation in the unit trust industry with over 12,500 investors. Backed by two leading banks, the company has established an impeccable reputation for its solid financial standing, fund performance and service excellence over three decades.

People's Bank 'Vaasi Kotiyai' grand draw picks Rs.10mn super winner

The grand draw of People's Bank's People's Remittance 'Vaasi Kotiyai', Ewanna Dinanna' bonanza, to choose the super winner of the Rs.10 million grand prize, took place at the People's Bank, Overseas Customer Services premises, in Colombo 10, recently.

The daily and weekly award winners for the period from December 13 to December 31, 2022 and the December millionaire were also drawn at the event.

People's Bank's People's Remittance Vaasi Kotiyai, Ewanna Dinanna awards were initiated from February 1, 2022, with the aim of encouraging and appreciating the Sri Lankan foreign workers, who work tirelessly to strengthen the country's economy as well as to uplift the living standards of them and their families. In this programme, the year-end super winner was awarded a grand cash prize of Rs.10 million. The awards also chose

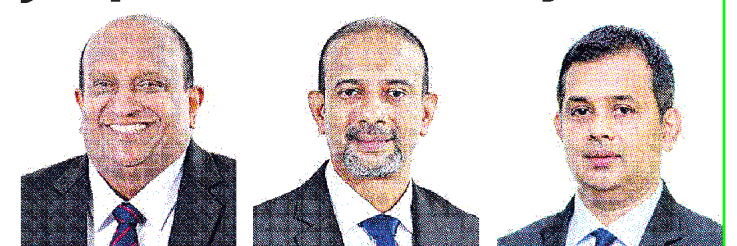


monthly winners of Rs.1 million every month, 48 lucky weekly winners of 22 carat gold coins and 334 daily winners, who won cash prizes of Rs.10,000 each throughout its duration.

People's Bank Senior Deputy General Manager Overseas Customer Services Rohan Pathirage, Deputy General Manager Enterprise Banking Wickrama Narayana, Deputy General Manager Channel Management T.M.W. Chandrakumara, Assistant General

Manager Overseas Customer Services Aruni Liyanagunawardana, Assistant General Manager Internal Audit Shantha Gangabadi, Chief Manager Overseas Customer Services Renuka Arunachalam, Senior Manager Overseas Customer Services Thilini Perera, Senior Manager IT Vipula Warnakula, Manager FCA Nadeesha Tennakoon and Revenue Department Western Province Senior Tax Officer D.M.U.K. Ekanayake participated in the event.

HNBGI ends 2022 with 21% jump in GWP over last year



CBO Branch Network and Personal Lines/GM Jude Benjamin

Chief Technical Officer/General Manager Lasantha De Alwis

CBO Corporate and Branch Network/GM Sampath Wickramarachchi

HNB General Insurance (HNBGI) closed on yet another impressive year, contributing handsomely to the overall achievement of the HNB Assurance group. HNBGI recorded an impressive growth of 21 percent in its gross written premium (GWP) as at end-December 2022, to reach Rs.8.8 billion.

Sharing his thoughts on the performance of the sales efforts of the company, HNBGI CEO Sithumina Jayasundara opined, "These remarkable numbers are a result of a conscious effort, going into 2022, we knew we had to be precise and tailor our efforts to suit each region and channel."

He further added, "We are proud to have achieved such remarkable growth in a challenging year. Our strategic focus on channel development and commitment to delivering innovative solutions to customers have paid off and we are confident that our focus on agency development will drive our growth in the future."

He went on to add, "I would also like to express my gratitude to all the teams for their unwavering dedication and hard work during a tough year and for putting their hands up to help achieve these remarkable results."

HNBGI Chief Business Officer (CBO) Corporate and Branch Network/General Manager Sampath Wickramarachchi expressed his views stating, "Although faced with several challenges caused by the lasting effects of the global pandemic and ongoing economic and political instability, the entire team did well to contribute Rs.3.9 billion to the total GWP of the company, which is a growth of 24 percent compared to a year earlier.

The corporate and alternate channel did well to outperform its target, by as much as 120 percent, to record an impressive 43 percent growth over the previous year. The broker unit also surpassed handsomely by 147 percent, recording a mammoth year-on-year growth of 58 percent. Furthermore, the corporate sales conventional unit exceeded its target by 104 percent, with a year-on-year growth rate of 46 percent."

He further added, "These remarkable achievements are a testament to the hard work and commitment of all of HNBGI's teams. We will continue to seek growth opportunities and implement new business strategies to enhance our corporate and bancassurance businesses, including introducing and pursuing new avenues and business acquisition models."

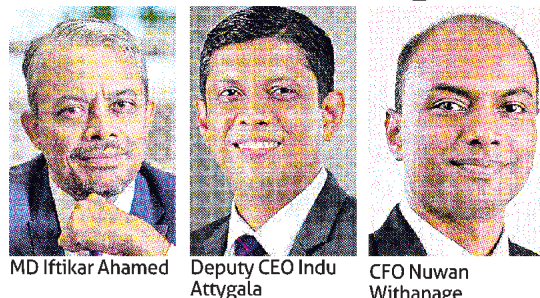
CBO Branch Network and Personal Lines/General Manager Jude Benjamin sharing his thoughts stated, "In addition to the agency channel, we saw impressive growth in other key areas. Our HNB, HNB Finance and HNB bancassurance channels grew by 18 percent, 39 percent and 19 percent, respectively. These results reflect our dedication to delivering exceptional service and value to our customers across all channels. Looking ahead, we remain committed to upholding our high standards and providing top-quality services to our customers. We are confident that our continued focus on agency development, combined with our other growth initiatives, will enable us to maintain our position as a leading provider of insurance solutions."

Softlogic Life to share growth story with investors on April 3 at Shangri-La

Sri Lanka's second largest life insurer Softlogic Life will host an Investor Forum on April 3, at Shangri-La.

The event will showcase the performance of the company and the strengths of the life insurance industry, highlighting the role that the company has played towards changing the landscape in offering protection to all segments of Sri Lankan society. The forum will deliver a platform for Softlogic Life's leadership and shareholders to engage in meaningful discussions of the company's operations, financial performance, growth trajectory and future plans.

Recognising the importance of maintaining strong relationships, ensuring transparency and accountability with all its valued stakeholders, the Investor Forum is a significant milestone for Softlogic Life. The event will allow investors to garner detailed information on the company's business activities and prospects, engaging with senior leaders such as Managing Director Iftikar Ahamed, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Indu Attygala and Chief Financial



MD Iftikar Ahamed

Deputy CEO Indu Attygala

CFO Nuwan Withanage

Officer Nuwan Withanage.

Ahamed said, "We are pleased to be hosting this forum thereby providing our valued stakeholders an opportunity to directly engage with us and learn more about our business. As a company, we believe in transparency and accountability and are committed to keeping our investors informed of our progress and plans for the future. We hope this event will help us build stronger relationships with the investing community and demonstrate our

commitment to their long-term success."

Despite macroeconomic challenges hampering the industry's growth, Softlogic Life continued to record superior performance in a crisis-affected business landscape, surpassing renowned industry giants. During FY22, the company reported a 10-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 28 percent of gross written premium (GWP), while the industry's 10-year GWP CAGR growth was 14 percent. In the same review period, Softlogic Life posted a GWP of Rs.23 billion, with an increase in top line growth of 15 percent compared to the previous year.

The company also recorded an impressive return on equity of 25 percent and earning per share of Rs.7.15, after providing a one-off provision for impairment. The recurring earnings per share for 2022 increased to Rs.12.85, from Rs.5.61 per share.

The informative Investor Forum will provide additional insights into the company's performance, product portfolio, strategy and other aspects.



'LILY SAVAGE', UK STAR WHO MADE DRAG MAINSTREAM, DIES AT 67

The British royal family and lawmakers led tributes Wednesday to comedian and entertainer Paul O'Grady, who made drag culture mainstream with his alter ego Lily Savage. O'Grady, who died on Tuesday at the age of 67, went on to become a fixture on hit television shows as well as a campaigner for LGBTQ rights. **AFP**

AUSTRALIAN F1 CHIEF KEEN ON NIGHT RACE

The chairman of the Australian Grand Prix has said he is keen on the event changing to a nighttime race but admitted on Thursday it would take years of planning. A handful of F1 races currently held under artificial lights, including Singapore and Abu Dhabi, saw global TV ratings boosted by the spectacle, Paul Little said. "I'd love to not rule out a night Grand Prix," he told the Melbourne Herald Sun newspaper. **AFP**



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Fabienne Francotte Francophonie 2023

In the frame of Francophonie 2023 in Sri Lanka, French language is celebrated through arts with the Belgian artist Fabienne Francotte who has conducted artistic workshops with a group of Alliance Française members and a group of pupils of the French International School of Colombo.

Fabienne Francotte wanted to explore through painting and sculpture one of the ten words of the Francophonie 2023 (les dix mots de la Francophonie) : plus-que-parfait, in order to wonder about some of the following questions : what is perfect ? what is more than perfect and what is less than perfect ?

The exhibition will present the works produced

by the participants during the artistic workshops. Some of Fabienne Francotte original works will be also presented. The exhibition is organised by the Alliance Française of Colombo together with the Embassy of France in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and in partnership with the French International School of Colombo.

The multidisciplinary programme of Francophonie 2023 in Sri Lanka is organized by the diplomatic missions of Canada, Egypt, France and Switzerland, together with the Alliance Française in Sri Lanka (Colombo, Matara, Kandy), the French Teacher's Association and the International French School of Colombo.

**30th of March to 30th of April 2023,
Alliance Française of Colombo
FREE ENTRANCE**

YEARNINGING TO BE A STAR

It is a trend these days where everyone yearns to be a star. On social media the number of people who are desperate to become somebody is obvious. With the great influence of Master Chef and like programmes airing on TV a cooking trend began, for instance. What really caught on like the plague was the baking of cupcakes. Suddenly, cupcakes were available for purchase in every corner.

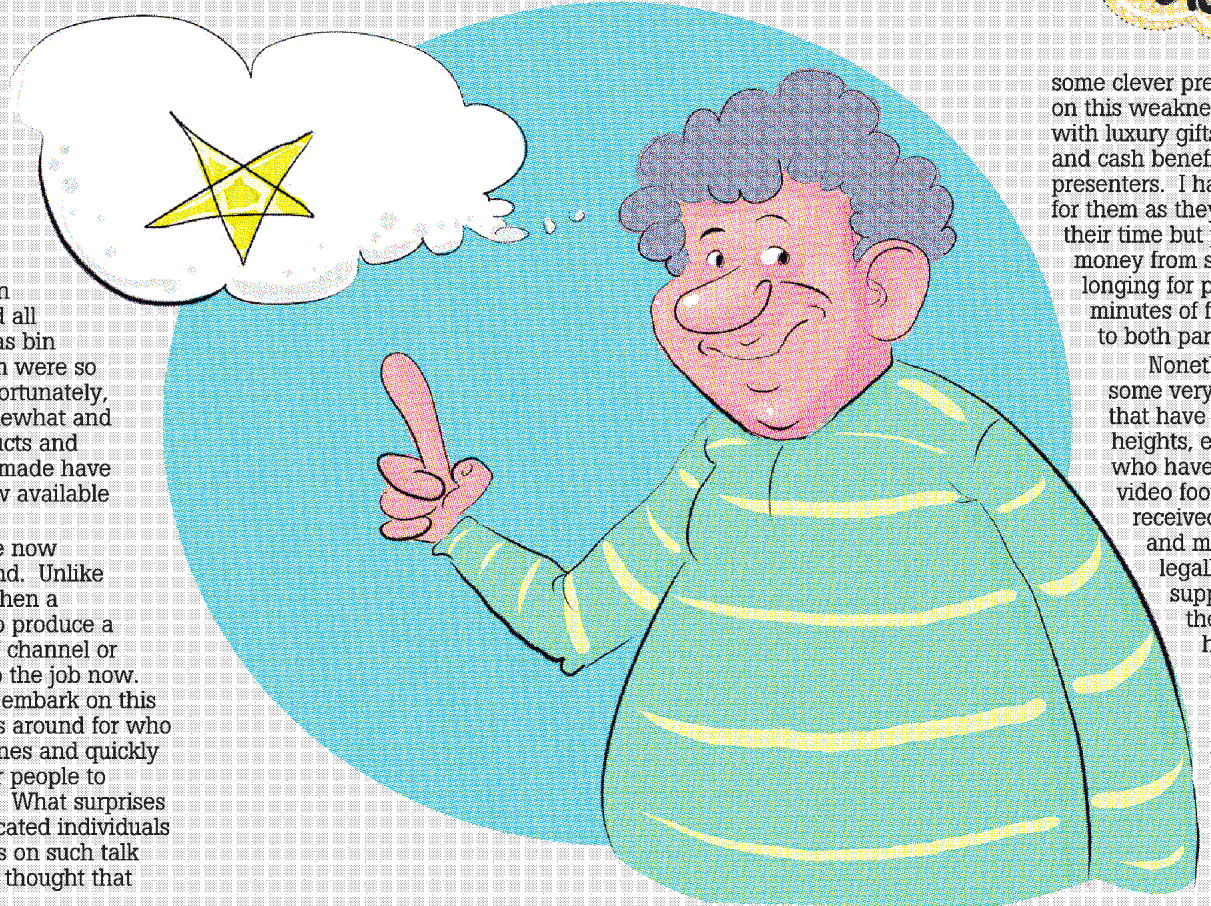
They came in different flavours, with all sorts of chocolate bars thrown in and some decorated in the most revolting fashion. Many began bringing along their neighbourhood made cupcakes when visiting. One bite and all you wanted to do was bin them as most of them were so disgusting to taste. Fortunately, that trend faded somewhat and only the better products and those professionally made have survived and are now available in the market.

Talk shows have now become the new trend. Unlike in the earlier days when a crew was required to produce a talk show, a local TV channel or a smartphone can do the job now. Once it is decided to embark on this project the host looks around for who is making the headlines and quickly targets these popular people to appear on the show. What surprises me is that these educated individuals agreeing to be guests on such talk shows. I would have thought that

they had the presence of mind to do an adequate review and politely say no. We must also remember that there are different qualities of talk shows. A few are of a high standard, some which are of interest to the general public and then come those in the lower rung that feature all the wannabes and hussies of the country where people yearn to

know all their gossip and hopefully hidden secrets. Once a programme is recorded, it is easily uploaded to YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and hopefully a TV station of some sort will pick the recording and run it.

Thanks to the gullible who long to be interviewed and hope to become stars and be recognized,



some clever presenters also profit on this weakness and are rewarded with luxury gifts, clothing, trips and cash benefits. Kudos to these presenters. I have great admiration for them as they are not wasting their time but profiting. Churning money from such wannabes longing for publicity and a few minutes of fame seems beneficial to both parties.

Nonetheless, there are some very good programmes that have reached great heights, especially the few who have produced excellent video footage and have received YouTube awards and made a lot of money legally. As for the rest, I suppose the majority of the Colombo types are happy with the trashy mediocre productions, which unfortunately does not help raise the bar or be professional. Then again, they also fade away like flowers in a cemetery.

'NEVER THIRST AGAIN'

The choir of The Cathedral of Christ the living saviour presents 'Never thirst again!' A passion tide cantata on Saturday the 1st April at 7.00pm at the Cathedral which is adjoining the BMICH on Baudhaloka Mawatha. The programme which is only an hour will take the congregation

through Jesus's triumphant entry to Jerusalem, his arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

Speaking to the Daily Mirror Ishan de Lanerolle, Director of the Cathedral choir, said that Never Thirst Again "is a short yet powerful and meaningful cantata."

There will be an opening and closing hymn, the lyrics of which will be on a QR code on the invitations which are available free of charge. These invitations have been printed to help with the logistics on the day, and came be purchased at The Commons coffee house and the Cathedral office.



**Saturday, 1st April at 7.00pm at the Cathedral
which is adjoining the BMICH on Baudhaloka Mawatha**

Workshop on Dog Behaviour

When it comes to training dogs, compassion should be the only approach. To bust the myths about inflicting force when training a dog and to educate pet owners about compassionate and effective ways, Advocates for Animals, a youth-led Animal Rights advocacy group in Sri Lanka, in partnership with Tayo Bear, Sri Lanka's first pet-friendly cafe, have organized an engaging workshop.

"Workshop on Dog Behaviour with Julie" will be

conducted by Julie Greggains, an Accredited Pet Dog Trainer from England.

Julie is qualified with the Academy of Dog Training Behaviour, Kennel Club of Great Britain Accredited Instructor Scheme, and the International Animal Behaviour Training College.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 5 2023 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Tayo Bear located down R.G.Senanayaka Mawatha, Colombo 07.



Tickets are priced at Rs.2000 and can be purchased from Tayo Bear. All proceeds will go to charity. For more information, please email advocatesforanimalslk@gmail.com

Butterflies and dinosaurs, spaceships and girl-power this avurudu



The much-anticipated 2023 Avurudu Collection for kids by Tropic Of Linen has finally arrived - and it's packed to the brim with quirky prints and playful detail.

With its reputation for unique and adorable festive outfits that are a cut above the rest, Tropic Of Linen has earned a name as the go-to destination for Avurudu kids wear - outdoing themselves year after year.

For the little ladies, Tropic Of Linen has taken the classic redde and hatte designs of vintage Ceylonese tradition and spun them in to something truly unique. The result is a stunning collection of outfits that pay homage to the beauty and

charm of traditional Sri Lankan fashion, while still being perfectly on-trend for today's festivities. The auspicious 'multi-colour' theme for this year was what influenced designer Minha Akram to seek inspiration from the vibrant butterfly, with its beautiful myriad of colour.

"Butterflies are spirited, light, fun, and filled with beauty in every combination of colour. So, we created very wearable, play-centred outfits by building in beautiful 3D butterfly wings on to the backs of the tops, resulting in a cross between costume and everyday clothing." Girls aged 2 to 9 are in for a treat with five exciting designs to choose from.



COLOMBO FASHION WEEK 2023

Chamanka Hewage



BY TINA EDWARD GUNAWARDHANA

Day one of Colombo Fashion kicked off at Shangri-la Colombo. Sticking to the theme of "Inclusivity" ten young designers from CFW's stable of young talent showcased their collections.

GAYANTH KARUNARATNE stole the show with one of the best collections of the evening. Simple silhouettes, precise tailoring, luxe looking fabrics and embellishments gave his collection a certain va va voom. He did justice to his theme of celebrating femininity.

CHAMANKA HEWAGE stayed away from prints this year and presented an edgy collection of daring silhouettes which included body con dresses that oozed sensuality.

DEVAPRIYA HALWALA presented a collection mainly in black with simple embroidery which lent a luxe look to the

collection. He played with height and length, adding an element of playfulness to his collection.

ROCHELLE TISSERA provided an interesting take on ethnicwear especially with her trouser sari.

AKASH PARANAVITHANE is a designer who keeps upping the ante each season. He is one who thinks out of the box and this collection had an edgy look complemented with the use of visible zips, embroidery and chains.

The evening ended on a high note with Indian designer **TARUN TAHILIANI** aka The King of Drapes showcasing a collection which was sheer drama. His collection added glamour and embodied his unique take on timeless drapes created with beautiful hand embellished fabrics created by artisans with fine craftsmanship.

Hirushi Jayathilake



Tarun Tahiliani



Devapriya Halwala



Shehani Guruge





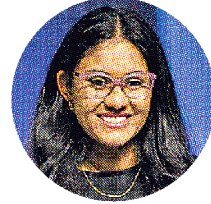
Aysha
Faizer



Gayanth
Karumaratne



Navindri
Ranatunga



Jaishni
Karumaratne



Rochelle
Tissera



Akash
Paranavitharana





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GAMES & CARTOONS

Sudoku

4755

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	5			6			8	
		7					1	
		3	7		5			
7		4	1	3				
	9				1			
				5				
2	4			3		8		
6	8	4						

SOLUTION NO. 4755

5	2	4	1	9	6	3	8	7
8	6	3	5	7	2	1	9	4
9	7	1	4	3	8	6	2	5
2	4	9	7	6	3	5	1	8
6	1	7	8	5	4	9	3	2
3	8	5	9	2	1	7	4	6
4	9	6	2	1	7	8	5	3
1	3	8	6	4	5	2	7	9
7	5	2	3	8	9	4	6	1

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. The solution will be published on next game page.

DailyMirror
CROSSWORD

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD NO. 1525

Solution for No. 1524

1	C	2	E	3	T	4	S	5	S	6	G			
7	B	U	D	D	H	A	8	P	O	P	A	R	T	
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9	N	E	X	T	10	I	D	E	N	T	U	F	Y	
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11	O	12	S	T	R	I	C	H	13	E	M	A	I	L
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15	H	U	T	16	C	H	17	B	R	E	K	K	I	E
	I		R		O		18	P	A		O			
20	F	R	I	C	T	I	O	N	21	W	E	P	T	
	R		K		E		D		T		A			
23	P	E	L	L	E	T	24	P	H	O	B	I	A	
	L		E		Y		A		W		L			

Across

- 7 Pre fabricated structure (6)
- 8 Damned (6)
- 9 Tool used to cut and shape wood (4)
- 10 High water (4,4)
- 11 Deliberate act of omission (7)
- 13 Compact disc read-only memory (2-3)
- 15 Greek alphabet (5)
- 17 Desert (7)
- 20 An entrance at the rear of a building (8)
- 21 Reverberate (4)
- 23 Tough (6)
- 24 Go (6)

Down

- 1 Poke (4)
- 2 Dish served as the last course of a meal (6)
- 3 Desert (7)
- 4 Advertiser (5)
- 5 Crested (6)
- 6 Stalemate (8)
- 12 Beat with a cane (8)
- 14 Car modified to increase its speed (3,4)
- 16 Small low open motor vehicle with four wheels, used for racing (2-4)
- 18 Ready to fall asleep (6)
- 19 Small vascular growth on the surface of a mucous membrane (5)
- 22 Throw (4)

	1		2		3		4		5		6			
7							8							
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15			16			17				18				
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20											21		22	
23										24				

Due to the prevailing situation in the country there will be no crossword competition. The publication of the crossword is purely for your enjoyment.

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