

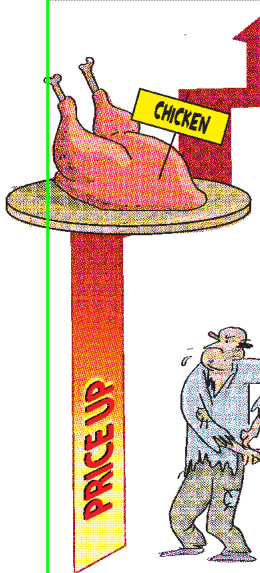


LITRO to reduce price from tonight



- Will be reduced by at least Rs. 1,000 from midnight today
- Official announcement to be made today

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
The price of a 12.5kg domestic LITRO gas cylinder will be reduced by at least Rs. 1,000 from midnight today, LITRO Lanka Chairman Muditha Peiris said.
The current retail price of the 12.5kg gas cylinder is Rs. 4,409. He told the Daily Mirror that an official announcement will be made today.



Price of fresh chicken may go up: Poultry farmers

- Says price would increase during upcoming festive season

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
The All-Island Poultry Farmers' Association (AIPFA) said yesterday that the price of fresh chicken would increase during the upcoming holiday season.



IUSF group seeking a meeting at UGC hindered POLICE SHOW NO MERCY AS REPEATED WATER CANNON ATTACKS EVEN AFFECTED BYSTANDERS

- The group started shouting slogans and the police launched more water cannon attacks

BY KURULU KOJANA KARIYAKARAWANA
Police seemed to have 'no mercy' when they repeatedly fired water cannons at a group of Inter University Students Federation (IUSF) members seeking a meeting with the University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday afternoon at the Lipton Circus, affecting even bystanders.

Intention of filing revision application against Mudalige is not to remand him: AG

- The AG maintained that the Magistrate's Court has no jurisdiction to release an individual who had been arrested under the provisions of PTA

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
The intention of filing a revision application in respect of Convener of Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF) Wasantha Mudalige was not to place him in remand custody but to rectify the legal errors when releasing from magisterial inquiry, the Attorney General informed Colombo High Court.

Toddy tapper found dead on tree

- Police say he would have died of a heart attack

BY D.G.SUGATHAPALA
A toddy tapper who climbed a Kithul tree had been found dead and his body was lowered by the police with the help of area people.

SAJITH LOSES GRIP ON A DYING SJB?

- In a desperate attempt Sajith invites all SJB MPs to dinner last night
- SJB MPs complain of interference from Sajith's wife, sister
- Harsha, Eran, Kabeer to join President
- Harsha likely to be sworn in as Minister of Policy Implementation
- Insecurity and mayhem has also broken out among the present cabinet ministers, fearing that they might lose their portfolios with the entry of opposition members into the government

BY JAMILA HUSAIN
In a desperate attempt to keep the main opposition - the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) alive, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa invited all SJB Parliamentarians to dinner at the Monarch Imperial in Battaramulla last evening in order to coax them into remaining in the party which is now on the verge of collapse.
Senior SJB members who attended the dinner told Daily Mirror that among the drinks and food which was hosted by Premadasa, there was also a plea made by him to the MPs to remain in the party and discussed its future.
Premadasa's latest desperate attempt to keep the SJB alive comes at a time when three of its most senior MPs - Harsha De Silva, Kabeer Hashim and Eran Wickramaratne are in talks with President Ranil Wickremesinghe to join the government as the three have supported the President's present economic policies, a senior political source close to both camps said.

Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism: Cabinet approves proposal to draft law

BY KELUM BANDARA
In another step for the implementation of matters envisaged in the UNHRC resolution, the Cabinet yesterday endorsed a joint memorandum submitted by Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe and Foreign Minister Ali Sabry seeking approval to draft the piece of legislation that provides for the establishment of Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Daily Mirror learns.

UNP WILL NOT DEPEND ON SLPP: NAVIN

BY YOHAN PERERA
The United National Party (UNP) is to be reorganized as it does not want to depend solely on the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) when it comes to future elections, party senior Navin Dissanayake said yesterday.

Duty free allowances to be increased for migrant workers from May 1

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE
The duty free allowances for goods purchased at the airport by migrant workers will be increased from May 1, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment Manusha Nanayakkara said.
"Cabinet approval was granted to permit migrant workers to import an electric vehicle, apply for housing loans and receive additional tax concessions."

More power projects with India

- The National Thermal Power Corporation of India and CEB have entered into an agreement to jointly implement a solar power project in two stages in the same venue
- Project expected to be completed in two years from 2024 to 2025

BY SANDUN A.JAYASEKERA
The government has decided to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of renewable energy between India and Sri Lanka and to establish a solar power station in Sampoor, Trincomalee by the Ceylon Electricity Board and a joint venture company of the National Thermal Power Corporation of India on a recommendation of the Minister of Power and Energy, Kanchana Wijesekera.

Diana Gamage's citizenship case reserved for judgment

- The petitioner maintained that by virtue of becoming a citizen of another country, Parliamentarian Diana Gamage ceased to be a Sri Lankan citizen

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
A writ petition filed seeking an order declaring State Minister of Tourism Diana Gamage to be disqualified as a Member of Parliament since she is a British citizen was yesterday reserved for judgment by the Court of Appeal.
Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Nissanka Bandula Karunaratne and Justice M.A.R. Marikkar announced that the judgment regarding this petition would be delivered on June 6.

Edu. Ministry makes special announcement on Admission to intermediate grades in national schools

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA
The Ministry of Education made a special announcement regarding the admission of students to the intermediate grades of schools.
Accordingly, the national schools will be informed after April 21 regarding the admission of students

to intermediate grades from grades 2 to 4 and grades 7 to 10 in national schools as per the relevant circulars.
The ministry will not issue any letters in order to admit students for the intermediate grades in national schools until then.

PHU offers conditional support for privatization programme

- States institutions which are strategically important should be vested with the state sector

Pivithuru Hela Urumaya (PHU) Leader Udaya Gammanpila said they have decided to offer conditional support for the privatization programme based on the reality that state-run organizations have become a burden as a result of politicization and corruption during the last seven years.

SL mulls buying Russian oil and fertilizers

- Govt. also contemplating on buying locomotives, railroad cars, and spare parts from Russia

The Sri Lankan government is seeking Russian cooperation in multiple sectors, namely, tourism, air traffic and locomotive construction, besides eyeing crude from Moscow.

Death of suspects in police custody: IGP appears before SC

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chandana Wickremaratne yesterday appeared before the Supreme Court to explain as to why he failed

to comply with an order made by the Supreme Court to formulate guidelines to police officers to prevent encounter deaths while suspects are in police custody.

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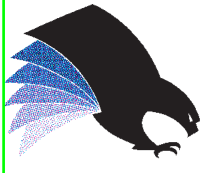
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CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

Price of fresh chicken may go up: Poultry farmers

● The retail price of chicken in the local market will depend on distribution according to demand

AIPFA Chairman Ajith Gunasekara told the media that the long weekend and the upcoming New Year's season would drive the demand for chicken higher.

"Therefore, we are doubtful whether we would be able to cater to the demand. The retail price of chicken in the local market will depend on distribution according to demand."

"There is an adequate supply of deep-frozen chicken in the market, which has already been distributed to supermarkets.

"The issue is with providing fresh chicken to the market. The production of fresh chicken is done by small and medium producers. The price of a kilo of fresh chicken will vary according to the stock received by the market."

"We expect the price of a kilo of chicken to increase to an amount between Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 1,400," Gunasekara said.

However, the association requested poultry traders not to increase the price of fresh chicken at this juncture, stating that they should consider the plight of the consumers who have now lost their normal buying capacity due to the current economic crisis.

Therefore, Gunasekara urged the poultry traders to sell their products at the most economical prices possible so as to satisfy the consumers.

Intention of filing revision application against Mudalige is not to remand him: AG

Senior Deputy Solicitor General Dilan Ratnayake appearing for the Attorney General made these remarks when the revision application filed challenging the legality of the order issued by Colombo Chief Magistrate to

release Wasantha Mudalige from a case filed for allegedly committing offences under Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was called before Colombo High Court.

The Attorney General maintained that the Magistrate's Court has no

jurisdiction to release an individual who had been arrested under the provisions of PTA. The Attorney General further said the Magistrate's Court had released the suspect prior to the Attorney General's advice being received.

Police show no mercy as repeated water cannon attacks even affected bystanders

A force of several hundred police sleuths including the riot squads backed by a military unit blocked and hindered a group of about 30 IUSF members who gathered at the Lipton Circus around 2.30pm yesterday to go to the UGC to seek a meeting.

IUSF Convener Wasantha

Mudalige who was leading the group demanded the police to let them pass through a wall of police and riot squad officers, saying that they had not come for any protest but to visit the UGC to get a meeting over the ongoing incidents of intimidation at a number of

countrywide universities.

"We are here today not to stage any protest or lead a procession. We have come to a meeting with the UGC official to find a solution about the ongoing intimidation targeting students at several universities. So let us through."

Diana Gamage's citizenship case reserved for judgment

The parties were directed to file their written submissions before 18th of May.

Social activist Oshala Herath filed a petition seeking an order in the nature of a Writ of Quo Warranto declaring that Diana Gamage is disqualified to be a Member of Parliament and is thus not entitled to hold office as a MP.

Counsel Hafeel Farisz appearing for the petitioner submitted to court that the conduct of the Attorney General in this petition was despicable. He told court that the statements of Diana Gamage herself and the statements of officers of the Department of Immigration and Emigration including the former Controller General had clearly said that Diana Gamage was a British citizen. He asked how could the Attorney General now say that they were not sure as to her citizenship.

In this case, the petitioner claimed that State Minister Diana Gamage is a British citizen and only a British

citizen can hold a British Passport. The petitioner maintained that by virtue of becoming a citizen of another country, Parliamentarian Diana Gamage ceased to be a Sri Lankan citizen. The petitioner said Diana Gamage has not obtained dual citizenship or any other form of citizenship in Sri Lanka.

The petitioner further said Diana Gamage is disqualified from election as a MP or to sit and vote in Parliament under and in terms of Article 91 read with Article 89 and Article 90 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka.

Counsel Hafeel Farisz with Nishika Fonseka appear for the petitioner. President's Counsel Shavindra Fernando appeared for Diana Gamage. President's Counsel Farman Cassim appeared for Ranjith Madduma Bandara of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya. Senior State Counsel Suranga Wimalasena appeared for the Attorney General.

Death of suspects in police custody: IGP appears before SC

In a judgement dated February 3, 2023, the Supreme Court had ordered the IGP to formulate, issue and implement, guidelines to the police, elaborating the steps that should be taken by each officer to avoid encounter deaths. The IGP had been ordered to submit this report to court on March 24.

Additional Solicitor General Nerin Pulle appearing for the IGP informed the Supreme Court that the Police Department has formulated this guideline to prevent encounter deaths in the future. The Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprised Justices Buwaneka Aluwihare,

Gamini Amarasekara and Arjuna Obeyesekere.

In a judgement dated February 3, 2023, the Supreme Court had ordered the IGP to formulate a guideline and report to court on March 24. However, when the matter was called before the Supreme Court, the Police Department failed to submit a report as per the Supreme Court's earlier judgement. Accordingly, the Supreme Court ordered the IGP to appear in Court to explain as he failed to comply with the Supreme Court order.

In this case Mohammed Rashid Fathima Sharmila on behalf of her deceased husband, Mohammed

Nizar Mohammed Irfan, had filed a Fundamental Rights petition against law enforcement authorities. The petitioner alleged that her deceased husband was apprehended in 2008 by four policemen attached to Slave Island Police along with three other police officers and was shot dead on the following morning by the 3rd Respondent police officer. It is alleged by the 3rd Respondent that the shot was fired when exercising his right of private defence against an alleged violent attempt by the deceased to escape the charge of the police officers accompanying him on a search for concealed weapons.

DUTY FREE ALLOWANCES TO BE INCREASED FOR MIGRANT WORKERS FROM MAY 1

Accordingly to the new programme, migrant workers will be entitled to additional customs duty concessions based on the amount of funds they have remitted to local bank accounts.

"These new concessions are a duty concession scheme introduced in addition to the existing concessions. The programme will be implemented under five categories for migrant workers who have remitted funds to a local bank account of their own or a joint bank account," Labour Ministry Additional Secretary K.D.R. Olga explained.

Accordingly, workers who have remitted an amount between USD 2,400 and 4,799 are eligible for an additional duty free allowance of USD 600 under the Silver category. Workers who have remitted between USD 4,800 and 7,199 will be eligible for the additional duty concession of USD 960 under the Silver Plus category. Under the Gold category, migrant workers who have remitted between USD 7,200 and USD 11,999 are entitled to an additional duty free allowance of USD 1,440. Workers remitting an amount between USD 12,000 and

USD 23,999 are entitled to receive concessions of USD 2,400 duty free allowance under the Gold Plus category.

Under the Platinum category, workers who have remitted USD 24,000 or more are eligible for an additional USD 4,800 duty free allowance when purchasing goods at the airport.

Migrant workers will be able to view the concessions they are eligible for by registering with 'Lanka Remit' the mobile application for national remittance, launched by the Central Bank last year.

SAJITH LOSES GRIP ON A DYING SJB?

● SJB MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka has also fallen out with Premadasa and is now fighting for the SJB Leadership

Infact, it is reliably learned that Harsha is likely to be appointed as the Minister of Policy Implementation if he agrees, in a cabinet reshuffle which is expected soon with some functions of the Finance Ministry being brought under this new portfolio.

Eran Wickramaratne will also agree to support the President but has not requested any portfolio while it is learned that discussions are ongoing to offer a portfolio to Kabeer Hashim.

Senior SJB members alleged that the reason senior party members are now contemplating leaving the SJB is because of undue interference from Sajith's wife Jalani Premadasa and his sister Dulanjali Premadasa which is why the party could not remain consistent in its decisions. Sources said that when decisions are made at the committee meetings, these decisions are later changed by the trio much to the annoyance of the SJB MPs. "Decisions made by the members do not remain. It changes as the party is run mostly by these two," a senior SJB Parliamentarian alleged. Presently

only MPs such as Lakshman Kiriella, Tissa Attanayake, Ranjith Madduma Bandara and Imtiaz Bakeer Marker remain steadfast with Premadasa.

Even SJB alliance parties such as the Tamil Progressive Alliance is in discussions with the President but have ruled out crossing over into the government. Media reports alleging that some SJB MPs were likely to cross over into the government today when Parliament convenes are false as discussions with the President are still ongoing and final confirmations are yet to be received.

Sources said that SJB MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka has also fallen out with Premadasa and is now fighting for the SJB Leadership while Patali Champika Ranawaka has already announced that he is forming a new political party next month and is likely to take some MPs with him.

While the SJB is struggling to remain intact, the Daily Mirror learns that insecurity and mayhem has also broken out among the present cabinet ministers, fearing that they might lose their portfolios with the entry of opposition members into the government.

Senior political sources said that many ministers are attempting to coax President Wickremesinghe into keeping them in their portfolios with some even going to the extent of indirectly threatening to leave the government and sit independently if the portfolios are taken away.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION MECHANISM: CABINET APPROVES PROPOSAL TO DRAFT LAW

The Cabinet granted approval to direct the Legal Draftsman to work out this piece of legislation to be enacted by Parliament later. The bill, once enacted, will provide for the setting up of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission modelled on the similar mechanism adopted in South Africa after the end of Apartheid (Discrimination of people based on race).

The two ministers submitted this Cabinet paper after a tour of South Africa where they interacted with various stakeholders in that country on the pluses and minuses of such a system to bring about

reconciliation among the communities here in the post war context.

A source familiar with the move said anyone affected by the conflict between 1983 and 2009 can appear before this commission once set up to present grievances and seek redress.

"The Commission will have 21 members. They will act in separate benches to hear various cases by the affected people and recommend redress in terms of reparations or legal assistance. Redress will vary according to cases to be heard," the source said.

UNP will not depend on SLPP: Navin

Mr. Dissanayake told a media briefing that the re-organization will begin next month. "We also intend to celebrate May Day in a grand way," he said.

While denying the allegation made by Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa that there is a move to buy over Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MPs, Dissanayake said the SJB MPs are expected to cross over on their own.

"SJB MPs could always work in accordance with their conscience. We expect them to join us. Most of

them have realized that SJB has no future and that the Jathika Jana Balawegaya has become stronger. Also the economy has picked up. Interest rates are expected to be slashed by May while the inflation rate is expected to be reduced up to around 15 percent by the end of the year. Therefore, they are expected to join the UNP once again," he said.

"Most of the SJB members have realized that there is a future with President Wickremesinghe," he added.

'NEKATH SEETTUWA', THE AUSPICIOUS TIMES FOR NEW YEAR PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT

Following customs and traditions, the 'Nekath Seettuwa', the table of auspicious times for this year's Sinhala and Tamil New Year, was presented to President Ranil Wickremesinghe by Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wickremanayaka and the Department of Cultural Affairs at the Presidential Secretariat, a statement from the President's Media Division (PMD) said.

Auspicious periods comprise of various timings such as the sighting of the new moon, bathing rituals for the passing year, New Year's Eve, Punya Kalaya or inauspicious time, timings for cooking, working, eating, anointing, setting off for work, planting trees,

and more. This was organized by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Senior Advisor to the President on National Security and Chief of Presidential Staff Mr. Sagala Ratnayake, Secretary to the President Saman Ekanayake, Secretary of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Somaratne Vidanapathirana, Additional Secretary Tilak Nandanana Hettiarachchi, Director (Promotion), Dr. Prasad Ranasinghe, Director of Cultural Affairs Mrs. Bhagya C. Katundeniya and several others attended this event.

PHU offers conditional support for privatization programme

"State run organizations becoming a burden is a reality and we offer conditional support for privatization based on this," he said.

Privatization should not be fraudulent as it has been during the time of President R.

Premadasa, President Chandrika Kumaratunga and during the time of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe from 2001 to 2004. Privatization should be transparent. There should be a mechanism of regulation so that exploitation could

be avoided. It should not affect national security and institutions which are essential for an emergency. Institutions which are strategically important should be vested with the state sector," the MP said outlining conditions.

MORE POWER PROJECTS WITH INDIA

The National Thermal Power Corporation of India and the Ceylon Electricity Board have entered into an agreement to jointly implement a solar power project in two stages in the same venue where the previous coal power generation plant was planned to be set up in Sampoor, generating 135 megawatts.

As the first stage of this project, it is expected to implement a solar power project of 50 megawatts with a total estimated investment of US\$ 42.5 million and to construct a 220 kilowatts transmission line with a 40 kilometres length from Sampoor to Kappalthure at a cost of US\$ 23.6 million. It is expected to complete the project in two years from 2024 to 2025. A solar power generation

plant with an additional 85 megawatts is expected to be constructed under a total investment US\$ 72 million at stage 2 of this project.

It has been planned to construct a transmission line of 76 kilometres with a capacity of 220 kilowatts from Kappalthure to New Habarana with an estimated expenditure of US\$ 42 million in order to the distribution of electricity generated under stage 02 of this project.

The government has declared generating 70% of the electricity requirement by 2030 from renewable energy sources and becoming independent in power supply and to neutralizing carbon emissions by 2050.

SL MULLS BUYING RUSSIAN OIL AND FERTILIZERS

● The minister revealed that Sri Lanka has already lifted the ban on chemical fertilizers and would like to buy them from Russia

Colombo is negotiating a deal to buy discounted crude from Moscow, Sri Lankan Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media Bandula Gunawardena told Sputnik on Sunday.

"Sri Lanka today does not buy Russian oil and gas, but this issue is on the agenda of the Ministry of Power and Energy of our country, and in case of successful completion of discussions on this topic, a mutually beneficial agreement can be reached. Our authorities will discuss this issue with Russia," the minister said.

Gunawardena added that Sri Lankan Ambassador to Russia Janitha Liyanage was still in talks with President Vladimir Putin's government for a previously requested loan for purchasing fuel from Moscow.

The minister also assured Russia that its ships and personnel will not be arrested due to Western sanctions imposed on Moscow following the launch of its special military operation in Ukraine last February.

"The Sri Lankan government has given [Russia] the assurance on that subject, that there will be no risk of arrests in the future. I don't think it can happen again," Gunawardena noted.

The minister revealed that Sri Lanka has already lifted the ban on chemical fertilizers and would like to buy them from Russia.

But he elaborated that the South Asian country would make payments in local currency because it doesn't have dollars to pay for Russian fertilizer purchases.

TODDY TAPPER FOUND DEAD ON TREE

The deceased Ranasinghe Weerakkody (63) was a resident of Porogama in Pitigala. His relatives told police that he climbed the Kithul tree in front of the house and was found dead on the tree.

Police said he would have died of a heart attack but they would conduct further investigations to establish the cause of death.

The body was referred to JMO Elpitiya Hospital for postmortem.



Balapitiya G/Siddhartha College Get-together event

Balapitiya G/Siddhartha College, 1973/74 Grade 10 Science 2, Classmates and Teachers' annual get-together held recently at Captain Boat Hotel in Balapitiya.

OBITUARIES

JAYASEKERA - ENG. BERTIE.
Chartered Civil Engineer passed away on 2nd April 2023. Dearly beloved husband of Indrance, loving father to Samantha. **Cortege leaves Jayaratna 'The Respect' Tuesday 4th at 11.00 a.m. new Crematorium at Borella Kanatta. 104021**

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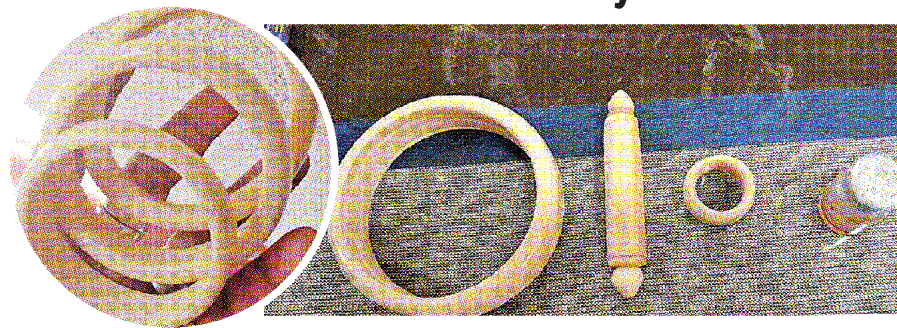


WESTERN WILDLIFE GUARDS, RANGE ASSISTANTS CONDUCT RAID, JEWELLERY MADE OF IVORY SEIZED

The items were ordered to be presented to the Government Analyst

A team of officers attached to the Western Wildlife Range conducted a raid in the Horana area and seized several items including bracelets and three rings made with ivory. When the suspect was produced before Horana Magistrate's Court, he was released on a personal bail of Rs. 500,000. The items were ordered

to be presented to the Government Analyst. One more suspect is to be arrested in this regard. Further magisterial inquiry is fixed for May 25. The raid was carried out by Assistant Forest Range Officer S.B.S. Seram of Western Wildlife Zone Office, Wildlife officer L.P.Y. Nawanjana, Bellanwila Aththadia, Assistant Forest Range Officer R.H.W.E. Ratnayake and driver Lalith Wijesinghe.



Vijitha Finance Limited
Auction of Vehicles
Date: 10/04/2023 Monday at 10.00 AM
at No. 46, Inyang Road, Padukka
Vehicles to be auctioned

Vehicle Number	Make	Year of Manufacture
Motor Lorry		
SG 1P 7XXX	Mitsubishi	1999
Three Wheelers		
WP GD 1XXX	Bajaj 2 Stroke	2005
Motor Cycles		
WP LM 6XXX	Bajaj Pulsar 200	2008
WP XC 7XXX	Bajaj Pulsar 135	2011
WP XB 3XXX	Bajaj Pulsar 150	2011
WP BR 2 XXXX	Yamaha Ray ZR	2013
NC B3 0XXX	Bajaj Platina	2014
WP VY 9XXX	Hero Honda Glamour	2010
WP JC 9XXX	Bajaj Pulsar 180	2004

1. The auctioneer has the right to decline accepting any bid without giving any reasons.
2. The management reserves the right to remove any vehicle from the auction without giving any prior notice.
3. The decision of the auctioneer is final.
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Will not reduce local milk product prices:

Local dairy producers stand firm

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

Local dairy producers say they will not reduce the prices of local milk products despite the appreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar.

They claim that though the fuel prices have been reduced, this reduction has no direct bearing on the prices of the local dairy products

However, the Milk Powder Importers' Association members have slashed the price of imported milk powder. Accordingly, the price of a 1 kg packet of milk powder was slashed by Rs. 200 and a 400 gm packet by Rs. 80 in keeping with the government's decision.

Meanwhile, the local milk producers said that 90 percent of their revenue is distributed among the milk farmers for providing them with fresh milk while the remaining amount of the profit has to be spent on fuel expenses for company vehicles. They claim that though the fuel prices have been reduced, this reduction has no direct bearing on the prices of the local dairy products.

"We manufacture and distribute milk products to the country. We prevent the outflow of foreign exchange from the country. Also, we do not import anything from other countries for the dairy product manufacturing process. Therefore, there is no point in slashing the prices of dairy products," said an official from a local milk products manufacturing company.

However, the chairman of the Local Milk Powder Producers' Association Ariyasiri Withanage said that steps have been taken to lower the price of locally produced milk powder since yesterday (March 03).

According to the notification of the Consumer Affairs Authority of Sri Lanka (CAA), the price reductions are with the aim of providing relief to the people.

Public transport arrangements before and after New Year

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The main passenger transportation service providers in the country yesterday said that all arrangements had been made to provide transport facilities without any problems for the coming festive season.

Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) Deputy General Manager Panduka Swarnahansa said all transport arrangements have been made for commuters to leave for their hometowns to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

All road transport services heads have been advised to provide buses covering the main cities for commuters to travel to and from their respective destinations before and after the New Year.

Special New Year bus arrangements have been made at the Central Bus Stand in Colombo and at expressway terminals. Accordingly, the special bus service for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year will begin on April 07 and continue through April 18. Around 150 buses will operate at the beginning and nearly 250 buses have been arranged to operate on April 11, 12 and 13. Additional buses will be assigned considering the demand for services.

All arrangements have been made to operate bus services on expressways before and after the New Year.

Meanwhile, the National Transport Commission (NTC) said that a large fleet of buses have been arranged to provide transport before and after the New Year.

However, a senior spokesperson of the Sri Lanka Railways Department said that due to the current shortage of train drivers and the request for leave by most employees for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, there is a risk of train services being disrupted during this festive season.

ONCE AGAIN HNB WINS BIG.

HNB IS RANKED AS SRI LANKA'S TOP TRADE BANK, WITH 'BEST SERVICE IN TRADE FINANCE' AND 'MARKET LEADER IN TRADE FINANCE' FOR 2023 AWARDED BY EUROMONEY, AND 'MARKET LEADER' (ASIAN BANKS) AND 'BEST SERVICE' (ASIAN BANKS) IN SRI LANKA FOR 2023 AWARDED BY ASIAMONEY.



The prestigious global banking industry publication Euromoney has once again ranked HNB as the best Sri Lankan bank for International Trade Finance through its highly respected annual survey of over 25,000 corporates, cash managers, treasurers and finance officers worldwide.

Notably, this year marks the **fourth time** that HNB has been recognized by both Euromoney and Asiamoney with awards for Trade Finance, making it the first home-grown Sri Lankan bank to achieve a dominant leadership position in international trade services.

These rankings, in a vital sector of our national economy, are a source of immense pride for us, and we wish to thank all our customers, staff and other stakeholders, for helping us to scale these heights of honour.



EDITORIAL

"Lead and inspire people. Don't try to manage and manipulate people. Inventories can be managed but people must be led"
- ROSS PEROT

OUR THOUGHT

EDUCATION IS NOT MERELY A COMMODITY

Leaders of the government since lately have been claiming that Sri Lanka would be an education hub with plans to establish new universities and to upgrade existing universities in a manner that they can attract foreign students. Former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe are in the forefront of them with the former even having included a promise during his Presidential election campaign in 2019 that he would position the country as an education hub in the region.

Despite practical and specific actions towards this being yet to be seen, they have sometimes drawn the interest of leaders of other countries. For instance, Australian Minister of Home Affairs Karen Andrews, during a meeting with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in December 2021 informed that assistance would be provided to Sri Lanka to become the education hub in the region.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, soon after assuming office told parliament while presenting a revised budget for 2022 in August last year, that the government would change laws to allow foreign universities to set up branches in the country. Again in December, while speaking during the budget for 2023, he said that US\$3 billion goes out of Sri Lanka annually to other countries because Sri Lankan students go abroad for higher education and the country could earn US\$ 10 billion in foreign exchange annually by setting up foreign university branches here and attracting students from overseas.

In a practical move, Transport, Highways and Mass Media Minister Bandula Gunawardena, who was on an official visit to Russia and Belarus over the weekend, exchanged views with the university authorities in Russia and Belarus on the possibility of establishing a Transport University in Sri Lanka at the Sri Lanka - German Railway Technical Training Centre in Ratmalana jointly with the Transport Universities in the two countries with a view to attract students from other Asian countries.

In fact, now there is a conducive atmosphere for establishing private universities and branches of foreign universities as the main groups that opposed private higher education facilities, too have toed line of the authorities. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) which fought tooth and nail against the South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM) in 2017 and 2018 told a gathering of corporate sector leaders recently that students must have the choice of private education, though education was the responsibility of the government.

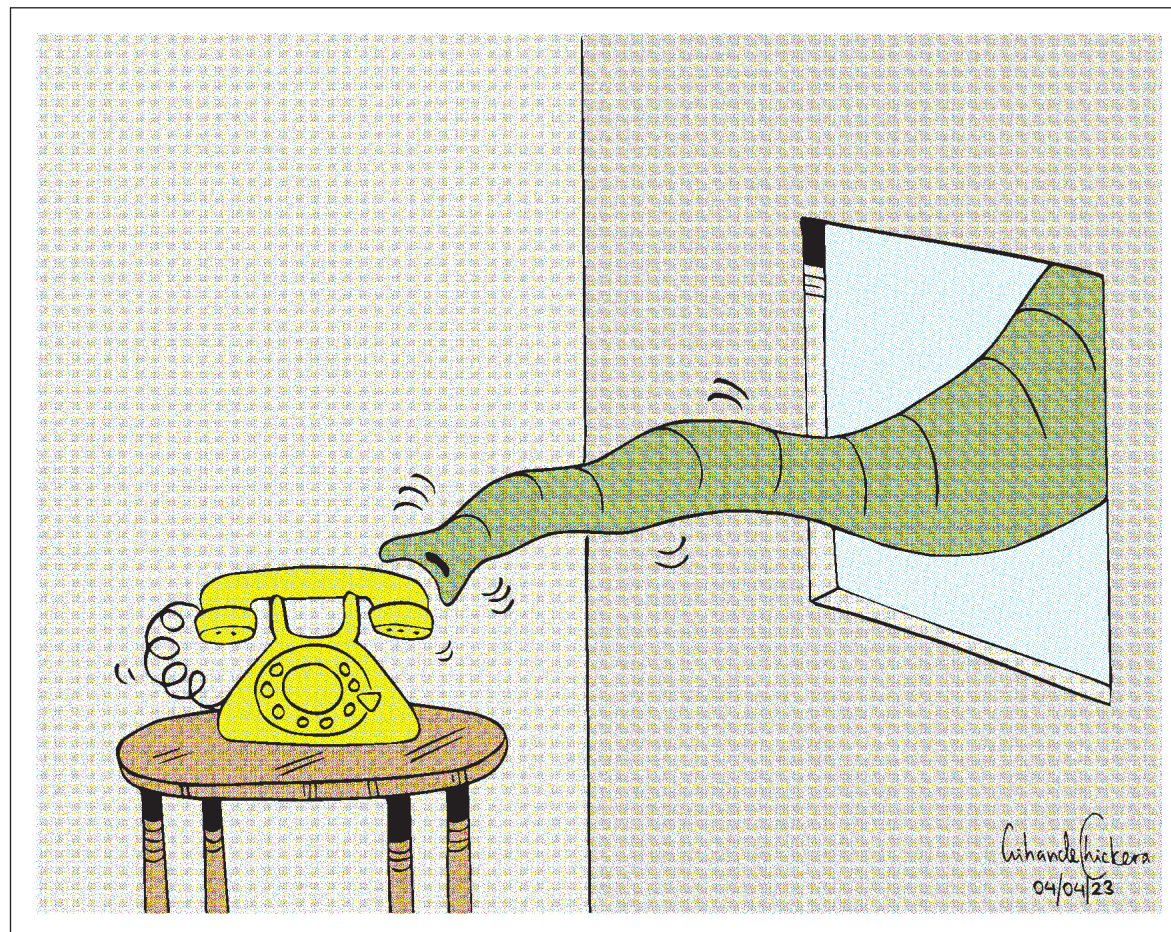
The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA), another group that fought against the SAITM students, even using the state-run hospitals as teaching hospitals, did not protest when its President was appointed last month to an expert committee to identify government hospitals that could provide clinical training to medical students from private medical colleges, such as the General John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) and Lyceum Campus.

Using education as a commodity is not a bad idea, especially given the foreign exchange crisis Sri Lanka is faced with. The loans expected from the IMF and other international, multilateral, bilateral and private creditors would only be a temporary solace to the country, as those loans and the outstanding ones have to be repaid one day by us or by our children. What really would help the country ultimately is what we earn for the country in the short-term and long-term. Yet, education disseminated from a country should be practiced in that country. For instance, if the country is to run a transport university while maintaining the same current transport facilities which has become a nightmare for the millions of ordinary people, it would only be a laughing stock.

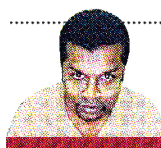
Despite the country having 10 transport ministers including those of the provincial councils till 2017, the transport sector was, and still is in utter chaos. It is a well-known fact that one major reason for the congestion is the absence of a proper, decent public transport service in the country. The poor condition of buses and the indecent behavior of the bus crews have compelled hundreds of thousands of commuters to find alternative means of transportation, increasing the number of vehicles on the roads every day. On the other hand, the private bus drivers' habit of stopping their buses at every bus halt for a long time further disrupts the smooth flow of traffic.

Ultimately, the average speed of vehicles in the cities in Sri Lanka had dropped to 12 km per hour by 2014, and the authorities stated in 2017 that traffic congestion in Colombo had become a tedious issue, causing an economic loss of Rs. 1 billion on a daily basis. Besides, millions of man-hours are wasted every day due to the vehicular congestion and the rowdy behavior of employees of majority of private buses.

Amal Kumarage, a Senior Professor of the Moratuwa University's Department of Transport and Logistics Management had told a state-owned newspaper in 2017 that "the economic cost of traffic congestion amounts to Rs. 400 billion per annum and this amounts to 10% of the country's GDP. Hence, Sri Lanka itself would provide hundreds of case studies for a transport university.



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



By **Ranga Jayasuriya**

SRI LANKA NEEDS A POLITICAL CEASEFIRE

The headline of this article is not mine; rather, it echoes the collective wish of the majority of Sri Lankans who took the brunt of the economic freefall and who now see, with a sense of relief, that their country is picking itself up from the abyss of the self-inflicted economic destruction.

But a microscopic minority, who deep down in their hearts wish the further economic misery so that their political masters could win the next election, and they could, in turn, land a plum government job, may disagree with this proposition. They are a minority, but they seem to dominate the news these days, not just because they are better funded but also because television stations of this country, often owned by insubstantial elements and wheeler-dealers, are plotting to lift someone else up by exploiting the collective misfortune and perpetuating political disunity.

That is a nascent scheme of state capture; those who benefitted would not only be indebted to return the goodwill. But also, since such individuals are more likely to be everyday jokers with a political heritage rather than dispassionate go-getters, they are also likely to be captives of their wheeler-dealing benefactors.

The majority of Sri Lankans have little interest in these political machinations. And you do not need to be a political acolyte to notice the early signs of an economic recovery. The Rupee has soared in recent weeks and will likely to appreciate further as the remittance from Sri Lankans abroad and export earnings parked abroad begin to trickle in. Tourism is picking up, and inflation has been brought under control and is declining. If the appreciation of the Rupee and the declining world market price of oil are factored in, a drop in inflation in the coming months would be substantial.

THREAT TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY WITHIN

However, this is still a fragile recovery. And the greatest threat to this nascent momentum is within. Not even the probable recession of the leading economies could do as much damage to Sri Lanka's recovery as Sri Lankans scuttling the process out of political expediency.

It is also clear that the stabilization of the economy has, so far, been achieved much less through the government's consultation with different domestic stakeholders but due to the stubborn indifference of the government to their protests. The recent trade union actions were potent and destructive, and under normal circumstances, any government would have retreated, as it happened for the umpteenth time in the past. However, this status quo could not be maintained for long without the government having to resort to drastic, probably coercive and even undemocratic measures to retain the momentum. That is not the ideal outcome, nor would it provide for lasting economic stability or prosperity.

If this is not the time for Sri Lanka's feuding political parties to come together, it is hard to think of any fitting occasion, barring an extreme and unlikely scenario of a foreign invasion.

But, Sri Lanka, as much as Asia's oldest democracy, is one of the extreme cases of political disunity and opportunism, which may also explain its lost premise of political and economic attainment. From the very



Sri Lanka witnessed a large number of tourists visiting the island this year, rekindling the hope of economic recovery slowly, but steadily

Lessons from history, of its misadventures and miscalculations, should be learnt, even if it is too late. The worst economic crisis in the independent history offers an opportunity for political parties to rise to the occasion - and rally together

outset of its independence, the northern Tamil political elites undercut the state and opposed everything it represented, much less for genuine grievances, but for a self-seeking campaign of electoral mobilization of the Northern vote. When they didn't, or their campaign was less venomous, the feuding Sinhalese elites obstructed each other and the country's progress.

Lessons from history, of its misadventures and miscalculations, should be learnt, even if it is too late. The worst economic crisis in the independent history offers an opportunity for political parties to rise to the occasion - and rally together.

MYTH OF POLITICAL MANDATE FOR REFORM

There is a multitude of reasons that make a political consensus not so hard to reach.

First, at least in theory, the UNP and its offshoot, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), share an identical economic outlook. The UNP governments in the past tried and failed in structural reforms. Kabir Hashim, one of the principled young politicians, once in a talk show took pains to explain how hard it was to introduce economic reforms in this country, partly to exonerate the Yahapalanaya of its failure to reform the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and Ceylon Electricity Board.

He was right. Sri Lanka is not a country that would willingly reform itself. Even in the international comparison, it is an extreme case, partly because the successive political leadership lacked the political will to run the roughshod. (Compare that to fast-tracked economic liberalization under Indian Premier Narendra Modi, which is more striking given that India is historically stubbornly resistant to reform). However, now we are forced to choose

reforms or risk the state's survival as a viable economic unit.

The stakeholders of the SJB now have an opportunity to fix their past mistakes. But there is a hitch: As much as they are mandatory for the economic survival of the state, these reforms are deeply unpopular, not necessarily with the majority masses, but with the immediate circles who they impact.

This brings us to the second stubborn fact; none of the elected political parties would implement them. They all have proven to value their immediate political survival over the long-term national interest. That also proves as a self-seeking fallacy the much-cited calls for a new political mandate to implement these reforms. Such a mandate does not exist in Sri Lanka's political discourse.

So let President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who may lack the political mandate in a classical sense but has proven commitment to structural reform, do his bid. Whether the economic stability achieved through such measures would help him in a potential presidential bid in 2024 is a secondary question. Because without reforms, it would be a completely different political animal, definitely not Sajith Premadasa, who would prevail in an election held in a country devoid of a functioning economy.

The third reason is self-explanatory. Anyone who advocates a solution radically different from the IMF formula is a charlatan. Implications of such ad-hoc remedies would be far worse than Gotabaya Rajapaksa's homegrown solution. Sri Lankans should not fall for self-evident chicanery for yet another time.

The fourth reason is sentimental. One does not need to be a party-political acolyte to desire the self-preservation of the motherland. Every Sri Lankan seeks its survival. However, partisan political narratives now being promoted are designed to scuttle the economic recovery initiatives. The resultant chaos and misery may serve a few at the expense of the majority.

Civil society groups, especially the Mahanayakas and other religious leaders, should negotiate an agreement, probably leading to a national government. The popular discourse should shift from one that magnifies petty and often selfish differences to one that demands a political consensus. Sri Lanka should unite or perish. There is no other way.

Follow @RangaJayasuriya on Twitter

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?

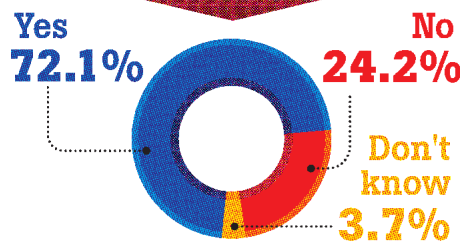
- Yes
- No
- They have a right to protest
- They are crippling the economy further



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

Whither justice for Easter Sunday victims!

Very soon we will be commemorating the Easter Sunday tragedy that devastated our nation four years ago, regrettably the victims of this dastardly act are still languishing for want of justice. Much has been spoken and written with the due legal process taking its course of action. The indictment and verdict given by the judiciary was laudable with an ex-President of our country who held the reigns at the time being inculpated for negligence being asked to pay Rs. 100 million as compensation for the families of the victims.

The mysterious concatenation of events now unfolding, is the questionable findings of a DNA report purported to be that of the spouse of one of the deceased masterminds of the suicide attack

The mysterious concatenation of events now unfolding, is the questionable findings of a DNA report purported to be that of the spouse of one of the deceased masterminds of the suicide attack. All along we have seen how the conduct of this investigation was carried out with devious twists and turns taking place to conceal some vital evidence to protect vested interests, who undoubtedly contrived this dastardly event for political mileage. The Easter Sunday carnage engendered the ideal climate for widespread hatred and suspicion against a certain segment of our society, which was averted in time by peace-loving people, with his eminence Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith playing a pivotal role.

At a time that we have been extended the IMF lifeline to give the much-awaited fillip to our economy to be extricated from the pathetic situation, our human rights record will come under scrutiny. The Easter Sunday tragedy and the investigation that is in progress will be of concern, and will only adversely affect our stance in ensuring that justice is meted out to the victims of this tragedy.

Hence, it is a clarion call for our leaders and decision makers to take cognizance of these critical issues to implement fair and plausible measures to foster human rights. If not, our country will be further dragged into disrepute making it a laughing stock in the global arena.

DON PETER DEHIWELA

EC hopeful of holding LG polls: Punchihewa

WEB COMMENTS

JUDE - Hello, there won't be any elections for next 5 years!! No money, and it's a valid reason for RANIL!! And IMF money has to be paid back in 4 years!!

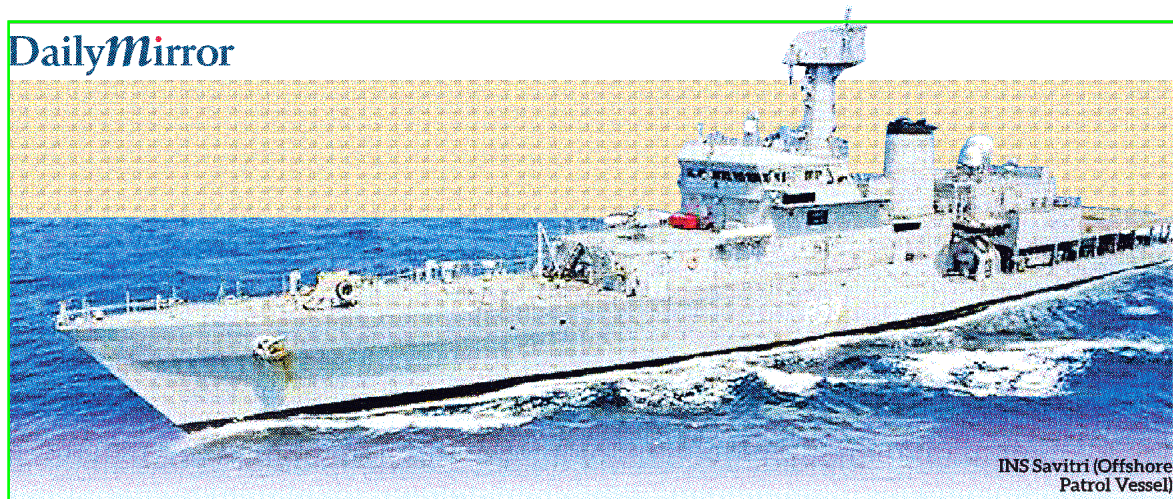
TINPOT - Only the JVP can wrest control from these self-serving degenerates and put the country on the right track.

JOHAN - The ground reality is not conducive for them to win so they will ignore holding the LG polls even disregarding the SC order for them to survive in power.

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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INS Savitri (Offshore Patrol Vessel)

SLINEX-2023: ANNUAL MARITIME EXERCISE BY THE NAVIES OF INDIA AND SRI LANKA

The Joint Naval Exercise SLINEX-2023, organised by the Indian and Sri Lanka Navy is scheduled to commence from April 3-8 in Colombo.

The High Commission of India in Colombo issuing a statement said that this would provide an opportunity for personnel from both Navies to learn from each other, reinforce shared values and build bonds of friendship and camaraderie.

The 10th Edition of the annual Indian Navy-Sri Lanka Navy bilateral maritime Exercise SLINEX-2023 is scheduled in Colombo from April 3-8, 2023. The Exercise is being conducted in two phases; the Harbour Phase in Colombo from April 3-5 followed by Sea Phase from April 6-8, off Colombo. The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan (Advanced Anti Submarine Warfare Corvette) and INS Savitri (Offshore Patrol Vessel) while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Gajabahu (Advance Offshore Patrol Vessel) and SLNS Sagara (OPV). In addition, the Indian Navy Chetak helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft along with Sri Lanka Air Force Dornier and BELL 412 helicopters would also participate in the Exercise. The Exercise will also feature the Special Forces of the two Navies. The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted in Visakhapatnam from March 7-12, 2022.

SLINEX-2023 aims to enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best



VAdm Priyantha Perera, Commander of Sri Lanka Navy along with Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Deputy High Commissioner, at the opening of SLINEX-2023

practices/procedures in multi-faceted Maritime operations between both Navies. The Harbour Phase would include sports fixtures, yoga sessions and cultural events which would provide an opportunity for personnel from both Navies to learn from each other, reinforce shared values and build bonds of friendship and camaraderie. VAdm Priyantha Perera, Commander of Sri Lanka Navy along with Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Deputy High Commissioner, took part in the opening of SLINEX-2023 on April 3, 2023. H.E. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India is scheduled to host the visit of Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence onboard the indigenous Indian Naval ships.

To spread awareness and interest towards the Armed Forces both the Indian Naval ships will be kept open for a large number of visitors including school children. A Coordinated Indian Navy-Sri Lanka Navy Band/Cultural Performance in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will be organized for the public at Dutch Hospital and Viharamahadevi Park on April 3

and 5, 2023 respectively. Harbour training activities, SME interaction and training at HARD simulator will also be progressed during SLINEX 23. A reception for the Senior Officials from Sri Lanka will be hosted onboard the Indian navy ships by the High Commissioner of India on April 4. The Sea Phase would include Exercises in multi-dimensions like surface and anti-air firing Exercises, seamanship evaluations, helicopter and maritime patrol aircraft operations including cross-deck flying, advance tactical manoeuvres, search and rescue and Special Forces operations at sea, which will further enhance the high degree of interoperability already established between the two friendly Navies.

SLINEX series of Exercise exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain. Interaction between the SLN and IN has also grown significantly in recent years, in consonance with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and Hon'ble PM's vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL VACANCY

Post of Head of Finance Unit on Contract Basis

The Sri Lanka Medical Council, established by the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) is the regulatory body for medical, dental, and other healthcare professionals in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of **Head of Finance** of the Sri Lanka Medical Council. **The selected candidate would be a full-time officer of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.**

This job would include;

1. Providing sound financial support and insights to enable to make critical business decisions.
2. Managing and overseeing the cash flow of the Council ensuring the appropriate treasury control.
3. Preparation of financial and management information.
4. Effective budgetary control and procurement procedures.
5. Investment and cash management.

The ideal candidate would have:

1. A first Degree from a recognized University preferably in Accountancy with Honors and Full Membership from ICASL, CIMA, ACCA or ACMA.
2. A minimum of 10 years of experience in a senior financial managerial position with proven record of success.
3. Computer Literacy and thorough knowledge in ERP systems.
4. Exceptional communication skills, both written and verbal, in English.
5. Ability to work independently and maintain confidentiality and professionalism at all times.
6. Good team spirit and impeccable work ethic.
7. Possess knowledge and experience in Government finance including financial regulation and procurement procedure and auditing;

Age - below 50 years.

Salary - Negotiable

Method of Recruitment - The selection shall be made through a structured interview conducted by an interview board

Contract period - The appointment shall be on a full-time basis for a period of 2 years, with the possibility of re-appointment.

Application procedure:

Please forward your comprehensive resume along with the cover letter (**sent through the Head of Institution, if the applicant is employed in the state sector, with the assurance of releasing the officer, if selected**) to the address below reaching on or before 21st April 2023 of this advertisement. You are requested to mention the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope. Applications should be submitted only by Registered Post.

Dr. H. D. B. Herath
Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL VACANCY

POST OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR ON CONTRACT

The Sri Lanka Medical Council will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of Assistant Registrar of the Sri Lanka Medical Council **up to 21st April 2023. The selected candidate would be a full-time officer of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.**

Qualifications:

Should possess a Degree with First or Second Class and a Postgraduate Degree at least at Masters level in Administration or Management from a recognized University/Higher Education Institute with not less than fifteen (15) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. Preference would be given to those who have had experience as registrars in the University System.

"Administrative Experience" means, experience gained in a full time post in administrative level in a State or in a Private Sector Organization in Human Resource Management or General Administration or Overall Management after obtaining the first Degree from a recognized University/HEI. Experience gained in specialized fields such as Finance/Engineering or other Technical fields are not considered for this purpose.

Age: Not more than 63 years.

Salary: Negotiable based on education and experience. The minimum salary would be negotiable with the minimum salary being that of the starting salary of an Assistant Registrar of the University System.

Other Benefits:

- Provident Fund contribution of 10% by employee and 15% by the employer to the Provident Fund.
- Employees Trust Fund benefits 3% by the employer.

Terms of Employment:

The appointment shall be on full time contract basis for a period of two years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a final second term.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist the Registrar of the Medical Council,
- Assist in managing affairs of the Medical Council and issue notices and to carry out all correspondence work on behalf of the Medical Council,
- Assist in keeping the Registers of the Medical Council,
- Record and maintain minutes of the proceedings thereof,
- Assist in executing all administrative decisions of the Medical Council and
- To perform all such other duties as may be assigned by the Registrar/Medical Council.

Application Process:

Applicants should forward their application by registered post with their Curriculum Vitae with a covering letter detailing their motivation to apply for the post to the President, Sri Lanka Medical Council, 31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

Selection Process:

The selection shall be made through a structured interview conducted by an interview board.

Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council
31, Norris Canal Road,
Colombo 10.

HOTEL DEVELOPERS (LANKA) LTD

CALLING BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF SHAVING MIRRORS FOR GUEST ROOMS REFURBISHMENT OF HILTON COLOMBO

Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd (HDL), the Owing Company of Hilton Colombo, call for **Sealed Bids** to procure shaving mirrors for the **Renovation of 273 Nos. of Guest Rooms at Hilton Colombo.**

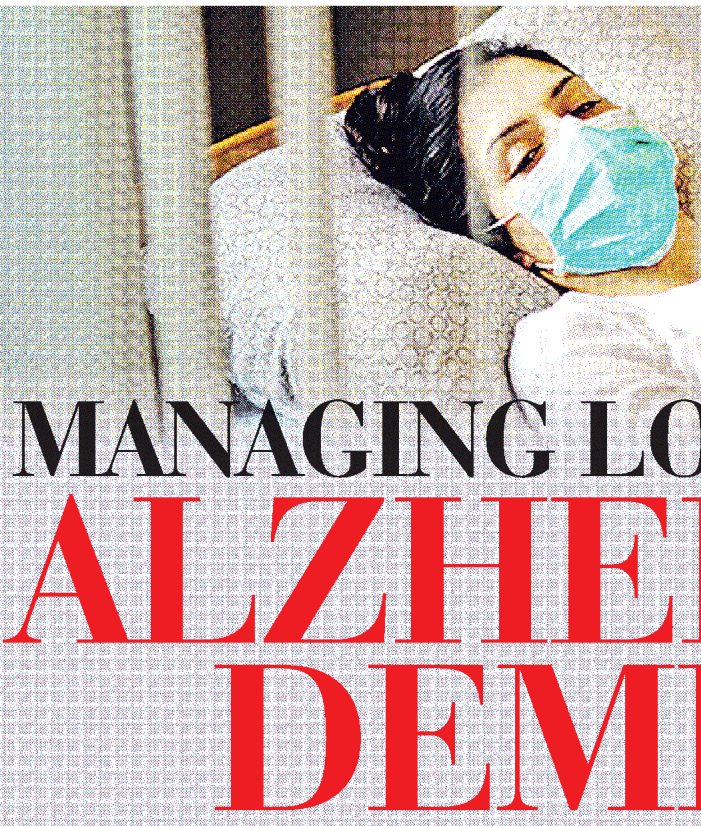
Applicants should satisfy the following minimum criteria for the eligibility;

The product brand proposed shall have minimum of 3 years experience in the supply to hospitality projects, preferably 5-star hotels.

The Bid documents will be available for collection from Hotel Developers (Lanka) LTD - The Project Manager's Site Office, c/o Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1, on any working day between **10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from 06th April 2023 to 10th April 2023.**

Duly completed document should be submitted in a sealed envelope and should state in the Top Left Hand Corner "Bid for Supply of Shaving Mirrors for Guest Rooms Refurbishment Of Hilton Colombo" addressed to the "The Chief Financial Officer", Hotel Developers (Lanka) LTD, c/o Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1 on or before **3.00 p.m. on 26th April 2023.**

FEATURE



Long-Covid is a constellation of presentations and patients infected with Covid-19 within the last 2-3 months may experience physical performance difficulties despite being physically active (PICS BY SAMANTHA PERERA)



MANAGING LONG-COVID AND ALZHEIMER'S-DEMENTIA



By **Kamanthi Wickramasinghe**

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has ended and life has returned to normalcy medical experts advise people to keep themselves protected from future infections. In other words people are advised to get vaccinated in order to prevent hospitalizations, ICU admissions and death. While many controversies revolved around the pandemic, research studies for preventive medication for conditions such as long COVID are still underway. On the other hand new tools for diagnosing conditions such as Alzheimer's-Dementia may allow patients to receive treatments at an early stage.

MANAGING LONG-COVID

Speaking at a guest lecture organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association, Prof. Deepthi Jayasekara – Consultant infectious diseases specialist in USA said that even though the pandemic has ended it doesn't mean that the COVID-19 infection has been completely eradicated. "We need to understand that vaccines and boosters don't prevent infections per se, but they prevent hospitalisation, ICU admissions and death. So for those who are immunocompromised or have chronic medical problems it is important to be vaccinated and boosted."

"Last week the second bivalent vaccine was approved and this means that we are very serious about giving the Covid-19 vaccine boosters, especially the bivalent boosters every year. Then came a very controversial subject of, if you have had an infection how much of immunity would be there and how long would it last. But if you're vaccinated and boosted you can still get an infection. These are 99.99% mild infections in a normal immunocompetent patient. But if you have had an infection, either vaccinated or not, the latest Lancet article proves that you have around 10 months of immunity going forward. That's a critical point. But these are the points that scientists fail to recognize. This is why it's controversial. Those who are vaccinated and boosted have immunity but those who have had the real infection, then that immunity would last for 10 months," Prof. Jayasekara said while explaining that T-cell immunity lasts longer than B-cell immunity.

While shedding light on Covid conspiracies he also spoke about long-Covid, which is a constellation of presentations. "You may be infected with Covid-19 within the last 2-3 months, but now your brain may not function well; you still cannot smell, taste, you're very fatigued and your heart rate is very high despite being a good athlete. Therefore it's a combination of constellation of presentations which we say Post Acute Sequelae of Covid which includes cognitive symptoms, chronic cough but thankfully a lot of them resolve within a matter of 3-6 months. But it is a problem because most of these sub-variants are very contagious. This long Covid can take a big turn on you. Why? Because only in 10% of cases it become a real problem. But at the same time the real number is more than that. Symptoms include brain fog, chronic cough, POTS syndrome or dysautonomia, chronic fatigue, sleep disturbances and therefore it is not only affecting you but your livelihoods as well."

"So how do we solve this problem? We don't know because we simply don't know the mechanism behind long-Covid syndrome. But it happens only in about 10% of cases and about 65 million people around the world are suffering currently. It typically last for about 3-6 months but a large study in Scotland showed that more than half recover within 18 months. There's some good news that vaccines as well as anti-viral medications like Paxlovid minimizes the chances or risks of long Covid. But then again somebody else who don't believe in vaccines might question that. On the other hand some of these patients have a high risk of dying. Acute coronary events such as arrhythmias or myocardial infarctions, strokes, cardiac arrests, type II diabetes, are linked to long Covid syndrome. So we as physicians need to pay attention to long Covid going forward," he advised while adding that there are no specific tests to diagnose long Covid but that it is important to know what the symptoms are like.

"We simply don't know the mechanism behind long-Covid syndrome. But it happens only in about 10% of cases and about 65 million people around the world are suffering currently. It typically last for about 3-6 months but a large study in Scotland showed that more than half recover within 18 months"

- **PROF. DEEPTHI JAYASEKARA – CONSULTANT INFECTIOUS DISEASES SPECIALIST IN USA**

MANAGEMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE- WHAT'S NEW?

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. It is a progressive disease beginning with mild memory loss and possibly leading to loss of the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to the environment. Even though patients are living longer, a study in the United States predicted that there would be a 50-fold increase of patients with Alzheimer's-Dementia by 2050. "Prevalence is increasing, so we have to do something about it so that it prevents

patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), progressing to Alzheimer's-Dementia (AD)," said Dr. Ruwani Gunawardana, a neurology specialist in Fulton, USA. "The latest article I read suggests that you could do something to prevent patients with MCI developing Alzheimers- Dementia. 80% of patients will move on but for 30% there are so many lifestyle changes that could initiate a shift to the normal stage," said Dr. Gunawardana.

KEY PATHOLOGY

AD indicates a build up of amyloid plaque which is a soluble protein and this buildup can start as early as 45 years of age. "We might be asymptomatic, doing all our activities with no problem. The tau proteins in the micro tubules will form neurofibrillary tangles and these two – the amyloid plaque and the neurofibrillary tangles can go through so many changes and cause destruction in the nerve cells, neurons eventually leading to neurodegeneration," said Dr. Gunawardana.

RISK FACTORS FOR AD

Speaking about risk factors, Dr. Gunawardana said that it's not all genetic. "Most AD patients are sporadic and there are so many things we could do to change the risk factors. We cannot just get ready at 60 to prevent dementia when you're 80. You need to start a little bit early on according to the research that we are finding. In early life we know that there's a direct link with more patients who had AD there was an association with lower education and developing AD. Mid-life risk factors include hearing loss. If patients have hearing loss I advise them to get a hearing aid because hearing loss can promote patients going on to AD. Traumatic brain injury, excessive alcohol intake and obesity are other risk factors. Obesity could in fact lead to cerebral vascular disease. Many patients with AD not only had amyloid plaques but they also had vascular ischemic changes in the brain," she added.

"Most AD patients are sporadic and there are so many things we could do to change the risk factors. We cannot just get ready at 60 to prevent dementia when you're 80. You need to start a little bit early on according to the research that we are finding"

- **DR. RUWANI GUNAWARDANA NEUROLOGY SPECIALIST IN FULTON, USA**

Dr. Gunawardana said that Hypercholesterolemia is another risk factor. "We know that increased cholesterol cause small vessels to develop cerebrovascular disease and there is so much research that starting patients on statins early on for cerebrovascular disease will prevent dementia. We are involved in a trial called IDEAS trial and the purpose of this trial is to recognize patients early on in the MCI state. If the spouse or significant others have noticed subtle memory lapses, but these patients are functionally normal because they are compensating, we do a scan called the amyloid scan and if they have positive amyloid patients would ask what they could do to prevent being diagnosed with AD. Prevention is the most important aspect at this time because amyloid-based medications are still under progress. Starting statins early on in the disease if they have cerebrovascular disease and high cholesterol is recommended because we need plaque stabilization as we are not treating a level at this time. We are treating plaque stabilization and micro vascular disease and this is strongly linked with AD. Obesity is quite common in the US due to lack of exercise, eating the wrong diet and so on. Eating greens, grains, fruits and a Mediterranean diet is important. Especially saturated fats increase with cognitive decline, so a plant-based Mediterranean diet, incorporating fish is recommended but you need to leave out saturated fat or processed food. Processed foods would create an imbalance of the micro biome in your gut. Hence there are so many things we could do in mid life to prevent this disastrous journey of AD," explained Dr. Gunawardana.

"Late life risk factors include smoking and we encourage patients for smoking cessation. Depression is a risk factor mostly seen in the US. So if we add serotonin re-uptake inhibitors to their medication it helps patients. If patients with depression and anxiety are not treated there is good evidence to show that these patients would develop AD. Another risk factor is sleep deprivation. Adequate amount of sleep is six hours because sleep deprivation is now associated with AD. Time we sleep is when we clear the build up of toxic agents that can lead to dementia. But what about too much sleep? That too is bad for you. There is now a sweet spot for sleep. Less than six hours of sleep and more than 10 hours of sleep is not good. Diabetes is pretty much rising because of not having much exercise and it leads to cerebrovascular disease and many patients with AD are now linked to diabetes," said Dr. Gunawardana.

MEDICATION

Speaking about medications she said that there have been no disease modifying therapies from 1996 to 2021. "Most trials failed to show a good outcome especially to improve cognition. In 2021 came Aducanumab and it was quite controversial. There was a rapid approval but there were good benefits from one part of the study. There are two other drugs coming up at the end of the year, Donanemab and Lecanemab – all these mabs are monoclonal antibodies. Lots of monoclonal antibodies are now being used for migraine, AD and many other treatments," she said in conclusion.

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: **KOTTAWA**

ASARAPPULI HENELAGE KANCHANA PADMANANDA & WIJAYASINGHA GAMAGE APSARA HARSHANI

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

Whereas ASARAPPULI HENELAGE KANCHANA PADMANANDA & WIJAYASINGHA GAMAGE APSARA HARSHANI as the obligors Mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 5019 dated 13.02.2015 attested by Nandika Charmaine Jayawardena, Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan facility of Rs.11,733,000 granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to ASARAPPULI HENELAGE KANCHANA PADMANANDA & WIJAYASINGHA GAMAGE APSARA HARSHANI.

And whereas the said ASARAPPULI HENELAGE KANCHANA PADMANANDA & WIJAYASINGHA GAMAGE APSARA HARSHANI as the obligors Mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No. 5019 sold by Public Auction by E S Ramanayake Licensed Auctioneer of All Island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 12,263,832.16 together with further interest at the rate of 18 % p.a from 06th September 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs. 11,733,000 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot D1 depicted in Plan No. 841 dated 23.06.1973 made by P R Botheju - Licensed surveyor from and out of the land called "DEWATAGAHANA" together with buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 25, Perera Mawatha situated at Perera Avenue in ward No. 2, Dutugemunu and within Municipal Council Limits of Dehiwela - Mount Lavinia within the Grama Niladhari Division of 537 A, Dutugemunu and the Divisional Secretary's Division of Dehiwela in the Palle Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot D 1 is bounded on the NORTH by Lot D2 on the EAST by Lot E bearing Assessment No. 9/1 Perera Avenue on the SOUTH by premises bearing Assessment No. 48/A (Parakrama Avenue) and Perera Avenue and on the WEST by Perera Avenue and Containing in extent Six Decimal Three One Perches (A0-R0:P6.31) according to said Plant No. 841.

By order of the Board of Directors.
SHIROMI HALLOLUWA
HEAD OF LEGAL/BOARD SECRETARY

Vaccines as well as anti-viral medications like Paxlovid minimizes the chances or risks of long Covid

Adequate amount of sleep is six hours because sleep deprivation is now associated with AD

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: **KOTTAWA**

MRS. KATUGAMPALAGE DONA PRIYANI DEEPIKA

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

Whereas KATUGAMPALAGE DONA PRIYANI DEEPIKA as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 4263 dated 09th January 2012 attested by N Jayawardena Notary Public, Bond No. 1734 dated 4th December 2012 attested by S R Faaize, Notary Public Bond No. 5072 dated 7th May 2015, Bond No.5102 dated 25th June 2015 Bond No. 5601 dated 25th May 2017 all attested by N C Jayawardena Notary Public in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan Facility of Rs. Rs. 7,825,820.00 granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to KATUGAMPALAGE DONA PRIYANI DEEPIKA.

And whereas the said KATUGAMPALAGE DONA PRIYANI DEEPIKA has made default in payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 06th September 2022 a sum of Rupees Six Million Seven Hundred Thousand Seven Hundred and Three and Cents Sixty Two Only (Rs. 6,700,703.62) on the Said Bond and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell mortgaged property as described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No. 4263, 1734, 5702, 5102 and 5601 be sold by Public Auction by P K E Senapathi Licensed Auctioneer of all island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 6,700,703.62 together with further interest at the rate of 11% p.a from 06th September 2022 on the capital outstanding Rs. 6,493,573.90 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot A3 depicted in Plan No. 1760 dated 19.12.2009 made by K W D Chandrani Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land called "Delgahawatta and Mattegodamukalana together with the buildings and everything standing thereon situated at Mattegoda within the Grama Niladhari Division of Mattegoda West and Divisional Secretary's Division of Homagama and within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Homagama in the Udugaha Pattu of Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot A3 is bounded on the NORTH by Lots A29 and A4 on the EAST by Lots A4 and A28 on the SOUTH by Lots A28 and A2 and on the WEST Lots A2 and A29 and containing in extent Ten Perches (A0-R0:P10) according to the said Plan No. 1760.

By order of the Board of Directors.
SHIROMI HALLOLUWA
HEAD OF LEGAL/BOARD SECRETARY

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: **HENDALA**

SENANAYAKE AMARASINGHE MOHOTTI APPUHAMILAGE JAYAWANSA
SOLE PROPRIETOR OF M/S J S TRADING

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

Whereas SENANAYAKE AMARASINGHE MOHOTTI APPUHAMILAGE JAYAWANSA SOLE PROPRIETOR of M/s J S TRADING as the obligors Mortgaged and hypothecated property morefully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond Nos. 759 dated 11.03.2015, 955 dated 29.04.2016 & 1283 dated 30.11.2017 all attested by S A Madiwela Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Term Loan facility of Rs. 8,285,000 granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to SENANAYAKE AMARASINGHE MOHOTTI APPUHAMILAGE JAYAWANSA SOLE PROPRIETOR of M/s J S TRADING.

And whereas the said SENANAYAKE AMARASINGHE MOHOTTI APPUHAMILAGE JAYAWANSA SOLE PROPRIETOR of M/s J S TRADING has made default in payment of the sum due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Term Loan of Rs. 8,285,000/- extended to him among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 17th November 2022 a sum of Rupees Eight Million Three Hundred and Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Eight and Cents Sixty Nine Only (Rs. 8,333,348.69) on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell the mortgaged property as described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond Nos. 759, 955 & 1283 be sold by Public Auction by E S Ramanayake Licensed Auctioneer of All island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 8,333,348.69 together with further interest at the rate of 16 % p.a from 18th November 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs. 7,932,868.89 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 2014/150 dated 25/12/2014 made by A S K Peranage - Licensed surveyor (being a re- survey & amalgamation of Lot 1A & Lot 1B depicted in Plan No. 6624 dated 28/03/2001 made by G S Galagedara Licensed Surveyor) of the land called Pahala Mukalana and Oluhuyaya together with the buildings trees Plantations and everything standing thereon situated at Thambagalla in the Grama Niladhari Division of Thambagalla - 445 in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Ganewatta in the Ibbagamuwa Pradeshiya Sabha in the Hiriyala Hatt Pattu of Mahagalgoda Egoda Korele in the District and Registration Division of Kurunagala North Western Province and which said Lot 1 is bounded on the NORTH by Road (Lot 11 in Plan No.1332) on the EAST by Lot 329 in Plan No. 1332 on the SOUTH by Lot 2 in Plan No. 2626 and on the WEST by Lot 327 in Plan No. 1332 containing in extent One Acre Two Roods and Twenty Three Decimal Five Perches (A1-R2:P23.5) (Hectares 0.6665) according to the said Plan No. 2014/150.

By order of the Board of Directors.
SHIROMI HALLOLUWA
HEAD OF LEGAL/BOARD SECRETARY

SEYLAN BANK PLC

(Registered under Ref. PQ.9 according to the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007)
Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC under Section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990.

It is hereby notified that under Section 8 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 that at a meeting held on 24/01/2023 by the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC it was resolved specially and unanimously.

BRANCH : **MATALE**
ACCOUNT NO : **0380-34331095-001**

Whereas S. K. S. Trust & Investment Company (Private) Limited a Company duly incorporated under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 bearing Registration No. PV 87236 and having its registered office at **Matale and Sembu Kuttige Sanjaya Nalin De Silva** at Matale as "Obligor /Mortgagor" have made default in payment due on Mortgage Bond Nos. 1503 dated 24.11.2016 and 1870 dated 30th May 2019 both attested by Anne Melani De Lima, Notary Public, in favour of Seylan Bank PLC (Company Registration No. PQ.9 under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007) and there is now due and owing to the Seylan Bank PLC on account of principal and interest up to 03rd June 2022 an aggregate sum of Rupees One Hundred and Three Million Three Hundred and Ninety Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine and Cents Five (Rs. 103,398,549.05) and interest upon facilities (excluding the Moratorium Facilities) as mentioned below on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Seylan Bank PLC under the powers vested by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 04 of 1990 as amended, do hereby resolve that Mrs. Chandima Gamage, Licensed Auctioneer be authorized to sell the property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to Seylan Bank PLC by the said Mortgage Bond Nos. 1503 and 1870 by Public Auction for recovery of the said sum of Rupees One Hundred and Three Million Three Hundred and Ninety Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine and Cents Five (Rs. 103,398,549.05) together with interest as mentioned below from 04th June 2022 up to the date of recovery of full sum, with costs of advertising, any other charges under Section 13 of the said Act, less payments (if any) since received as a part settlement of the amounts due under the aforesaid Bonds.

a) In respect of the Re-scheduled Term Loan I facility of Rs. 78,346,969.64 a sum of Rupees Ninety Two Million Two Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Three and Cents Thirty Two (Rs. 92,239,953.32) as at 03rd June 2022 together with the further interest on Rupees Seventy Three Million Five Hundred and Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Four and Cents Twenty (Rs. 73,513,454.20) at the rate of Nineteen Percent (19%) per annum from 04th June 2022 till payment in full.

b) In respect of the Re-Scheduled Term Loan II facility of Rs. 9,604,690.00 a sum of Rupees Eleven Million One Hundred and Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Five and Cents Seventy Three (Rs. 11,158,595.73) as at 03rd June 2022 together with the further interest on Rupees Eight Million Nine Hundred and Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Six and Cents Sixty Nine (Rs. 8,992,456.69) at the rate of Eighteen Percent (18%) per annum from 04th June 2022 till payment in full.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 4267A dated 09.03.2015 made by U.H.B.K.M.T. Angammana, LS of Matale from and out of the land called and known as "Nikawela Estate" (being a resurvey and sub division of land depicted in Plan No. 1976 dated 28.08.1958 made by K. Kumarasamy, LS) situated at Udugama Village in the Grama Niladhari Division of No. E 328 C-Kirigalpotta within the Divisional Secretary's Division and Municipal Council Limits of Matale in the District of Matale, Central Province and the said Land marked Lot 1 is bounded on the North by Land claimed by Dammika Ekanayake and on the East by Lot 2 in the same Plan and on the South by Lot 2 and on the West by Road leading from Matale to Dambulla and containing in extent Three Roods and Thirty Eight Decimal Five Nought Perches (A00-R03-P38.50) together with building, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon. And also with the right to draw water only along the existing pipe lines and maintained in the said premises described as the land marked Lot C1 in Plan No. 1964 dated 24.03.1956 made by B.S.A. Kroon, Licensed Surveyor.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
(Mrs.) V.A. Paranagama,
Attorney-at-Law,
Assistant General Manager - Legal

THRIMAWITHANA WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SPORTS MIND PERFORMANCE COACHING

BY AMINDHA DE ALWIS

Mark Thrimawithana started with a story about himself and how he went from banking into coaching after facing a number of challenges. He was searching for answers. Answers to know himself well; and today he not only shares his journey with others but also helps them see beyond. His story is about a journey of healing and finding success.

Mark Thrimawithana, who is a certified NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) trainer, HearthMath Mentor, Sports Mind performance Coach, Counsellor and the founder and trainer of NLP Coaching and Training has been working with several sportspersons in Sri Lanka, including those who have represented the country at national level, to help them overcome negative mental patterns and behaviour, and work towards improving their sporting performances.

He explained that the physical, mental and skill based components need to work hand-in-hand to achieve optimal results and one of the biggest loopholes that he has seen is the inflexibility of the mind to access the right information. Meaning they are not incompetent but they can be inflexible.

"The physical strength, technical skill, and mental learning needs to work hand in hand. This means that you become more aware of yourself and work towards a goal, then all these things will combine like a nice piece of art in your mind and create a holistic, well-rounded outcome."

"This will help a player to know how the mind is connected with the body and heart and I call this mastering your mind language. So, when you know the mind's language, you will be able to provide instructions in such a way that the execution can be very productive," he said.

Thrimawithana expressed that understanding the mind's language is key to expanding your beliefs on what you can do.

"When you understand the language of your mind, your beliefs start expanding, because you know your inner-person so well. So, when you want to absorb a new talent into your system, you know it will



work at a certain time. So when you know that, your belief level will go up. And when you know that, it gives you encouragement and motivation to work toward it, because you know if you keep on working really well, it will become effortless," he said.

Thrimawithana currently works with a number of sportspersons, especially in cricket and basketball, through one-on-one coaching, as well as team coaching. He also provides corporate training which incorporates NLP and HearthMath into finding causes for problems which are often connected to mind inflexibility.

He said that an individual's outcome will also depend on their drive-in putting things into practice. He shared a story of how a national youth player, a batsman using mind drills, intense shadow batting, the power of imagination, beliefs, and self-talk helped him get back to the same momentum and score 65 and 97 with only two days of practice after coming back to Sri Lanka. He shared that the players said that "everything started coming back effortlessly."

"Each person's outcome will depend on their perception, and their outcome will be based on where they want to go". I go and help them to find that and thereafter, practising it and working towards it will depend on how well they want to expedite them,"

Thrimawithana said that Sampath Perera, the current Sri Lanka Under-19 Assistant Batting Coach, was one of the first to recognize the importance of the job that Marks conducts and the value it can contribute to developing players and teams.

If other coaches can also comprehend the concepts of the

mind, it will undoubtedly be beneficial when they are developing individuals and teams, according to Perera, who genuinely recognized the importance of the subject.

About working with children, he stated that parents play a significant role in a child's emotions, both positively and negatively, and that unconditional love has a significant influence on a young athlete.

"The best way to help children discover the resilience to achieve their milestones is to show them their parents' unconditional, unwavering love."

"When you dig deep into the unconscious of all the players I have seen who are performing really well, you find one key characteristic that unites them all. There is always a special quality in that athlete where there is love," he observed.

Thrimawithana provided a good illustration. He said there was one incident where the mother and the father was having a conflict, and that conflict created a conflict in the player's mind and brought fear, which reduces creativity and confidence. That brought fear and had him become overly defensive. Once they were removed and everything else became irrelevant, after reframing his mind or thought pattern, he was able to train himself to become more confident and powerful.

"When he was succeeding, I questioned him about how his history was treating him, and he replied that it had no impact on his results. In comparison to who he was, he found it to be rather simple."

According to Thrimawithana's own experience, parents become the most important role models between the ages of 7 and 14, and then they develop into powerful opinion leaders.

"If you watched Kumar Sangakkara's speech at the Oxford Union, he made it very clear how the parents' values influenced him even when he was performing so well. Something underlying gave rise to a strong sensation of love. As a result of that affection, the children develop values that inspire them to be strong, innovative, and enthusiastic. Children develop values in this love, and because they are their own strength and motivation, they also become empowered, creative, and enthusiastic."

"It seems to have a varied effect on the child's conduct and outcome when that is shaken by the parents. While I acknowledged that some children have overcome the most difficult circumstances, they always saw love as the greatest force for good," he said



Thrimawithana, who was recently named the Prestige Awards' Mind Transformation Coach of the Year - Sri Lanka, aspires to help and share his experience and knowledge with players from the national level down to children as young as twelve, in order to help them increase flexibility and handle pressure, raise their awareness, learn more quickly from mistakes, understand the mind's language to be able to read it better, build strategies in the mind, as well as enhance their performance.

Thrimawithana's next goal is to teach others and prepare to lead the first-ever NLP Practitioner Program in Sports Mind Excellence in South Asia, which will

last for seven to eight days. This will enable him to build additional teams and coaches to help more athletes. He also teaches the eight-day NLP Practitioner course, during which he shares all of his life's trauma and explains how he used it in his own life. He believes that for someone who wants to develop, learning and transformation have no boundaries, but that unfortunately, very few people will be aware of the hidden power they possess within.

Thrimawithana holds that "each person is born with a divine purpose, and that this divine purpose links all people to create the most beautiful species of humanity."



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL VACANCY

Post of Head of Allied Health Unit - Contract Basis

The Sri Lanka Medical Council, established by the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) is the regulatory body for medical, dental, and other healthcare professionals in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) seeks the services of an experienced and dynamic medical or dental professional /academic who is willing to take up the challenge of running the Allied Health Unit of the Sri Lanka Medical Council. The SLMC invites applications from medical or dental practitioners who possess the following:

1. Registration as a specialist with Sri Lanka Medical Council.
2. A proven track record of at least 15 years' experience in the field of medical /dental or health care professions education.

The appointment shall be on a full-time basis for a period of 02 years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a second term.

Professors from Universities on sabbatical leave are encouraged to apply.

The responsibilities & duties (Terms of Reference) of the post shall be made available to the selected applicant.

Please forward your comprehensive resume along with the cover letter (**sent through the Head of Institution, if the applicant is employed in the state sector, with the assurance of releasing the officer, if selected**) to the address below reaching on or before 21st April 2023 of this advertisement. You are requested to mention the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope. Applications should be submitted only by Registered Post.

Dr. H. D. B. Herath,
The Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
No 31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL VACANCY

Post of Internal Auditor on Contract Basis

The Sri Lanka Medical Council, established by the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) is the regulatory body for medical, dental, and other healthcare professionals in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of **Internal Auditor** of the Sri Lanka Medical Council. **The selected candidate would be a full-time officer of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.**

This job would include;

- Implement the best audit and business practices in line with applicable internal audit statements.
- Analyze the organization's existing policies, processes and procedures including internal controls
- Report any weaknesses with recommendations of best practices to overcome such weaknesses
- Develop, implement and maintain internal audit policies and procedures in accordance with local and international best practices.
- Conduct ad-hoc investigations for identified or reported risks
- Oversee risk-based audits covering operational and financial processes
- Ensure complete, accurate and timely audit information is reported to the council.
- Overall supervision of planned annual audits

The ideal candidate would have:

1. A first Degree from a recognized University preferably in Accountancy with Honors or Full Membership from ICASL, CIMA, ACCA or ACMA
2. A minimum of 10 years of experience in the field of auditing would be an advantage.
3. Computer Literacy and thorough knowledge of ERP systems.
4. Exceptional communication skills, both written and verbal, in English.
5. Ability to work independently and maintain confidentiality and professionalism at all times.
6. Good team spirit and impeccable work ethics.

Age - Below 55 years.

Salary - Negotiable

Method of Recruitment - The selection shall be made through a structured interview conducted by an interview board

Contract Period - The appointment shall be on a full-time basis for a period of 03 years.

Application procedure:

Please forward your comprehensive resume along with the cover letter (**sent through the Head of Institution, if the applicant is employed in the state sector, with the assurance of releasing the officer, if selected**) to the address below reaching on or before 21st April 2023 of this advertisement. You are requested to mention the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope. Applications should be submitted only by Registered Post.

Dr. H. D. B. Herath
Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL VACANCY

Post of Prosecuting Officer on Assignment Basis

The Sri Lanka Medical Council, established by the Medical Ordinance (Chapter 105) is the regulatory body for medical, dental, and other healthcare professionals in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of **Prosecuting Officer** of the Sri Lanka Medical Council. **The selected candidate would be a full-time officer of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.**

This job would include;

Handle formal inquiries against the Practitioners registered with SLMC as per provisions of Disciplinary Procedure Regulation No. 757/7 and the Medical Ordinance No. 1927/276
Assist the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) and the preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC) of the Sri Lanka Medical Council

The ideal candidate would have;

Educational Qualifications (All the qualifications have to be fulfilled)

- Shall be an Attorney-at-Law
- Language Proficiency in English and Sinhala/ Tamil
- Proficiency in MS Office Applications

Experience

Minimum 05 years of work experience in handling Inquires.

Others

- Work constructively as a team player.
- Willingness to learn new software applications, documentations protocols and office procedures.
- Ability to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Good communication and administrative skills.

Every Applicant;

- Should not be above 45 years
- Should be a Sri Lankan Citizen
- Should be physically and mentally fit so as to discharge duties entrusted in a perfect manner.

Allowance: Allowance: Rs. 75,000/-

Working Days: On Monday and Wednesday (from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.) and all other inquiry and meeting dates of the Professional Conduct Committee, including on Saturdays (PCC) of SLMC.

Nature of Appointment: On Assignment Basis

Method of Recruitment: Selection by an interview

Application procedure:

Please forward your comprehensive resume along with the cover letter (**sent through the Head of Institution, if the applicant is employed in the state sector, with the assurance of releasing the officer, if selected**) to the address below reaching on or before 21st April 2023 of this advertisement. You are requested to mention the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope. Applications should be submitted by email legal@slmc.gov.lk or Registered Post.

Dr. H. D. B. Herath
Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
No. 31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

SPORTS

DAMBULLA CONTINUE WINNING SPREE

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT
Dambulla continued their winning spree when they recorded their seventh win of the ongoing National Super League limited overs tournament with a 34-run win on the Duckworth/Lewis method over Paffra in the match played at the P Sara Stadium yesterday. Jaffna taking first lease of the wicket made a modest score of 233 and Dambulla in their turn were 186 for 4 having faced 37 overs

when the match was called off due to bad light with the required target at stoppage being 153 runs. Kandy too prevailed with a Duckworth/Lewis win 48 runs over Colombo in another match of the same tournament played at the R. Premadasa Stadium. Kandy in pursuit of 272 runs for victory were on 244 for 4 having faced 40.3 overs when play was stopped due to bad light with the required target being 198 runs at stoppage.



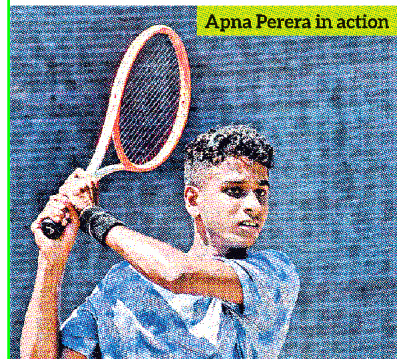
Niroshan Dickwella top scored with a century for Kandy

Pavan Rathnayaka helped Dambulla stay ahead of the required DL score with an unbeaten century

RESULTS

At P Sara Stadium - Dambulla won by 34 runs on D/L
Jaffna 233 in 46.2 overs (Ravindu Fernando 100, Nishan Madushka 20, Kasun Abeyratne 18, Jeffrey Vandersay 18, Dilum Sudeera 16; Asitha Fernando 3 for 31, Lahiru Samarakoon 3 for 41, Nuwan Thushara 2 for 41, Dushan Hemantha 2 for 43)
Dambulla 186 for 4 in 37 overs (Sonal Dinusha 38, Pavan Rathnayaka 107 n.o.)
At R. Premadasa Stadium - Kandy won by 48 runs on D/L

Colombo 271 for 7 in 50 overs (Ashen Bandara 99, Nipun Dhananjaya 62, Dushan Vimukthi 31, Sachitha Jayatileke 15, Isitha Wijesundara 19 n.o.; Nipun Ransika 3 for 32, Amshi de Silva 2 for 59)
Kandy 244 for 4 in 40.3 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 103, Sandun Weerakody 32, Oshada Fernando 19, Lahiru Udara 53 n.o.; Ahan Wickramasinghe 26 n.o.; Udith Madushan 2 for 27)



Apna Perera in action

SLTA Hard Court Tennis Nationals Janali and Dinethya face off in Women's final

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

The four finalists to qualify to the SLTA Hard Court Tennis Nationals of the Women's and Men's Open singles were found after the completion of the semi-final encounters that were played at SLTA tennis courts in Greenpath, Colombo yesterday.

In the women's category, Janali Manamperi and Dinethya Dharmaratne came out victorious with the identical

winning margin of two sets to nil against Saajida Razick and Tuvini de Alwis.

In the men's category, Kiran Vairavanthan had an easy passage against Gayanga Weerasekera with a two set to nil victory while Apna Perera pulled off a stunning win against the experience Dineshkanthan Thangaraja whom he overcame in a thriller by two sets to one.

The two finals are scheduled to be played tomorrow at the same venue.

RESULTS

Singles Semi Finals:

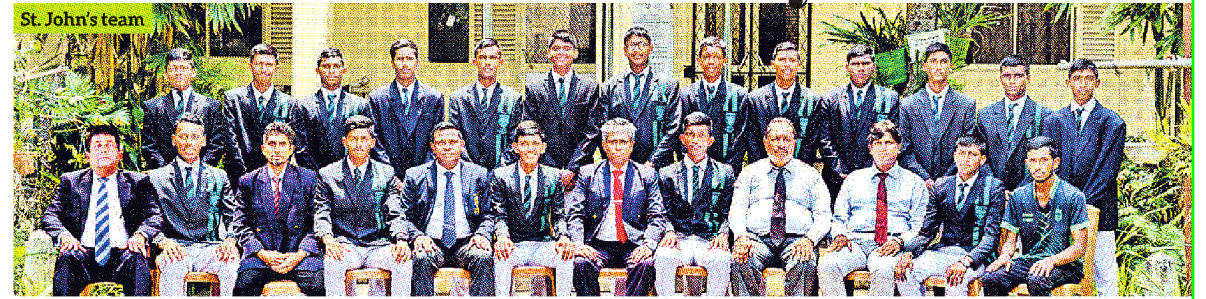
Women's Open - Janali Manamperi beat Saajida Razick 2-0 (6/3, 6/4), Dinethya Dharmaratne beat Tuvini de Alwis 2-0 (6/0, 6/2),
Men's Open - Kiran Vairavanthan beat Gayanga Weerasekera 2-0 (6/2, 6/2), Apna Perera beat Dineshkanthan Thangaraja 2-1 (6/2, 3/6, 6/3)



Dinethya Dharmaratne in action

23rd Battle of Sri Jayewardenepura

Traditional rivals Ananda Sastralaya and St. John's clash after three years



BY M. SHAMIL AMIT

The much awaited Battle of Sri Jayewardenepura between traditional rivals Ananda Sastralaya Kotte and St. John's Nugegoda is scheduled to be worked off today and tomorrow at the P. Sara Stadium.

The rivals will be meeting each other for the 23rd in the series resuming the tradition after a lapse of three years as it was not held due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

From the 22 matches that have been played so far the Sastralians are the only

team to chalk up victory having won on two occasions in 2001 and 2002 with the rest ending in no results.

St. John's is led by fourth year player Obhasha Thotawatte, while Ananda Sastralaya will be captained by Janitha Chathuranga.

THE TEAMS:

St. John's - Obhasha Thotawatta (Captain), Piyumal Dewranga, Jayanthan Abinash, Lochana Hansaka, Chathamika Dewmin, Thishan Damindu, Vochana Lakshan, Janith Theekshana, Dhanushka Bharatha, Lakshitha Lakindu, Thenuka

Nethroo, Tharindu Mevan, Thimalka Supasan, Anuga Annusara, Udan Iroshan, Tanu Anuhas, Keshara Nimesh, Sandun Dewmina, Sumith Prasanna (Coach), Suwick Ronila (Asst Coach)

Ananda Sastralaya - Janitha Chathuranga (Capt), Binupa Thathmira, Punsara Harisath, Nethum Danesh, Udara Shashiru, Sadev Indeepra, Nithish Kamalsooriya, Charuka Eshan, Kushith Madushan, Ishan Anushka, S. A. Arthif, Venura Santhushi, Nadil Sathisilu, Ruwantha Iduranga, Positha Madanayake, Kenula Tilekeratne, Nadeem Majeed

Sri Lanka Squash conduct coaching clinic

Sri Lanka Squash organized a squash coaching clinic for junior players in the under 13, 15 and 17 categories with a focus of improving the standard of squash played at the junior level. Thirty students of leading schools such as Royal College, Vishaka Vidyalaya, S. Thomas' College, Ladies College, D. S. Senanayake College, St. Joseph's College, Sirimavo Bandaranayake MV, Musaeus College, Nalanda College, Mahanama College, Gateway College, Horizon International and Royal Institute took part in the programme. The coaching clinic was conducted by former Norwegian number one coach



Squash Clinic in progress

Adrian Ostbye who is on a short visit to the island. He was assisted by local coaches Gihan Suwaris, Janitha Maduranga and Mohamed Ushama. The clinic was held on Saturday, 1st April 2023 from 08.00 am to 12 noon at Ratmalana Airforce Squash complex. (LR)

Old Trinitians SC wins CP final

Old Trinitians Sports Club (OTSC) beat Kelaniweli SC by six wickets to win the Central Province final in the Division 2 cricket encounter which concluded at the Pallekelle International Cricket Stadium recently.

Kelaniweli SC 191 for 9 in 50 overs (Mayantha Rathnayake 61 not out, Sachith Wickramasinghe 38, Ashwin Asiri 37, Pasan Kularathne 3 for 33, Jayawijaya-3 for 39)

OTSC 192 for 4 in 35.2 overs (Viduka Dammage 69, Rahal Amarasinghe 51, Lakvin Abeyasinghe 27 not out; Mayantha Rathnayake 2 for 18) -SJ



TENDER NOTICE SALE OF USABLE/ DISPOSABLE ITEMS CONTRACT NO: SLC /ADM/026/2023

Sri Lanka Cricket now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders for the Sale of Usable/ Disposable Items as specified below;

Item	Site
1. Used Electrical Items	SLC Headquarters
2. Used Furniture	SLC Headquarters
3. Unusable Items (Aluminium and Plastic)	SLC Headquarters
4. Used Air Conditioner Units	RPICS, Colombo
5. Used Stadium Chairs	RPICS, Colombo

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Manager Procurement, Sri Lanka Cricket (Tel : 0112681601-4 Ext. 212, Email: sampath.pushpakumara@srilankacricket.lk)

The items can be inspected at above sites from 10:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs from 4th April 2023 to 17th April 2023 during Office Working Days.

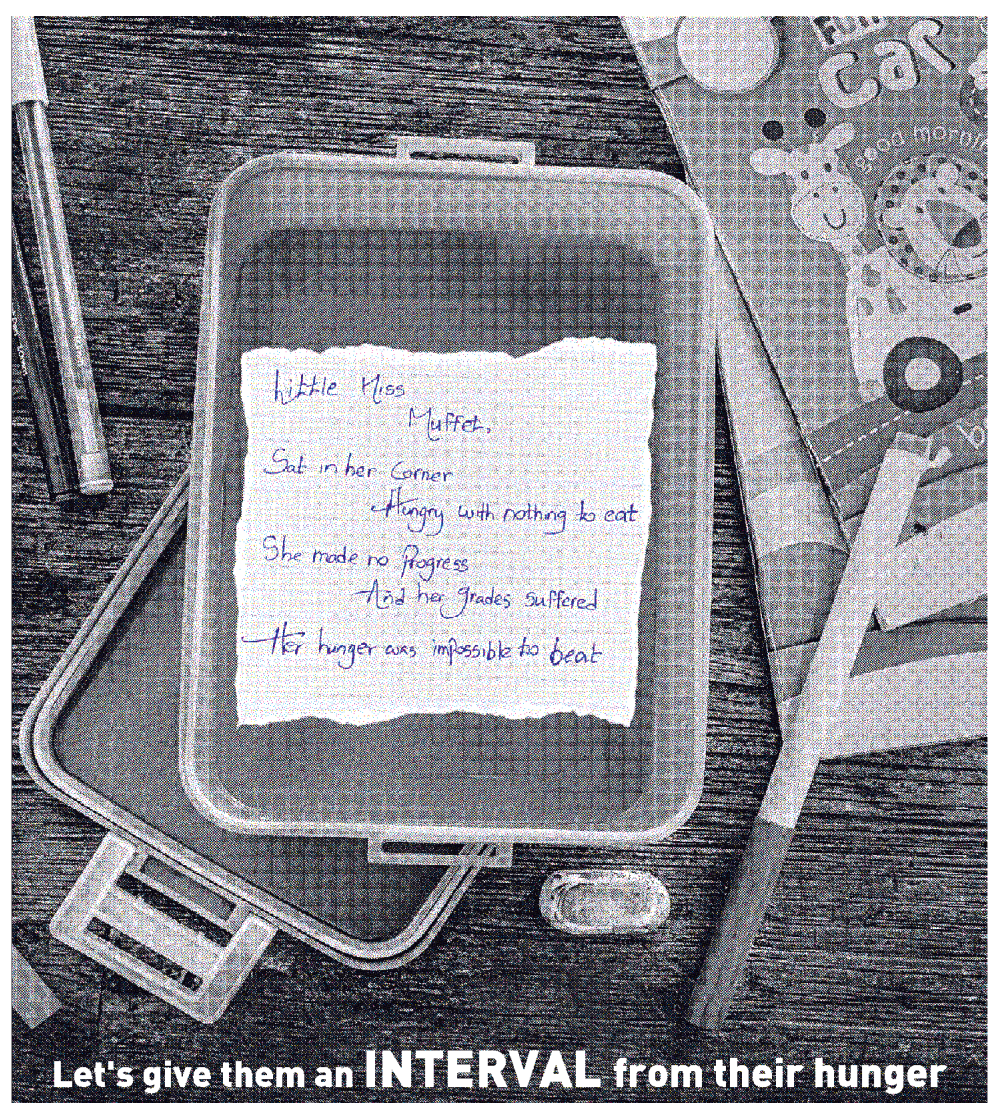
A complete set of Bidding Documents in the English Language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket, No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 7 from 10:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs from 4th April 2023 to 17th April 2023 (Including both days) by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (including taxes) in cash to the cashier of Sri Lanka Cricket.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security of Rs 10,000 which shall be valid up to 20th May 2022. Bid Security in cash to the cashier of Sri Lanka Cricket.

Duly filled tender documents in sealed form marked "Tender for Usable and Disposable Items" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and addressed to The Head of Administration - Sri Lanka Cricket, shall be submitted in the tender box placed at Sri Lanka Cricket, No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 7 on or before 10.00 a.m. on 18th April 2023.

SLC reserves the right to accept or reject any offer made in respect of the above tender.

Sri Lanka Cricket
No. 35, Maitland Place,
Colombo 7



Let's give them an INTERVAL from their hunger

A project by Lions Clubs of Sri Lanka to Protect Child Nutrition

Please donate generously, let's help our children fight hunger.

For more details : <https://protectchildnutrition.lionsmd306.org>

Make your donation to Lions Multiple District 306
Account No. 1000574089 Commercial Bank, Rajagiriya



Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

P10 Full Stock Market

P11 Abans Auto sparks new eco-friendly...

P12 FITIS pledges support to 'DIGIECON 2030' to...



Power Minister Kanchana Wijesekera hailed for bold and effective decision-making

Also heaps praise on president for leading nation out of economic crisis

The Executive Council of the Ceylon National Chamber of Industries (CNCI) yesterday hailed Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera for his effective and bold policy decision at an extremely needy hour.

and timely decisions with transparency, being one of the youngest ministers in the Cabinet, holding the most challenging portfolios of power and energy. During the recent past, we all Sri Lankans were experiencing bitter hardships to normal life in the face of prolonged power cuts, long and deadly queues for gas and fuel, etc.

The introduction of Fuel Pass and provision of uninterrupted fuel and power supply revived the nation with renewed

hope. Amidst all such commitments, his courage to take effective decisions to do away with the unnecessary hurdles during the recent past, instead of popular decisions, is an inspiration," the CNCI said in a press release.

"We appreciate his continual efforts to restore normalcy by sacrificing even his political future and believe that he gets the backing of the public for right and timely decisions taken for the development of the

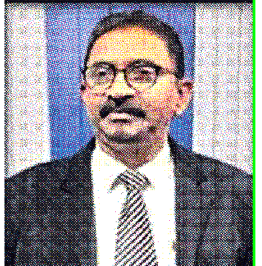
country's economy, which is very vital today.

We wish to extend our support and offer our blessings to stay with the right decisions whatsoever repercussions there would be, if the outcome is better for the public and country at large," it added.

The CNCI also expressed hopes that the other ministers too would act in a similar passion, if there is any act of disturbance to the public and if the rights of the people are misused.



Kanchana Wijesekera



Canisius Fernando

MORE ON P10

SL records highest monthly tourist arrivals since pandemic

- March tourist arrivals top 125,000 mark
- Records 16% growth from previous month, 18% growth from 12 months ago
- Cumulative arrivals in first three months of 2023 reach 335,844
- Daily arrival average improves to over 4,000
- Russian Federation, India and UK rank as top three source markets

By Shabiya Ali Ahlam

The tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka crossed the 125,000 mark in March, recording the highest influx of international visitors since the Covid-19 pandemic.

For the whole of March, 125,495 visitors from across the world visited the island nation, the provisional data from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) showed.

When compared with the previous month, the tourist arrivals expanded by 16 percent, whereas when compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, it was a growth of about 18 percent.

March became the third consecutive month for tourist arrivals to surpass the 100,000 mark, another first since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, the cumulative arrivals for January 01 to March 31 stood at 335,649.



A group of Chinese tourists walking through Independence Square in Colombo

The daily arrival average improved to 4,048 in March, from 3,307 in January and 3,844 in February.

The Russian Federation continues to remain as the largest tourist traffic generator for Sri Lanka, as it accounted for 20 percent of the total arrivals in March.

Ranking second is India, bringing in 15 percent of the total arrivals and third is the United Kingdom, generating 9 percent of the total tourist traffic.

The other notable source markets for Sri

Lanka in March included Germany, France and the United States.

China, which was among the top three tourist traffic generators for the country before the pandemic, now ranks as the ninth largest source market. As Sri Lanka is looking to revise the tourist arrival target to two million for this year, 16 percent of that target is already realised as of March. Previously, the Tourism Ministry together with the relevant authorities set a target of 1.5 million tourists by end-2023.

MORE ON P10

Central Bank likely to hold rates today after 100 bps hike earlier

REUTERS: Sri Lanka's Central Bank is expected to keep interest rates unchanged at a policy meeting today, a month after a 100-basis-point increase ahead of a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Inflation remains at slightly over 50 percent, although it is on a downward trend and growth is expected to shrink by 3 percent in 2023, as the country struggles to emerge from its worst financial crisis in over seven decades.

MORE ON P10



Employees protest against sale of SLT

The employee trade union at Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) yesterday staged a protest against the proposed restructuring of the company. The government has announced plans to divest the 49.5 percent in SLT held by the Treasury, as part of a wider state-owned enterprise restructuring exercise under the recently clinched International Monetary Fund programme.

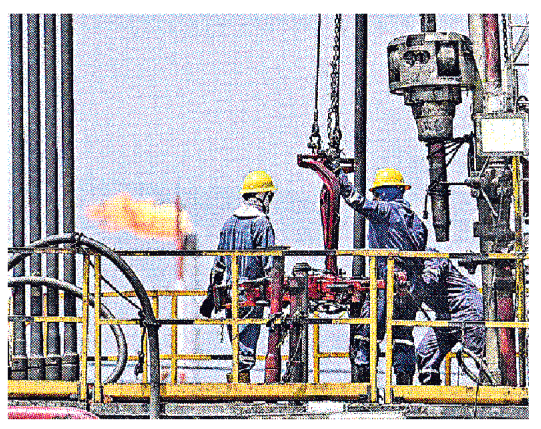
PIC BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE

Oil prices soar as producers unveil shock output cut

AFF: Oil prices soared yesterday after top producers unveiled a shock output cut of more than a million barrels per day, while equities mostly rose after data showed the US and European inflation eased further last month.

However, the decision by the OPEC+ cartel fanned concerns about a fresh spike in prices that could put pressure on central banks to push interest rates higher.

MORE ON P10



Dutch companies exploring investment opportunities in Sri Lanka: envoy

The Dutch companies are eager to explore investment opportunities in renewable energy, eco-labelling and sustainable agriculture, if Sri Lanka can showcase a corruption-free business environment, Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka Bonnie Horbach stated at a meeting with the leadership of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, recently.

Horbach highlighted the importance of engaging with the EU Green Deal and

MORE ON P10



Dialog Enterprise Cloud certified as first sovereign cloud platform in South Asia by VMware

Continuing the lead first established two years ago as the first VMware Verified Cloud provider in Sri Lanka, Dialog Enterprise Cloud now emerges with its newest status as a sovereign cloud-certified cloud capability, which is the highest tier of VMware cloud partners.

With this status, Dialog Enterprise Cloud has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first sovereign cloud provider in the South Asian region and is one of 38 of such providers from over 4,500 global VMware cloud service providers.

A sovereign cloud differs from hyper scale cloud providers in that it ensures that data is subject to jurisdictional laws, controls and authority of the region where data is collected and stored. Cloud sovereignty requires the provider to regularly monitor their cloud and data storage service and prove compliance with local data privacy and security laws.

As such, the globally recognised VMware Sovereign Cloud Badge signifies a milestone achievement for the VMware-powered Dialog Enterprise sovereign cloud platform that distinctly ensures data sovereignty and jurisdictional control, data access and integrity, data security and compliance and data independence and mobility of our customers.

"We are primed for delivering a national capability for the digital economy that we envision in the country. Our sovereign status affirms the ability for securing data with audited security controls, ensuring compliance with data privacy laws here in Sri Lanka, thereby improving control of data by providing both data residency and data sovereignty with full jurisdictional control," stated Dialog Axiata PLC Dialog Enterprise Group Chief Officer Navin Pieris, explaining Dialog Enterprises' vantage grip on the subject.

MORE ON P10

China's loans to Africa worry World Bank President David Malpass

BBC: The president of the World Bank has told the BBC that he is concerned about some of the loans China has been making to developing economies in Africa.

David Malpass says the terms and conditions need to be "more transparent".

It comes amid worries that countries, including Ghana and Zambia, are struggling to repay their debts to Beijing.

China says that any such lending is done within international rules.

Developing countries often borrow money from other nations or multilateral bodies to finance sectors that will grow their economies such as infrastructure, education and agriculture.

However, steep increases in interest rates in the US and other major economies over the last year are making loan repayments more expensive because lots of that borrowing is done in foreign currencies such as US dollars or euros.

It is a particularly acute problem for developing economies who can struggle to find the extra money that is required as the relative value of their own currency falls. It is a "double whammy and it means

that [economic] growth is going to be slower", said Malpass.

Tackling that challenge and its consequences was one of the main reasons for this week's visit by US Vice-President Kamala Harris to three African countries. It is a visit that comes with big commitments of financial support to Tanzania and Ghana.

There is a growing rivalry with China for influence in the continent, whose abundance of natural resources include the metals, such as nickel, crucial for the batteries needed for technology such as electric cars.

Speaking in Ghana's capital, Accra, she said "America will be guided not by what we can do for our African partners but what we can do with our African partners".

While highlighting a new nickel processing facility in Tanzania Harris said the project would be supplying the US and other markets by 2026 and that it would "help address the climate crisis, build resilient global supply chains and create new industries and jobs".



That collaborative approach was praised by Malpass who said the competition between the world's two biggest economies was "maybe healthy for developing countries" as it provided different options.

"What I encourage strongly is that they be transparent in their contracts. That's been one of the problems; if you write a contract and say 'but don't show it to anybody else', that's a minus. So get away from that."

There was also a warning that "for

governments in Africa, they shouldn't be offering collateral as an inducement to make a loan, because it locks it up for generations. That's been happening with China."

Beijing has become one of the biggest sources for loans to developing economies in recent years. A new study led by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy shows that globally China lent US \$ 185 billion (£150 billion) in bailouts to 22 countries between 2016 and 2021.

MORE ON P10



SARVODAYA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PLC



03.04.2023

Table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A. CHANGE, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, V.W.A. TODAY'S, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their market data.

Exchange Rates table with columns: CURRENCY, BUYING RATE, SELLING RATE. Lists rates for various currencies like Dollar, Euro, etc.

Week starts in red with poor turnover

Indices closed in red as a result of price losses in counters such as Commercial Bank, Sampath Bank and Hatton National Bank with the turnover crossing Rs 569 Mn.



nonvoting and Browns Investments. Foreign participation in the market activity remained at subdued levels with foreigners closing as net buyers.

Transportation sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Expolanka Holdings) whilst the sector index gained 6.69%.

National Development Bank lost Rs 0.60 (1.34%) to close at Rs 44.30. The share price of Sampath Bank recorded a loss of Rs 1.50 (2.86%) to close at Rs 51.00.

Contd. from Page 9

Sri Lanka records... However, as the industry is performing better than expected, a decision has been made to look at revising upward the target, the SLTDA said last week.

CNCI hails... The statement also heaped praise on President Ranil Wickremesinghe "for directing things to the correct path and leading the nation during the economic crisis and making the decisive and bold decisions to stabilise the country".

Dutch companies... upcoming mandatory Responsible Business requirements most of the EU countries are now looking at. She assured that the Dutch government continues to implement the existing projects in the areas of training and technology transfer, especially in the agricultural sector, including the poultry industry in Sri Lanka.

for the agri sector, including bilateral business engagements such as B2Bs and joint ventures in the Netherlands.

Oil prices... Both main crude contracts jumped around 8 percent at one point following the cut by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Algeria and Oman, which was the biggest since the group slammed two million barrels per day in October. It came on top of a Russian decision to extend a cut of 500,000 barrels per day and in spite of US calls to increase production.

Analysts said the decision could deal a blow to markets, which had rallied in recent weeks on optimism that the recent banking sector turmoil could force the US Federal Reserve to end its rate hike drive sooner than expected.

Meanwhile, the eurozone prices rose 6.9 percent in March, well down from 8.5 percent in February, beating expectations as energy prices eased.

Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore, Manila and Jakarta all rose, though Hong Kong was flat, while Seoul, Mumbai and Wellington slipped. Tokyo rose despite the Bank of Japan's closely watched Tankan survey showing confidence among the country's largest manufacturers falling to its lowest level in more than two years.

Dialog Enterprise... The recognition serves to further assure its esteemed clientele that their sensitive information is being handled in a secure and compliant manner in accordance with the local laws and regulations.

China's loans... China refutes suggestions that it is exploiting other countries with its financial support.

The outgoing World Bank president is also concerned that higher food, fertiliser and energy prices, as a result of the war in Ukraine, are sapping government budgets in poorer countries. While that could deepen the economic challenges they face there is relief that price rises are now starting to ease.

The World Bank is concerned that these challenges will worsen a first-ever increase in the global extreme poverty rate - people getting by on less than US \$ 1.90 per day.

Central Bank... A dozen out of the 14 analysts and economists polled by Reuters expect rates to be held by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) today in its third policy rate announcement this year.

The financially strapped South Asian country will also start formal negotiations for the debt it owes to bilateral creditors and overseas bondholders after the domestic debt operation, aiming to complete those parallel debt talks by September, in time for the first IMF review.

Abans Auto sparks new eco-friendly venture with Yadea partnership



From left: Alex Zaho – Director Sales of Yadea Group, Tito Pestonjee - Managing Director of Abans Group, Chinthaka Perera – Director of Abans Auto (Pvt) Ltd and Dinesh Dharmarathna - General Manager of Abans Auto (Pvt) Ltd
PIX BY PRADEEP DILUKSHANA

Abans Auto (Pvt) Ltd recently announced the introduction of Yadea electric bikes to the Sri Lankan market.

Yadea, the ultimate electric bike with high-quality components, combines advanced technology, stylish design, and affordability to offer a smooth and comfortable riding experience with zero emissions and fuel consumption while saving the environment.

The Yadea T9 and E8S boast of a 2000W high-power motor and a range of 100-plus kilometres on a single charge. Packed with features that set it apart from the competition, Yadea is equipped with TTFAR technology for extended range, 72V 38Ah Graphene battery with a lifetime 3 times longer than standard lead-acid batteries, and can withstand 800 to 1000 charging cycles, making it an economical choice that costs a mere Rs.1.50 per kilometre, this is an ideal solution for increasing fuel cost and the fuel limitation in the country.

With the launch of Yadea, Abans Auto (Pvt) Ltd has added yet another impressive brand to its portfolio, which already included Hero and Hyundai. Abans Auto has been a trusted name in the Sri Lankan automotive industry for over 20 years, providing customers with high-quality vehicles and services. The company's commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction has earned it a loyal customer base in Sri Lanka.

Yadea is a leading global manufacturer of electric two-wheelers such as electric motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles and kick scooters. Founded in 2001, Yadea has grown to become a global brand, with a client base of over 70 million in over 90 countries through a network of 40,000 plus retailers worldwide. With a mission to create a green and sustainable future, Yadea is dedicated to providing customers with high-quality, reliable, and environmentally-friendly transportation solutions. The company's commitment to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction has made it one of the most respected and recognized names in the electric vehicle industry.



According to the company, customers can experience the ultimate electric bike and enjoy a smooth and comfortable ride with Yadea's advanced technology and stylish design. With Yadea, customers can make a sustainable choice while enjoying the thrill of riding an electric bike.

SLARDAR set to relaunch Sri Lanka Super Series To develop state-of-the-art racing arena

The Sri Lanka Association of Racing Drivers & Riders (SLARDAR), the premier Motor Racing Club in Sri Lanka and Asian Motor Racing Club (AMRC), launched the 'Sri Lanka Super Series 2023' in partnership with principal sponsor Nippon Paints, Official Tyre Partner, Maxxis Tyres and Official Lubricant Partner Mobil.

This is the first of such racing event hosted by SLARDAR after a hiatus of three years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the prevailing economic downfall. This year, SLARDAR decided to take steps to gradually restart activities to benefit both competitors and fans, starting with the 'Sri Lanka Super Series 2023'.

In collaboration with the Asian Motor Racing Club (AMRC), SLARDAR launched the 'Sri Lanka Super Series' back in 2017. This championship is unique as it is the only one to have ever presented its champions with brand new cars and motorcycles. In previous years, the SLARDAR played a pivotal role in creating and introducing nearly all the gravel tracks in the country, including Fox Hill Super Cross, Gajaba SC, Gunners SC, Sigiriya Rally Cross, Commando Super Cross, and Colombo Super Cross.

Additionally, at a juncture where the future of Motor Sports in Sri Lanka is questionable due to a lack of proper facilities, the SLARDAR has joined forces with Wijerathne Engineering (Pvt) Ltd. to develop the 'Nippon Mahameruwa Racing Arena



by SLARDAR'. The arena will be suitable for both cars and motorcycles and will feature a plethora of facilities including a restaurant area, swimming pool, training & briefing rooms, accommodation for over 100 people, ATV track, 4x4 challenge track, out bound training facility and more.

The arena will also serve as a testing ground for racing cars and motorcycles, and as a driver and rider training facility as well. Trusting the credibility of the SLARDAR, Nippon Paints has stepped forward as the principal sponsor for the facility along with official tyre partner, Maxxis Tyres. The 'Nippon Mahameruwa Racing Arena by SLARDAR' will be located in Nalla, Giriulla, in the North Western Province.

FIA Region II holds Ideas Forum in Thailand

Federation Internationale De L'Automobile (FIA) Region II organized an Ideas Forum for its members in Thailand from March 23 to 25.

There was a one-day Forum, specially to explore business generating ideas for clubs in the Region and also how clubs can better collaborate, review "start up" ideas and work towards new business projects.

It was a knowledgeable effective Forum with presentations by Chris Nightingale, Managing Director of Ponda on the subject of the results of the Region II Capacity building Scoping Study. Ian Stone chair of the FIA University & Business Consultant enlightened insights with capacity building in the region and resources available to clubs through FIA University Mentoring Programme and the AA Philippines discussed their tourism.

In the Open Forum, it was



Seated (From left): Dhammika Attygalle – President AAC, Govinda Prasad Bhattarai (Nepal)- Treasurer of Region II, Greig Craft (Vietnam) – President of Region II, Ian Stone- Chair of the FIA University, Wai Mun Lee - Secretary of the Singapore Automobile Association

discussed how each club in the region could promote reciprocal benefits to their sister clubs when they visit these clubs. It was also emphasized that all clubs in the region should promote travel and tourism to their sister clubs after the Covid pandemic. It was also discussed to promote "Fly & Drive"

concept among the members when travelling overseas.

All delegates who attended the Forum were invited for the 44th International Motor Show in Thailand organized by Motor Sports Club of Thailand (RAAT) at Impact Exhibition and Convention Center Thailand.

DIMO launches all-new Jeep Performance Centre at DIMO 800

DIMO, a leading diversified conglomerate and the only Authorized General Distributor for Jeep vehicles in Sri Lanka, recently launched the Jeep Performance Centre, an enhanced after-sales facility that offers end-to-end after-sales care to Jeep customers.

The launch event was attended by a multitude of DIMO's valued Jeep owners. The Jeep Performance Centre, which is located at DIMO 800, Centre of Excellence in Colombo 14, will serve as a one-stop shop for Jeep owners who are seeking the most reliable after-sales services. Jeep owners can now unleash the freedom to perform at Jeep Performance Centre in DIMO, The HOME for Jeep.

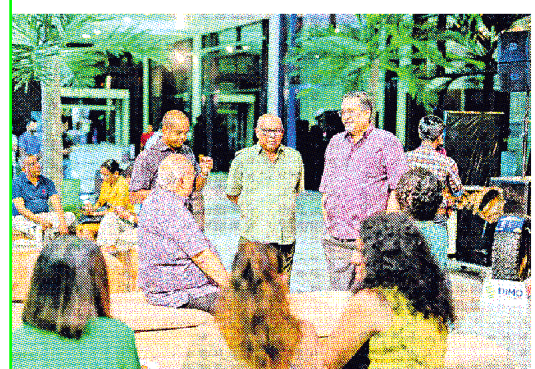
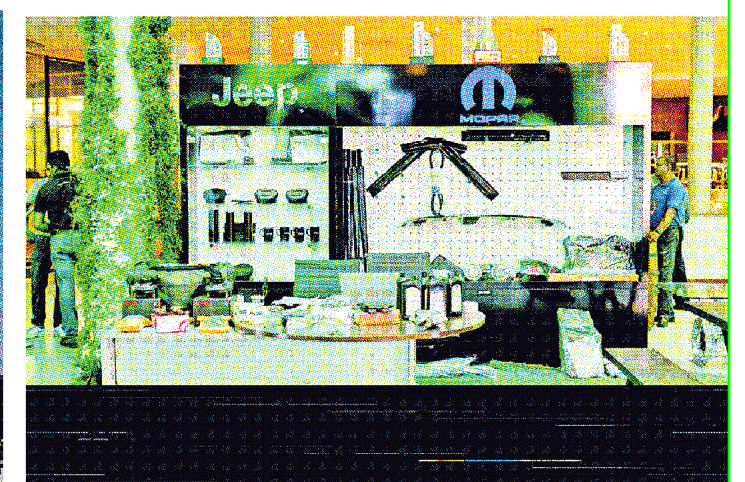
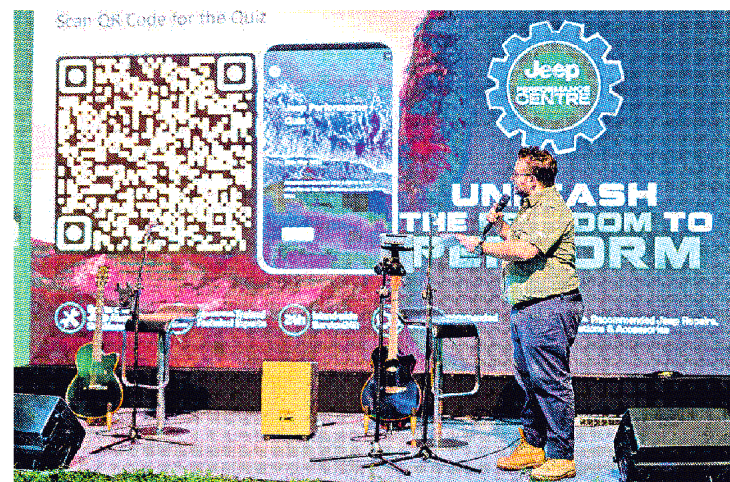
The Jeep Performance Centre offers a wide range of tailor-made after-sales care solutions for Jeep owners which includes Island-wide 24 hours Roadside Assistance just one call away, Mopar-Trained Technical Experts who are fully equipped with the Mopar recommended software, systems, special tools and equipment to ensure any and all repairs and modifications are carried out with the utmost care

as per the Mopar Repair Guide. The centre also uses recommended Jeep parts that work seamlessly with the Jeep vehicles.

Additionally, the Jeep Performance Centre also offers a plethora of Jeep Accessories that are specifically designed to enhance, both the performance and appearance of the vehicle. All accessories available are recommended by Mopar, the official after-sales service provider for Jeep worldwide.

The launch of the Jeep performance centre marks an all-new chapter for DIMO's after-sales service offering. It is part of DIMO's unwavering commitment to providing customers with world-renowned service and support through every step of the ownership journey.

The all-new centre is geared to raise the bar in after-sales care in Sri Lanka's automotive industry. Jeep owners can now have complete peace of mind, knowing that their vehicles are being taken care of by DIMO's Mopar-Trained Technical Experts, who are deeply committed to providing after-sales service and support of the highest quality at DIMO, The HOME for Jeep.



Axiata Digital Labs appoints Chandhi Dharmaratne as CPO

Chandhi Dharmaratne has been appointed as the Chief People Officer of Axiata Digital Labs for its operations in Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Chandhi is a HR professional who specialises in transforming organizations through integrating HR into its core business and using technology to deliver best practices in order to build a talent pool that is geared to compete in any global landscape.

She commenced her career in Manhattan, New York in 1995 and after over a decade in the US, she came back to Sri Lanka and joined MAS Holdings in 2001, where she was later responsible for MAS' group learning and development function. In 2013, she joined Virtusa as the Head of HR for Sri Lanka geography. Later on she was able to play multiple roles such as, Global BU Head and Global

Digital HR Head for Virtusa. There have been multiple recognitions for her work in the IT industry as a HR professional and for her passion in building future leaders - such as being recognized in Echelon magazines New Establishment 100 list, Sri Lanka; American Alumni Association and the US Embassy of Sri Lanka - Pearl Jubilee 'Bridge to Success Award' for excellence in Human Resources; Asia's most innovative HR tech leaders awarded by the Asia Pacific HRM Congress; Women Leadership Achievement Award, conferred by the World Women Leadership Congress and she was also listed in Echelon magazine's list of 50 most Powerful Women in Sri Lanka to name a few.

Chandhi is also an advocate for supporting and building entrepreneurs across Sri Lanka in order to impact their respective communities, societies and

in the end our nation through her role as the current Chairperson of the Lankan Angel Network.

In addition, she also served on the boards of The American Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka; SLASSCOM (the Sri Lanka IT & KPO-BPM industry chamber) and the Association of HR Professionals, Sri Lanka to name a few.

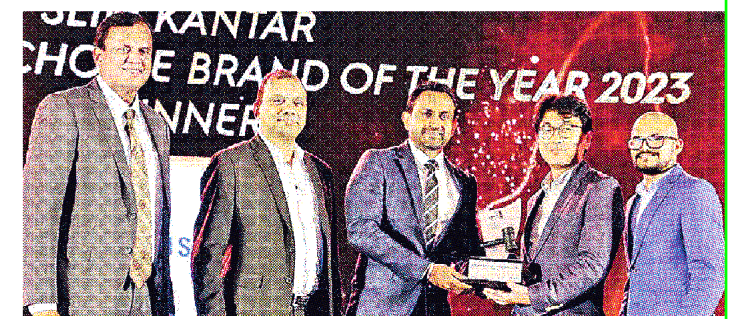
She was also invited to serve on the, Steering Committee on People Development of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and invited by ICTA to participate in an expert committee on formulation of the Digital Maturity Model for GoSL.

Chandhi has an MBA and a bachelor's degree in business administration and economics. She also attended executive education offered by the INSEAD business school.



Chandhi Dharmaratne

Samsung Sri Lanka wins SLIM Kantar People's Youth Choice Brand of the Year



Samsung was recently awarded the SLIM Kantar People's Youth Choice Brand of the Year 2023.

This recognition is a testament to the electronic leader's capacity to steer the sector. Since it is the only brand that has a greater understanding of customer demands than this one, its recent launch of Infinity Display to the local market has elevated the brand to an aspirational level.

Samsung's focus this year was on cutting-edge mobile digital communication, with items that catered to and satisfied the needs of Sri Lankan youth. For young people who are constantly looking for better camera quality and cutting-edge options when it comes to taking portrait and selfie photos to highlight their lifestyle and multitasking, Samsung mobile devices provide a variety of capabilities.

The managing director of Samsung Sri Lanka, SangHwa Song, commented on the brand's success at the SLIM Kantar People's Awards, "We are fortunate to be selected as the People's Youth Choice brand of the year at the prestigious SLIM Kantar People's Awards, reaffirming Samsung's position as the first choice in the local market in addition to being the world's top smartphone."

"We were able to earn this award because to Samsung's commitment to improving consumers' lives by continuously producing cutting-edge technology and new goods, such as power-saving devices and smartphones to suit various lifestyles."

"We have big ambitions to further grow the brand in Sri Lanka since we believe there is a huge market there for our products. This unique victory at the SLIM Kantar People's Awards further strengthens our desire to provide customers with Samsung's cutting-edge technologies, including the just-

released S23 and S23 Ultra. Led by the Galaxy S23 Ultra with its new 200MP Adaptive Pixel sensor and iconic embedded S Pen, the Galaxy S23 series — also featuring the Galaxy S23 — represents a new era of Samsung's ultimate premium phone experience.

With its new, cutting-edge design, the Galaxy S23 series demonstrates that innovation brings both high-performance and sustainability for the ultimate premium experience. The Galaxy S23 series raises the bar for both quality and aesthetics with less environmental impact than previous generations. To achieve this, we incorporated recycled materials in more device components than in any other previous Galaxy smartphone and designed the packaging box using 100 percent recycled paper.

Samsung is also the Global No.1 TV manufacturer for 16 consecutive years maintaining the Samsung legacy of superior picture quality and design, with its most iconic and premium TV being the Neo QLED 8K that comes with Quantum Matrix Pro technology, Neo Quantum Processor Lite 8K for optimized viewing, SolarCell Remote, environmental friendly packaging and much more first-in-market features making it the ultimate entertainment hub.

Samsung appliances use AI-centered features to help users create sustainable homes by offering energy savings that exceed the highest industry rating.

In Sri Lanka, Samsung has been recognized as the 'Most Loved Electronics Brand' for three consecutive years by Brand Finance Lanka's review of the country's most valuable brands. As Sri Lanka's No.1 smartphone brand, Samsung's customer base in the country spans across all age groups, particularly the Gen Z and Millennial segments.

FITIS pledges support to 'DIGIECON 2030' to help boost Sri Lanka's digital economy

FITIS pledged their support towards the National DIGIECON initiative 2030 to President Ranil Wickremesinghe at ceremony held at Temple Trees on March 30.

Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology enunciated that any country that within next 10 years fails to adopt a comprehensive evolving digital strategy encompassing its people, the government, private public institutions, and policies would probably be considered a failed state. Thus, the government of Sri Lanka under the guidance of the President has identified the importance of digital transformation.

Further, as the subject State minister for Technology together with the help of all other stakeholders from industry, academia, civil Society and likes enunciated that we have created a Digital Economy 2030 plan for Sri Lanka.

Further stated that a bold and ambitious plan that will shape our future in unprecedented ways. Also stated that as we move towards a more interconnected world, it is imperative that we embrace the opportunities presented by digital technologies and under the Digital Economy 2030 plan spanning the next 7 years, the government and all the stakeholders will work on, developing a robust digital infrastructure, increase digital literacy, support digital entrepreneurship, encourage e-commerce, strengthen cybersecurity, modernize government services to provide efficiency and transparency of government services by digitizing processes, creating digital



platforms for citizen engagement, and leveraging data analytics to improve decision-making. Also reiterated that by taking these steps, Sri Lanka can create a vibrant and sustainable digital economy that benefits its citizens, businesses, and the wider society.

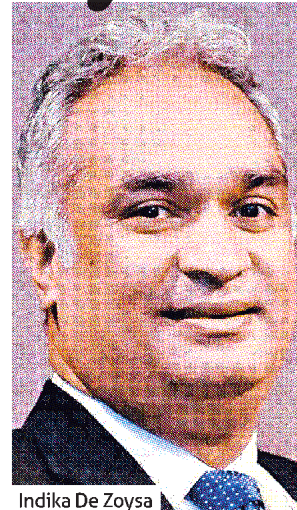
Prasad Samarasinghe Chairman FITIS stated that to ensure sustainability, it is important to establish a robust framework for Research & Development and to build patents, a key focal of FITIS. Further ICT Investment & ICT Talent will be key drivers in achieving these goals. Also building a digital highway with Digital Connectivity is a critical pillar in digital adaptation. Investment by the telecom industry in home broadband and 4G/5G and now 6G, following the latest international standards and security guidelines, and providing good

network throughput is essential for downstream service delivery. FITIS stands committed to deliver upon this promise via its chapters and allied membership given their focus across the entire spectrum.

Indika De Zoysa, Vice Chairman FITIS mentioned that the Digital Economy is the key influencing factor for the GDP growth for the Country. Digital inclusion, New Business Models, Digital resilience and Green sustainability are the key factors in the Digital Economy. In order to achieve success, it is essential to articulate a vision and direction, and to realize them through the implementation of a strong digital masterplan and policy. This includes the Digital Sri Lanka Master plan, which will serve as a framework for ICT regulatory. Additionally, the government's



Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe



Indika De Zoysa

digitization plan and adoption of green energy are crucial factors that will contribute to success.

Digital economy contribution in Sri Lanka is approximately 4.4 percent of GDP attributing towards a contribution of about US\$ 3.7 billion. However, the Digital Economy contribution Global average is around 15 percent of GDP and upwards, with advanced economies showing indices around 30 percent of GDP thus this indeed is a very timely initiative to help boost the national digital economy, its contribution towards GDP and also allied indices that tenant around Digital Literacy, Network Readiness Index, Cyber Security Readiness Index, Innovation Index, Talent Index etc. Thus, FITIS is making plans to fuel the Digital Economy to reach US\$ 15 billion by 2030, as reiterated by Indika De Zoysa.

Microsoft empowers local businesses to harness power of cybersecurity

Microsoft Sri Lanka recently hosted a roundtable discussion titled "The Future of Cybersecurity: Embracing Zero Trust in a Digital Age" featuring industry experts, who shared valuable insights and best practices on cybersecurity.

The event aimed to empower local organizations to adopt comprehensive security solutions to effectively combat the growing risks of the ever-changing cyber threat landscape.

With businesses adopting multiple clouds to accelerate their digital transformation efforts, the attack entry points multiply, making them vulnerable to more sophisticated cyber-attacks. As a result, it becomes essential for organizations to approach

cybersecurity proactively. During the event, Microsoft encouraged local business leaders to use multi-cloud security solutions such as Microsoft Defender to secure their organization across clouds.

In addition to announcing Microsoft's latest product innovations across cloud security, DevSecOps, threat protection, identity governance, management, and information protection, the discussion emphasized how Zero Trust technology is imperative for organizations to strengthen security. Five key business scenarios were presented to demonstrate how implementing a Zero Trust architecture can not only serve as a security priority, but also drive business results.

"The rapidly evolving technological environment has inevitably made cloud security a priority for businesses. While Microsoft offers a comprehensive, yet simplified security framework to help organizations mitigate increasingly complex cyber threats, it is equally important for us to create dialogue and educate our customers to take proactive measures to safeguard their digital assets and operations. As an organization that champions cybersecurity, we will continue empowering businesses to leverage our end-to-end, pioneering, and AI-powered security solutions to achieve more," said Harsha Randeny, Country Manager for Microsoft Sri Lanka and the Maldives.



Kavya Kanchana - Cloud Acquisition Leader, Corporate Business, Microsoft APAC speaking about Microsoft Security



Harsha Randeny, Country Manager for Microsoft Sri Lanka and the Maldives introducing the event to the guests

hSenid Business Solutions strengthens security and compliance with ISO certification

hSenid Business Solutions PLC was audited and certified with the ISO/IEC 27001:2013 standard by the Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS - UK Branch.

The certification is an international recognition on information security standards published by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) that specifies the requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining, and continually improving an information security management system (ISMS) within the context of the organisation. It also includes requirements for the assessment and treatment of information security risks tailored to the needs of the organisation.

"This is an important milestone in our journey as the preferred HR Software

provider in the APAC, Middle East and African regions. This certification demonstrates our strong resolve to maintain high levels of security and compliance for the benefit of our clients and channel partners," said Miendra Weerasinghe, the Chief Strategy Officer of hSenid Business Solutions PLC.

The certification audit was performed by Ernst and Young, a globally reputed name in its field. The scope of the certification is not limited to only the core business, Peoples HR Solution but covers all operational functions including Peoples HR Outsourcing and hSenid Tracking Solutions.

"This global accreditation certifies the reputation that hSenid upholds among all its stakeholders. It stands for a reputation against security threats,

aligns with regulatory compliance, and reduces the need for frequent audits. This means we provide a secure, efficient, affordable, and more importantly, globally recognized solution to our clientele," stated Chathuranga Senaratne, the Head of Customer Success and Strategic Partnerships of hSenid Business Solutions PLC.

Expressing his comments, the CEO of hSenid Business Solutions, Sampath Jayasundara, mentioned, "In the digital space, security and compliance take centre stage with constant threats and challenges. We value the trust our clients have in us when dealing with their data and information and our aim is to constantly support them throughout their journey and maintain the utmost standards in the avenue of security and compliance."

Huawei records steady financial performance in 2022 amid challenges

Huawei released its 2022 Annual Report recently. The company has reported steady operations throughout 2022, having generated CNY642.3 billion in revenue and CNY35.6 billion in net profits.

Huawei continues to strengthen investment in R&D, with an annual expenditure of CNY161.5 billion in 2022, representing 25.1 percent of the company's annual revenue and bringing its total R&D expenditure over the past 10 years to more than CNY977.3 billion.

"In 2022, a challenging external environment and non-market factors continued to take a toll on Huawei's operations", said Eric Xu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman, at the company's annual report press conference. "In the midst of this storm, we kept racing ahead, doing everything in our power to maintain business continuity and serve our customers. We also went to great lengths to grow the harvest - generating a steady stream of revenue to sustain our survival and lay the groundwork for future development."

Also present at the event was Sabrina Meng, Huawei's CFO. She noted, "Despite substantial pressure in 2022, our overall business results were in line with forecast. At the end of 2022, our liability ratio was 58.9 percent and our net cash balance was CNY176.3 billion. In addition, our balance of total assets reached one trillion yuan, largely composed of current assets such as cash, short-term investments, and operating assets."

Our financial position remains solid, with strong resilience and flexibility. In 2022, our total R&D spend was CNY161.5 billion, representing 25.1 percent of our total revenue - among the highest in Huawei's history. In times of pressure, we press on - with confidence."

In 2022, revenue from Huawei's carrier, enterprise, and consumer businesses was CNY284 billion, CNY133.2 billion, and CNY214.5 billion, respectively.

Huawei is a strong proponent of growing together with its ecosystem partners, and believes that openness and collaboration lead to shared success. The company

has continued to open up its platform capabilities across its HarmonyOS, Kunpeng, Ascend, and cloud portfolio, focusing on improving developer experience as well as enabling and supporting its ecosystem partners on all fronts. Huawei currently works with more than nine million developers and over 40,000 ecosystem partners to fuel ecosystem-based innovation and create greater value for its customers.

"2023 will be crucial to Huawei's sustainable survival and development," Xu noted. "Plum blossoms tend to grow sweeter from a harsh winter's freeze. Today, Huawei is like a plum blossom. While it's true that we have considerable pressure ahead of us, we have what it takes to come out the other end - with opportunities to grow, a resilient business portfolio, a unique competitive edge, the enduring trust of our customers and partners, and the courage to invest heavily in R&D. We are confident in our ability to rise above any challenge that comes our way, laying a solid foundation for sustainable survival and development."



Sabrina Meng




Eric Xu

DailyMirror

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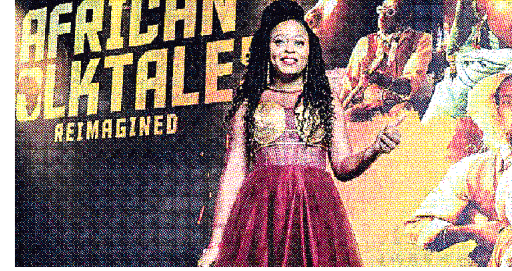



CINEMA'S UNDYING LOVE FOR DUMAS

The work of French author Alexandre Dumas has attracted stars since the birth of cinema, through silent-era hero Douglas Fairbanks and Leonardo DiCaprio. The 19th century writer's popularity shows no signs of dimming, a flashy new version of "The Three Musketeers" hits French screens next week, while "The Count of Monte Cristo" starts filming this summer. **AFP**

NETFLIX, UNESCO SEEK BREAKTHROUGH FOR AFRICAN CINEMA

It's a revenge thriller where a mother turns into a ruthless vigilante, tracking down and drowning a soldier who has killed her baby, in an explosion of violence and jubilation. This a partnership between streaming giant Netflix and the UN cultural agency UNESCO to give a platform to new voices in African cinema. "Katera of the Punishment Island", is among six short films co-financed on the continent by the American platform and the UN agency. **AFP**

SUPER MARIO: NINTENDO'S DECADES OF STAR POWER

Hollywood is having its second bash at sprinkling some movie magic on the "Super Mario Bros" video game franchise, three decades after the last attempt. The pint-sized plumber from Japanese game maker Nintendo has enjoyed 40 years of extraordinary popularity that has transformed the character into a truly global icon. The saviour - Nintendo owes a lot to its hero, created by designer called Shigeru Miyamoto. **AFP**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Crème de la crème of Sri Lanka's entertainment on stage

Interbrand in association with the Daily FT will celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) 2023, focusing on the themes DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality and #EmbraceEquity, at a gala forum on 7th April at the Oak Room of Cinnamon Grand Colombo, commencing 7 pm.

Interbrand is the world's leading brand consultancy, specialising in brands and branding management, with 24 offices in 17 countries. The New York-based consultancy publishes the Best Global Brands report on an annual basis which identifies the world's 100 most valuable brands. For the past 20 years Interbrand has been putting a value on the world's top brands. In an era when intangible value has become a critical measure of organisational performance, Interbrand's 'Best Global Brands' is the definitive source of knowledge".

Once again, the strategic partner for this gala event will be Mastercard, who have come forward to reiterate their commitment to women and IWD activities as they have done so in the past, while Corporate sponsors Triumph Sloggi are back again as partners, as are Supreme Flora. New comers Serenia Limited, a mixed development Apartment Hotel and Link Naturals will definitely add to the glamour and allure of the event, while the Host Hotel once again is the best address in town, the Cinnamon Grand.

The welcome address will be delivered by Ashish Mishra, Head of Interbrand, India, while the keynote speech is by Dr Nathalie de Dieuleveult, Managing Director in Sri Lanka and Maldives of B. Braun Lanka, a German multinational and one of the world's largest medical and pharmaceutical device companies.

A dazzling line up of the country's best performers in music and dance will take to the stage at this glittering event, namely soul singer Tanuja, the Dr with the Sax Dr Gananath and his band En Route and dancers Tarja and Bharatha.

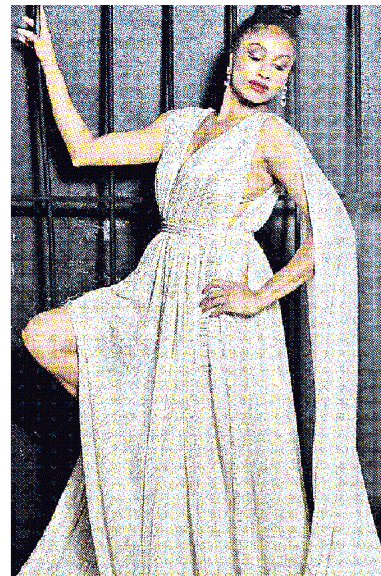
British born artist Tanuja Perera who begins the evening, will render the opening song, one of empowerment of course. Tanuja is a vocally powerful soul singer who first started

singing at the age of 4 and to her parents' surprise, mastered the Motown songs of Diana Ross. On moving to New York, Tanuja started working with labels such as Columbia, Warner Bros, Virgin Records and Interscope Records, as a recording artiste and writer. Her ability to balance artistic expression and commercial appeal caught the attention of many high profile producers. Tanuja toured internationally with her band Taraka (a joint venture with her sister), and her performances include being the lead artiste at Miss World 2002. Effortlessly covering such genres as Blues, Jazz, World Music, Neo-Soul and 70's power ballads, Tanuja's voice is reminiscent of a young Aretha Franklin, Alicia Keys and Minnie Ripperton. Her strong and fiery stage presence tells us that her prowess and energy do not just come from her voice and the audience on 7th April can be assured of a vocal treat via Tanuja!

The Dr. with the Sax as he is known, Gananath Dasanayaka was interested in the saxophone from



A dazzling line up of the country's best performers in music and dance will take to the stage at this glittering event.



a very young age. A product of St. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, nobody realised that there was a saxophonist in their midst. "If you take Colombo, which is like the hub for English Music, within that hub also there is a very minute percentage of society who appreciate Jazz. However from the point of the industry lately we have seen younger people, taking up Jazz and appreciating it. I personally stick to old school jazz. Within the genre there is swing jazz which is called traditional old school and Latin Jazz with a lot of Brazilian and Cuban beats". Dasanayaka and his band En Route will perform to the delight of all present at the Interbrand Daily FT IWD 2023 celebration adding to the musical enjoyment of all present.

Tarja and her dancing partner Bharatha have been dancing together for over 10 years in Ballroom and Latin dance styles. Tarja, a professional ballroom dancer has been dancing since the age of 11. After many years of studying dance, she has made a name for herself in the industry and gone on to become a qualified dance fit instructor. She is also the Co-Founder of T&A Fitness, an initiative by her and her husband. At the age of 13, she enrolled in her first dance class - Antonio's Dance Circle, taught by Toni and his wife Michelle. Later, she went on to dance with Kevin Nugara, did a bit of hip hop with Natasha Jayasuriya from Deanna School of Dance, and also danced for Muddrika from Muddrika Dance Studio. In her 20s, she trained in England under Gunnar Gunnarsan and Pam McGilvy and today, she is a force to be reckoned with in the field of dance.

Delectable canapés, a gourmet six course, white glove, silver service, sit down dinner, choice wines and liquor, luxury door gifts courtesy Sothys and Triumph Sloggi, entrance ticket draws with luxury gifts from Triumph Sloggi, Sothys, Kavita Thulasidas, Avirate, Soraya Jewellery, and Selyn Handlooms, music for dancing, chocolates on departure and of course an evening which will provide not just entertainment but much food for thought, will ensure that once again the Interbrand, Daily FT, International Women's Day celebration, will be a night to remember!



Gwyneth Paltrow not liable.....

Gwyneth Paltrow is not liable for an accident on a swanky US ski slope, a jury ruled Thursday, as it dismissed a claim from a retired optometrist. Terry Sanderson, 76, had alleged a collision in Utah with the star left him with four broken ribs and lasting psychological damage, injuries his lawyers said were worth \$3.3 million. Paltrow countersued for a symbolic \$1. After an eight-day civil trial, the jury in Park City unanimously found the "Shakespeare in Love" actress did not cause the 2016 crash, a position she had maintained all along. "I felt that acquiescing to a false claim

compromised my integrity," Paltrow, 50, said after the verdict. "I am pleased with the outcome," she added. The live-streamed hearing sparked headlines around the world, and became a hot topic on social media, generating memes and making perhaps-unwitting stars of the lawyers involved. The Oscar-winner was in court every day, listening attentively to evidence, including Sanderson's claims that she had run into him with such force that he went airborne. "I got hit in my back so hard and it was right at my shoulder blades, a serious, serious smack, I've never been hit that hard, and I'm flying," he told

the jury earlier. "Last thing I remember, everything was black." The plaintiff said the crash, which happened at the Tony Deer Valley resort, had left him with permanent brain damage and had altered his personality such that he could no longer enjoy life. "These are golden years," attorney Lawrence Buhler told the jury Thursday before they began their deliberations. "These are the most valuable years when you can enjoy your retirement and actually do things like travel. "Terry doesn't want to be brain injured. He wants to live life to its fullest," Buhler said. "He's got this issue that a big part of him was left up on that... ski run." Buhler asked the jury to award Sanderson \$33 for every waking hour since the incident and continuing until his death, which actuarial tables indicate might come in 10 years. That amounts to "\$3,276,000 for the 17 years that Terry has to deal with this permanent brain injury." Sanderson had originally sued for \$3.1 million, but the suit was later adjusted to a legal minimum of \$300,000. However from the beginning of the proceedings last week, his lawyers had put the figure they were seeking at \$3.3 million.

Defied physics

Paltrow's defense team assembled a bevy of experts who testified that Sanderson's version of the crash defied the laws of physics. They said that evidence showed he had run into the back of her while she was on the slopes with her children, Apple and Moses. Others noted that several of Sanderson's medical complaints - including problems with executive functioning - existed before the crash. **AFP**



COMMUNITY-BASED FENCING PROJECT Helping Mitigate Human-Elephant Conflict

Uga Ulagalla, the pristine 58-acre property nestled in Thirappane, Anuradhapura, renowned for its unspoiled cultural allure, has partnered with the Centre for Conservation and Research (CCR) to launch its first-ever community-based village fencing project in Pittala Konderama and Karambe. The initiative aims to mitigate human-elephant conflicts (HEC) in the area. Commenting on the project Managing Director, Priyanjith Weerasooria said, "We embarked on this project with the objective of providing a safe haven for the village community while also addressing the issue of human-elephant conflicts. Sustainability has always been a key consideration for us at Uga, as we strive to make a positive impact on our nation. By donating a solar-powered fence, we were able to offer a practical solution that benefits both humans and elephants.

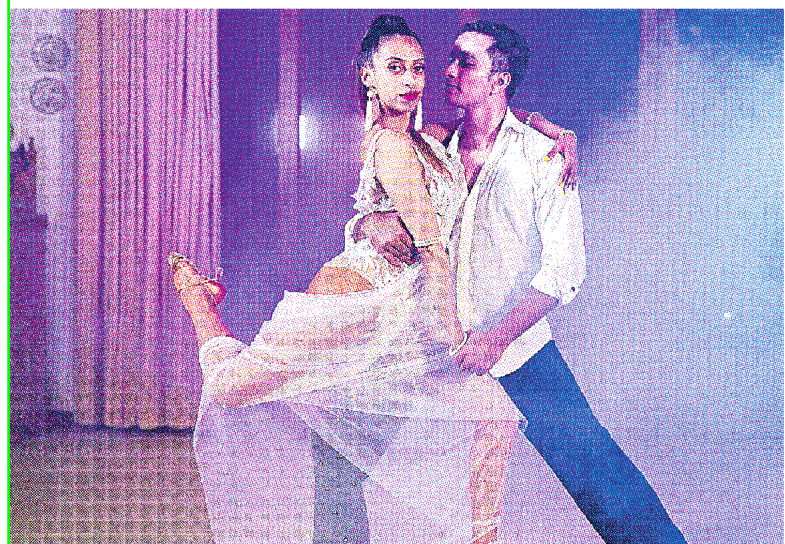
What began as a simple initiative to protect the villages from elephant intrusions has now evolved into a full-fledged programme." In July of last year, the Elephant Research Centre (ERC) was established at Uga Ulagalla, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing fight against the human-elephant conflict (HEC) that has resulted in the loss of both

According to recent statistics, 2022 saw a record number of HEC incidents resulting in 433 elephants and 145 human fatalities across Sri Lanka

human and elephant lives. The ERC owes much of its success to the invaluable contributions of Dr Prithviraj Fernando, a renowned expert in elephant conservation and management and Chairman of the Centre for Conservation and Research Sri Lanka. Dr Fernando's vast expertise has been instrumental in enabling the ERC to gain a deep understanding of the elephants' behavioural patterns in the area. Thanks to the ERC's initiatives, which have been guided by Dr Fernando's insights and led by the head naturalist of Uga Ulagalla Katharina and her team, there have been significant strides in mitigating the human-elephant conflict, bringing much-needed respite to both humans and elephants alike.

The North-Central Province of Sri Lanka is renowned for having the highest concentration of agricultural areas in the country. It is also home to the largest population of elephants that wander outside the boundaries of national parks, leading to a severe human-elephant conflict (HEC). According to recent statistics, 2022 saw a record number of HEC incidents resulting in 433 elephants and 145 human fatalities across Sri Lanka, with the district of Anuradhapura being the most affected. The Wildlife Department revealed that 37 human lives were lost, and at least 90 elephants were killed in Anuradhapura, making it the hardest-hit area in the country.

Despite previous efforts to mitigate human-elephant conflict, the issue has persisted in Sri Lanka. However, this new innovative solution emerged in the form of a community-based village fencing project that enables peaceful coexistence between elephants and villagers.



For inquiries and table plan email anusha@headlinesprsl.com, julianne@srpitt.com

HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

BY TIRANYA RANASINGHE

As the youth of Sri Lanka continues to be a symbolic representation of hope for a better future, Hafsa Muheed transcends beyond the mere label of an advocate. Having ventured into multiple projects and campaigns that have earned the seal of approval by United Nations organisations such as the UNDP and UN Women, it can be confidently said that Hafsa's contributions to integral causes such as the feminist movement and climate action have been beyond exemplary. Hafsa enlightens us on her journey of advocacy in which she delves into the roots of her passion for advocacy and how she has successfully become a representative voice in the community.

Q TELL US A BIT ABOUT WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR GENDER EQUALITY.

When I was schooling, students were asked to take back home the used menstrual pads in our school bags as we had no way of disposal due to waste not being collected. This was not hygienic and did not work in the long run. Few of us organised and spoke to the teachers because the challenge was getting people to talk to us as periods are usually considered a taboo. Then as a member of the debating team, we were researching discriminatory laws and I came across the Muslim Marriage & Divorce Act

(MMDA) of Sri Lanka and realised the violation of rights that was happening to us and that I was unaware of it, which was very despairing. The very fact that Muslim women and girls cannot sign their own marriage certificate and the absence of minimum age of marriage which was legally allowed was appalling. To even sit for the O/L exams we have to sign our own application, yet I live in a country where we legally cannot consent to our own choice in marriage. This led me to spend time become aware of what was happening around me and drew my focus to people who cannot access mainstream support or speak about their issues and I started out as a grassroots volunteer.

The very fact that Muslim women and girls cannot sign their own marriage certificate and the absence of minimum age of marriage which was legally allowed was appalling. To even sit for the O/L exams we have to sign our own application, yet I live in a country where we legally cannot consent to our own choice in marriage

Q YOU WERE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE THINK BEFORE SHARE CAMPAIGN AND YOU WERE RECOGNISED FOR IT BY THE UNDP. WHAT WAS THE CAMPAIGN ABOUT AND WHAT KIND OF AN IMPACT DID IT MAKE?

'Think Before Share' focuses on how disinformation impacts different genders. We spoke to young people from across the country to understand their experiences of disinformation. As a result of this, they shared how important it was to have a space to share their experience and people reached out to us for support for experiences they

encountered which were various forms of online gender-based violence.

Q YOU ARE ALSO THE FOUNDER OF AMPLIFYING IMPACT, A YOUTH-LED FEMINIST ORGANISATION. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES YOU WISH TO ACHIEVE?

Amplifying Impact is an informal youth-led feminist organisation focusing on being inclusive by being accessible. We work at the grassroots with marginalised and vulnerable communities who cannot access mainstream support. The objective is to enable to lead their own development and have spaces where they are able to lead and make decisions about their rights and choices.

Q TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR WORK AT 'SRI LANKA UNITES', A YOUTH MOVEMENT IN SRI LANKA THAT IS FOCUSED ON PEACEBUILDING AND RECONCILIATION.

I am privileged to be working with young people on peacebuilding and reconciliation. Being a part of the Board, we play an oversight role in terms of governance and keeping each other accountable as a team. We look at what development looks like for a grassroots youth movement working across Sri Lanka and how we grow into the nexus of peacebuilding. Initiatives such as SLU Kids, Hate Speech Countering Unit, and the reconciliation centres are led by young people as we work towards positive peace.

Q YOU ARE ALSO A PART OF THE 30 FOR 2030 INITIATIVE CONDUCTED BY UN WOMEN. HOW WILL THIS INITIATIVE HELP COMBAT THE DIRE ISSUE OF GENDER INEQUALITY?

30 for 2030 as a youth leadership network that brings together young decision-makers, eminent civic and business innovators, feminists, entrepreneurs, technology pioneers, educators, activists, artists, journalists, and more. The network acts as an advisory community.

Our first campaign was focused on 16 days of activism, 'Am I A Feminist' focusing on demystifying feminism and understanding the intersection of gender-based violence and how it is linked to other social issues we experience in our day-to-day lives. This allowed us to take the first step in having open conversations with people confused about feminism but open to learning. We also co-created a toolkit which is a Youth Guide to End Online Gender-Based Violence by young people for young people with UN Women APAC.

We have a few more things coming up in 2023!



Q YOU WERE SELECTED AS A YOUTH DELEGATE FOR THE 2020 YOUNGA FORUM. TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE.

I co-lead an amazing team which focused on SDG 3 health and mental well-being thematic area where we conducted global youth consultations on what young people's needs are in terms of their rights, advocacy and accountability. I also contributed as a task member to thematic areas of Peace & Justice and Climate Action & Sustainable Living.

Q WHICH ADVOCACY ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am passionate about cross-sectoral solutions and locally-led development. No social issue is singular in consequence. To retain meaningful progress, when looking at an issue, it is critical to understand the cross-sectional impact. Cross-sectoral solutions are understanding the need for interconnected solutions and different angles when designing policies or programmes.

The other important focus is locally-led development. The challenges faced by different people stem from their lived realities. Respecting that community expertise and enabling them to implement solutions. It is the first step in sustainable solutions that address the complexity of social issues.

Q IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT?

My biggest achievement, I would say, is being a grassroots volunteer and learning how to support hands on. I love being able to work in this space and learn from lived realities, which I would say is quite an achievement.

Q WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

I am looking forward to working as a consultant and looking forward to seeing how best I can support locally-led development!



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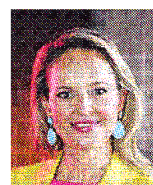
International Women's Day 2023

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr Nathalie de Dieuleveult
Managing Director
B. Braun
Sri Lanka & Maldives

PANELISTS



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



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



Marketing
Mahesha Amarasuriya
Director
Mastercard Sri Lanka



Peace and Women's Rights
Nabeela Iqbal
Founder
Sisterhood Initiative



Technology & Innovation
Urmila Chandrasekaram
Co-founder/COO
Mintpay



Art & Entertainment
Dinara Punchihewa
Actor

Friday 7th April, 7.00pm Cinnamon Grand Ballroom

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

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