



YOUR PAPER TODAY 12 PAGES

India rupee trade expansion discussed as a way for economic revival in SL

Mr. Moragoda met Mr. Das on March 29 at the Bank's Headquarters in Mumbai

Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das and Sri Lankan envoy in New Delhi Milinda Moragoda discussed, among others, Indian rupee trade expansion, as a key pillar of economic revival of Sri Lanka, a statement from the Sri Lankan mission said.

The statement said Mr. Moragoda met Mr. Das on March 29 at the Bank's Headquarters in Mumbai.

"The RBI Governor and the High Commissioner discussed economic recovery in Sri Lanka, and the pivotal role that India could play in it through greater integration of the economies in areas such as power, energy, ports, infrastructure, tourism, IT services.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Probe launched over mysterious death of female lawyer in Pelmadulla

The Pelmadulla Police has launched an investigation after the body of a female lawyer who died mysteriously was found in a house in Bulathwegoda, Pelmadulla yesterday.

Police said the body of 40-year-old Dushmanthi Aberyatne, was found lying on her bed.

The maid who came home in the morning saw the body and informed the police. It was reported that the lawyer's husband was not at home since 30th night. The lawyer's family informed the Pelmadulla Police that the death is suspicious.

STEAM education programme launched in SL

No child will drop out of school when this system is implemented

STEAM education system from which school children will be able to learn concepts and fundamentals of subjects in a simple manner was launched in the schools yesterday.

"STEAM education will be used in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Art subjects," the Education Minister Susil Premajayantha said.

Minister who was speaking at the launch of STEAM education system at Royal College said this system exists in more than 96 countries.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Govt. only harping on selling sans most important IMF proposals: Champika

Says it is the government's responsibility to educate the people about the IMF programme

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA

The government was harping only on selling government property, excluding the most important proposals made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Parliamentary Patali Champika Ranawaka said yesterday.

He told a news conference that if the government ventures were handed over to the private sector, there must be a strong regulation mechanism and some independent regulatory authorities.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE TO NEW ANTI-TERRORISM BILL: MINISTER

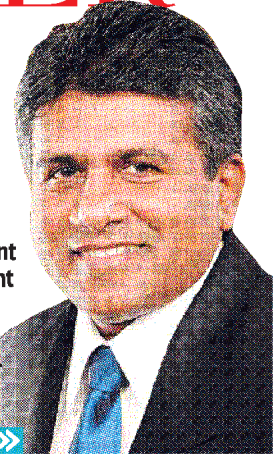
It was prepared after studying such laws in the US, UK, Germany, and India. TNA has already raised objections to the provisions of the new bill

BY KELUM BANDARA

In the face of criticism against the new Anti-Terrorism Bill, Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse said the government would not bring about any fundamental changes to the current version. The bill, already announced in the gazette notification, is to be presented in Parliament for debate and enactment. This is to be enacted by repealing the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which was invoked mainly in dealing with LTTE terrorism.

After the war was over, the government came under pressure from sections of the international community, including the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to repeal the PTA to be replaced with a new law that conforms to international standards in countering terrorism.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Beruwala Tremor Watch out for repetitions with higher magnitude: Geologist

The 3.7 magnitude tremor which occurred on Thursday is nothing serious

BY YOHAN PERERA

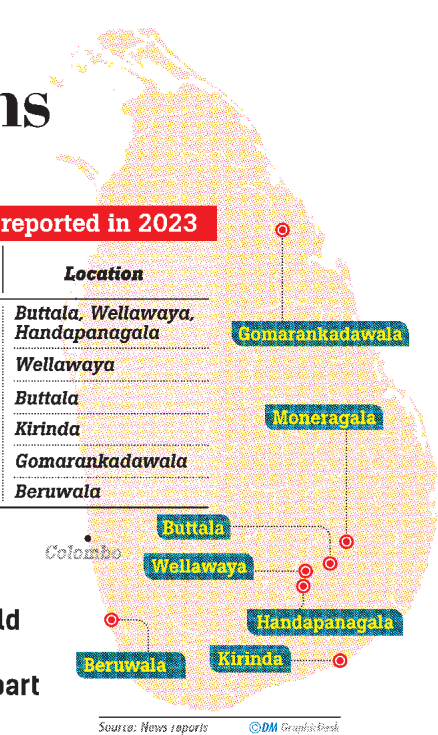
One must take a serious look at the tremors in Beruwala if there are repetitions with higher magnitudes, a geologist said yesterday.

Professor Kapila Dahanayake, a geologist attached to the University of Peradeniya told Daily Mirror that one should see whether repetitions occur with higher magnitude. "If more tremors occur in the coming days and the magnitude increases, it will be a dangerous sign," he said. "The 3.7 magnitude tremor which occurred on Thursday is nothing serious. These kinds of tremors could happen any time in any part of the world," he added.

Minor tremors reported in 2023

Table with 3 columns: Date, Richter scale (Magnitude), Location. Lists tremors from Feb 10 to Mar 30 at various locations like Wellawaya, Buttala, Kirinda, and Beruwala.

Says these kinds of tremors could happen any time in any part of the world



Series of organised protests against Saliya Pieris PC: BASL urges authorities to ensure his safety

These protests were organised relating to Saliya Pieris conducting his professional duties with regard to Nadun Chinthaka Wickramaratne alias "Harak Kata"

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has strongly demanded the authorities to take necessary arrangements to ensure former BASL President Saliya Pieris' professional duties as an Attorney-at-Law and his safety.

Issuing a statement regarding a series of organised protests in Colombo in relation to Saliya Pieris PC, the BASL observed that said protest not only seriously hinders his right to represent a client, a professional right which has been safeguarded by law, but also an attack on the profession at large. These protests were organised relating to Saliya Pieris conducting his professional duties with regard to Nadun Chinthaka Wickramaratne alias "Harak Kata".

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Nuwara Eliya April festival commences

The festival organised by the Nuwara Eliya MC will last till April 30



A heavy influx of local and foreign tourists are expected to visit Nuwara Eliya during the festival

BY SHANTHA CHANDRASIRI

The Nuwara-Eliya April festival is scheduled to commence at 8.30 am today with Central Province Chief Minister Gamini Jayaratne and Nuwara Eliya District Secretary Nandana Galaboda as the chief guests. The festival organised by the Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council will last till April 30.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SL Envoy woos leading Chinese electric car maker for investment

Sri Lankan Ambassador to China Dr. Palitha Kohona held talks with three leading Chinese companies - Skyworth, Zonergy and Huawei - to explore investment opportunities by them in Sri Lanka, a statement from the Sri Lankan mission said.

Skyworth is a major manufacturer of electric cars with a significant market share in China. Their latest very attractive model could travel 600 km on one charge. Currently it is marketed in many countries.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Bribery Commission commences probe into money recovered inside President's House

Fmr. President Gotabaya through his lawyer claimed his rights for the amount of Rs. 17.85Mn

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Bribery Commission yesterday informed Colombo Fort Magistrate that it has already commenced a preliminary inquiry into the sum of Rs. 17.85 million recovered from the President's House on July 9, 2022.

The Bribery Commission informed Court that it commenced an investigation into the incident pursuant to a complaint lodged by Puravesi Balaya Organisation. Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage directed the Bribery Commission that the progress of the investigation be informed to the court on the next hearing date.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

SJB will support genuine efforts to revive the economic crisis

Asks as to why the government had failed to bring in an anti-corruption bill despite the assurances given

BY YOHAN PERERA

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) will support effective and genuine efforts to revive the economic crisis, its General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said yesterday.

Madduma Bandara told a media conference that his party would support effective and genuine efforts to revive the nation but ruled out anticipated crossovers from SJB to the government. "Crossovers will be in the other direction," he added.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



"We also wonder on the government stand on the private member's Bill which I have presented to Parliament"

Denial of registered addresses for estate community: Estate worker seeks Supreme Court intervention

None of the families residing in Muwankanda Estate has a permanent postal address

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

An estate worker has filed a Fundamental rights petition in the Supreme Court seeking an order directing the authorities to grant registered permanent addresses to the estate community residents all over the country.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Government suspends purchasing of paddy

Farmers who had been running at a loss by selling paddy even for Rs.100 are now in a serious predicament

BY DAYARATNE EMOBODANA

The government has suspended the purchase of paddy with effect from yesterday much to the anxiety of the paddy cultivators.

Secretary of Anuradhapura District Joint Farmers Organization Punrala Ratnayaka said the farmers were in a serious predicament due to the government's sudden decision not to purchase paddy.

He pointed out that the government purchased paddy for Rs. 100 a kilo through private rice mill owners earlier and it had now been suspended.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

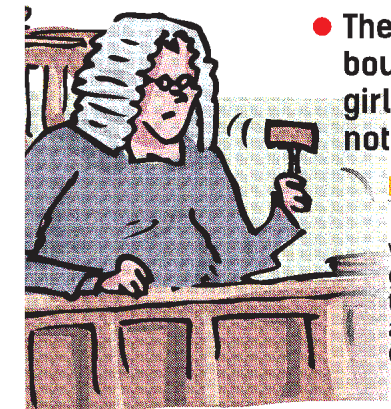
Ten year jail term for sex abuse

The trishaw driver had bought the four-year old girl a yoghurt and told her not to divulge the incident

BY D.S. SUGATHAPALA

An accused who stood indicted with sexually abusing a four-year old girl was found guilty and sentenced to ten year rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 10,000 by Galle High Court Judge Kavindya Nanayakkara.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>





Daily Mirror

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FROM PAGE 1

India rupee trade expansion discussed as a way for economic revival in SL

High Commissioner Moragoda presented a copy of his policy roadmap, the "Integrated Country Strategy for Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions in India 2021/2023" to Governor Das. The High Commissioner was accompanied to the meeting by Sri Lanka's Consul General in Mumbai Dr. Valsan Vethody. A former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Shaktikanta Das has been serving as the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India since December 2018. He was earlier a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and India's Sherpa to the G20. During his career as an IAS officer, Das served in various capacities for the Indian Government, including as Economic Affairs Secretary, Revenue Secretary and Fertilizers Secretary. He has also served as India's Alternate Governor in the World Bank, ADB, NDB and AIIB.

Govt. only harping on selling sans most important IMF proposals: Champika

The MP said the government ventures that should be closed down, amalgamated, privatized and continued under state ownership should be identified through a management auditing process. He also said it is the responsibility of the government to educate the people about the IMF programme and added that the government must enter into discussions with all the parties, including the trade unions. "As the IMF stresses, the government's procurement process should be transparent, and all details should be revealed," he said.

STEAM education programme launched in SL

"The system which was introduced by US National Science Foundation in 1999 is now used in teaching art subjects too. This system has become popular in the globe today as Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics," the minister said. "No child will drop out of school when this system is implemented in Sri Lanka," he added. "While highlighting that children in countries such as Singapore are being taught using the latest techniques where science centres are used, the Minister said Sri Lanka will also have such centres before long. He said local school children will be able to learn from Sri Lankan experts living abroad through the STEAM system.

NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE TO NEW ANTI-TERRORISM BILL: MINISTER

The parties such as the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) have already raised objections to the provisions of the new bill. However, Minister Rajapakse said the bill was worked after studying counter-terrorism laws of the countries such as the United States, India, the United Kingdom and Germany. "They are even more rigorous than ours. Therefore, we won't make any major change to the current version. There may be minor changes," he said.

SJB will support genuine efforts to revive the economic crisis

The SJB General Secretary asked as to why the government had failed to bring in an anti-corruption bill despite the assurances given by the government that the best anti-corruption Bill will be brought in soon. "We wonder as to why the government had failed to bring in an anti-corruption Bill as we are ready to support an effective piece of legislation of that nature," he said. Also, he questioned the fate of 100 files on corrupt persons. "We also wonder on the government stand on the private member's Bill which I have presented to Parliament," he said in this regard.

Series of organised protest against Saliya Pieris PC: BASL urges authorities to ensure his safety

Section 41 of the Judicature Act which has clearly set out the right of representation and further shed light on the above mechanism established for implementing the administration of justice in the country, the BASL statement added. Our constitution specifically guarantees the right to legal representation in Article 13(3), which states that every person has the right to a fair trial and the right to be represented by a lawyer of their choice. In addition, the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for the right to legal representation in criminal cases. Section 260 of the Code states that an accused person has the right to be represented by an Attorney-at-law, and every aggrieved party shall have the right to be represented in Court by an Attorney-at-law, the BASL statement further added. This statement had been issued by newly elected BASL President Kaushalya Nawaratne and its Secretary Isuru Balapatabendi.

Nuwara Eliya April festival commences

Municipal Commissioner Sujewa Bodimanna said the festival would commence in a grand way with the march past of army, navy and police bands and school bands of 17 schools. She said the festival would include motor races, horse races, boat races, sports competitions, musical shows, carnivals and several other special features. Municipal Commissioner said a heavy influx of local and foreign tourists is expected to visit Nuwara Eliya during the festival this year and that steps has been taken to provide them with adequate facilities and protection.

Bribery Commission commences probe into money recovered inside President's house

The Court had earlier issued a notice directing the Director General of Bribery Commission to appear in court on March 31 to inquire whether a sum of Rs. 17.85 million recovered from the President's House on 9th July, 2022 would come under the offences relating to the Bribery Act. On a previous occasion, former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa through his lawyer claimed his rights for the amount of Rs. 17.85 million recovered from the President's House. However, defence counsel raised objections for releasing said amount to the former President and said prosecution has to ascertain whether there are offences committed under Money Laundering Act and Bribery Act. In their further report CID said they had recorded a statement from former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on February 6 regarding ongoing investigations into the sum of Rs. 17.85 million recovered by protesters inside the President's House. According to the former President's statement, he has stated that money found inside the President's Office had belonged to him but he was unable to take care of them due to the prevailing security situation on that occasion. He has told police the sum of money that belonged to him was to be distributed among the people whose houses were destroyed by the protesters. Further magisterial inquiry fixed for May 3. Defence Counsel Rienzie Arsekularatne PC with Maithri Gunaratne PC and Counsel Udara Muhandiramge appeared for the suspects in the case.

Denial of registered addresses for estate community: Estate worker seeks Supreme Court intervention

Petitioner Jeevarathnam Sureshkumar a resident of Muwankanda Waththa in Mawathagama filed this petition concerning the Estate Workers and their families living in Sri Lanka who are considered as citizens of this country but are equally aggrieved as the Petitioner himself due to the lack of registered residential addresses allocated to their residences. The petitioner had named the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Plantation Industries Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development Jeevan Thondaman and several others as respondents. According to the petition, registered permanent residential addresses for estate workers play an essential role in ensuring that these individuals have access to government services and can participate in the democratic process of the country. This petition had been filed for the purpose of addressing the denial of a registered address for the estate community of Sri Lanka including the Petitioner himself who are a significant part of the country's labour force employed in the tea, rubber, and coconut plantations, which are the country's primary economic sources. The Petitioner states that, there are approximately 300 families residing in the said Muwankanda Estate and that none of these households have a permanent postal address, hence, the citizens residing in the said estate do not receive letters and postal items personally to their houses or their name, and all mail is collectively received by the public address; "Muwankanda Waththa, Mawathagama" which is common to all the families residing in the estate.

St. Peter's College Media Day to honour two veteran journo

Two veteran journalists rendering a yeoman service to the Negombo area, Ranjit Fernandez and Hubert Fernando will be felicitated at the Media Day of St. Peter's College, Negombo on April 4. The theme of the Media Day scheduled to commence at 9.00 am is "Forward march of the media culture in the 21st century". Prof. Sunanda Mahendra will deliver the keynote address of the ceremony sponsored by the Sri Lanka Press Council. Assistant Commissioner of Sri Lanka Press Council Suroshana Iranga will be among others addressing the ceremony. The ceremony will include the giving away of prizes in competitions held in view of the media day and a series of colourful events presented by children. The ceremony is organized by the Advance Level students studying Communication and Mass Media as a subject.

Sujith Rathnayake's Art Exhibition at Atelier Kandy

The exhibition of Sujith Rathnayake, titled Crisis & Struggle, held at the Lionel Wendt, Colombo, in February this year will be showcased at Atelier Kandy starting from 2 April. Art has a powerful capacity to illustrate narratives and perspectives, sometimes open to interpretation, and sometimes more direct and explicit in delivery. Due to the expressive nature of art, artists are often also activists, devoting their artistic output to a cause near and dear to their hearts. Due to the highly visible nature of their output, not to mention the powerful cogency of their communications, they are often influential voices within their sphere. Beyond the archive and popular cultural references, the exhibition titled 'Crisis & Struggle' positions Sujith Rathnayake as a continuing touchstone for contemporary artists. The journey is a culmination of the artistic movement Sujith was very much involved in during the 'Galle Face' protest a few months ago. Using a limited number of artworks consisting of paintings, assemblage, installation, and mixed media works, Sujith delves into the influence that crisis & struggles have on artistic movements, highlighting the role that art plays to show dissent or frustration through narrative scenes or propagandistic artworks. Born in 1971 in the south of Sri Lanka, Sujith received Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Since then, he has been a force in the art realm, fearlessly addressing the discontent of the people and giving a voice to the unheard as well as creating a language for the voiceless. He has always tried not only to bring their political speech to the fore but to make the world cognizant of hard truths associated with the downtrodden. Sujith Rathnayake held his first solo exhibition at the Lionel Wendt Gallery in 1999 and since then, he has held 11 solo exhibitions. In 2000, Sujith was selected for the first resident art programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan. It's a pride to also note that one of his artworks titled 'Wounds for Sale' has been added to the permanent art collection of the Museum. He has participated in many national and international group exhibitions, workshops, camps, triennial and biennial art festivals. The exhibition will be open to the public from 2 April to 2 June 2023 at the gallery space of Atelier Kandy, Siebel Place Circular Road, Peradeniya Road, Kandy. Entrance is free.

SL Envoy woos leading Chinese electric car maker for investment

Sri Lanka is too small a market for large scale assembly/ production to be undertaken. Skyworth provides technical training and after sales facilities. The need for charging stations around the country was also discussed. Use of solar for power generation at charging stations, including storage banks, and the potential savings on imported fossil fuel were highlighted. Skyworth produces electric cars for other brands also, including South Korean brands, and is a leader in white goods manufacture. It is already associated with well-known companies in Sri Lanka for its white goods," he said. Ambassador Kohona also participated in a briefing at the Huawei Head Quarters Campus. Huawei has over 30,000 working at the campus. The company, while conscious of the impact of the US sanctions on its operations, is confident of its ability to overcome these constraints in the next five or six years. Considerable resources were being deployed to develop the necessary technology, including significant government assistance. China has given top priority, at the state level, to digital development. Huawei has also developed an electric car which has a range of 1,200 km on a single charge. Huawei's new generation cellular phones watches and laptops introduce users to a new and dizzying exciting world. Vice President Simon Liu, who had visited Sri Lanka numerous times, had a high regard for the quality and skill levels of SL programmers and forecast a bright future for SL in the IT sector. Huawei had trained over 1,000 SL IT personnel. We discussed the possibility of creating more internship/training placements for Lankan IT personnel at Huawei. Huawei has considerable confidence in Sri Lanka's IT future. We would suggest a visit to Huawei by a technical team, including policymakers, which could explore training possibilities, including establishing a campus, and importantly, to discuss investment possibilities. The Embassy could facilitate the visit. Dr Kohona also visited the Zonergy HQ. Zonergy produces complete RE solutions to energy needs, both at the individual home level and at the community level. Its main markets are in Europe, and its high-tech solutions are much in demand and produces excellent inverters and storage batteries. Their new television screens are as thin as a cell phone and flexible.

Government suspends purchasing of paddy

"Farmers have been left without anyone to purchase paddy for the guaranteed price. Private traders are now taking advantage and purchasing paddy for a song. The price of paddy had reduced to Rs. 60.00 a kilo. The farmers who had been running at a loss by selling paddy even for Rs. 100.00 are now in a serious predicament. However the private traders are having a hey-day," he further said. Meanwhile Anuradhapura District Secretary Sandya Abeysekera said purchase of paddy was suspended on the instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

Ten year jail term for sex abuse

He was ordered to pay compensation of Rs. 250,000 to the aggrieved party and sentenced to further one year imprisonment in default of the compensation payment. Prosecution told court that the accused Polgampola Liyanage Ruchin Chinthaka, a trishaw driver by profession, had on August 8 sexually abused the girl in the trishaw parking area in front of Karapitiya Teaching Hospital. Investigations had revealed that the trishaw driver had transported the girl's mother and grandfather who was to be admitted to hospital. When the security staff advised them not to take the girl into the hospital, her mother had left her in the trishaw in the care of the driver. The driver who sexually abused the girl had bought her a yoghurt and told her not to divulge the incident. Sergeant 58962 Lasantha of Poddala police gave evidence for the prosecution.

OBITUARIES

JEYASINGHAM - QUEENIE.

Dearly beloved wife of the late Jeyam (UK), loving mother of late Dr. Marina Dilrukshi (US) and Mercy Dhushyanthi MBE (UK), loving daughter of the late John and Esther Chellappah, Hamden Lane, Wellawatta, passed away and entered glory on 5th March (UK). The funeral service will be held on 4th April at 2 p.m., St. Lawrence Church, London Road, Morden (UK) followed by cremation. No flowers please by request. Donations welcomed to the Alzheimer's Society (www.alzheimers.org.uk). Messages to the family can be sent to mercyjey@hotmail.com 096748

KARUNANAYAKE - NIMALKA.

Beloved wife of Senaka, loving mother of Sasanka and Hirushka, mother-in-law of Laurie, dearest grandmother of Quinn and Avery, passed away peacefully in Melbourne, Australia on Monday the 27th March. Funeral will be held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery 1st of April 2.00 p.m. 7 Stratton Court, Bayswater 3153, Victoria. 103250

MRS. J. ARIYASENA (JULIE).

Mother of Ranjith Surendra, late Sumith Gamini, late Priyantha Sampath, mother-in-law of Sunethra, Sunethra Dias, grandmother of Lakshani, Gayani, Lasindu and Harshana, expired. Remains lie at A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour from 8.30 a.m. onwards. Cremation today at 5.00 p.m. Old Crematorium, General Cemetery, Borella. 103903

ONLINE OBITUARIES
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REMEMBERING HIM AS TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED WHERE WE HAVE MISSED HIS EARTHLY PRESENCE BUT CELEBRATE THE EXEMPLARY LIFE HE LED WITH GRATITUDE AND LOVE



RANJIT DAVID

3RD APRIL (MONDAY) 2023
6:30 PM
ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH
KOLLUPITIYA

VERSATILE AND VIBRANT PLAYBACK SINGER TMS



T.M. Soundararajan

or phases of life like birth, death, romance, marriage, heartbreak, separation, reunion, friendship, sorrow, joy, celebration, sibling affection, brother-sister bonds, motherly love, husband-wife relationship; there was a Tamil film song for every occasion and every mood in life.

TMS RULED THE ROOST

Ordinary filmgoers began singing those numbers themselves and applying them in their lives. These songs became a part of everyday life itself. In an era where electronics had not invaded every facet of life, there were singsongs galore in many gatherings and Tamil film songs rendered by TMS ruled the roost on such occasions.

The making of a film song was a team effort. The director, lyricist and music composer would discuss among themselves the film sequence for which a song was required. Then appropriate playback singers were chosen. After particular songs were assigned for singing by TMS, the versatile singer would obtain details of the story, the sequence of the song in the film and the particular actor it would be pictured on.

Thereafter he would prepare himself to sing off-screen for the on-screen actors.

Through his unique style of voice modulation, the singing mode of TMS would perfectly suit the actors he lip-synched for likes of Sivaji Ganesan, M.G. Ramachandran, Ranjan, Udayakumar, S.S. Rajendran, Jaishankar, Ravichandran, Asokan, Gemini Ganesan, Muthuraman and Sivakumar.

His voice in the songs would sound just like those of the actors when you saw and heard the songs on screen. Thus most male actors wanted TMS to sing for them.

The feelings and emotions portrayed by the roles being acted in would be expressed soulfully by TMS through his singing. He would modulate his voice in accordance with those of the actors and emote passionately with the roles they played on screen.

The singing would harmonise with the personality of the actors and the particular roles portrayed by them on screen.

This was especially so in the case of leading yesteryear heroes M.G. Ramachandran, and Sivaji Ganesan.

REVELATORY INTERVIEW

TM Soundararajan was frequently asked by interviewers and fans about how he managed to accomplish this feat. TMS himself has supplied the answer very often. Among the answers given by TMS, the response he provided just a month before his demise was the most revelatory. Here is the relevant excerpt from an interview conducted by C. S. Venkiteswaran appearing in *The Hindu* in April 2013.

You are one of those rare singers who has sung for almost all the major stars in South Indian filmidom. But when you sang for each one of these actors, you adopted a different style and tone that suited the actor's voice and character.

TMS Answer: Yes, I closely follow the voice of the actors and their tonal modulations when I sing for them. For each actor, I sang in a voice that matched his voice, his persona and the character he played in that particular film. On some occasions I had to bring in a melancholic mood, in

others, romantic, situations, tragedy, and comedy..... Sometimes I had to make my voice sound masculine, sometimes very youthful or aged. I have done it all according to the situation and the actor. A film singer has to be sensitive to all these things; it's not just a matter of singing in front of a mic. In many instances, I literally used to 'act' while I sang many songs; many of the actors used to come and watch me sing to get a feel of my acting so that they could use it in front of the camera! I think playback singing involves the element of acting too. Most importantly, the actors admired my songs and had great faith in me. My songs helped to lend character to their roles, adding to their charm and intensity, the reason why great actors such as Sivaji and MGR insisted on my singing for them. Jayalalitha once said that it was my songs that brought her close to MGR."

ISAITHAMIZH (MUSICAL TAMIL)

In addition to the voice modulation and emoting, the third distinguishing feature of Soundararajan's singing was the way in which he pronounced Tamil.

He had a distinctive style, diction, tone and tenor. He sang in Tamil on screen the way songs in the mellifluous, vibrant language should be sung. Generations of Tamils learnt to appreciate the beauty, sweetness and power of the Tamil language because of the manner in which TMS made Isaithamizh (Musical Tamil) a reality. Many Tamils loved their language more due to TMS.

SAURASHTRIAN BRAHMIN

The pleasant irony in this was that the Madurai-born TM Soundararajan was ethnically not a Tamil. He was of Saurashtrian Brahmin stock. Historically Saurashtra was a region in present-day Gujarat State.

Soundararajan's ancestors were among the Saurashtrians, who had relocated to Tamil-speaking regions in the south due to continuous Mogul invasions.

A substantial number of Saurashtrians settled down in Madurai. They became very fluent in Tamil and engaged in agriculture, weaving and commerce.

Soundararajan's father was a Saurashtra Brahmin priest in a small Madurai Vaishnavite temple. He named his second son Soundararajan after the deity Soundararajaperumal at the famous Kallalaghar Temple in Alaghar Kovil, Madurai.

However, despite his Vaishnavite roots, Soundararajan became an ardent devotee of Lord Murugan in later life.

After schooling for some years at the Sourashtra High School in Madurai, TMS dropped out and learnt Carnatic music from Ariyakkudi Rajamani Aiyer. He began performing at classical music concerts in 1945. In 1946, he got his first break in playback singing from the music composer SM Subbiah Naidu.

TMS sang four songs in the film Krishna Vijayam. The film however was released only in 1950.

MGR AND SIVAJI

The turning point in Soundararajan's life was when he began singing for lead actors MG Ramachandran and Sivaji



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin unveils the Street name board using a remote control unit. Pic courtesy, The Hindu



"WHETHER IT WAS ROMANTIC MELODIES, LYRICS LOADED WITH POLITICAL STATEMENTS OR PHILOSOPHY, A SIMPLE FOLK TUNE OR A CLASSICAL RAGA-BASED SONG, TMS WAS UNPARALLELED IN RENDERING THEM. HIS HIGH-PITCHED VOICE CAPTURED THE MAJESTY OF THE TAMIL LANGUAGE, BUT TMS COULD ALSO RENDER DUETS THAT EVOKED AN INTENSITY OF EMOTION BEYOND IMAGINATION."

Ganesan in the mid-fifties of the last century.

Thereafter he became the singing voice of MGR and Sivaji for decades. The songs he rendered for them became very popular. However, TMS sang for many other actors too from the swashbuckling Ranjan to ace comedian Nagesh.

TM Soundararajan has worked with many music composers over the years. Among these were Subbiah Naidu, G. Ramanathan, TG Lingappah, T.R. Pappa, K.V. Mahadevan, M.S. Visvanathan, T.K. Ramamoorthy and Veda.

TMS has gone on record expressing gratitude to Ramanathan for teaching him the nuances of playback singing. However, the greatest number of songs were sung by TMS for Mahadevan and the Visvanathan-Ramamoorthy duo.

TMS has sung many duets with male and female singers. The duets he sang with Seergali Govindarajan and P.B. Sreenivas

were all chartbusters. He was associated in duets with songstresses like Bhanumathy, Leela, Jikki, Jamuna Rani, Susheela, Janaki and L.R. Easwary.

P. SUSHEELA

It is widely accepted that his best vocal partner was P. Susheela. The TMS-Susheela duo dominated the Tamil film song realm in the sixties and seventies. They were the uncrowned king and queen of Tamil playback singers in terms of popularity.

TMS and Susheela have sung 732 songs together. The last duet they sang was in 2010 for Vaalibam Suttrum Ulagham. He was 87 and she was 75 at that time.

TM Soundararajan has also acted in four films in lead roles. They were Pattinathar, Arunagirinathar, Kaviraja Kaalamegam and Kallum Kaniyaagum, which he co-produced with fellow Saurashtrian playback singer A.L. Raghavan.

TMS has made several cameo appearances in several films. The most notable was in Theivam where he along with Seergali Govindarajan appeared on screen as themselves and sang Thiruchendhoorin Kadaloarathil together. TMS also composed music for the film Palappareetchai.

DEVOTIONAL SONGS

Soundararajan has also sung hundreds of devotional songs over radio and as records and albums. Most of these were in praise of Lord Murugan but there were others too.

TMS has also toured the world singing to audiences in Eastern and Western countries. He has won numerous awards and accolades.

Soundararajan married Sumithra in 1946. They had three daughters and three sons, one of whom died at a young age. The other two sons are good singers too with voices similar to their father's.

TMS passed away on May 25, 2013, at the age of 90.



By
D.B.S. Jeyaraj

dbsjeyaraj@yahoo.com

Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin (MK Stalin) the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu State in India, unveiled the name board of a road with a new name on March 24 2023. The Municipal Administration of Tamil Nadu's capital city, Chennai had officially changed the name of the West Circular Road in Mandavelipakkam, ward number 126, Zone 9 as the T.M. Soundararajan Road (Saalai). T.M. Soundararajan known popularly as TMS, was a renowned playback singer in Tamil films for many decades

The date March 24 was picked for the official name change as it was the birth centenary of TM Soundararajan, born in 1923.

The singer who passed away in 2013 had been residing on this road at Mandaveli since 1962.

Hence the West Circular Road was changed to TM Soundararajan Road in his honour. Chief Minister Stalin personally unveiled the new name board in a symbolic gesture.

TMS family members were present.

Devolting the first article in each month to a film, film personality or film-related topic was a practice followed by this column in the past.

The articles were well received and widely appreciated by readers in general and film fans in particular. However, there was a break in this routine for some months now and several readers have written saying they missed the first week film article.

It is my intention therefore to resume this practice of publishing a 'Filmy Article' on the first Saturday of each month. As such this column focuses this time on my favourite Tamil playback singer T.M. Soundararajan or TMS.

PLAYBACK SINGERS

As is well-known, an indispensable feature of Indian language films for long has been the song sequences. These songs are usually pictured on actors or actresses, who lip-synch them on screen. Sometimes, they are merely montage scenes with songs audible in the background.

It is common knowledge that the singing voices we hear belong to off-screen singers known generally as playback singers. The songs sung by these playback singers are usually pre-recorded for movies.

Fortunately for these playback singers, they are given credit in the film titles as well as the soundtrack albums. Film songs, therefore, are identified by the singer, who actually sings them and not the actor, who lip-synchs on screen. Tamil movie playback singers in India have gained much popularity and many, many fans over the years by their singing.

Thuguluva Meenatchi Iyengar Soundararajan known as TM Soundararajan and TMS was one such playback singer who dominated the Tamil film scene for several decades. In a singing career spanning more than six decades, TMS has sung more than ten thousand songs in over a thousand films.

Most of these songs were in the Tamil language. B. Kolappan writing an obituary for TMS in *The Hindu* stated as follows:-

"Whether it was romantic melodies, lyrics loaded with political statements or philosophy, a simple folk tune or a classical raga-based song, TMS was unparalleled in rendering them. His high-pitched voice captured the majesty of the Tamil language, but TMS could also render duets that evoked an intensity of emotion beyond imagination."

THREE SALIENT ASPECTS

T.M. Soundararajan's forte was his full-throated, high-octave singing. There are three salient aspects of his singing that I want to highlight in this article.

The first is his unique singing style of voice modulation and variation that blended well with the voices and expressions of the actors he was singing for.

The second was the manner in which he could emote meaningfully with the song in accordance with the film sequence and the mood of the character on screen. Whatever the type of song, TMS would 'act' it out through his voice.

The third was the impressive way in which he pronounced Tamil.

The film songs in those days were an integral part of the film and were often used by directors to narrate the story effectively. Unlike the present, songs were pictured fully in the films then. Except for rare instances, the songs were recorded before the scenes on which they are pictured were shot. The song sequences were part and parcel of the film. There were songs to denote all aspects

TOMORROW
April 2 3.30 PM @ 7.00 PM @
Lionel Wendt
Davananda Gunawardana's
கந்தலிபா
சமீத
சகலா சிவசைவியா
Tickets now available at the theater
inquiries: 0777-363633 Jude Srimal

Association of Medical Specialists (AMS)
Annual General Meeting 2023
Dear Members,
The AMS will convene the Annual General Meeting on the **Sunday 30th April 2023 at 9.00 am** at the **Neurotrauma Auditorium** of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka.
Your attendance is very much appreciated.
General Secretary

TODAY
April 1 3.30 PM @ 6.45 PM @
Elphinstone
Prof. Sarachchandra's
கிந்தலிபா
Sinhobahu
Tickets Now Available at The Theater
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EDITORIAL

"A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The only value in our two nations possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they will never be used. But then would it not be better to do away with them entirely." -Ronald Reagan

OUR THOUGHT

BRINKMANSHIP AND DANGERS OF AN UNINTENTIONAL NUCLEAR WAR

War mongering and brinkmanship are escalating in the European theatre, where the US and NATO are fighting a proxy war with Russia in Ukraine. On March 14, a US MQ-9 Reaper drone was brought down over the Black Sea by Russian fighter jets, after the drone allegedly violated Russian airspace and carried out its flight with transponders turned off.

The US and sections of the Western media made a huge hue and cry claiming the Russian fighters engaged in reckless maneuvers which brought down the drone.

Subsequently, on March 20, as if to test the resolve of Russia, the Independent, a British national newspaper, reported that on March 21 a Russian jet intercepted two US nuclear bombers over the Baltic Sea as they were approaching Russia's borders. The Russian Defence Ministry the Independent said, released footage on Tuesday, which it claimed was captured from a Russian Su-35 on Monday.

It said its fighter jet met B-52 strategic bombers flying towards the Russian border on Monday, but that it returned to base after they moved away.

On March 26 Russian President Putin announced he would be stationing tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus—a staunch supporter of Russia—sending a warning to the US and its NATO allies that Russia would not stomach continuing provocations unanswered. Putin said his stationing of nuclear weapons was similar to that of the US, which has stationed its nuclear weapons in Europe.

Reuters quoted Putin as saying "there is nothing unusual here; the US has been doing this for decades. They have long deployed their tactical weapons on the territories of their allied countries..."

What is worrying however is that this is the first time since the mid-1990s, Russia will base such destructive weapons outside the country.

The US reacted cautiously, saying there were no signs Russia intended to use its nuclear weapons. NATO countries however reacted differently, castigating President Putin over the threat to station nuclear weapons in Belarus.

NATO Spokesperson Oana Longescu declared, "Russia's nuclear rhetoric is dangerous and irresponsible. NATO is vigilant and closely monitoring the situation. We have not seen any changes in Russia's posture that would lead us to change our own..."

What folly? The only person who has the power to unleash NATO's firepower is the American President. Member states do not even have the power to leave the organisation (NATO) until a year after they formally indicate they intend to leave the grouping.

NATO member-states do not even have the power to extradite persons living in the US, who may have attempted to overthrow the said member States Government. NATO member Turkey learned this in the aftermath of an attempted coup to overthrow President Erdogan in 2016.

The alleged coup leader continues to live in the US with no restrictions on his movements. While Turkey has repeatedly called for the extradition of the alleged coup leader, the US has blocked his extradition.

Similarly, when a US embassy employee's wife, who did not enjoy diplomatic immunity in Britain, killed a British youngster in a road accident in the UK and fled to the US, the UK Government was unable to bring her back to face trial. Meanwhile, Russian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muratov has referred to Russian TV channels propagating a view that nuclear war is not a bad thing.

Senior Russian officials are warning NATO should not push Russia too far. On Thursday, the BBC announced -Nikolai Patrushev- a close aide of the Russian President warned, that Russia had a "modern unique weapon capable of destroying any enemy, including the United States.

These gung-ho attitudes and threats from both sides are not only normalising war but appear to be preparing the people of Europe for a nuclear war-making it seem inevitable.

It is time the two principal antagonists—the US/NATO combine and Russia—take a step back. It is time to rethink. Invasions and wars are wrong. Threats to a nation's security often lead to war or warlike situations, as was the case with the aforementioned Cuban Missile Crisis. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed at that time.

Today, if Mexico, the immediate neighbour of the US, were to invite Russia to bring in its missiles and troops to be based in that country for fear of US interference, what would the US reaction be?

This is a hypothetical question, but a valid one. What Ukraine is to Russia, is what Mexico is to the US.



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



By **M.S.M. Ayub**

The Local Government Elections, which were first scheduled to be held on March 9 and then rescheduled for April 25, are destined to be postponed again as the Government seems to be determined not to release funds for it.

The postal voting which was slated to be held on March 28, 29 and 30 is already postponed indefinitely in view of the Government press having declined to release ballot papers on the grounds that payments have not been made for them.

Hence, the election has already been deferred in the practical sense and the Elections Commission has only to announce a fresh date. The Commission has to do it without knowing when the Treasury will release funds for the election or more precisely whether funds will be released at all.

An Interim Order had been issued on May 3 by the Supreme Court on the Treasury Secretary Mahinda Siriwardena preventing him from withholding funds allocated for the Local Government Elections by the budget.

On the grounds that he has not complied with the order, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and the Jathika Jana Balawegaya (JJB) or the National People's Power (NPP) had on March 21 filed two Contempt of Court cases against the Treasury Secretary. Both cases were postponed on Thursday for May 22.

The Treasury Secretary after this court order forwarded all appeals for funding by the Elections Commission for the conduct of the elections and the Government Printer for printing ballot papers to the Finance Minister, who is also the President.

The President already has expressed his views against holding elections now or in the near future.

The Treasury Secretary seems to tell the court that he had sought approval from his Minister to release funds for the election, according to the Court Order. If that is the case, and if the court accepts it, then the problem would sometimes become one between the Judiciary and the Executive.

Earlier, on February 23, the Supreme Court ordered that a Writ Petition filed by an Army Colonel seeking an order delaying the same elections be taken up again on May 11.

Therefore, now it is clear all debates about the Local Government elections have become futile till mid-May.

Yet, people and the media are not left without topics. They have this Extended Fund Facility (EFF) offered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the issue of whether Sara Jasmin alias Pulasthini Rajendran, one of the suspects of the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in 2019 is alive or dead. And these issues might further help the two ruling parties, the United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) to freeze election-related matters.

Meanwhile, former President and the Leader of the SLPP, Mahinda Rajapaksa told media at the Abhayaramaya in Narahenpita on March 27 that he opined that an election would be held before

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD OF RULING PARTIES

December this year. Whether he told this based on his understanding with the President on the matter or just to tease the Opposition parties that are pushing for an immediate election is not clear.

Despite various arguments raised against the holding of an election at this moment, it is a well-known fact that the real reason behind the opposition to the election on the part of the two ruling parties is nothing but the drastic erosion of their popularity among the people, especially due to the horrific effects of the economic crisis on the masses.

The latest opinion poll, the Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) conducted in February by the Institute of Health Policy (IHP), an independent research institution shows that support for the JVP/NPP has surged up to 43 percent and the SJB's support base has shrunk to 30 percent. The popularity of the two ruling parties has plummeted to a dismal 4 percent.

Hence, the Government might do its utmost not to hold any election until the time turns in its favour. Despite it being against democracy, the possibility of that being the reality is very high.

It was the economic downturn that created a situation where the ruling parties cannot face the public. However, with Sri Lanka having received the first disbursement of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and more foreign funds being expected very soon, the burden on the people has begun to ease.

Fuel prices came down considerably resulting in the transport cost and prices of some essential items plunging. It is said that the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are to offer loans worth US\$ 3.8 billion. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank has offered US\$ 400 million for three commercial banks in the country to facilitate imports of essential items.

Even though all these will add to the existing debt burden of the country, the immense hope built in the masses on the IMF loan by the Government has boded well for the two ruling parties, with the first tranche of the IMF loan received.

A feeling has been built up that the crisis is gone. Against this backdrop, rumours have it that the President might go for a Presidential Election soon.

However, there is no Constitutional room for him to hold a mid-term election as he is a succeeding President. The Constitution after empowering the President to seek another mandate after his first term says "A person succeeding to the office of President under the provisions of Article 40 shall not be entitled to exercise the right"

Also, he would not be able to dissolve the Parliament and hold the Parliamentary Elections either to take advantage of the slowly recovering economy, as his term will terminate at the end of next year before he is empowered to dissolve it.

However, the SLPP would not allow the UNP to exploit the situation, if it turns favourable to the ruling parties. They have already come out of the cocoons they have been hiding so far since the Aragalaya broke out and trying to lay claim to the next Government.

Their strategy seems to be dumping all sins of the economic crisis into former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's account, while blaming the hundreds of thousands of people who rose against the Government last year citing the crimes committed by a few people in the name of the Aragalaya.

Despite it is not clear how successful their efforts would be, there is a possibility of rising rivalry between the UNP and the SLPP over regaining power.

In fact, the SLPP also can lay claim to the IMF-related funds since the programme with the international lender was started by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in March last year. Even the Government's fiscal reforms had been cited in the country report of the IMF that was released in March last year. Yet, the member parties of the SLPP would never be able to absolve themselves from the massive crime of destroying the country's economy.

However, two major issues seem to be standing in the two ruling parties' way.

Although Sri Lanka has received the first tranche of the IMF funds, there is a danger of facing problems in debt restructuring which is a must before the second tranche. Professor Premachandra Atukorala of Australian National University pointed out during the Pethikada Programme of Sirasa TV that Zambia is facing such a situation after the first disbursement where China has put forward new conditions to restructure its debts.

He also warns that some creditors might push for restructuring local debts as well, which would seriously affect the local banks. And the next instalments depend on the successful debt restructuring process and implementation of reforms in the agreement with the IMF which includes a strict anti-corruption mechanism.

Secondly, how permanent the current massive breakaway of people from the two ruling parties is not clear. Will they return to the fold of the two parties, especially the SLPP, the party that has eroded the most?

Many people have their emotional dreams of a house, a vehicle, higher education, foreign education and marriage of their children, all shattered due to the economic crisis. Only time will tell how people will react to an election.

DM Poll

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

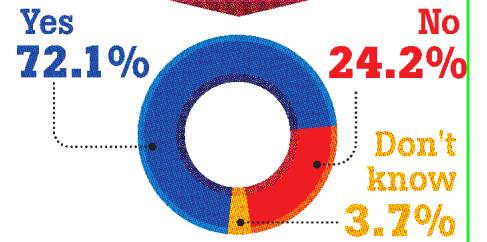
- Yes
- No
- They have a right to protest
- They are crippling the economy further



Scan to Vote

LAST POLL

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



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

English medium education is important

Noting that it is utterly futile for one to explain the importance of English in this digital era, you have pointed out in your editorial of March 28, 2023, 10 good reasons for English medium education, given by the British Study Centre, a leading international education group.

I, for one, in my letter to the editor on March 20, 2023, mentioned that education is the key that would unlock dignified human existence for the poor and the socially isolated in Sri Lanka.

Today, I want to say that education in English medium is important and necessary for Sri Lankan children living also in the coastal, rural and estate environments so that they too may experience not only their inner human worth but also social esteem, social respectability and be gainfully employed in the future. If the children in the above-mentioned sectors (coastal, rural and estate) are also provided with English medium schools and colleges with trustworthy, competent and skilful Principals and teachers, they will also contribute one day to the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka with dignified and trustworthy leadership.

The unemployed and under-employed parents in Sri Lanka, who are living in de-humanised situations, without social esteem and social inclusion, need financial assistance from well-to-do relatives and friends living in Sri Lanka and/or abroad, and also from Sri Lankan Government and charitable organisations (religious and secular) to educate their children in English medium.

Individuals and groups truly interested in the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka need to mobilise their spiritual and religious resources to assist the children of poor parents, in order to obtain English medium education and to serve the people in Sri Lanka with respectability.

My affirmation that the above-mentioned social categories should be given English medium education is not a denial of the importance of the national languages (Sinhala and Tamil) which could also be integrated into the curriculum of the schools and the colleges which are devoted to English medium education.

FR. EMMANUEL FERNANDO OMI

China's Sinopec only qualified contender among shady qualifiers

WEB COMMENTS

RANJITH - Well, an open expression of interest (EOI) had been called for. Any party was eligible to express their interest in the project. Those shortlisted from the EOI would progress to the detailed tender stage. If Sinopec is the only serious party coming out of the EOI process so be it. Maybe no other serious major players are willing to take a risk with Sri Lanka currently. Also, we need to be careful that a lot of misinformation could be propagated by currently

disgruntled elements particularly linked to the petroleum industry

TISSA FERNANDO - From the beginning it was Sinopec so the tender was an eye wash. The usual suspects will get millions deposited in Dubai and in Sea Shells.

SANDY - Chinese or Indian investment should be welcomed.

DEMUNI UDUWARA - Intentionally forwarded artificial bids paving the way for China to have the refinery tender, freely!

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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CHRONICLING AWARENESS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Book Released to Commemorate 2nd Death Anniversary of Late Bishop Rayappu Joseph

Bishop Rayappu Joseph was the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Mannar in Sri Lanka from 1992 to 2016. He was known for his outspoken stance on Human Rights issues, particularly in relation to the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Bishop Joseph was a strong advocate for the rights of Tamil civilians affected by the conflict, and he spoke out against human rights abuses committed by both the Sri Lankan military and the Tamil Tigers rebel group.

He was also critical of the Government's handling of the conflict and its failure to bring about a peaceful resolution.

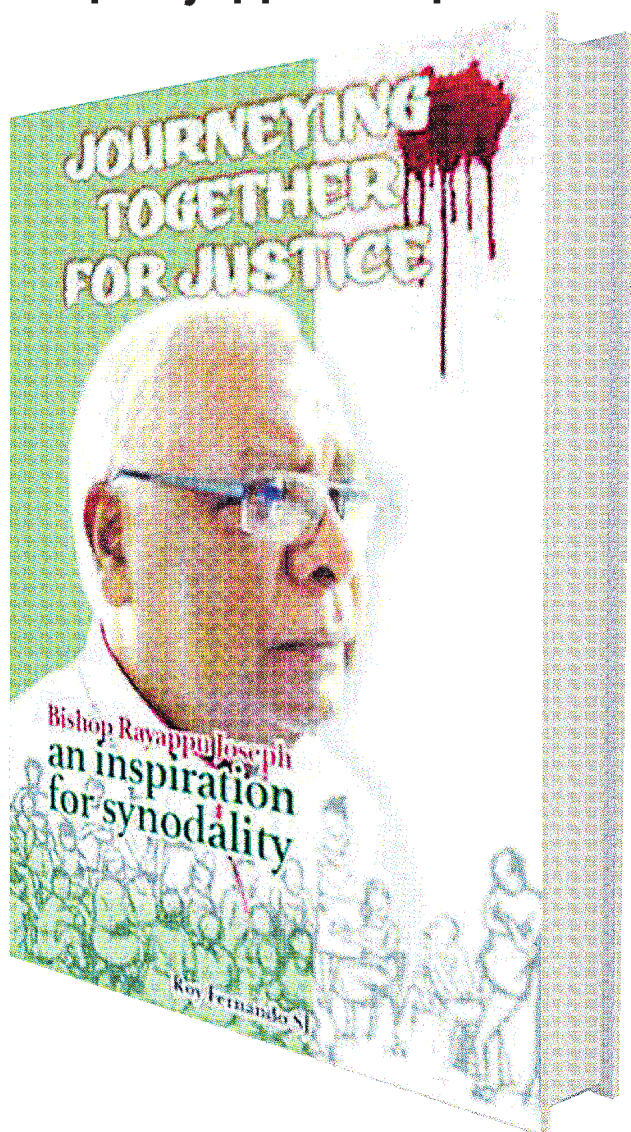
In addition to his advocacy work, Bishop Joseph was involved in a number of social and humanitarian initiatives in the Mannar region, including the establishment of institutions and the provision of aid to communities affected by the conflict.

Bishop Joseph retired from his post in 2016, but his legacy as a tireless advocate for justice and human rights in Sri Lanka continues to be remembered and celebrated by many.

The book title **Journeying Together For Justice: Bishop Raayappu Joseph An Inspiration For Synodality** begins with an overview of Bishop's early years as a priest, and then focuses on his tenure as Bishop of Mannar.

During this time, Bishop became increasingly outspoken about the plight of the poor and oppressed in his diocese, and he used his position to denounce government repression and human rights abuses.

The book provides a detailed account of the political context in which Bishop Rayappu lived and worked, explaining the complex web of forces that contributed to the violence and injustice that plagued Sri Lanka.



The book also chronicles Bishop's growing awareness of the need for social justice and his increasing willingness to speak out against those who perpetuated violence and oppression.

The book is both a tribute to Bishop Rayappu's courage and an exploration of the meaning of his life and death. The book delves into the

theological and ecclesial implications of Bishop's message, arguing that his commitment to social justice was rooted in a deep faith in God's love and compassion for all people. It is a must-read for anyone interested in social justice, human rights, and the intersection of faith and politics more specifically who are serious about Synodality.

Rajakulendran Academy of Western Music, Speech and Drama English flourishing in Jaffna

By **S. Ratnajeewan H. Hoole**

Jaffna was once at the pinnacle of education in Sri Lanka. However, at an Akaram Foundation Workshop in Jaffna on 15.10.2016, Prof. Roshan Ragel produced statistics to show that Jaffna District had slipped from first place in 1980 to ninth (last).

In the same period, the Western Province held on to its second place while the Southern Province moved up from third to first.

In engineering and Medicine alone, the Northern province did not see the same loss, from first to third, and from first to fifth, respectively.

This loss, I believe, based on my personal observations of university minutes, Vice-Chancellors' letters, reference letters from school principals and lecturers etc., corresponds to a loss of English fluency.

A reversal of this decline can only be achieved by reviving English. Very early as English fluency declined, Suvendrini Kadirgamar in 1973,



John Gladstone Rajakulendran, MSC (1943-1947), Barrister

founded The Rajakulendran Academy of Western Music, Speech and Drama. The school was strengthened when her sister, Vimala Jebanesan of some 50 years' experience in the field, joined her after a career in teaching the subject locally and abroad.

Far-sightedly, to keep standards in line with worldwide norms, the two

Their students were also prepared for exams conducted by the Royal Schools Board of Music London in whose examinations their student Poopalan Lakshman garnered the all-island prize for speech and drama reserved only for one person. Varajith Umashankar came first in Sri Lanka

sisters' students were presented to exams by the similarly named Institute in Colombo whose representative for Jaffna Suvendrini is.

Likewise, their students were also prepared for exams conducted by the Royal Schools Board of Music London in whose examinations their student Poopalan Lakshman garnered the all-island prize for speech and drama reserved only for one person. Varajith Umashankar came first in Sri Lanka.

Swarna Jayaweera

She was the pivot around which family revolved

She was our kid sister – the youngest in a family of seven girls. She was a much-loved teacher who rendered almost sixty years of dedicated service to the cause of education. Many and varied were the subjects she taught throughout the years – Political Science, Economics, Sinhala, English, and Buddhism being some of them. She taught at Dehiwala Central, Holy Family Convent Dehiwala, Mahanama College, Alethea International, Lyceum International and Musaeus College.

She possessed many admirable qualities – generosity, patience, integrity, amiability, and loyalty. She was a person whose life was characterized by devotion to work and serving others. With her clear-sighted vision, total commitment, and concern for others, she has helped several people who had come to her with their problems. She never sought publicity, but went on in quiet efficiency throughout the years, always giving her best. Generations of young men and women will surely reap the benefits of her high ideals and values. Even after retirement she had private classes at home and enjoyed imparting knowledge to the students who were very grateful to her.

She was the pivot around which



Swarna Jayaweera

the family unit revolved. She was a devoted wife to Jay who sadly predeceased her in 2012. She symbolized the quintessential qualities of motherhood.

She was an exemplary mother, whose devotion and concern for her children extended far beyond their childhood years. Her unconditional love and understanding allowed her children to seek their paths in life, and they are doing extremely well today. She was blessed with two precious children, Nilusha and Chinthaka, who looked after her with so much care and devotion.

She was a devout Buddhist who lived by the great principles which she upheld till the very last moment of her life. Her death was a quiet and peaceful passing away, same as the way she lived, without being a burden to anybody

She was a much-loved mother-in-law to Vasanthi and Prasad and a doting grandmother to her four granddaughters – Shanali, Ruhini, Maheli and Methuli. She was a loving aunt to all her nieces and nephews who affectionately called her Chuttan.

She was a devout Buddhist who lived by the great principles which she upheld till the very last moment of her life. Her death was a quiet and peaceful passing away, same as the way she lived, without being a burden to anybody.

Though she is gone, she will always be remembered by all those who knew her and were privileged to associate with her. May her journey in Sansara be short – and may she attain the Supreme bliss of Nibbana!

-CHATRA S. WITHANA

Badoordeen elected new President of SLMA

Rizwan Badoordeen was elected the new president of the Sri Lanka Malay Association (SLMA) at its Annual General Meeting held at the Colombo Malay Cricket Club in Slave Island.

Founded in 1922, the SLMA is dedicated to preserving the Sri Lanka Malay heritage and fostering religious values. As part of its centenary celebrations, SLMA organised 'Pasar Malam' a fun-filled evening with authentic Malay cuisine and traditional Malay cultural performances. They hope to organise a Malay Symposium in May.

Badoordeen was at the helm of Colombo Malay Cricket Club which celebrated its 150th anniversary before he was elected SLMA president.



Rizwan Badoordeen

Thalip F Iyne, Ramalee Adjumain, Dr Sandy Musafar, DIG B.M.N.Jurangpathy (Rtd), Rohan Musafar, Hajiani Fazeela Cuttilan, Al Haj Tuan Z Assen, Brig. T.M. Bohoran (Rtd) and Juragan Majid. General Council: President – Rizwan Badoordeen. Immediate Past President – Rilwan Lantra. Vice Presidents: Taslim Rahaman, Hussain Jayah, Irfan Allang, Roy Marso, Shanaz Bohoran, Malrene Lantra, Sabrina Jayah, Shafeena Fajudeen, Izwan Ahamat,

T.J. Packeerally, Hony General Secretary – Iqram Cuttilan / Hony Asst Secretary – Yaseem Samath, Hony Treasurer – Diana Rahaman / Hony Asst Treasurer – Adhil Khassim, Social Services Committee: Chairperson – Sandra Sourjah / Secretary – Mersumi Majid, Religious Affairs & Janaza Fund Committee: Chairperson – Zaheeda Ousmand / Secretary – Marlene Dole Women's Affairs Committee: Chairperson – Hashmarene Bangsajayah / Secretary – Feroziya Jumat. Literary & Cultural Affairs Committee: Chairperson – Zeenia Cambal / Secretary – Shalimar Samidon, Research, Documentation Study and Communications Committee: Chairperson – Tinaz Amit / Secretary – Shahana Dole, Committee: Niameth Raheem, Virashmie Adjumain, Nazreen Allang, Mirsab Samath, Naim Samahon, Razeena Rahaman, Akbar Samidon, Mumtaz Hamidon, Mirza Deane, Irfath Meedin

Ex-Officio: President (CMCC) – Rinaldin Rahaman; Club Captain (CMCC) – Roshan Allang, Hony. Gen Secretary (CMCC) – Perry Jumat, Hony. Secretary – Ground & Pavilion (CMCC) – Shyam Razak, President (SLMA Rupee Fund) – Al Haj A.R. Pallie, Hony Gen Secretary (SLMA Rupee Fund) – Ibmusha Ally.

Founded in 1922, the SLMA is dedicated to preserving the Sri Lanka Malay heritage and fostering religious values.

As part of its centenary celebrations, SLMA organised 'Pasar Malam' a fun-filled evening with authentic Malay cuisine and traditional Malay cultural performances

Following are the SLMA office-bearers for the year 2023-2024: Patron - Al Haj T.E.J. Cuttilan, Vice Patrons: Branu Rahim, T.Y. Raheem, Indra Saldin, Thaj Sariffo'deen, Soekamo Ousmand, Thaj Lantra.

Mazher Fazleali

A colossus to Sri Lanka Cricket

It is with profound sadness that the Sri Lanka Cricket records the demise of Mazher Fazleali on January 20.

Fazleali was a colossus in the game of cricket both as a player and administrator. A top-order batsman at Royal College, Colombo from 1960 to 1965 his overflowing passion for the game of cricket saw him serve as an administrator as well. He was the Treasurer of the then-Board of Control for Cricket from the early 1970s to the early 1980s.

As much as he revelled in the game with the bat at Royal College, Mazher Fazleali's love for the game spurred him on to impart his knowledge of the game as a top administrator. So much so that he is prided on having been a founder member of the Colombo District Cricket Association which has been the lending atom to spreading the game of knitting and harnessing latent talent in the city metropolis over the years under the purview of Sri Lanka Cricket. He was vice president of the CDCA from 2002 to 2016 and rose to become its president from 2017 to 21. Indeed, Mazher Fazleali has left a lasting impact on what he loved and cherished for the game to flourish. As his daughter Fatema reminisced of her late father, "My dad remained involved with the



Mazher Fazleali

game of cricket through the CDCA to the end and thoroughly enjoyed the role he played there."

A soft-spoken and gentleman, Mazher Fazleali, who was 75 years at the time of his demise, never failed to lend a helping hand to those in need. Hailing from a family of cricketers, his passion for the game remained to the last as his daughter Fatema fondly

recalled going on to note that it was a passion he passed down to his children 'who have thanks to dad picked up the game.'

"Mazher was an astute administrator who strongly enforced accountability and transparency in all that we did at Colombo DCA. His calm and uncontroverial management style and visionary advice and guidance helped CDCA

Fazleali was a colossus in the game of cricket both as a player and administrator. A top-order batsman at Royal College, Colombo from 1960 to 1965 his overflowing passion for the game of cricket saw him serve as an administrator as well. He was the Treasurer of the then-Board of Control for Cricket from the early 1970s to the early 1980s

to remain as the most vibrant District Cricket Association under the umbrella of Sri Lanka Cricket" claimed Bandula Dissanayake who served as the Secretary of CDCA under Mr Fazleali and subsequently succeeded him in the post of President.

Mr. Fazleali in addition to his cricket administration involvements was also an active member of the Colombo Capri Club and Toastmasters Club. We pray that Allah may shower his blessings and grant Mr Fazleali Jannatul Firdous.

- LAMAK FAZLEALI

WEEKEND ONLINE

DailyMirror

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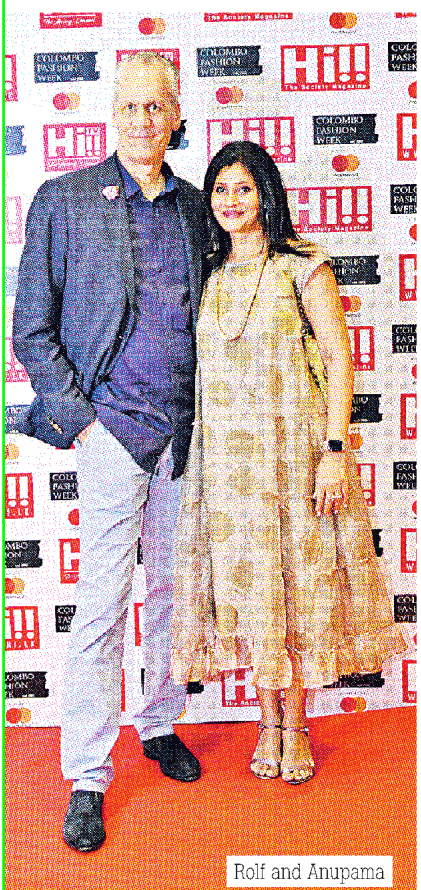
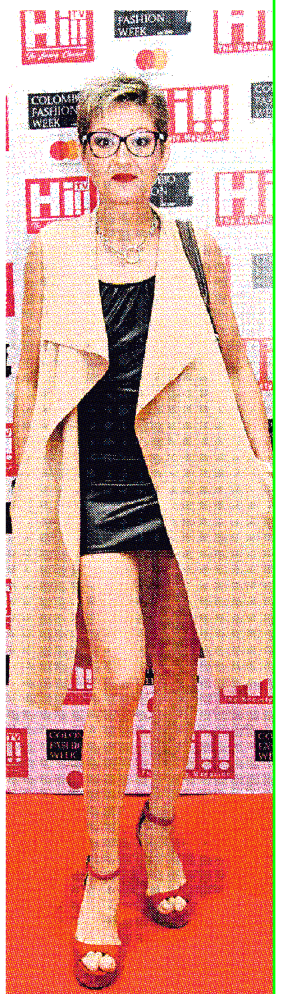
Ruchira



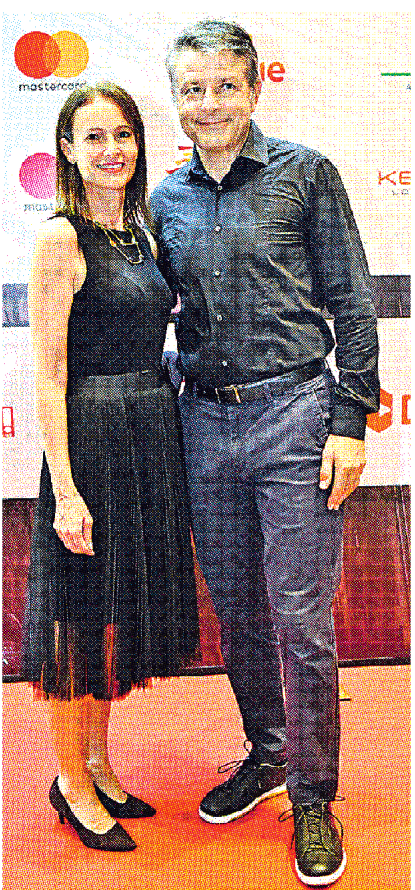
Sahan Hewadewa



Chethiya and Dinesh



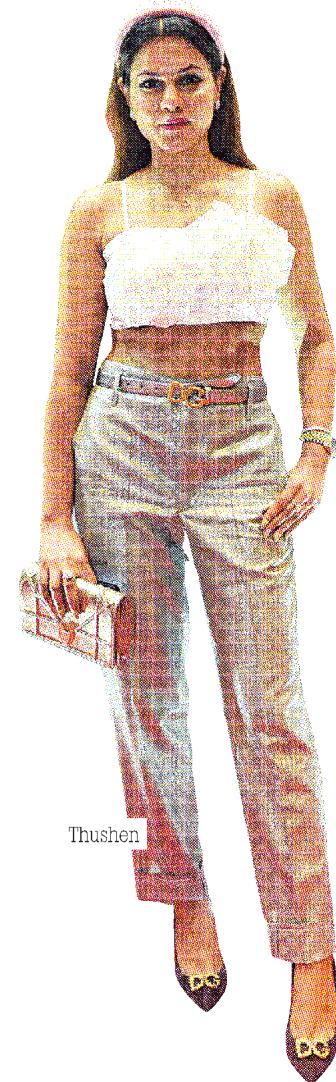
Rolf and Anupama



Sue



Thashiya and Niranjana



Thushen



Sharine

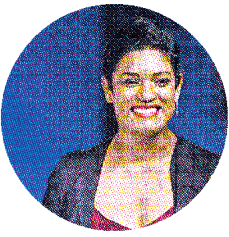
SPOTTED AT

Hi!!EVENTS!

COLOMBO FASHION WEEK 2023

held at the Grand Ballroom, Shangri La, Colombo

Charini Suriyage



Nilusha Maddumage



Divya Jayawickrama



DAY 02



BY RISHINI WEERARATNE

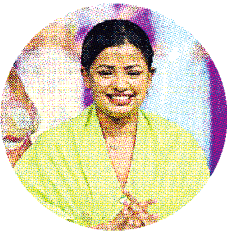
Day II of CFW 2023 wrapped up last evening at the Grand Ballroom, Shangri La, Colombo. The event kicked off with Colombo's favorite, Sonali Dharmawardena, literally bringing the house down with her stellar collection. Her collection this season was about supporting women, circularity, and creating meaningful fashion that is sustainable for longer use. She was followed by Indi Yapa Abeywardena challenging stereotypes and representing love with her 'Rainbow Collection.' Keeping to her signature of soft drapes and luxurious textures, it was a treat to watch her unveil her new collection. Using traditional 'Dumbara Weaving,' hand-block printing, and hand crochet, Divya Jayawickrama showcased her collection straight after Indi. Next on stage was Sharmila Ruberu of Meraki who collaborated with global brand, Perfetti Van Melle to create an extraordinary collection titled, 'Sensurreal.' A tribute to powerful women with large hearts; to all the boss ladies - a celebration by Charini Suriyage, had the audience at the edge of their seats straight after the show break. This was followed by Dinushi Pamunuwa who unveiled her collection titled, 'Beauty in Diversity,' and Nilusha Maddumage, who showcased her collection titled, 'Agara.' The finale for the night was one of India's most acclaimed designers, Suneet Varma, who also showcased at the first edition of Colombo Fashion Week in 2003. One of India's foremost couturiers, Suneet Varma is a name that immortalizes glamour and timeless style.



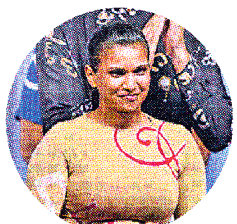
Sonali Dharmawardena



Indi Yapa Abeywardena



Suneet Varma



Dinushi Pamunuwa



Sharmila Ruberu

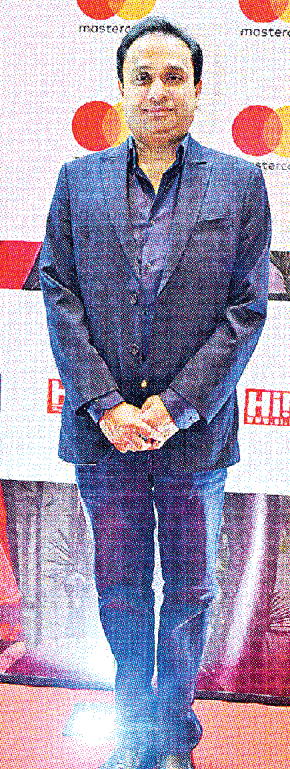




Kamil



Jaishree



Mayantha



Lucky Susil



Harshini

Gerald

SPOTTED AT Hi!!EVENTS DAY 2 OF COLOMBO FASHION WEEK 2023

held at the Grand Ballroom, Shangri La, Colombo



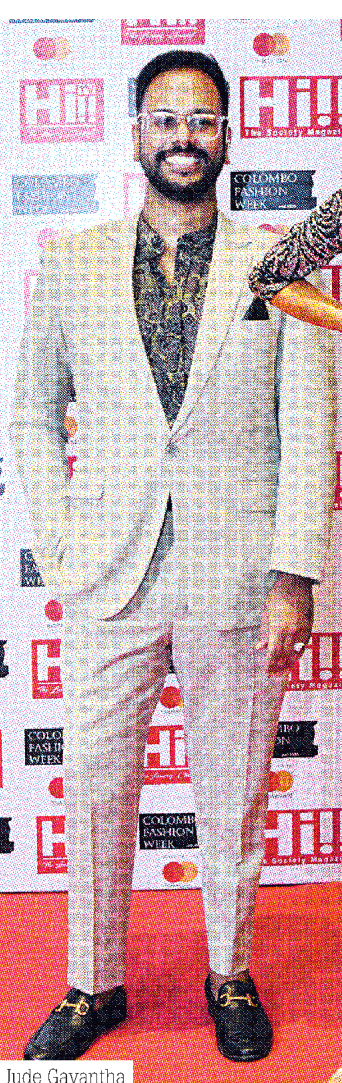
Omprasad and Veronica



Padmi



Mano



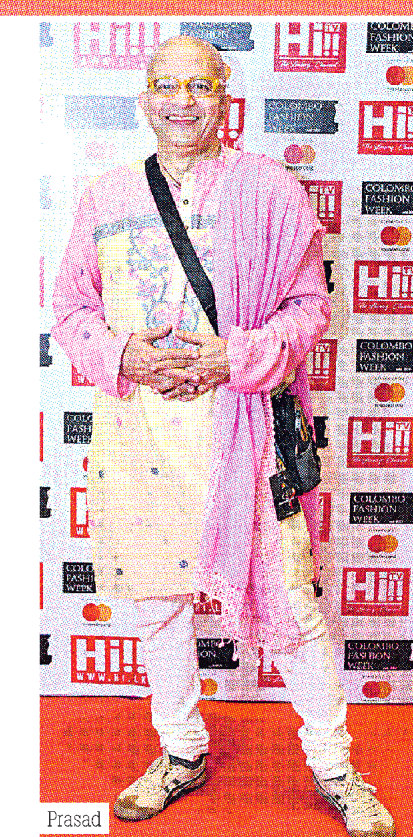
Jude Gayantha



Krishni



Ishan and Family



Prasad



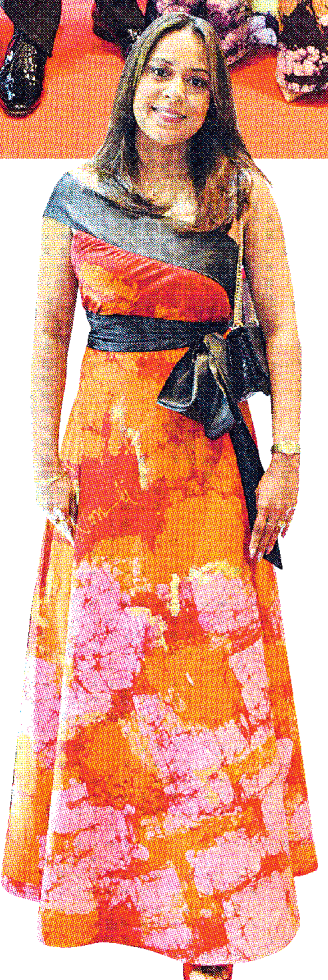
Onitha



Rohan and Family



Keziah





DAY 02
Colombo
Fashion
Week 2023
The Best Dressed List



BY RISHINI WEERARATNE

The most anticipated event on Colombo's social calendar, kicked off last Wednesday with a private event held at the Colombo Mayor's Residence. From Wednesday onwards, Colombo's A List has been in attendance at all events attired in this season's most chic ensembles. From Angeline Ondaatje, Sonia Dandona Hirdramani, Rashmi Ukwatte, Alnaas Esufally, Shahili Gomes-McCoy, Yoshi Johnpillai, Zara Akberally, Dilrukshi Kurukulasuriya, Gillian Edwards, Samantha de Silva, Shyamali Ediriweera, Yolanda Aluwihare-Holms to Ramani Fernando; the crème de la crème of Colombo has been gracing the red carpet 'on point!' Without further ado, I present to you the Best Dressed List from Day II of Colombo Fashion Week 2023.



SPORTS

63rd Battle of the Babes
Vidyarthi in box seat

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL
Vidyarthi College was in a strong position in their 63rd Battle of the Babes Big Match encounter against St. Sylvester's College...

CR & FC Centenary 7s Rugby Tournament

TRINITY STUN PATHANA IN QUARTERS

BY HARSHA AMARASINGHE
Trinity College pulled off a stunning 19-07 victory over Isipathana College in the quarter-finals of the CR & FC Centenary 7s Rugby Tournament...



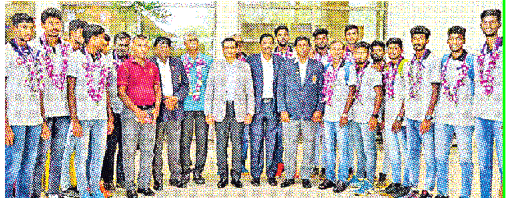
CR & FC Centenary Rugby Sevens Schools Segment
Schools Day One Results:
DSS 14 - 26 Kingswood
Zahira 19 - 14 Vidyarthi
CC Pilyandala 12 - 19 Trinity
Royal 19 - 12 St. Peter's
Kingswood 14 - 07 S. Thomas'
Vidyarthi 14 - 17 Isipathana
Trinity 17 - 29 St. Joseph's
St. Peter's 24 - 00 Wesley
DSS 31 - 05 S. Thomas'
Zahira 15 - 26 Isipathana
CCP 00 - 31 St. Joseph's
Royal 15 - 00 Wesley
Schools Cup QF
Royal 21 - 17 DSS
St. Joseph's 14 - 10 Zahira
Isipathana 07 - 19 Trinity
Kingswood 17 - 26 St. Peter's
Day Two Matches:
Bowl SF Wesley vs CCP
Vidyarthi vs S.Thomas'
Plate SF DSS vs Zahira
Isipathana vs Kingswood
Cup SF Royal vs St. Joseph's
Trinity vs St. Peter's



FOREIGN EVENTS
CRICKET
INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE
Punjab Kings vs. Kolkata Knight Riders - Chandigarh
Lucknow Super Giants vs. Delhi Capitals Men - Lucknow

FOOTBALL
PREMIER LEAGUE
Manchester City vs. Liverpool - Etihad Stadium
Arsenal vs. Leeds United - Emirates Stadium
AFC Bournemouth vs. Fulham - Vitality Stadium
Brighton & Hove Albion vs. Brentford - Falmer Stadium
Crystal Palace vs. Leicester City - Selhurst Park Stadium
Nottingham Forest vs. Wolverhampton - City Ground
Chelsea vs. Aston Villa - Stamford Bridge

FORMULAONE
Australian Grand Prix - Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit
LOCAL EVENTS
CRICKET
CR&FC Centenary Rugby Sevens 2023 - Longdon Place



Tamil Nadu Volleyball squad with Sri Lanka volleyball officials at the airport

Tamil Nadu junior national men's spikers arrive in SL for 7-day tour

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
The Tamil Nadu Province Junior National Men's Volleyball team arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday (March 31) at Katunayake International Airport for a seven-day tour. Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) President Kanchana Jayaratne and a group of officials accorded a warm reception to the visiting Tamil Nadu team at the airport. The touring Tamil Nadu volleyball team, which came to Sri Lanka on the invitation of SLVB, will compete against several teams, including the Sri Lanka National Junior Volleyball Team, in the cities of Gampaha, Horana, Jaffna, Vavuniya, and Kurunegala during their tour. Their first match will be against the Sri Lanka National Junior Team today (April 1) at the Radawana Golden Birds Stadium, Gampaha. Tamil Nadu Volleyball squad: R. Raguran, S. Sathish, M. Kabilan, K. Anandha Kumara, V. Thanisk, V.S. Munish, Joel Benjamin, Guru Vasanth, Edwin Mariyon, K. Gopinath, C. Venu, Deepak Kumar, T. Mathavan, Aadithya Gunaseelan, and K. Chandrasekaran (Head Coach)

Young hits 86 as New Zealand beat Sri Lanka 2-0 in ODI series

Will Young hit 86 not out as hosts New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by six wickets in yesterday's third one-day international, ending the visitors' hopes of qualifying directly for the World Cup this year. New Zealand replied with 159 for four after bowling Sri Lanka out for 157 in Hamilton. The Black Caps won the ODI series 2-0, having also won both of the two Test matches. A three-match Twenty20 series between the teams starts tomorrow (2). The home win saw New Zealand top the Super League table in qualifying for the ODI World Cup in India this year. Sri Lanka are ninth, outside the top eight who automatically go to the World Cup, and now face a qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe starting in June. Young's 86 runs off 113 balls dug New Zealand out of trouble, Sri Lanka's seamers having made life hard for the hosts early on. His fifth-wicket partnership of 100 runs with Henry Nicholls sealed the result for New Zealand. "We were one down when I came in. It was a bit more nerve-racking later on when we were three or four down," said man-of-the-match Young. "One of the good things about this team is

that we can bat a long way down, so I had full confidence that we would get the job done. "It was nice to be out there at the end and knock off the runs," he said. New Zealand made a terrible start after they were set a target of 158. Openers Chad Bowes and Tom Blundell were both caught behind off Lahiru Kumara's bowling to leave the Black Caps on 6-2. Sri Lanka wicket-keeper Kusal Mendis then took his third straight catch when Daryl Mitchell got a faint touch on Kasun Rajitha's delivery. Black Caps captain Tom Latham briefly halted Sri Lanka's momentum in a partnership of 38 with Young, only to be clean bowled by Dasun Shanaka for eight. New Zealand were in trouble at 59-4 before Nicholls came to the crease to help put the game beyond Sri Lanka. Nicholls finished on 44 not out, sealing the win by clubbing a four to the boundary after providing crucial support for Young. It was another frustrating display by Sri Lanka, who were skittled for just 76 in a 198-run defeat in the first ODI on Saturday before the second game on Tuesday was washed out. Sri Lanka won the toss but lost three wickets in the first ten overs as top-order batters Kusal

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand ODI match statistics. Sri Lanka 1st Innings: P. Nissanka run out 57, N. Fernando c Nicholls b Henry 02, K. Mendis c Mitchell b Henry 00, A. Mathews c Mitchell b Shipley 00, C. Asalanka c Shipley b Mitchell 09, D. de Silva c Henry b Mitchell 13, D. Shanaka c Henry b Shipley 31, C. Karunaratne c Latham b Henry 24, W. Hasaranga c Latham b Mitchell 00, K. Rajitha b Shipley 09, L. Kumara not out 00, EXTRAS: (8w, 4lb) 12, TOTAL: (all out, 41.3 overs) 157, FALL OF WICKETS: 13-1, 13-2, 18-3, 49-4, 70-5, 100-6, 128-7, 133-8, 150-9, 157-10, BOWLING: M. Henry 10-2-14-3, H. Shipley 8.3-2-32-3, B. Ticker 8-2-35-0, D. Mitchell 7-1-32-3, I. Sodhi 8-0-40-0. New Zealand 1st Innings: C. Bowes c Mendis b Kumara 01, T. Blundell c Mendis b Kumara 04, W. Young not out 86, D. Mitchell c Mendis b Rajitha 06, T. Latham b Shanaka 08, H. Nicholls not out 44, EXTRAS: (7w, 3lb) 10, TOTAL: (4 wickets, 32.5 overs) 159, FALL OF WICKETS: 5-1, 6-2, 21-3, 59-4, BOWLING: K. Rajitha 9-0-44-1, L. Kumara 7.4-0-39-2, C. Karunaratne 4.5-0-26-0, D. Shanaka 7.2-1-25-1, W. Hasaranga 4-0-22-0. Extras: Mendis and Angelo Mathews both went for ducks. Sri Lanka were wobbling at 4-49 when Henry Shipley caught Charith Asalanka off Mitchell's bowling. The Black Caps seamers kept the tourists under pressure as Matt Henry, Mitchell and Shipley all took three wickets each. Opening bat Pathum Nissanka top-scored with 57, managing partnerships of 31 and 30 with Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka respectively as Sri Lanka reached 100-6 before the opener was run out. Shanaka, their captain, tried to rally his side by hitting two huge sixes before he went on 31 off 36 balls. Sri Lanka were in deep trouble at 133 for eight before New Zealand polished off the tail. (AFP)

Under 19 Cricket

Duranka, Imalka guide Sri Sumangala to massive win

BY M. SHAMILAMIT
Duranka Silva slammed a swashbuckling 221 runs in just 203 balls inclusive of 25 boundaries and 12 sixes while Imalka Fernando cracked 188 in 197 balls which included 16 boundaries and 12 sixes as Sri Sumangala College Panadura coasted to a massive innings and 286 runs win over Tissa Central Kalutara in the Under 19 inter-school cricket encounter played at Kalutara. Meanwhile an impressive match bag of 16 for 64 by Chathumal Nimesh, who also cracked 79, paved the way for St. Sebastian's College Katuneriya to record a big 228 runs win over Dudley Senanayake Central Tholangamuwa in the match played at Katuneriya. Mahinda Rajapaksa MV Homagama coasted to a comfortable nine-wicket win over Carey College and Rajasinghe Central Hanwella posted a six wicket win against Harishchandra National School Negombo in two other matches played at Horana and Hanwella. Results: At Kalutara - Sri Sumangala won by innings and 286 runs. Tissa Central Kalutara 61 (Ishara Malith 15; Manmitha Dulran 5 for 12, Imalka Fernando 3 for 7) and 197 (Malinda Dilshan 42, Malsha Kavishan 40, Ashan Vishwa 32, Sharen Dhananjaya 22, Nadun Asela 17, Tenusha Ashen 16; Mevindu Kumarasiri 5 for 52, Bihanga Silva 4 for 72). Sri Sumangala Panadura 544 (Duranka Silva 221, Imalka Fernando 188, Sachira Damian 27, Neksha Iddamalagoda 24, Kavindu Gayathra 24; Hirusha Nethsara 2 for 54, Ajitha Buddila 2 for 78, Nadun Asela 2 for 114). At Katuneriya - St. Sebastian's won by 228 runs. St. Sebastian's Katuneriya 216 for 9 declared (Chathumal Nimesh

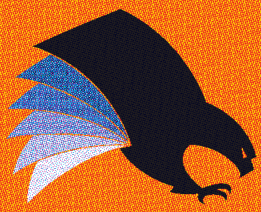
179, Maheesha Sithum 29, Viraj Menura 28, Ashen Dinuka 25, Hasith Kavinda 22, Gayan Harshana 20; Isuru Udayanga 2 for 17, Ravindu Prabath 2 for 28, Dasun Tharinda 2 for 29, Akash Sansitha 2 for 55) and 187 for 5 declared (Thisara Madushan 117, Chathumal Nimesh 35, Gayan Harshana 23; Isuru Udayanga 2 for 50). Dudley Senanayake Central Tholangamuwa 84 (Akash Sansith 29, Pasindu Thidas 25; Chathumal Nimesh 8 for 38) and 91 (Sanjana Sachendra 26, Mihiran Harshana 20 n.o.; Chathumal Nimesh 8 for 26, Thisara Madushan 2 for 8). At Horana - Mahinda Rajapaksa MV won by nine wickets. Mahinda Rajapaksa MV Homagama 211 (Chanithu Anuditha 47, Janul Ranjula 41, Pasindu Lakshitha 35, Maneth Muthsanda 25, Navindu Nimsara 19, Oshan Vihanga 15; Ammar Rizan 5 for 80, Rawzan Caffoor 2 for 53) and 6 for 1. Carey 111 (Ammar Rizan 42, Chalitha de Silva 27, Rawzan Caffoor 15; Sathnim Sipsara 6 for 34, Maneth Muthsanda 3 for 36) and 102 (Rawzan Caffoor 43, Thabith Rizicar 20; Dinuja Venusara 4 for 25, Sathnim Sipsara 3 for 32, Maneth Muthsanda 2 for 28). At Hanwella - Rajasinghe Central won by six wickets. Harishchandra NS Negombo 114 (Gimhana Jayasiri 21, Devinda Dharshana 17, Randul de Silva 15; Praveen Maneesha 6 for 53, Dineth Nirman 4 for 21) and 100 (Deneth Bimsara 28, Theekshana Silva 16; Praveen Maneesha 6 for 53, Dimuthu Tharaka 2 for 14, Dineth Nirman 2 for 19). Rajasinghe Central Hanwella 112 (Ramithu Thewnittha 34, Praveen Maneesha 23, Devinda Dharshana 5 for 28, Sachitha Gimhana 3 for 29) and 105 for 4 (Sanuth Mandive 54 n.o., Praveen Maneesha 35 n.o.; Rashen Shalinga 2 for 16)

IPL returns as Mumbai eye sixth title

Mumbai Indians, armed with big-money signing Cameron Green, will bid for a record-extending sixth title when the Indian Premier League started yesterday, in what could be Chennai veteran MS Dhoni's swansong. The 16th edition also returns to its pre-Covid glory days, with 74 matches scheduled at 12 venues over eight weeks. In the opener at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, defending champions Gujarat Titans will play Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings. England all-rounder Sam Curran returns to Punjab Kings after being bought for \$2.23 million, making him the most expensive IPL player ever. Green, 1.98 metres (6 feet and 6 inches) tall, joined IPL's most successful outfit Mumbai after he became the second-most expensive buy at \$2.11 million in the December auction. India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin called Green a "once-in-a-generation" cricketer after the batting all-rounder hit his maiden Test hundred in India earlier this month. "I think he's a fantastic player. Just the raw materials for a person as tall as him, lovely levers, good batting sense, can bowl and really hit the deck well, moves pretty well on the field," Ashwin said. Mumbai, led by India captain Rohit Sharma, will be without injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah but have been boosted by the return of England fast bowler Jofra Archer, who missed last season due to injury. Chennai are not far behind Mumbai with four titles -- and are five-time runners-up -- and Dhoni's towering presence as wicketkeeper-batsman and captain has been key. Dhoni, 41, remains a huge

star more than two years after his international retirement. He said he owed a "thank you" to his Chennai fans after last year's IPL, which was held in just two cities in the group stage. Dhoni apart, the team's success will depend on all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja, Moeen Ali and England Test skipper Ben Stokes, who was bought by the franchise for \$1.96m. According to media reports, Stokes is also being considered as a possible successor to Dhoni as Chennai captain. Australia's David Warner, South Africans Aiden Markram and Faf du Plessis are the three overseas captains in this IPL. Warner will lead Delhi Capitals in the absence of the injured Rishabh Pant, who suffered injuries in a car crash in December, as the team again chase their first ever IPL title. Markram will lead 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad while fellow South African Du Plessis continues as Bangalore skipper after Kohli stepped down. The league, which began in 2008, has grown to be the world's richest cricket tournament and a huge revenue earner for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). This year for the first time there was a women's version -- won in front of a packed house by Mumbai Indians. IPL has overcome corruption and match-fixing scandals to generate billions for the Indian economy each year, and last season expanded to 10 teams with Gujarat and Lucknow Super Giants. Gujarat pulled off a fairytale title win in their debut season with Hardik Pandya leading the side to victory in front of a record crowd of almost 105,000 fans at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. The tournament runs until May 28.

2022 Indian Premier League 2023 infographic. Features: Player of the match Hardik Pandya 34 (30) 3/17. Most Sixes Chris Gayle 357. Most Runs Virat Kohli 6624. Most Fours Shikhar Dhawan 701. All Time Leaders: All IPL Winners List (2008 to 2022) 6/12 Best Bowling Figures Alzarri Joseph. Venues: Dharamshala (23,000), Mohali (27,000), Delhi (41,000), Lucknow (50,000), Jaipur (30,000), Ahmedabad (132,000), Mumbai (33,000), Hyderabad (55,000), Bengaluru (40,000), Chennai (40,000), Guruhatti (50,000), Kolkata (68,000). Dharamshala will be making its return to IPL after a 10-year hiatus. Mar, Fri 31 Match 1: GUJARAT TITANS vs CHENNAI SUPER KINGS. SOURCE: espncricinfo / ICC / IPL. @Chaturanga Devpriya DM SportsDesk



Government to allocate Rs.100mn to kick off digital policy planning



- Rs.1 bn to be allocated in 2024 for research focusing on AI
- Launches DIGIECON 2030 to ensure govt. remains focused on digital transformation agenda

In an effort to keep up with the regional peers in technological development, Sri Lanka will allocate large sums, starting this year, to help transition towards a digital economy.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe announced that plans are afoot to allocate Rs.100 million to kick off the planning of a digital policy for the country. This will be done by integrating universities and other research institutes, he said. In 2024,

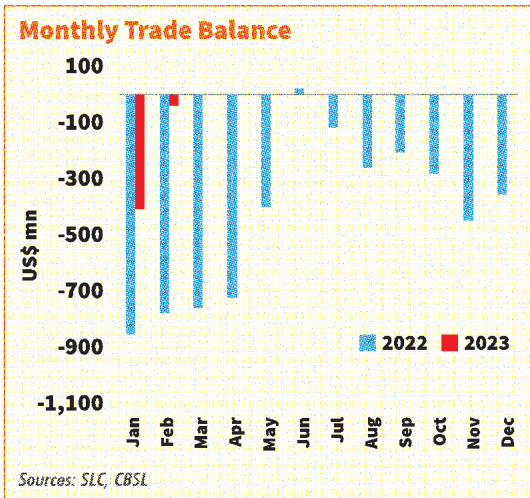
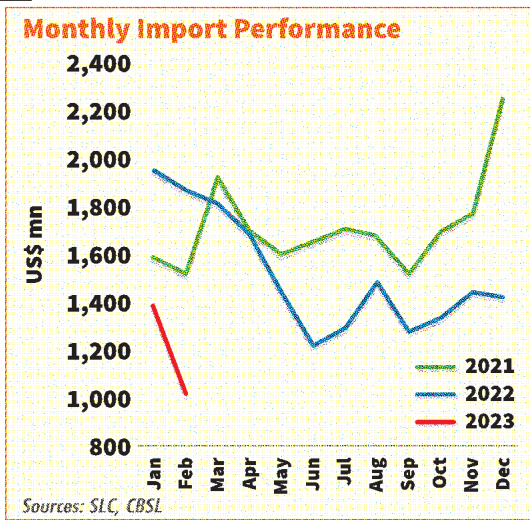
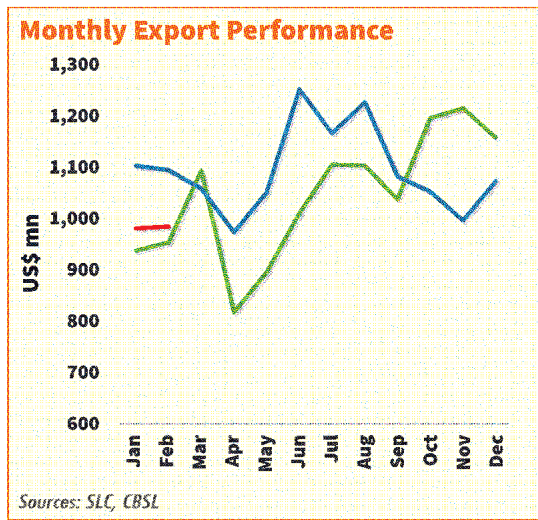
an allocation of Rs.1 billion will be made to conduct research that is centered on the fast-booming and evolving artificial intelligence (AI). Wickremesinghe shared his plans for the country's digitalisation agenda while addressing the launch of the

DIGIECON 2030 project on Thursday. DIGIECON 2023 was conceptualised and launched with the aim of ensuring the government remains focused on transforming the island nation into a "true digital economy".

MORE ON P12

Trade deficit narrows significantly in February amid slowing imports

- Feb. 2023 deficit dips to US \$ 39mn, from US \$ 780mn in Feb. 2022
- Steep contraction due to significant moderation of import expenditure, owing to subdued aggregate demand conditions
- Decline in earnings on merchandise exports observed in all main categories
- Import expenditure almost halved in Feb. 2023, driven by lower expenditure on food and non-food consumer goods
- Import expenditure on investment too dips significantly in Feb.



Sri Lanka's deficit in the merchandise trade account witnessed a significant contraction in February, due to a significant moderation in the import expenditure, arising out of the aggregate demand conditions.

The trade deficit narrowed significantly to US \$ 39 million in February 2023, from US \$ 780 million recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year, the data from the Economics Research Department of the Central Bank showed.

Accordingly, the cumulative deficit in the trade account during the January-February 2023 period was US \$ 449 million, a sizeable decline from US \$ 1,636 million recorded over the same period in 2022.

Despite recording a marginal growth compared to January 2023, the earnings from the merchandise exports declined by 10.2 percent in February 2023 year-on-year to US \$ 982 million. The export earnings were recorded below the US \$ 1 billion level for the second consecutive month.

Although a decline in the earnings was observed across all main categories, the industrial exports mainly contributed to the overall contraction. The cumulative export earnings during January-February 2023 declined by 10.7 percent over the same period, last year.

On the merchandise imports, the expenditure almost halved in February 2023, at US \$ 1,021 million, compared to February 2022. This is the lowest recorded imports since May 2020. All major import sectors declined while the decline in expenditure on intermediate goods was significant.

Meanwhile, the cumulative import expenditure during January-February 2023 also contracted by 37.1 percent over the corresponding period in 2022.

Driven by the lower expenditure on both food and non-food consumer goods, the expenditure on the importation of consumer goods in February 2023 dipped when compared with that of recorded in February 2022. The contraction in expenditure on non-food consumer goods was broad-based but the drop in imports of home appliances, household and furniture items and clothing and accessories was notable, the Central Bank said.

Further, the expenditure on food and beverages also declined, due to the lower imports of cereals and milling industry products (mainly, rice), compared to February 2022.

The expenditure on intermediate goods also witnessed a decline in February 2023 when compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. This was driven by the lower imports of fuel, textiles and textile articles (primarily,

fabrics). The importation of refined petroleum was significantly low, due to the build-up of inventories, while crude oil imports were not recorded in February 2023. The decline in textiles and textile articles was significant, implying a possible slowdown in garment exports in the period ahead, the Central Bank said.

MORE ON P12

PickMe reduces prices further on km rate

Taxi-hailing and delivery service PickMe yesterday announced the further downward revision of the per kilometer charge.

Accordingly, the per kilometer charge is reduced to Rs.68.

"The current slashing of petrol prices by CPC will be passed down to the passenger and we will continue to give value to the driver who works in the gig economy," said PickMe CEO Jiffy Zulfer.

The authorities stipulated the maximum price for tuk-tuks to have a starting price of Rs.100, followed by Rs.80 from the

second kilometer. "We are able to stay well below the rates of the road tuk-tuks, as our digital platform makes the system efficient as drivers don't have to be plying the roads in search of customers," he added.

Zulfer also pointed out that PickMe's driver network is continuing to expand. Last year alone, the app-based mobility company registered over 40,000 new drivers.

This year, PickMe saw a double-digit growth in demand and the app is also becoming popular among tourists visiting the country.



Vywasaya 2023 brings entrepreneurs from across SL to Colombo

Entrepreneurs across the country came onto a single platform in Colombo yesterday to feature their products.

Vywasaya 2023, an international exhibition, kicked off in Colombo at the BMICH yesterday, showcasing unique and creative products from entrepreneurs established in different parts of Sri Lanka.

The exhibition featured foods, clothing, gift items, handicraft products, furniture and art.

The fair is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. till April 2, 2023.

PIC BY KITHSIRI DE MEL

Expolanka acquires leading Canadian freight forwarder LEI Group for CAD 90mn

Continuing with its acquisition spree, Expolanka Holdings PLC yesterday announced that it acquired a 100 percent stake in leading Canadian freight forwarder LEI Group for Canadian dollars (CAD) 90 million (US \$ 66.47 million).

"... EFL Global Logistics (Pte.) Ltd (EFL Singapore), a fully-owned subsidiary of Expolanka Holdings PLC (Expolanka), has acquired the 100 percent equity interest of LEI Group for a purchase consideration of CAD 90,000,00 (CAD ninety million only) on a cash-free debt-free basis, on March 30, 2023," Expolanka announced in a stock filing yesterday.

The latest acquisition is expected to enable Expolanka to expand its

footprint in the Canadian market and strengthen capabilities to provide end-to-end logistics solutions to customers across various industries.

Established in 1976, LEI Group is a family-owned Canadian logistics company, with a history of nearly 47 years, offering a full suite of logistics services, including ocean freight, air freight, warehousing, customs brokerage, rail service, distribution, fulfillment, domestic trucking and drayage.

Over the years, LEI has grown to become one of the largest Canadian-owned freight forwarders, with branches across the country and internationally. It owns and operates a 150,000 sq. ft. warehouse in

Annacis Island and 52,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Brampton. Earlier this year, Expolanka acquired a 100 percent stake in the US-based Trans American Customhouse Brokers LLC and its related companies (Trans American Group), for US \$ 42.5 million.

Expolanka reported earnings of Rs.2.99 billion on a revenue of Rs.94.28 billion in the December 2022 quarter, down from Rs.23.04 billion earnings reported a year ago, largely due to the collapse of global freight rates.

As at December 31, 2022, Expolanka had Rs.107.96 billion as retained earnings, up from Rs.91.84 billion nine months ago.

MORE ON P12

Commonwealth Union launches website in Colombo



Former EU Parliamentarians Niranjan Deva Aditya, Geoffrey Van Orden, Rajan Brito, Chandra Mohotti and Nilanka Cicero Fernando of Commonwealth Union following website launch.

PIC BY KITHSIRI DE MEL

By Kurulu Koojana Kariyakarawana

The Commonwealth Union launched its official website in Colombo last week.

Commonwealthunion.com

is a digital media platform that connects the 2.6 billion people of the Commonwealth's 56 member nations by providing the latest global and regional business news, investments and more.

It was launched at The Kingsbury Colombo by a group of local and foreign dignitaries, including investors from several nations of the Commonwealth.

MORE ON P12

Inflation eases to 50.3% in March

Headline inflation, as measured by the year-on-year (YoY) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2021=100), decreased to 50.3 percent in March 2023, from 50.6 percent in February 2023.

The decline in headline inflation is broadly in line with the disinflation path envisaged by the Central Bank in 2023.

Food inflation (YoY) decreased to 47.6 percent in March 2023, from 54.4 percent in February 2023, whereas non-food inflation (YoY) increased to 51.7 percent in March 2023, from 48.8

percent in February 2023. The monthly change of the CCPI recorded at 2.92 percent in March 2023, due to the price increases observed in items of the non-food category, which was 3.71 percent.

However, the food category recorded a monthly decline of 0.79 percent. Core inflation (YoY), which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, decreased to 39.1 percent in March 2023, from 43.6 percent in February 2023. Looking ahead, based on the available information, the anticipated declining trend of inflation

is expected to continue through 2023. The Central Bank said the disinflation process would be supported by subdued demand conditions, owing to tight monetary and fiscal policy measures, softening of food and energy prices amidst the recent exchange rate appreciation and greater pass-through of lower global commodity prices, second round impacts of recent fuel price revisions and anticipated improvements in domestic supply conditions, along with the favourable statistical base effect.

Colombo Tea Auction ends final sale for 1Q23 with good general demand

The final sale for 1Q23 at the Colombo Tea Auction this week saw 5.1 MnKgs come under the hammer, which was met with good general demand.

"The firm to easier trend in prices would emanate, due to qualitative factors combined with less activity, due to the commencement of the Ramadan

period and restricted purchases on account of stock taking factors, due to the end of the financial year," said Forbes and Walker Tea Brokers in its latest tea report.

The Ex-Estate offerings comprised of a fairly similar volume and totalled 0.74 MnKgs.



MORE ON P12



SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC

1319 www.sarvodayafinance.lk



31.03.2023

Table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A. TODAY'S, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, V.W.A. TODAY'S, CHANGE PER CENT. Contains multiple columns of stock market data.

Exchange Rates

31.03.2023

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

Table with columns: CURRENCY, BUYING RATE, SELLING RATE. Lists various currencies and their exchange rates.

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

Table with columns: Country, Currency, Indicative Rate. Lists Gulf currencies and their approximate rates.

Indices close the month on a mixed note

Indices closed in green as a result of price gains in counters such as Hattton National Bank, Expolanka Holdings and Commercial Bank with the turnover crossing Rs 4.2 Bn.



Softlogic Capital and SMB Leasing nonvoting. Furthermore, foreigners remained active closing as net sellers.

whilst recording an average daily turnover of Rs. 1.94 Bn. Insurance sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to LOLC General Insurance Limited) whilst the sector index edged down by 0.12%.

3.30%. The share price of National Development Bank gained Rs 1.90 (4.42%) to close at Rs 44.90. The share price of Sampath Bank recorded a loss of Rs 1.60 (2.96%) to close at Rs 52.50.

Contd. from Page 11

Trade deficit...

While a sizable decline was recorded in the importation of base metals, chemical products, plastics and articles, rubber and articles and vehicle and machinery parts, an increase was noted in the expenditure on wheat, diamonds, precious stones and metals.

Commonwealth Union...

The website serves as a gateway to global markets and a window of investment and business opportunities for companies through its unique marketing and advertising categories that cover the Commonwealth.

billion people and a combined Commonwealth GDP of over US \$ 13 trillion. The web presently has an active readership of about 12 million.

Expolanka acquires...

SG Holdings Global Pte Ltd, as at December 31, 2022, held 79.47 percent of the issued shares of Expolanka.

Government to...

The programme will set up a platform for 50 or more innovative, small and medium start-ups in various fields to access global investments and markets.

Wickremesinghe stressed cooperation with the neighbouring states is essential and it would be beneficial for Sri Lanka to work together with South India, due to its fast development.

Through the DIGIECON 2030 initiative, Sri Lanka will take steps to build a favourable business environment for investment by providing government commitment and direction to facilitate a digital ecosystem for all stakeholders.

Colombo Tea...

The overall quality in regard to the teas in the Western and Nuwara Eliya planting districts were barely maintained, whilst the others were fairly similar to last.

the brighter sorts declined up to Rs.50 per kg, the others together with the teas at the lower end of the market often sold around last week's levels although towards the close, the prices tend to weaken marginally.

The Low Grown comprised 2.2 MnKgs. The market met with fair demand at lower levels, particularly for the well-made teas.

In the Tippy catalogues, the well-made FBOP/FF1s together with the Below Best were easier, whilst the teas at the bottom sold around last levels.

"The feature of the sale would be the widespread demand for the teas at the lower end and the firm to dearer trend in prices," Forbes and Walker Tea Brokers said.