

YOUR PAPER TODAY 10 PAGES

Hinam dhammam na seveyya - Pamadena na samvase  
Micchaditthim na seveyya - Na siya lokavaddhano.

Do not follow ignoble ways, do not live in negligence, do not embrace wrong views,  
do not be the one to prolong samsara  
- Dhammapada

## Harsha, Eran, and Kabir praised for their positive approach on IMF

Ministers and MPs had not received pay hikes for the last fifteen years and that they had not purchased new vehicles as due

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA AND YOHAN PERERA

While praising SJB MPs Harsha De Silva, Eran Wickremaratne and Kabir Hashim for positively taking IMF proposals, Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said yesterday some MPs were trying to gain political advantages at the cost of the poor people.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Employee who draws Rs. 200,000 per month now has to pay only Rs. 1,700/- as tax: Bandula

His savings stands at Rs. 5,800 from the current fuel and gas price reduction

BY SANDUN A. JAYASEKERA

The PAYE tax payable by an employee who draws Rs. 200,000 a month is Rs. 7,500. His savings stands at Rs. 5,800 from the current fuel and gas price reduction. As such, he or she has to pay only Rs. 1,700 as payee tax, Cabinet Spokesman and Mass Media Minister Dr Bandula Gunawardana said yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Fuel quota increased from last night

As previously planned, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has ordered and received the required stocks for the increasing fuel requirement for the festival season

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has directed the government to take steps to increase the existing fuel quota from midnight yesterday for the New Year festive season.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Cabinet approves basic salary for LG poll hopefuls

These candidates had been given No Pay Leave as per the provisions of the Establishment Code

BY SANDUN A. JAYASEKERA

The Cabinet that met on Monday has approved paying the basic salary of around 3,000 Public Servants who have submitted nominations for the Local Government Election from the period 09.03.2023 to 25.04.2023, Cabinet Spokesman Dr. Bandula Gunawardana said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

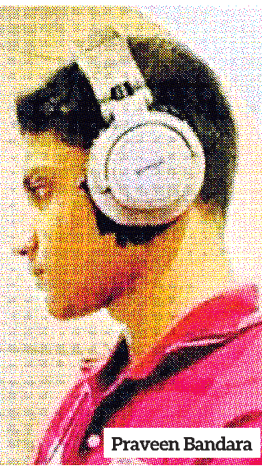
## Organs of another brain dead teen donated to save multiple lives

Organs of a teenage boy who was declared brain dead has been donated with the permission of his family members to save the lives of several patients.

Praveen Bandara, an Advanced Level student of Maliyadeva College Kurunegala, had met with a fatal motor accident while travelling with his mother and siblings. Praveen had been declared brain dead by the doctors upon admission to the intensive care unit, as he had

serious injuries to his head. Praveen's mother had been killed in the accident while his sibling sustained injuries.

The teenager's father had agreed to donate Praveen's heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and corneas to save several other patients. Last week, a team of specialist surgeons performed transplant surgeries, after a brain dead teenager's family donated his organs to save seven other patients.



Praveen Bandara

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ONLY POSSIBLE LATER NEXT YEAR

### FORMER EC CHAIRMAN OPINES Succeeding president has to serve full term

THERE IS ANOTHER ARGUMENT PUT FORWARD BY SOME LEGAL LUMINARIES THAT EVEN THE SUCCEEDING PRESIDENT HAS SUCH AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AFTER FOUR YEARS

BY KELUM BANDARA

Amidst talks about a snap presidential election, former Election Commission's Chairman Mahinda Deshapriya said yesterday that, in his opinion, such an election could be conducted only during the latter part of next year.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Electricity price should be reduced by 30pc: PUCSL Chairman

Compared to the first quarter of the year 2022, the electricity demand has decreased by 18 percent in the first 3 months of this year

It is now clear that the electricity demand estimated by the Ceylon

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

The electricity tariff should be reduced by 30 percent, Public Utilities Commission (PUCSL) Chairman Janaka Rathnayake said yesterday. Addressing a media briefing yesterday, he said considering the reduction in demand for electricity, the depreciation of the US dollar, and the reduction in the cost of fuel and coal, the electricity rates should also decrease accordingly.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Death of Dinesh Schaffter GA's report to be forwarded to panel of medical experts

This order was made after considering a request made by the counsel who watched the interest of the family of Dinesh Schaffter

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Colombo Chief Magistrate's court yesterday ordered the Court Registrar that the Government Analyst's report pertaining to the death of businessman Dinesh Schaffter be forwarded to the panel of medical experts who were appointed to perform a fresh post mortem inquiry into Schaffter's death.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Bill to support LGBT Q plus people presented to Parliament

The intent of the legislature in enactment must be considered as amending the provisions of penal code which makes sexual orientation a punishable offence

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA

A private members Bill to amend the penal code in favour of LGBT Q plus people was presented to Parliament by MP Premanath Dolawatta yesterday. "The Bill seeks to amend the penal code in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and others," MP Dolawatta said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## POLITICAL GOSSIP!

### A state institution steeped in corruption?

There is a state-run undertaking described as a 'Bureau' which deals with all matters relating to the country's natural resources like minerals.

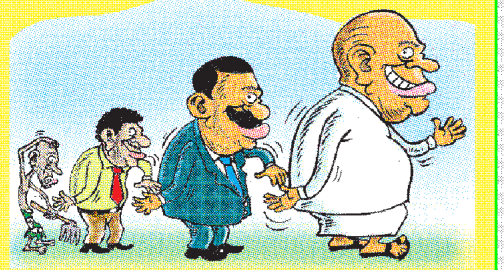
It is this authority that is empowered to issue all permits or licenses to those desirous of exploiting or dealing in any resource that comes under the purview of this bureau.

Since of late, a whisper going around says that none can get anything done at this bureau without oiling somebody's palm and this is a fact known to everyone who have sought some service from this place, they say.

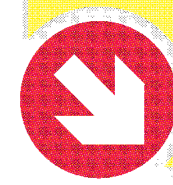
Both the white-collar

high-ups of this office and some political bigwigs connected to it are said to be involved in this corrupt practice, they say.

By the way, the current political authority in charge of this bureau is said to be a former purohita as well as a former chief purohita at the provincial level!



Courtesy: ජේෂ්ව



Read more POLITICAL GOSSIP in the inside news pages

## Court issues enjoining order preventing disciplinary action against Manusha and Harin

This enjoining order will be valid till April 18, 2023

BY YOHAN PERERA

District Court of Nugegoda issued an enjoining order preventing the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Leader Sajith Premadasa, General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara and Chairman Sarath Fonseka from carrying out any disciplinary proceedings against ministers Manusha Nanayakkara and Harin Fernando.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Excuse SLFP CPC TUs who protested: Maithripala appeals to President

BY AJITH SIRIWARDANA AND YOHAN PERERA

Former President Maithripala Sirisena yesterday appealed to President Ranil Wickremesinghe to excuse on humanitarian grounds the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) employees attached to the SLFP trade unions, who were taken to task for participating in recent protests.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

## Counter Terrorism Bill will make citizens slaves: Cardinal

BY YOHAN PERERA

The proposed Counter Terrorism Bill will make citizens of the country slaves as it could be used to harass people. Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith alleged yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

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CONT'D.  
FROM PAGE 1

## Harsha, Eran, and Kabir praised for their positive approach on IMF

● Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella said they would brief the IMF team when they visited Sri Lanka next time about not holding the elections and violation of human rights

He told Parliament that some SJB MPs were trying to disrupt the IMF programme and said Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella said in Parliament that they would brief the IMF team when they visited Sri Lanka next time about not holding the elections and violation of human rights. "If they are not supporting this IMF programme, it can be accepted. But, if they are trying to disrupt this programme and prevent the poor people from getting some relief, it is sad. They are some MPs like Harsha, Eran and Kabir who positively see this and talk about it progressively thinking of the country," he said. The Minister said Ministers and MPs had not received pay hikes for the last fifteen years and that they had not purchased new vehicles as due. He said politicians have also made a huge contribution at this critical juncture but people were not aware of this.

## Fuel quota increased from last night


As previously planned, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has ordered and received the required stocks for the increasing fuel requirement for the festival season, the President's Media Division (PMD) said. Accordingly, the fuel quota for passenger three-wheelers (special) has been increased from 10-15L, three-wheelers (general) from 5-8L, motorcycles from 4L to 7L, buses from 40L to 60L, cars from 20L to 30L, land vehicles from 15L to 25L, lorries from 50L to 75L, quadric cycle from 4L to 6L, special purpose vehicles from 20L to 30L and vans from 20L to 30L.

Fuel quota increased		
Allocation Per week (L)	Present	Proposed
Three Wheeler (Special)	10	15
Three Wheeler (General)	05	08
Motor Bike	04	07
Bus	40	60
Car	20	30
Lorry	50	75
Van	20	30

## Cross over cross talk in Parliament

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA  
MP Mahindananda Aluthgamage, who predicted a mass crossover of SJB MPs to government, threw a challenge at Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella requesting him to resign from his parliamentary seat if the crossover takes place. "Only MPs such as Kiriella and Sajith Premadasa will remain with the SJB as all others will cross over shortly," Aluthgamage said. "No one will cross over from SJB," Kiriella shot back. "Are you prepared to resign from your seat when the crossover takes place," Aluthgamage responded. "Cross over talk is false," Kiriella said.

**JAYASURIYA - DAWN**  
In loving memory of Dawn, beloved wife of late Ranjith on her Third Death Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.  
Your friends and family miss you very much.  
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

**16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR REMEMBRANCE 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
  
**CONRAD ANANDAPPA**  
Deep are the memories,  
Precious they stay,  
No Passing of time  
can take them away.  
Forever loved and missed by your Family

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ONLY POSSIBLE LATER NEXT YEAR FORMER EC CHAIRMAN OPINES

● The current president had been elected by Parliament only to serve the unexpired term of the ongoing presidential term after the resignation of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

According to the Constitution, the President can, at any time after the expiration of four years from the commencement of his first term of office, declare a presidential election to seek a fresh mandate. This has fueled speculation that a presidential election will be conducted later this year after the completion of four years of the current presidential term.

However, Mr. Deshapriya said the current president had been elected by Parliament only to serve the unexpired term of the ongoing presidential term after the resignation of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Making his remarks to Daily Mirror, Mr. Deshapriya said, "After resignation of the elected president, the succeeding president has to serve

the rest of the period. He cannot go for a snap election according to my view. Still, there is another argument put forward by some legal luminaries that even the succeeding president has such authority to declare a presidential election after four years. The Supreme Court has to be moved to get the correct interpretation." the current president had been elected by Parliament only to serve the unexpired term of the ongoing presidential term after the resignation of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

## Electricity price should be reduced by 30pc: PUCSL Chairman

● The benefits of the reduction in the prices of coal, fuel oil, naphtha, and diesel used for electricity generation should be passed on to the consumer immediately

"Compared to the first quarter of the year 2022, the electricity demand has decreased by 18 percent in the first 3 months of this year. Due to the decrease in electricity demand, the cost of electricity generation and supply also decreases. "Therefore, it is now clear that the electricity demand estimated by the Ceylon Electricity Board for this year is not correct," he said. "The estimate made by the PUCSL is correct. Because of such low demand, we have recommended a 35 percent fare hike. But without understanding

this situation, the majority of members of the commission approved the 60 percent tariff increase requested by the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). "Instead of the electricity demand estimated by the CEB, there is a lower demand. Therefore, the cost of electricity supply should come down," Rathnayake said. Janaka Rathnayake pointed out that the benefits of the reduction in the prices of coal, fuel oil, naphtha, and diesel used for electricity generation should be passed on to the consumer immediately.

## GA's report to be forwarded to panel of medical experts

Colombo Additional Magistrate Rajindra Jayasuriya made this order after taking into consideration a request made by the counsel who watched the interest of the family of Dinesh Schaffter. President's Counsel Anuja Premaratne appearing for the aggrieved party highlighted the necessity of forwarding the findings of the Government Analyst for the perusal of forensic and medical experts who are currently performing a fresh post mortem inquiry. On February 27, the Court appointed a five-member-panel of medical experts to perform a fresh

post mortem inquiry into the death of businessman Dinesh Schaffter, in order to ascertain whether the death was a murder or suicide. The five-member-panel comprised Professor Asela Mendis (Chairman) Professor B.C.R. Perera, Professor D.H.S. Fernando and two JMO's Dr. Siva Subramaniam and Dr. B.R. Ruwanpura. They have been tasked with performing a fresh inquiry to decide the actual cause of death for businessman Dinesh Schaffter. The aggrieved party had highlighted several contradictions and inconsistencies in the first postmortem report compiled by the Colombo Judicial Medical Officer.

## COURT ISSUES ENJOINING ORDER PREVENTING DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST MANUSHA AND HARIN

"This enjoining order will be valid till April 18, 2023, Minister Harin Fernando said. "Main points considered by District Judge is the plaintiff and the affidavit filed by Ranjith Madduma Bandara who sought relief in the District Court of Colombo in Case

No.DSP 74/20. The court held that Madduma Bandara's membership of the UNP is still valid. Therefore, the court observed that holding of UNP membership by Madduma Bandara is violative of article 3.3 of the SJB Constitution," the minister added.

## Smart classroom gifted to school by Laugfs

BY K.G. KARUNARATNE  
The newly constructed smart classroom in Irahandaketuwewa Maha Vidyalaya in Diyabeduma in Elahera, complete with all facilities costing more than Rs.2.5 million funded by the Laugfs Company was handed over to the school yesterday. Vice-Chairman of Laugfs Company Thilak De Silva, and Chief Executive of Laugfs Eco Sri Company Saliya Dissanayake were the chief guests of the ceremony. Hinguragoda Zonal Director of Education Yamuna

Geethanjali, Asst Director (Planning) Wickremesinghe Bandara, Divisional Director of Education Sudarshana Bandara, Principal of the school S.M.Ekanayake, Regional Manager of Laugfs Company Sujeewa Lanka Ratnayake were present at the occasion.

## Cabinet approves basic salary for LG poll hopefuls

● Cabinet has also given the green light to provide a fertilizer subsidiary for paddy cultivation of the Yala season of 2023

He told the weekly post-Cabinet news briefing that these candidates had been given No Pay Leave as per the provisions of the Establishment Code. "Due to the postponement of the Local Government Elections, the duration of their No Pay Leave has been extended and as a result, the officials have to face financial difficulties. As such, the Cabinet has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to pay the basic salary of the officials, who have submitted nominations for the Local Government Elections for the period from 09.03.2023 to 25.04.2023. Considering a proposal submitted by Agriculture Minister the Cabinet has also given the green light to provide a fertilizer subsidiary for paddy cultivation of the Yala season of 2023.

## Bill to support LGBT Q plus people presented to Parliament

The intent of the legislature in enactment must be considered as amending the provisions of penal code which makes sexual orientation a punishable offence. Meanwhile, voluntary and carnal intercourse against the order of nature with an animal, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable for a fine.



## Old Nalandians 50-60 group presents gift packs to students

The Old Nalandians 50-60 group travelled over 200 kms from Colombo to make a presentation of gift packages including exercise books, drawing books and other items along with shoes, schoolbags, uniforms etc. to the little students of Wagollakada Jayanthi Vidyalaya in Wagollakada situated in the Anuradhapura District. The tiny tots of this remote village were in all smiles as they receive the package and were served with snacks before the presentation and a nourishing lunch at the close.

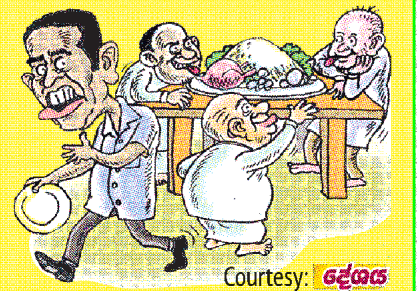
## POLITICAL GOSSIP!

### He is not in the pack jockeying for high office!

When all others are jockeying for a purohita office, a certain former purohita has reportedly informed both the Pohottuwa party and the Number One that he does not want such high office in the government.

However, a story circulating in political circles says that this politico too is among those involved in the tussle for a purohita post! Even the Pohottuwa high-ups are said to be surprised at the attitude of this former purohita who held a key portfolio in the top team of the Gota regime. By the way, his house too had come under an arson attack during the violence that broke out during the Aragalaya days! He is, however, back in active politics nowadays, they say.

The intimates of this Pohottuwa senior, a well-known political figure in Wayamba, had asked him why he declined a Purohita post in the government and he had reportedly replied: "It is a decision I have taken in the interest of my political future!"



## Employee who draws Rs. 200,000 per month now has to pay only Rs. 1,700/- as tax: Bandula

The trade gap of Sri Lanka between 2001 - 2007 stands at US\$ 25.5 billion and the IMF wants to minimize this to a manageable level by 2028 by improving the dollar and rupee account of the Government, he added. The PAYE tax hike of public and private sector employees and divestment of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) are aimed at improving the State revenue to 20% from the current 8% but with economic recovery, the benefit would be passed onto the Public Servants, he added. Addressing the weekly post-Cabinet

news briefing Minister Gunawardana said the Sri Lanka Government had agreed to the IMF to raise the State revenue through tax hikes and divestment of SOEs and therefore the Government is committed to carrying out these reforms to obtain the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of US\$ 2.9 billion. "If Sri Lanka failed to honour the agreement, we will not get the second tranche of the EFF. However, the Government expects to lower the current tax ratio at the first instance of the economic recovery.

## Law College Principal defying Parliament decision - MPs

BY YOHAN PERERA AND AJITH SIRIWARDANA  
Action should be taken against the Principal of the Law College as he has defied the decision made by Parliament with regard to allowing students to sit for the exams in their respective mother tongues, several MPs alleged yesterday. MP Dayasiri Jayasekera requested Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene to take action against the principal as he had defied the decision made by Parliament. "The gazette notification under which a regulation was imposed to conduct law examinations in English was defeated in Parliament on March 21,

2023. Therefore exams at Law College cannot be conducted in English. The next examination is due on April 24. Also the Law College Principal is conducting a campaign against conducting law exams in Sinhala and Tamil. How can he do this," the MP questioned. Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa said the Law College Principal has defied Parliament decision despite the notification that has been made. MP Vasudeva Nanayakkara proposed that the Principal of the Law College should be summoned before the committee on privileges and ethics.

## Counter Terrorism Bill will make citizens slaves: Cardinal

"This new legislation is more draconian than the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) which was enacted in 1879. A person could be held only for three months under the old legislation while a person could be held for a long period under the new proposed law," Cardinal Ranjith told a media briefing. "Any MP who votes for this Bill will be known as one who does not love his nation and her people,"

he added. "There is an internationally accepted definition of terrorism when it comes to legislation such as this. However, the definition of terrorism in this particular Bill is wide, and some harmless acts have been defined as terror acts in this Bill. It provides provisions for the government to control protests through drastic measures" he also said.

## Excuse SLFP CPC TUs who protested: Maithripala appeals to President

He told Parliament that the majority of employees who had been subject to disciplinary action were attached to the SLFP TUs and said he as the SLFP would take the responsibility. He requested the President to permit the SLFP TUs to report for duty after summoning them for a discussion or reprimanding them.

"They are ready for that. Their families are in a huge crisis now. These employees have not been interdicted or issued any charge sheet against them. They are not permitted to enter the CPC premises," he said. Mr. Sirisena said some Trade Union leaders who gave leadership to the protests had got their names removed from the list.





# CONTENTMENT IS THE GREATEST WEALTH

By **Dr. Justice Chandradasa Nanayakkara**

**L**ord Buddha emphasised the importance of contentment when he said "Santhushti Paramam Dhanam" which means contentment is the greatest wealth. Contentment and the pursuit of contentment is central to Buddhism and it runs through the teachings of the Buddha. It is an important virtue that has been mentioned in many Buddhist scriptures like Mangala Sutta and Metta Sutta which briefly state it is a quality to be cultivated for one's happiness and wellbeing. Contentment is simply a state of mind or an attitude.

We live in a consumer driven society, in which person's wellbeing and happiness depend fundamentally on obtaining consumer goods and material possessions. Therefore, in an age of unparalleled consumerism and materialism contentment seems to evade many people. They feel profoundly inadequate and envious at being unable to keep up with the Joneses.

Buddha's teaching that the greatest wealth is contentment hold a timeless truth that rings true even today more than ever, particularly in times of scarcity. **Buddha** draws attention to the fact that single-minded pursuit of material wealth cannot make human beings happy. According to the second of the four Noble Truths, the cause of dukkha is tanha which is craving. When a person gets an acquisitive yearning for some object, that object becomes a cause of suffering. Proliferation of unnecessary wants is the basic cause of suffering.

As Gandhi put it, the earth has enough for everyone's needs, but not for anyone's greed. Socrates expressing similar sentiments described contentment as "He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have."

**Verse 204 of Dhammapada** states "Arogya Parama labha Santutthiparam dhanam vissasa parama nati Nibbana paramam sukham" health is foremost possession, Contentment is the foremost wealth, Trust, the foremost kinship, and Nirvana, the foremost happiness. Contentment could be described simply as the absence of discontent, a concept easy to understand but hard to accomplish.

Our desires are insatiable, they never abate, but when we have a lot of expectations some of them are certain to be disappointed. People live under the delusion that our happiness is proportional to the quantity and monetary value of our possessions. There is a pervasive illusion that augmenting our financial assets, and acquisition of more and more materialistic wealth make persons happier more contented more deeply fulfilled human beings. This acquisitive nature of mankind can be likened to an attempt to quench thirst by drinking salt water, as salt water far from eliminating thirst will only increase it.

Our society demands that we should yearn more and more than we have at the moment and as a result many people feel that they have not reached the finishing line. Many people are under the impression that having lots of money and material things would solve their problems. People still assume that wealth and money bring lasting happiness. The key to happiness is not the amount of money in our bank accounts but the ability to feel contented wherever we are in life. It must be remembered, that even people blessed with wealth and other great luxuries can find themselves unhappy with their lives. Even billionaires that can buy anything in the world feel insecure and unhappy. There are instances of many celebrities who had access to all of comforts and luxuries disappointed with their lives committed suicide or turned to drugs and alcoholism. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there are people who have accumulated little wealth comparatively happy. Therefore, greatest wealth that we can possess is contentment not money and other mundane things. Even if one is in material terms is the poorest in the world he or she can be rich if contented.

When we compare our sorrows with that of others our sorrows are insignificant. Clear understanding of this make us happy in whatever situation we are in at the present moment. **Frugal and minimalistic lifestyle** focusing on what really matters and necessary for our day to day living and also reassessing our priorities will enable us to lead a contented life. Throughout history people have displayed their acquisitive innate greed by exploiting each other and amassing wealth and they have never been good at cultivating the virtue of contentment. Human beings do not have a natural instinct for being happy with what they have. Although we might have a comfortable life and our basic needs are being met we still feel that we fall short of the **social bench mark of success**.

As human beings we all have a hierarchy of needs, but once a reasonable standard of living is achieved, we should eschew further material acquisitions. Once our modest needs are met any additional gain in our income and possessions will not really increase our level of happiness. Happiness obtained by a person who is contented who seeks joy within himself is many times more than the happiness of that person who act under the influence of desires and greed. A person who really practices contentment and self-control in life will soon realize that discontent is the

cause of unhappiness. **Contentment** does not mean that we should not be ambitious and should not work hard to earn money or that we should not be gainfully employed.

Any capable person should not waste his skills but instead he should use them for the benefit of himself as well as others. Our aim for **excellence** should not be guided by greed or selfishness. Instead we should use our success to do good to others.

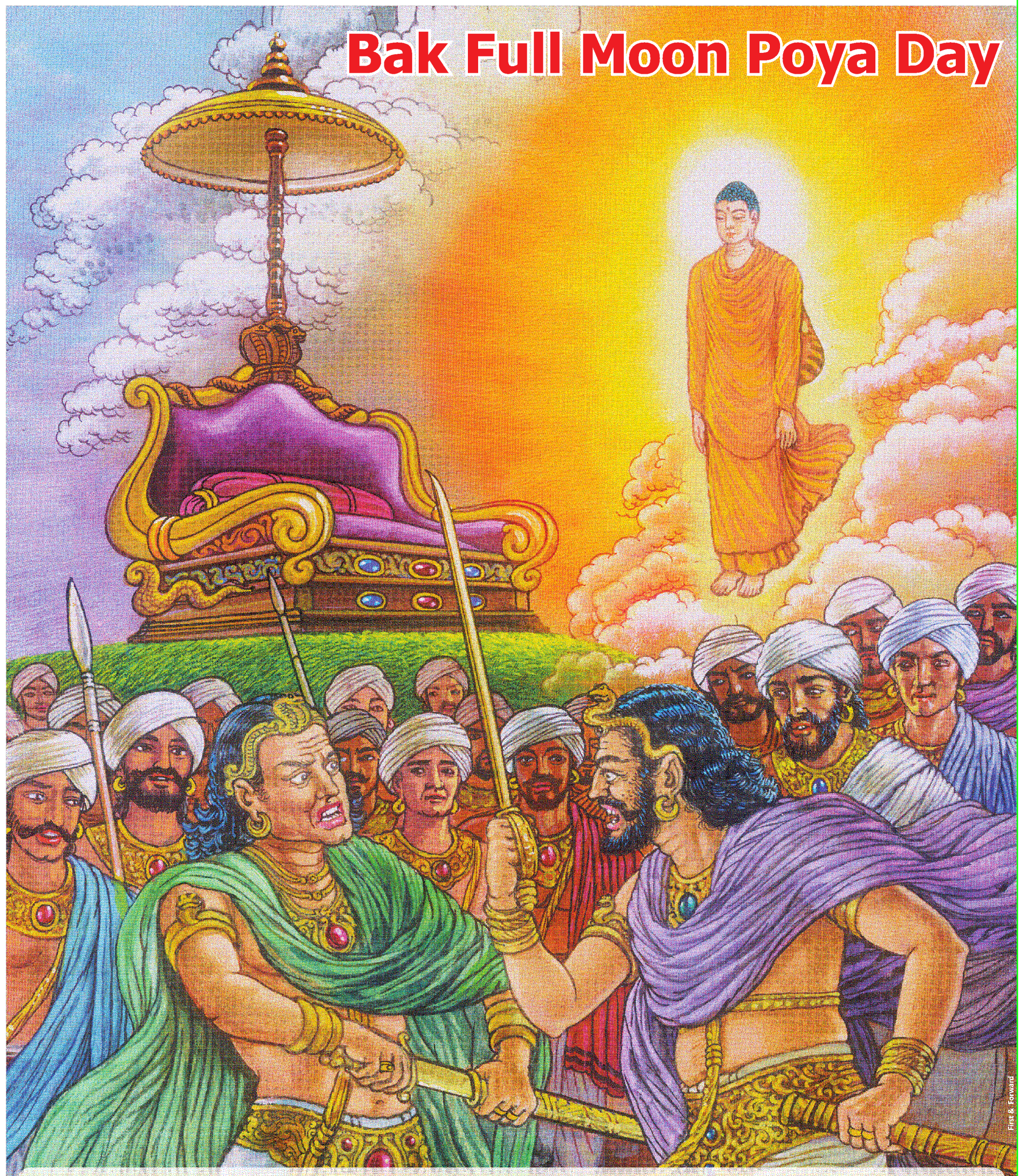
Lord Buddha does not decry the accumulation of wealth or extol poverty as a preferred alternative. He only recommends

that wealth be acquired by right livelihood and be utilized in meaningful ways to promote happiness of oneself and others. Therefore, as Buddhists we need to be on guard against the **temptations** of material wealth, and wealth should not be idolized and should not be a stumbling block for spiritual advancement. With the growth of **consumerism** people have become obsessively interested in all sorts of mundane things that lead them on and on in a fruitless search for contentment in life. They end up with more discontent more suffering because they grasp at things

that have no real substance. Yet, they keep on grasping hoping to find contentment inevitably experiencing the opposite

We must maintain an attitude of contentment in our life no matter what our circumstances are. It is natural for us to feel **unhappy** and despondent, when we run short of some material things in our lives or when things are not going our way. But it must be remembered, pleasure derived from enjoyment of all luxurious things is short lived and superficial. Only acceptance of the situation can you give you contentment.

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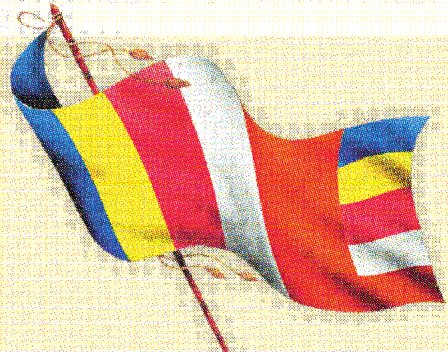
## Bak Full Moon Poya Day

It was on the Bak Full Moon Day in the fifth year of his Enlightenment that the Buddha arrived in Nāgadipa (his second visit to Sri Lanka) in order to settle a dispute that could have led to war between the two Nāga Kings Culodara and Mahodara over the ownership of a gem-studded throne, appeared before the two factions of Nāgas who had got ready for battle and on having preached Dhamma giving reference to Jataka stories (Kāka Uluka, Phandana, Vaṭṭaka and Latukika Jātakas) explaining the disadvantages of dissension, restored harmony amongst them and at last, when Maniakkhika the Nāga King of Kelaniya begged for an object for worship, gave them the gem-studded throne - which already had been offered to the Buddha by the pleased Nāgas - together with the Kiripalu tree that Samiddhi Sumana, the deity had been holding like a parasol giving him shelter on that occasion.

“ පරේ ව න විජානන්ති - මගමෙත්ථ යමාමසේ  
යේ ව තත්ථා විජානන්ති - තතෝ සමමන්ති මේධනා ”

The others (quarrelsome persons) know not that in this quarrel we perish. Those of them who realize it, have their quarrels calmed thereby.

- Dhammapada : 06



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# EDITORIAL

*"Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes."*  
- PETER DRUCKER

## OUR THOUGHT

### A NEED FOR NON ALIGNED POLICIES

Since his assumption to the office of president, Ranil Wickremesinghe has on numerous occasions referred to Lanka's strategic location on important trade routes in the Indian Ocean. He has emphasised the need to make maximum use of this position.

He also warned tensions could break into conflict and spill into the Indian Ocean region. In this situation he emphasised the need to steer a balanced course between conflicting parties without endangering Sri Lanka's relations with either of the antagonists.

In our more recent history, we have been accused of leaning toward one side or the other.

The art of steering a non-aligned course seems to have eluded us Lankans, since the fall of the Soviet Union of old and the breakup of the Non Aligned bloc. Our neighbour India, because of its size, giant market and well defined foreign policy was able to steer a course between the conflicting powers.

Our country lacking in a coherent foreign policy and buffeted by winds of local armed conflicts was not able to steer an independent path.

We soon fell out with the West.

Quite different to the times when this country was led by the world's first woman prime minister -Sirimavo Bandaranaike- in 1960.

Though she was accused of being anti minority community, during her tenure in the field of Foreign Affairs she was nonpareil. Before taking office, Mrs Bandaranaike had opportunities to interact with several world leaders while accompanying her husband to the UN, neighbouring countries and when world leaders arrived in then Ceylon.

In October 1964, she took up settling the issue concerning the citizenship status of almost a million persons of Indian origin -the upcountry Tamils/estate workers- via the Sirima/Shastri Pact which she signed with Indian premier Lal Bahadur Shastri. Under the pact, 525,000 persons of Indian origin would be repatriated to India while 300,000 would be granted Sri Lankan citizenship.

In October 1963, with the aim of strengthening relations with Moscow, Mrs Bandaranaike undertook a state visit to Moscow. The discussions led to successfully negotiating the purchase of oil at a cheaper price. In April 1973 together with Mrs. Indira Gandhi she was able to settle the status of citizenship of the remaining 150,000 people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka as well as the demarcation of the maritime boundary between the two countries.

In January 1964 premier Bandaranaike extended support to Nelson Mandela in the struggle to free South Africa from apartheid. She backed the imposition of economic sanctions against the apartheid regime and called on all countries to back the sanctions as otherwise the sanctions would be futile.

Despite her close ties with India, Mrs Bandaranaike was able to nurture close ties with Pakistan during her tenures. Pakistan President Muhammad Ayub Khan visited Lanka in December 1963.

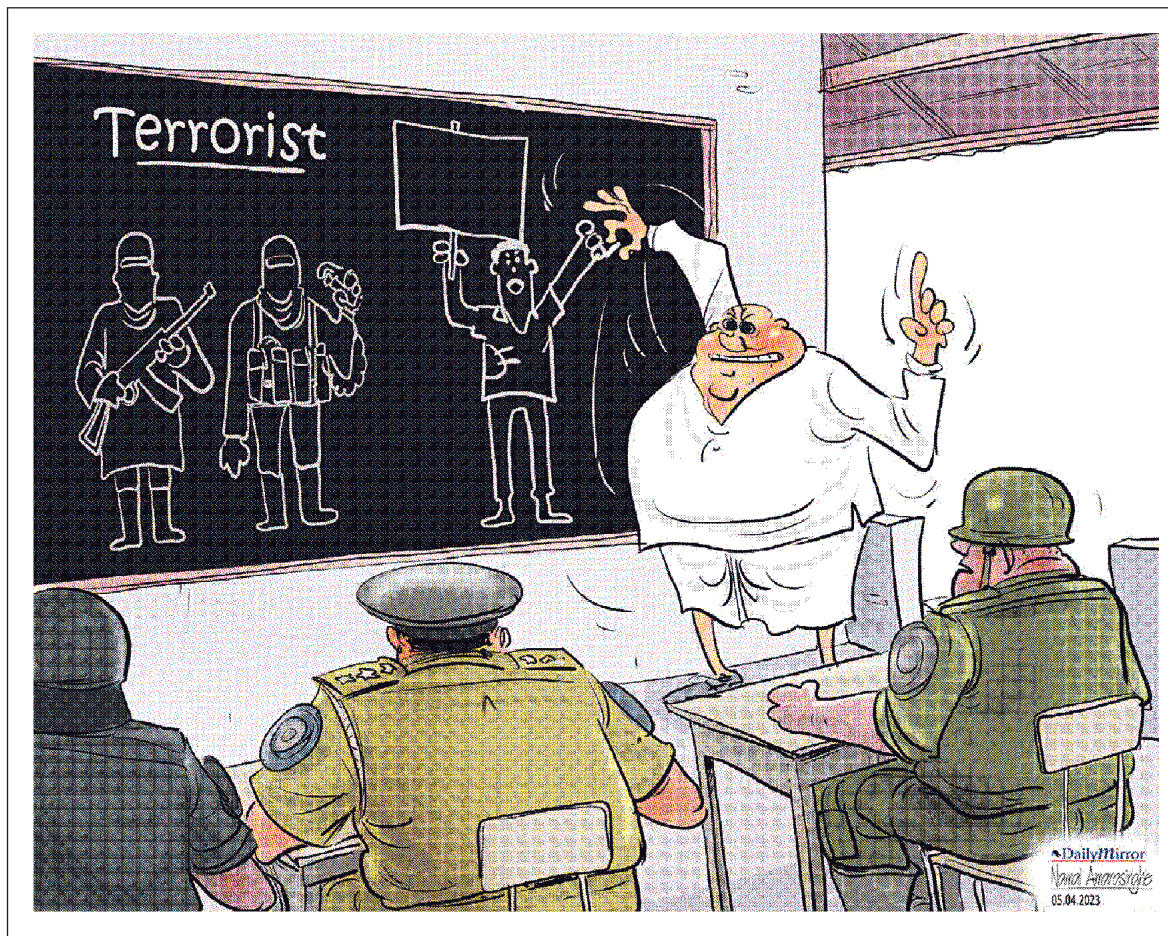
In December 1975 in light of the support Sri Lanka extended to Pakistan -permitting the refueling of civilian aircraft flying between East and West Pakistan- during the Bangladesh freedom struggle, Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto visited Sri Lanka.

Relations with China reached an all-time high during Mrs Bandaranaike's administrations. In June 1972, Mrs Bandaranaike undertook a State Visit to China, during which she met with Chinese leader Mao Tse tung, Premier Chou En-lai and senior leaders of the country. In wide ranging discussions with the Chinese leadership Mrs Bandaranaike stressed the proposal for declaring the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace, a move that was widely supported by China.

In April 1975, at a time the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were sharply increasing oil prices. Ms. Bandaranaike visited Iraq. During discussions, Mrs Bandaranaike was able to explain the difficulties developing countries faced. As a result, Iraq agreed to supply Lanka with 250,000 tonnes of oil on a four year deferred payment scheme at a very low rate of interest.

The foreign policies under Mrs Bandaranaike cut across political ideologies, and enhanced the prospects of this country.

It is a pity we seem to have lost these policies somewhere during our not so distant history.



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

## FINDING PEACEFUL, EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE WAY OUT OF ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

**By Prof. Siri Hettige**  
Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo



I wish to begin this article with a very broad assertion, namely, Sri Lanka's present economic crisis is the result of a series of deliberate and short-sighted policy measures taken by post-liberalization regimes since 1977. These policy measures led to not only structural changes in the economy but also far reaching changes in many other sectors such as education, health, transport and social welfare. As regards the economic changes, the trends have been quite clear. To understand this, one only has to follow the changes in the macroeconomic indicators over the last four decades.

If we first look at the structural changes brought about by liberalization policies, it was quite clear that the service sector expanded rapidly, often at the expense of industrial and agricultural sectors leading to a widening trade gap as imports of industrial and even agricultural commodities increased steadily, far exceeding the value of exports. But, instead of addressing the emergent structural distortions of the economy, successive governments promoted export of labour and tourism as a way of earning foreign income to pay for rapidly increasing industrial and other goods imported to the country.

Increasing availability of foreign exchange from worker remittances and tourism not only helped bridge the otherwise widening trade gap but also pay for all sorts of consumer goods demanded by the increasingly affluent sections of the population. The expansion of this class was facilitated by low tax regimes maintained by successive governments. Increasing disposable income of a sizable segment of the population also increased the demand for private services in health, transport and education and this led to the opening up of these sectors for private investment resulting in the proliferation of private health care providers, international schools in and around Colombo and importation of hundreds of thousands of private vehicles.

The above developments contributed to unprecedented inequalities in the areas of health, education and passenger transport, all of which hitherto remained mostly publicly provided services. Inequality became clearly evident in all these sectors but post-liberalization regimes failed to do anything significant to contain increasingly visible inequalities not only in household income but also the widening gap between urban and rural/estate sectors.

The failure of the post-1977 regimes to contain growing income inequality by implementing a progressive taxation policy led to decreasing state revenue, making it impossible to allocate adequate resources to publicly provided health, education and transport services. Poor quality of these services in turn created highly unequal life chances for lower income groups in society.

**Increasing availability of foreign exchange from worker remittances and tourism not only helped bridge the otherwise widening trade gap but also pay for all sorts of consumer goods demanded by the increasingly affluent sections of the population.**

For instance, poor educational facilities in rural and estate areas forced parents to pay for private tuition that emerged as a thriving business in all parts of the country. Poorly funded and crowded public transport services forced even many low-income people to buy transport equipment like imported motor cycles and three-wheelers to have more convenient modes of local transport, not to mention hundreds of thousands of all sorts of cars imported for the use of higher income groups. The same sort of development was also evident in the health sector when private provision of health care became an integral part of the health sector in Sri Lanka.

Increasing cost of living as a consequence of the above developments encouraged more and more people including young men and women to migrate overseas for extended periods of employment and this helped many families to earn supplementary incomes not only to cover their day-to-day consumption but also to save money for children's education, buy land, build houses, etc. But such economic gains came with considerable social costs such as the neglect of small children, break up of families and even the spread of alcohol abuse by men. Yet, increasing remittances soon became the biggest single foreign exchange earner for the country, often over US\$7 billion per year. On the other hand, increasing outflow of labour from rural and estate areas for overseas employment led to increasing costs of agricultural labour making small scale agriculture unviable, often resulting in the abandonment of many small parcels of agricultural land by farmers resulting in a decline in agriculture production and related livelihoods.

Despite social costs of labour migration, increasing worker remittances became a blessing in disguise for successive governments. In fact, populist governments began to label migrant workers as "Rata Viruwo" (Overseas heroes), following the equally adulatory term "Rana Viruwo" used for security service personnel fighting in the war in the north and east of the country. Availability of foreign currency earned by migrant workers enabled the governments and private companies to pay for all sorts of imports demanded by consumers, in particular those who purchased all kinds of motor cars and electrical appliances.

In spite of largely consumption driven

economic growth, state revenue continued to remain low as a proportion of the GDP. In fact, state revenue declined from about 20% of GDP in the mid 1970's to about 8% to 10% of GDP in recent years. Implications of this became so obvious when university academics asked the government to allocate 6% of the GDP for education alone. While this was obviously an impossible proposition, public investment in education had declined to about 1.5% of the GDP. In fact, this was a small fraction of what many countries, even in the Asian region invested in public education in recent decades.

The result of a very low level of public investment in education has had serious consequences for the education sector. Well to do families began to move their children from government schools to international schools that proliferated in urban areas alongside well-equipped private schools. Poorer families had no choice but rely on poorly endowed schools for their children's education. In short, providing equal opportunities to all children and youth became an impossibility within a highly unequal education system. The situation in the health and transport sectors has not been any better than in education.

As it is evident from what is outlined above, the economic and social conditions that emerged following the implementation of neoliberal policies over the last several decades have not been equitable, just or sustainable. In fact, the conditions became worse over the last two decades when the populist regimes that came to power did not seem to care about the emerging vulnerabilities of the Sri Lankan economy due to its serious structural distortions and weaknesses. Moreover, when the public funds raised through commercial borrowings were diverted into infrastructure projects that often did not have any prospect of generating an economic return, public debts became a very serious issue that needed urgent attention. Yet, what followed was even worse when authorities began to rely on commercial borrowings to raise public funds to support government expenditure and this eventually led to high inflation imposing a heavy burden on lower income groups in the country.

The developments outlined above eventually prepared the ground for the unprecedented economic crisis when the foreign debts accumulated over several decades could no longer be serviced, resulting in the declaration of bankruptcy in early 2022.

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that the path to the present economic crisis was laid by shortsighted policies adopted by successive governments with callous disregard for the serious adverse effects of such policies on a large majority of people. But, what is equally important to note is that there are no political leaders and others to take responsibility for the obvious policy failures.

On the other hand, the country cannot move forward, beyond the present crisis, unless a genuine national effort is made to not only agree on what went wrong but also come up with an alternative policy framework to guide desirable policy shifts and necessary institutional reforms at all levels.

## 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?

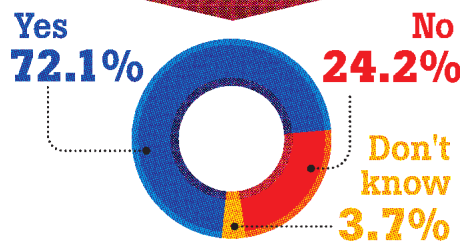
- Yes
- No
- They have a right to protest
- They are crippling the economy further



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](http://www.DailyMirror.lk)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Promises vanished in thin air

Press conferences have become the bane of Sri Lanka's politics. Politicians, trade unionists and religious leaders being the latest addition, resort to press conferences to convey their views on matters related to their profession.

Anyway, we are in this quagmire today because our politicians have failed to make good their promises. Let us now examine a few promises made recently.

First being that, we will bring down the inflation to the lowest in the world. Our experience is that the price of kilo of rice which was 25 cents in 1960 is Rs.180 - 200 today, recording a 72000% rise and bread which was sold at 25 cents in 1960 now 170 - 200. The next prediction being "that the rupee will appreciate to Rs.185 to 200 per US\$. There too our experience is the Rupee that was Rs.4.75 against US\$ in 1960, is now trading at Rs.300 upwards, recording a depreciation of about 4800% and above. The rupee gradually depreciated from 4.75 per US\$ in 1960 to 5.96 in 1970 and Rs. 18 in 1980 and Rs.40.24 in 1990 and Rs.80.06 in the year 2000 and ended at Rs.185 in 2020. Given the past experience, it is wishful thinking to expect the rupee to appreciate to Rs.185/200 per US\$ ignoring the impact on our trade balance increasing imports and hampering exports.

A G WEERASINGHE

### LEADERLESS POLICE DEPT.

It is a pity that a well established and a respected Police Department, is now like a headless chicken waiting to be rescued by autocratic minded Politicians with no proper plans or vision.

The training systems have never been improved but lowered. Unlike the Armed forces whose standards have tremendously improved with better facilities and less hours of work, whilst most cops are always on call and work over 24 hours with no over time or compensation, receiving step motherly treatment from the governments in power. Who is responsible for the lowering of standards "NOW"? But the IGP and the senior officers at the helm. It was for many years the practice that the DIG administration succeeds the IGP and the best is positioned in this post but not the corrupt or the one with the best political influence!

### Instead of the Public Service Commission now we have Political stooges chairing the important post of Chairman and directors of the National Police Commission

Instead of the Public Service Commission now we have Political stooges chairing the important post of Chairman and directors of the National Police Commission, who is allegedly supposed to ensure discipline and disputes, or to ensure incorrect decisions made, pertaining to the good management and impartiality in the department.

We only hope the present Minister will take appropriate steps to rectify these with the end result of ensuring a better, and contended, Police Department, by engaging several retired honorable officers who will ensure proper guidance better advice to the Minister.

NIHAL DE ALWIS

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Editorial: Tel: 011 2 436 998, 011 2 479 479 (ext.327,356), Fax: 011 2 304 545  
Advertising - 2479597 / 2479519  
Head of Circulation - (Dir.) 0112 479 672, 077 3 219 775  
Subscription Manager-(Dir.) 2 479 626, 2 479 628, 077 3 502 183  
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# Indoor Air Pollution THE INVISIBLE KILLER IN YOUR HOME

**Taking a look at the not so talked about issue - indoor air pollution at your home; Experts say household air pollution was responsible for 3.2 million deaths in 2020, including over 237,000 deaths of children, under the age of 5**

By **Chrishalle Augustin**

Sustaining the cleanliness of the external environment is something we are all concerned about, as it contributes to the prevention of air pollution. Yet, maintaining the purity of the air in the internal or indoor environment is as important, although very little attention is often given to it.

Indoor air pollution includes dust, dirt, or gases in the air inside buildings which could be at home, work, or school.

The combined effects of ambient air pollution and household air pollution are associated with 6.7 million premature deaths annually. The poor indoor air quality has resulted in lung diseases like asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and lung cancer. It has also been linked to increased risk of heart disease, strokes and gut diseases.

In order to make the public and the policymakers aware of this globally growing issue, the Ceylon College of Physicians (CCP) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists held a discussion recently highlighting the magnitude of Indoor Air Pollution (IAP).

“Household air pollution was responsible for 3.2 million deaths in 2020, including over 237,000 deaths of children under the age of 5,” stated Dr Neranjan Dissanayake, Consultant Pulmonologist about the hidden epidemic of indoor air pollution.

Around 2.4 billion people worldwide (around a third of the global population) cook, using open fires or inefficient stoves fuelled by kerosene, biomass (wood, animal dung and crop waste) and coal, which generates harmful household air pollution.

“As firewood is the principal type of cooking fuel in 78.3% of the households in Sri Lanka, the effects of IAP are found here too, mainly because the chemical composition of wood smoke consists of poisonous gases such as Carbon Monoxide (CO),” he said.

“As the CO and PM2.5 (Particulate Matter) concentrations were significantly higher in households using biomass for cooking, the risk of infection-induced asthma among children is also higher,” he noted.

It is also observed that compared to males, females are more vulnerable to bad respiratory health mostly due to cooking fuel.

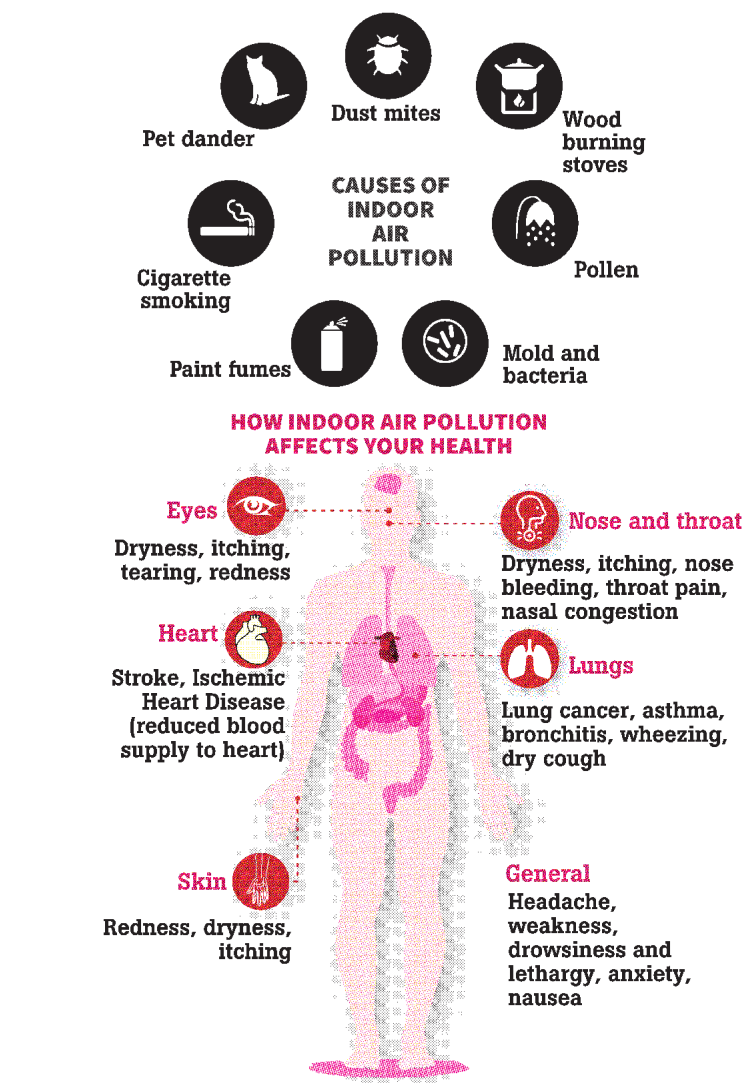
He also mentioned that the Particulate Matter has the tendency to cause low birth rates which could affect the future generation. As Particulate Matter can change the genetic material for life, the fetus could get affected causing permanent damage to the epigenetic areas.



SLRCS hosts a Knowledge and Experience Sharing Field Visit for the Agriculture Students of University of Peradeniya (UoP) in response to the Ground Water Recharging for Disaster Preparedness Project.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), Sri Lanka's largest humanitarian organisation, hosted a two-day residential programme for undergraduates from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya in Galgamuwa.

The residential workshop was a knowledge and experience-



“Wheezing, exacerbation of asthma, COPD, low birth weight, lung cancer, respiratory infections are some of the health effects caused by certain pollutants such as particulate matter (Small particles <10PM and particularly <2.5PM aerodynamic diameter), Carbon Monoxide Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, Nitrogen Dioxide, and Sulphur Dioxide,” he said.

“In order to lessen the effects or control IAP, using clean cooking substances with proper methods, avoiding a constant/regular usage of mosquito coils and incense sticks and Benzoin Resin (Samburani) are a few solutions.

“Wearing an N95 face mask in school or workplace is also considered helpful as it would filter the air.”

**It is not just about smoke and smoking**

Dr Heshani De Silva, Senior Registrar in Respiratory Medicine highlighted the cases of non-smokers involved in paddy cultivation and coconut shell painting, who were exposed to conditions like progressive shortness of breath, Dyspnea due to inhaling dust and other particles in the field.

Dyspnea is the medical term for shortness of breath. People who experience dyspnea feel short of breath. It can range from mild to severe. If this

condition is chronic and persistent, it may seriously limit activity and reduce the quality of life. Dyspnea can be a result of lung, heart, vascular, neuromuscular and metabolic disease.

There were other Dyspnea cases reported due to exposure in poultry farm environments and passive smoking.

Dr Leanne Griffin, Consultant Respiratory Physician from Wales, UK discussed and presented an overview of exposure related lung diseases while Dr W. N. S. Kularatne, Consultant Chest Physician, held a discussion on a case study of Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis, which is an overlooked cause of Dyspnea.

Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis is an immune system disorder in which one's lungs become inflamed as an allergic reaction to inhaled microorganisms, plant and animal proteins or chemicals.

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis is caused when you breathe in a specific substance (allergen) that triggers an allergic reaction in your body. These allergens are often naturally occurring—such as bird feathers or droppings, household mould and animal dander.

However, this is a rare reaction to an allergen that can be present at home, work or outdoors.

sharing field visit organised as part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Empress Shoken Fund-funded Ground Water Recharging for Disaster Preparedness Project, which is being executed by the Kurunegala Branch of SLRCS.

The programme commenced at the SLRCS Kurunegala Branch's training hall with an introduction to the organisation, Climate Change

Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and the Ground Water Recharging for Disaster Preparedness Project.

In the initial discussion, the students were separated into three groups: agriculture engineering, soil and agriculture, and social science aspects.

The students were instructed to gather information and uncover results with a preference for their chosen groups, and to submit their findings at the end of the residential workshop.

# MCB Teams make history for Sri Lanka at Vis East Moot in Hong Kong

The Moot Court Bench (MCB) started in 2020 with the aim of institutionalizing the training process for teams representing Sri Lankan Universities at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition, both in Vienna and Hong Kong.

Since then, the MCB has expanded into an organization dedicated to developing legal advocacy skills among the law students of Sri Lanka through programmes catering specifically to the fields of Arbitration, Mediation, and Trade Law.

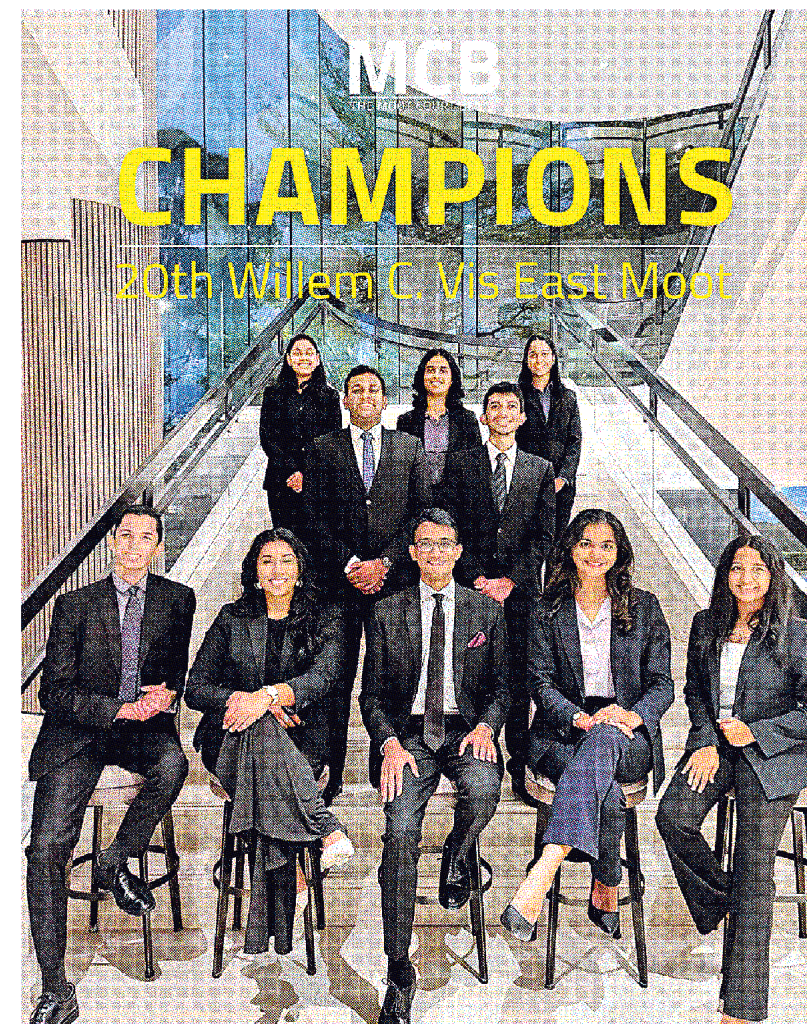
In addition to coaching students for International Moot Competitions, in the recent past, the MCB has further expanded to offering its programmes to international students, and MCB personnel have now spread far and wide to coach international teams for the Vis Moots.

This year, the MCB Teams representing the Royal Institute of Colombo and Sri Lanka Law College, consisting of Treshan Fernando, Abinsha Rajaratnam, Janithri Panditharatne, Naika Gooneratne, Lalinka De Silva, Anish De Silva, Nimanga Senanayake, and Lasith Hewasiliyange participated at the 20th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Hong Kong, under the guidance of the MCB Coaching Team comprising of Harish Balakrishnan, Iranthi Walgama, Dilsarah Derrick, Namali Ratnayake, and Gaya Kulatunga.

The teams were afforded the opportunity to take part in many Pre-Moots and the Vis East Moot through the aid of the Commercial Law Development Programme (CLDP) of the US Department of Commerce which sponsored the team.

The two teams were selected to represent Sri Lanka after taking part in the MCB International Commercial Arbitration Programme, a three-month summer course from June to September 2022 on International Commercial Arbitration and the International Sale of Goods, with students from 10 universities across the nation taking part.

The programme concluded with the National Selection Rounds, where the top contenders from each university competed to secure a spot as one of the teams representing Sri Lanka in the 20th Vis East Moot. Over the course of 6 months, the teams spent long nights drafting memoranda, faced multiple practice rounds with international teams, and participated in various Pre-Moots



while doing their daily research and undergoing training under the guidance of the MCB coaches. After a period of strenuous training, while juggling multiple personal commitments, the teams were finally ready to compete against over 100 teams from across the globe at the Vis East Competition in Hong Kong.

Following the intense competition and back-to-back rounds over the course of seven days, the MCB Team representing the Royal Institute of Colombo made history, emerging **Champions** at the 20th Vis East Moot, becoming the first-ever Sri Lankan team to have achieved this feat!

The MCB Team representing Sri Lanka Law College made it to the round of the **Top 32**, an honour bestowed upon only to a few out of the 111 competing teams and rewarded based on their exemplary scores. This was also followed by Anish and Nimanga both securing Honourable Mention Awards for the Best Oralist.

This success has shown the global arbitration community how well Sri

Lankan talent can thrive with the right preparation and dedication. This accomplishment was built on the foundation of properly institutionalized training, and as the MCB's core objective is to provide such guidance to many generations of students for years to come, this accomplishment will undoubtedly be replicated in the future.

The MCB opens its International Commercial Arbitration Programme in June 2023, and is open to both amateurs who are looking for somewhere to begin, and those who are experienced and hope to sharpen their skills as well! If Arbitration is not your cup of tea, the MCB also offers programmes in International Mediation and International Trade Law which act as stepping stones for Sri Lankan law students to take part in the ICC Paris Mediation Competition and the John H Jackson Trade Law Moot respectively.

**More about the MCB on LinkedIn, Instagram, and their website www.**



## 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.

#### 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 Inquiries.

#### 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: 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 email [legal@slmc.gov.lk](mailto: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

# OVER 30 INSTANCES OF CORRUPTION IN THE LAST DECADE - SPORTS MINISTER'S PANEL TO INVESTIGATE FSL SAYS

**BY SUSIL PREMALAL**

The five-member panel, headed by High Court Judge Justice Kusala Sarojini Weerawardena had found that out of the grants received for football development, only two percent have been spent on the sport and players.

Significantly a sum of Rs 100 million has been splashed on a tour of Malaysia alone, the report has revealed.

The Minister said he will not hesitate in taking action against Football Sri Lanka administrators found guilty of corruption.

"Those found guilty of malpractices and mentioned in the report will definitely be punished and they will not be allowed to hold positions in football administration in future," the Minister Ranasinghe said at a press conference held at the Sports Ministry auditorium yesterday.

The 249-page summary of the inquiry which was completed within a month, was handed over to the Minister yesterday.

The Sports Minister said he is still in the process of studying the exhaustive



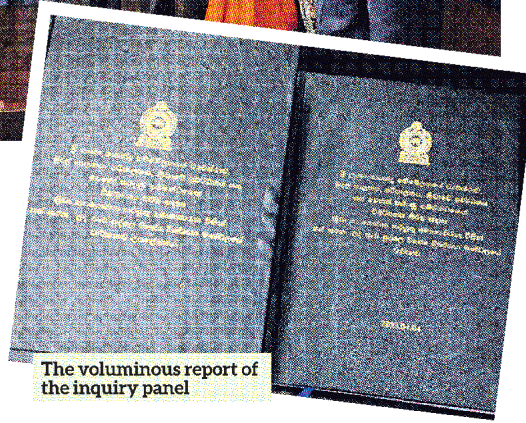
Retired High Court Justice Kusala Sarojini Weerawardena handing over the football inquiry report to the Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe

report and will be handing it over to the President, Prime Minister and Parliament soon.

Minister Ranasinghe also accused former football administrators of misleading the world body FIFA which resulted in Football Sri Lanka

being suspended as a member of the sport's world governing body in January.

He said this report would be submitted to FIFA to apprise the international body of the real status of football administration in Sri Lanka.



The voluminous report of the inquiry panel

## Trinity book berth to final in style

**BY M. SHAMILAMIT**

Trinity College booked a berth to the final of Under 19 Division One Tier 'A' segment two-day cricket tournament in style when they chalked up a comfortable outright win seven wickets over Maliyadeva College Kurunegala in the semi-final encounter concluded at the Ace Capital CC ground in Kirimandala Mawatha yesterday.

The second day's play saw Trinity in reply to the Devans total of 139 resuming from their overnight score of 106 for 2 going on to make 199 for a lead of 60 runs.

Maliyadeva batting the second time saw Trinity's bowling pair Tharana Wimaladharmas and Jayavi Liyanagama too hot to handle as they collapsed to a score of 54 for 6 and they never recovered as Tharana who ended with a match bag of eight wickets cleaned

off the tail to bundle them out for 99 leaving Trinity a simple run chase of 40 runs which they achieved with ease.

They will face St. Joseph's College who came out on top against St. Benedict's in the other semi-final played at St. Thomas' ground in Mt Lavinia which ended in a draw.

St. Joseph's resuming from their overnight score of 294 for 3, declared their innings having made a formidable score of 439 for 7 and St. Benedict's in their turn were on 81 for 6 when the match was called off due to bad light that ended in bonus points win for St. Joseph's.

St. Servatius' College Matara made it to the final of the Under 19 Division One Tier 'B' segment by virtue of gaining bonus points in a high scoring semi-final encounter against Mahinda Galle played at Maggona.

## Shanaka signed by Gujarat Titans

Sri Lanka's limited overs captain Dasun Shanaka has been picked up by the Gujarat Titans franchise as a replacement for New Zealander Kane Williamson for the ongoing Indian Premier League season.

Williamson injured his knee during the season opener last Friday and was subsequently ruled out of the tournament.

Shanaka was signed for his base at the auction, of INR 50 lakh, and will join after Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand is completed this week.

This will be the first time Shanaka will play in the IPL.

Shanaka impressed during Sri Lanka's T20I series against India recently, scoring 124 runs in three innings at a strike rate of 187.



Dasun Shanaka

## Plantation Rugby Sevens to kick off on April 8

**BY SHAMSEER JALEEL**

The Inter-Plantation Rugby Sevens will kick off on April 8 at the Dikoya Darawala Cricket Club (DMCC) ground. This will be the 20th edition in the series taking place after a lapse of three years due to Covid-19 around the globe.

There will be 12 teams playing in this year's battle with Thalawakele Plantations being the defending champions. The winners will be awarded the Colombia Trophy.

Thalawakele, Kelani Valley, Elptiyya, Hatton, Bogawantalawa, Mathurata, Malawatte Valley, Balangoda, Maskeliya, Kotagala and Agarapathana (Lankem), Kegalle and Namunukula (Arpico) and Sri Lanka State Plantation are the featuring 12 teams this year's event.

Manjula Samarakoon, the former Ananda rugby player (1987/1988) who is the tournament Convener speaking to Daily Mirror said, "We as the DMCC are very proud to stage



(From L-R) Lak Govijana Fertilizers Marketing Senior Manager Migara Meegahakumbura, Lak Govijana Fertilizers Chairman/MD A. P. Balashammugham, DMCC Tournament Convener, Manjula Samarakoon, DMCC Committee Member, Robin Winter and DMCC Secretary, Ravindra Sannasurita

this tournament every year which is a flagship event in the planters' calendar. We foresee that this year's tournament will be well patronized as it comes alive again at the DMCC. We have lined up everything that

matters for an elite rugby event." Leading fertilizer brand, Lak Govijana Fertilizers has come forward as the main sponsor of the tournament with a handsome sponsorship of LKR 3.5 Million.

## Royal Colombo Golf Club Monthly Medal April 2023

# Mario Fernando shines at RCCGC Monthly Medal



Mario Fernando receiving his award

**BY SHAMSEER JALEEL**

Former Junior Golfer Adam Mario Fernando was in sparkling form winning the Nett overall event with a score of 63 at the Royal Colombo Golf Club (RCCGC) Monthly Medal (April) which took place at their club course in Borella recently.

Suhayb Sangani was in cracking form in Division A Gross and Nett, winning both the events. Golf clearly runs in his family, as his sister, Iman Sangani won the Ladies Net event while Danushi Senadhira walked away with the Gross win in the Ladies segment. The event was sponsored by Sail Lanka which saw more than 240 golfers teeing off for honours.

### RESULTS

**Ladies Division - Gross: Gross Winner - Danushi Senadhira 78 Gross; Ladies Division Nett: Net Winner - Iman Sangani 69 Nett, Net Runner-Up - Usha De Silva 70 Nett; Junior Division - Gross: Winner - Yannik Kumara 70 Gross; Junior Division - Nett: Nett Winner - Ayaan Gunasekera 63 Nett, Nett Runner-Up - Thejas Rathis Kanth 68 Nett; Senior Division Gross: Winner - Wijitha Perera 90 Gross; Senior Division Nett: Net Winner - Wijitha Perera 71 Nett, Net Runner-Up - A. P. Jayarajah 73 Nett; Master Division - Gross: Winner - Gamini Jayaweera 79 Gross; Master Division - Nett: Nett Winner - Gamini Jayaweera 65 Nett, Nett Runner-Up - V. K. Vasan 66 Nett; Division C - Gross: Winner - Nalin Jayathilake 89 Gross; Division C - Nett: Winner - Nalin Jayathilake 63 Nett, Runner-Up - Faisal Hameed 68 Nett B/B 9; Division B - Gross: Winner - Adam Mario Fernando 77 Gross; Division B - Nett: Winner - Adam Mario Fernando 63 Nett, Runner-Up - Tariq Mohamed 65 Nett; Hole in One - Suren Premathilaka (16 hole); Division A - Gross: Winner - Suhayb Sangani 70 Gross; Division A - Nett: Winner - Suhayb Sangani 66 Nett, Runner-Up - Ranil Pieris 70 Nett B/B 9; Overall Gross Winner - Yannik Kumara 70 Gross B/B 9; Overall Nett Winner - Adam Mario Fernando 63 Nett B/B 9**

## 23rd Battle of Sri Jayawardenapura Jayanthan, Anusara shine on day one

**BY M. SHAMILAMIT**

Jayanthan Abinash and Anusara Fernando shone for St. John's College Nugegoda who ended with a score of 258 for 8 day one of the 23rd Battle of Sri Jayawardenapura big match against traditional rivals Ananda Sastralaya Kotte played at P. Sara Stadium.

Abinash, who remained unbeaten on 98 inclusive of nine boundaries, came to the rescue of St. John's when they were struggling on 40 for 4 as he associated in two valuable partnerships.

The first was for 96 runs for the fifth wicket with Fernando who made 70 with 13 boundaries and the other of 95 runs for the sixth wicket with Lakshitha Lakindu who chipped in with 38 before bad light put a stoppage. The match will be continued today.

**St. John's Nugegoda 258 for 8 (Anusara Fernando 70, Lakshitha Lakindu 58, Vochan Lakshan 27, Jayanthan Abinash 98 n.o.; Poshitha Madanayake 2 for 47, Janitha Chathuranga 2 for 62, Charuka Eshan 2 for 63) vs Ananda Sastralaya Kotte**



Jayanthan Abinash who made an unbeaten 98 PICTURE BY PRADEEP DILUKSHANA

## SLTA Hard Court Tennis Nationals Gianna, Damsath, Chamindu, Ivanka emerge champions

**BY M. SHAMILAMIT**

Gianna Perera along with Damsath Peiris, Chamindu Abeyasinghe and Ivanka Samarasinghe came out victorious in the finals of the Junior categories of the SLTA Hard Courts Tennis Nationals played at the SLTA tennis courts in Greenpath, Colombo.

Perera defeated Hesandee Mallawa in the Girls Under 12 age group while Peiris overcame Yudeeraya Aththapathu in the Boys Under 12 age group while Abeyasinghe beat and Samarasinghe got the better of Ashlin de Silva and Vinethya Dharmaratne in the Boys Under 14 and Girls Under 16 age groups.

In the only final of the senior category that was played, which was in the Women's Open doubles event, Saajida Razick partnered by Dinara de Silva overcame the pair of Janali Manamperi and Neyara Weerawansa by two sets to nil.



Gianna Perera in action



Boys Under 12 champion Damsath Peiris in action

### RESULTS

**All Finals:**  
**Girls Under 12** - Gianna Perera beat Hesandee Mallawa 2-0 (6/2, 6/2);  
**Boys Under 12** - Damsath Peiris beat Yudeeraya Aththapathu 2-1 (6/4, 3/6, 7/5);  
**Boys Under 14** - Chamindu Abeyasinghe beat Ashlin de Silva 2-0 (7/6, 6/1);  
**Girls Under 16** - Ivanka Samarasinghe beat Vinethya Dharmaratne 2-1 (5/7, 7/5, 6/1);  
**Doubles (Women's Open)** - Saajida Razick/Dinara de Silva beat Janali Manamperi/Neyara Weerawansa 2-0 (6/4, 6/4).

## Sri Lanka youth netball squad named

**BY SUSIL PREMALAL**

The Sri Lanka Netball Federation (SLNF) has submitted names of a 15-member squad for National Selection Committee and Ministry of Sports approval for the 12th Asian Youth (U-21) Netball Championship 2023.

Twelve countries are participating in the tournament scheduled to be held in South Korea from June 10-17.

Fifteen players including the stand-by have been selected from a national pool consisting of 35 players after two selection trials.

In this year's Asian Championship, Sri Lanka

has been drawn in Pool 'B' with Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, South Korea and Pakistan.

Defending champions Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and Maldives are in Pool 'A'.

**The Sri Lanka youth netball squad:**  
 Nethmi Wijenayaka, Bashini Udagedara, Minagi Kankanige, Idusha Perera, Dilmi Wijenayaka, Ranudi Perera, Sajini Rathnayaka, Timey Wasanthapriya, Chalani Neesha, Nethanga Gunarathna, Tinali Basnayake and Sarashi Peiris.  
**Stand Bys:** Sasandi Pathiranaage, Dishara Umayangani and Nethali Ariyanatha.

## MCA Super Premier League gets underway on April 8

The 30th Singer - MCA Super Premier League 2023 opens full throttle with the introduction of three new teams, thus increasing the number of teams to eight since 2021.

In 2021 the number of teams dropped down from ten to four and in 2022 it slightly increased to six.

The three new teams in the fray are, Fairfirst Insurance 2022 "B" division winner and first

timers, BBK Partnership and CL Synergy.

The tournament comprising League and knock-out stages gets underway with the League segment, this Saturday (8).

**The four League tournament openers are as follows:**  
 Hayleys Group vs. BBK Partnership at BOI Grounds, Katunayake; John Keells Group vs. HNB at NC; CDB vs. Mode Engineering at P. Sara Oval;

Fairfirst Insurance vs. CL Synergy at Colts.

**The league will be continued on April 10 and 11 with four more games, as follows:**  
**April 10** - HNB "A" vs. Mode Engineering at BOI, Katunayake; BBK Partnership vs. CDB at P. Sara Oval and CL Synergy vs. John Keells at MCA.  
**April 11** - Hayleys Group vs. Fairfirst Insurance at MCA.





## Paddy farmers to receive up to Rs.40, 000 as fertiliser subsidy during Yala season

The Cabinet nod has been granted to provide up to Rs.40, 000 as a financial subsidy for paddy farmers to procure fertilisers in the upcoming Yala season.

Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera on Monday sought the approval of the Cabinet

of Ministers to provide Rs.20, 000 per hectare as a financial subsidy for farmers, up to a maximum of two hectares to procure fertilisers during 2023 Yala season.

Meanwhile, President Ranil Wickremesinghe sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers

to provide additional 850,000 low-income families on the waiting list with 10 kg of rice per month for a period of two months and to increase the approved budget allocation By Rs.3 billion for the programme. "On 16.01.2023, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the provision

of 10 Kg of rice per family for a period of two months covering 2 million low-income families. In addition to the two million families mentioned above, it has been identified that there are 850,000 low-income families on the waiting list and that they should also be included

in the proposed programme," the Government Information Department said.

Accordingly, the government is set to provide 2.85 million families with 10 kg of rice per month for a period of two months with an allocation of Rs.13 billion.

### SLAF commends President's plan to plant 3mn jackfruit trees

Proposes comprehensive implementation plan

Sri Lanka Agripreneurs' Forum (SLAF), as the leading agribusiness association in Sri Lanka, yesterday commended the President's plan to plant 3 million jackfruit trees as a part of the government's food security programme to create a local and foreign jackfruit market and to promote jackfruit among the Sri Lankan people.

"This ambitious plan will not only help in addressing concerns regarding national food security but also boost the economy by creating new job opportunities and promoting agriculture-based industries," SLAF statement said. SLAF has continued to advocate for developing value chains in Sri Lanka and as part of that has devised a comprehensive value-chain approach to develop a sustainable jackfruit project in Sri Lanka.

Through this initiative, SLAF has identified the ideal varieties of jackfruit that are most suitable to be cultivated in Sri Lanka's different agroecological zones with the potential of being developed into commercial-scale cultivation.

"Through our collaborative endeavours with our partners, SLAF has also managed to develop a complete financial model on the cost dynamics of implementing such a project and the potential it has in uplifting the Sri Lankan agribusiness sector.

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## Policy rates on hold as financial conditions ease

CB expects faster deceleration of inflation from April 2023

"We are getting a very favourable base effect on inflation from next month" - CB Governor

Analysts believe pivot in monetary policy on the horizon

The Monetary Board of the Central Bank left the key policy rates unchanged at the current levels as financial conditions continue to ease since the government clinched the US\$ 3 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the International Monetary Fund two weeks ago. The rate setting committee however remained dovish in its statement and hinted possible cut in rates in the next meeting or the meeting after next as they remain confident about the disinflation path continuing through the end of this year towards the single digit levels and growth to return in both private credit and the economy as early as the back half of the year.



Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe Pic by Pradeep Pathirana

The Sri Lankan economy contracted by a record 7.8 percent in 2022 after the Central Bank applied quick brakes on credit and demand and reined in the foreign exchange outflows and runaway inflation.

While the inflation turned a corner last October, foreign exchange conditions also started to stabilise from the beginning of 2023 which received further support from receipt of the IMF life line, further buttressing the economy's

turnaround. "The Board reiterates its continued commitment to restoring price stability and remains confident that inflation would follow the projected disinflation path underpinned by the prevailing monetary policy stance, while supporting the economy to reach its potential over the medium term," the statement from the Monetary Board said yesterday. The key policy rates currently stand at 15.5 percent and 16.5 percent respectively for Standing Deposit and Standing Lending Facility Rates.

The Central Bank half heartedly raised the key policy rates by 100 basis points in early March surprising the markets just to appease the IMF.

Sri Lanka's monetary policy and its inflation are disconnected from what's happening in the advanced economies where their central banks are still grappling with record high post pandemic inflation which they themselves created. However, the recent banking turmoil on both sides of the Atlantic has prompted both the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank to take stock of the interest rate hikes they have already delivered.

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### Dr. Kingsley Bernard assumes EDB Chairmanship

Export Professional Dr. Kingsley Bernard assumed Chairmanship of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) on 3rd April. He succeeds the outgoing Chairman Suresh D de Mel who ended his tenure last month.

Addressing the EDB staff upon assuming duties, the new EDB Chief remarked a quantum leap in export performance is necessary and that the country must strive towards introducing products based on innovation and advanced technology to its export portfolio.

Bernard added that Sri Lanka's achievement in exports is commendable, however, he pointed out that the progress in exports over the last decade has been slow compared to regional peers such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, and he requested the commitment and assistance of all employees within the board to develop the country's exports.

Bernard had an illustrious career - spanning more than three decades - in the corporate sector holding numerous responsible positions in export-related entities. He is no stranger to the EDB having been its Director-Marketing during early 90s, in which period he was involved in holding highly successful international exhibitions - Expo 92 and Expo 94.

The new EDB Chairman is acclaimed for his noteworthy contribution to the development of exports in Sri Lanka, having held the positions of Management Consultant of Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC), Vice President of the Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (EASL) - the Ceylon



Chamber of Commerce, and President of the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) in a glorious period for the nation's exports. During his stint as CEO of Dankotuwa Porcelain PLC, the company was adjudged the 'Most Outstanding Exporter of the Year' for three consecutive years at the NCE Export Awards.

Bernard also served as a Visiting Lecturer at the Post-Graduate Faculty of the University of Colombo from 1989 to 2008 and was also a Visiting Lecturer at the Post-Graduate Institute of Management (PIM) - University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Kelaniya and Open University of Sri Lanka, teaching post-graduate students subjects such as marketing management and global marketing.

He was also a former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP), Group Director of Capital Maharaja Organization and Daya Group of Companies, Deputy Director-Marketing of the Agricultural Development Authority, Managing Director of Walker and Greig, and Senior Manager of Unilever-Sri Lanka, Chairman -Bimpuh Finance PLC are among other appointments held by him.

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### SriLankan Cargo strategises for future growth, value creation



SriLankan Airlines' Cargo Team and General Sales Agents from India; Hong Kong; South Korea; Australia; Singapore; United Arab Emirates; Qatar; France; United Kingdom; Germany; and Pakistan at the meeting

The SriLankan Airlines' Cargo Team recently put heads together with an ensemble of international cargo sales agents to strategise for future growth and value creation.

The Strategic Planning Meeting took place amid a challenging trade environment, in which SriLankan Cargo also had to contend with reduced capacity as a result of rising passenger demand for air travel.

SriLankan Cargo is confident that the proposals conceived through the

collaboration will help them work around challenges and effect positive change.

General sales agents representing the main markets of India; Hong Kong; South Korea; Australia; Singapore; United Arab Emirates; Qatar; France; United Kingdom; Germany; and Pakistan participated in the strategic planning meeting. Collectively, they were able to contribute a global perspective and localised ideas in answer to present-

day challenges, ensuring a productive session.

The dynamics of the industry with the restoration of commercial passenger air travel have led to capacity constraints, erosion of yields and greater competition. The discussions in the meeting accordingly focused on how to maintain competitiveness in such an environment. It was broadly agreed that further automation of processes and service enhancements that create convenience for customers

are the way forward. SriLankan Cargo will develop an action plan next to introduce the ideated process and service improvements in a phased manner. It is one of the major air cargo operators in the region and provides logistics connections to a global route network of 34 destinations in 22 countries.

Fitted with modern infrastructure, SriLankan Cargo is geared to handle all types of cargo efficiently and reliably.

### Flemingo Duty Free wins US\$ 2.5mn bid to operate restaurant or retail outlet at BIA

Leading global duty free and travel retail operator, Flemingo Duty Free has won a US\$ 2.5 million bid to operate a restaurant or retail outlet of an international chain at the departure area of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) for a three-year lease period.

Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva this week sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to award the contract to Flemingo Duty Free (Pvt.) Ltd for US\$ 2.5 million for a three-year lease period based

on the recommendations of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Competitive bids were called for maintaining either a cafeteria of an international chain of cafeterias and/or a shop with garments and accessories under international brands at the departure/migrant area of the BIA.

Accordingly, the Government Information Department noted that three bids were received and Flemingo Duty Free had furnished the maximum quotation.

## Sri Lanka to experience back-to-back economic contraction in 2023, tepid recovery in 2024: ADB

Economy to contract by 3% in 2023, and grow by 13% in 2024

Says SL has long road to recovery

Inflation expected to ease and return to single digits in 2024

Stresses need for unwavering commitment to reforms

By Shabiya Ali Ahlam

Sri Lanka is expected to witness a historic back-to-back contraction in 2023, which is likely to be followed by

only tepid recovery in 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its latest economic outlook report.

On assumptions that the island nation will fulfill the expectation laid down by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to unlock the US\$ 3 billion, the ADB forecasts for Sri Lanka a contraction of 3 percent in 2023, and in 2024 a growth of 1.3 percent as the debt overhand wanes. Although Sri Lanka is one of the few countries in the world facing a dip in growth for two years straight, the rate of economic contraction has reduced, the ADB said.

The ADB stressed Sri Lanka's recovery from the crisis hinges on timely progress on debt relief and steadfast implementation of reforms. The island nation entered the crisis on a weak footing as pre-pandemic

macroeconomic vulnerabilities, policy missteps, and shocks left the country with thin buffers on the eve of the pandemic.

In 2022, foreign currency scarcity led to shortages of essentials and triggered an acute energy crisis with prolonged power cuts and transport bottlenecks due to lack of fuel.

Further, inflation soared and eroded living standards, pushing many into poverty, and impacting the poor and vulnerable disproportionately. In 2023, inflation is expected to ease and return to single digits in 2024. The ADB said it projects inflation will reach an average of 24.6 percent in 2023 as fiscal tightening and double-digit interest rates weigh on domestic demand, supply-



Utsav Kumar

side disruption easing, and moderating external pressures to alleviate food shortages. While factoring in a high base effect, inflation is expected to be sharply lower in 2024.

"Sri Lanka has a long road to recovery, and it will be critical to ensure the poor and vulnerable are protected," said Deputy Country Director for Sri Lanka Utsav Kumar yesterday while addressing the ADB's Serendipity Knowledge Programme that focused on Sri Lanka's economic crisis.

"It is imperative that the country addresses the root causes of internal and external imbalances, for which an unwavering commitment to reforms is essential," he added.

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04.04.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. %	CHANGING	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. %	CHANGING	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. %	CHANGING	
<b>A MAIN BOARD</b>								LANKA WALLTILE	93,785	48.70	49.00	49.50	48.10	49.00	0.30	ALUMEX PLC	156,769	8.30	8.20	8.40	8.20	8.30		
A SPEN HOT HOLD	2,651	62.00	61.40	62.00	59.00	59.00	(3.00)	LANDEM DEV	12,231	25.20	25.00	25.90	24.50	25.10	(0.10)	AMANA LIFE	31	31.50	31.70	33.00	31.70	31.50		
ABANS	1,037	158.00	154.00	155.00	125.00	130.00	(28.00)	LAUGFS GAS	5,838	27.10	29.00	29.00	27.00	27.30	0.20	AMANA TAKAFUL	523	12.00	11.90	12.00	11.90	12.00		
ACCESS ENG SL	107,851	14.00	14.40	14.40	13.90	14.00	-	LAUGFS GAS [LGL X0000]	75,617	18.70	17.20	19.00	17.20	17.80	(0.90)	AMBEON HOLDINGS	328	35.00	35.50	35.50	35.50	35.50	0.50	
ACL	350,401	81.00	81.90	83.60	80.50	83.00	2.00	LAXAPANA	154,154	13.30	13.10	13.30	12.90	13.10	(0.20)	AMF CO LTD	12,611	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	-	
ACL PLASTICS	416	399.75	391.25	391.25	390.00	390.00	(9.75)	LB FINANCE	19,974	53.80	54.00	54.50	53.80	54.30	0.50	ASIA SIYAKA	43,270	4.00	4.00	4.10	4.00	4.10	0.10	
ACME	12,865	6.60	6.30	6.60	6.30	6.60	-	LEE HEDGES	1	78.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	78.00	-	BANSEI RESORTS	100	11.30	11.40	11.40	11.40	11.40	0.10	
AGALAWATTE	27,659	30.20	30.90	31.70	30.20	31.30	1.10	LION BREWERY	4	713.50	714.00	714.00	714.00	713.50	-	BERUWALA RESORTS	14,556	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.30	1.40	0.10	
AHOT PROPERTIES	27,682	44.50	43.00	44.50	42.00	42.00	(2.50)	LMF	1,499	142.25	145.00	145.00	143.00	143.00	0.75	BOGALA GRAPHITE	5,900	64.90	63.10	63.10	63.00	63.00	(1.90)	
AITKEN SPENCE	115,711	130.00	130.00	131.00	129.00	129.00	(1.00)	LVL ENERGY	1	7.60	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.60	-	BOGAWANTALAWA	175	42.00	40.10	40.10	39.30	39.80	(2.20)	
ALLIANCE	4,086	66.90	67.00	67.80	67.00	67.00	0.10	MALWATTE	1	78.00	73.20	73.20	73.20	78.00	-	BPPL HOLDINGS	65	26.00	20.40	20.50	20.40	20.60	-	
AMANA BANK	644,887	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.50	2.60	0.10	MALWATTE [MAL X0000]	1	49.90	44.10	44.10	44.10	49.90	-	BROWNS	7,181	119.00	117.00	120.00	116.00	116.25	(2.75)	
ASIA ASSET	127	8.00	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.80	(0.20)	MELSTACORP	852,586	54.10	54.50	55.00	54.00	54.30	0.20	BROWNS INVSTMNTS	2,698,873	6.00	6.10	6.10	5.90	6.00	-	
ASIA ASSET [AAF-P-0000]	655	10.50	8.80	10.30	8.70	10.30	(0.20)	MERC SHIPPING	9	154.25	187.75	187.75	163.25	154.25	-	C T LAND	74,100	27.10	24.20	24.30	24.20	24.20	(2.90)	
ASIA CAPITAL	300	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	-	MERCHANT BANK	145	3.60	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	-	C.W.MACKIE	9,903	81.60	82.00	82.00	80.00	80.10	(1.50)	
ASIRI	20,002	24.60	25.60	25.60	24.00	24.20	(0.40)	MULLERS	68,600	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.10	(0.10)	CALT	822,914	32.10	32.00	34.00	32.00	33.70	1.60	
ASIRI SURG	8,996	12.50	12.80	12.80	12.10	12.50	-	NAMUNUKULA	1,600	365.50	366.00	366.00	361.00	361.00	(4.50)	CEYLON BEVERAGE	14	1134.00	1200.00	1200.00	912.00	1134.00	-	
BAIRAHA FARMS	5,642	144.25	146.75	146.75	144.00	144.00	(0.25)	NAT. DEV. BANK	518,307	44.30	44.30	44.80	43.70	43.80	(0.50)	CEYLON TEA BRKRS	39,101	4.10	4.00	4.20	4.00	4.10	-	
BALANGODA	4,659	67.00	65.60	67.00	63.00	63.30	(3.70)	NATION LANKA	40,503	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	(0.10)	CFI	250	67.50	61.50	61.50	61.50	61.50	(6.00)	
BUKIT DARAH	296	429.00	376.00	405.00	376.00	402.00	(27.00)	NATIONS TRUST	19,621	63.30	60.90	61.10	60.90	61.00	(2.30)	CIT	100	117.50	117.50	117.50	117.50	117.50	-	
C M HOLDINGS	130	63.10	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	0.90	OVERSEAS REALTY	15,071	15.50	15.40	15.60	15.30	15.40	(0.10)	CITRUS WASKADUWA	186,468	2.70	2.80	2.90	2.80	2.90	0.20	
CARGILLS	407,129	233.00	235.00	242.25	233.00	233.00	-	PAN ASIA	58,869	11.50	11.60	12.10	11.60	11.90	0.40	COM.CREDIT	360	25.10	24.70	25.50	24.70	25.00	(0.10)	
CARSONS	2,545	255.50	260.25	260.25	260.00	260.00	4.50	PANASIAN POWER	1,250	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	-	COMMERCIAL DEV.	105	100.00	99.80	99.80	95.20	95.20	(4.80)	
CDB	22	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	-	PEOPLE'S INS	1,396	21.70	21.60	21.60	21.30	21.40	(0.30)	DILMAH CEYLON	12	1020.00	1065.50	1065.50	1011.00	1020.00	-	
CDB [CDB.X0000]	4,074	79.80	79.00	79.80	74.00	75.00	(4.80)	PEOPLES LEASING	232,940	7.70	7.70	7.90	7.30	7.50	(0.20)	E-CHANNELLING	94,066	15.50	15.50	16.50	15.00	16.00	0.50	
CENTRAL FINANCE	7,317	71.30	71.20	71.20	66.10	67.00	(4.30)	PGP GLASS	108,509	19.00	18.90	19.10	18.70	19.00	-	ELPTIYA	15,674	76.50	77.90	77.90	76.70	77.40	0.90	
CENTRAL IND	8,984	82.00	81.90	85.00	81.90	82.30	0.30	PRINTCARE PLC	8,280	49.60	49.50	49.50	49.40	49.50	(0.10)	EXTERMINATORS	16,878	8.60	8.30	8.30	8.10	8.10	(0.50)	
CEYLINCO INS.	36	2166.00	2198.00	2208.00	2000.00	2166.00	-	R I L PROPERTY	221,076	5.50	5.60	5.60	5.40	5.40	(0.10)	FC TREASURIES	380,918	22.80	23.00	23.40	22.80	23.30	0.50	
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	264	1053.50	1049.00	1049.00	1000.00	1046.00	(7.50)	REGNIS	5	44.00	44.40	44.40	44.40	44.00	-	FIRST CAPITAL	347,874	32.40	32.40	34.40	32.00	33.70	1.30	
CEYLON GUARDIAN	1,608	67.50	65.60	65.60	62.00	62.10	(5.40)	RENUKA AGRI	171,518	5.20	5.20	5.40	5.20	5.20	-	FORTRESS RESORTS	1,509	22.40	22.30	22.40	22.00	22.30	(0.10)	
CEYLON INV	114	33.30	34.30	34.90	34.30	34.80	1.50	RENUKA FOODS	1,101	21.50	23.00	23.00	21.00	22.00	0.50	GALADARI	89,081	14.40	14.60	14.60	14.10	14.30	(0.10)	
CEYLON TOBACCO	1,895	693.50	699.50	699.50	680.00	689.00	(4.50)	RENUKA FOODS [COCO X0000]	3,503	16.70	16.70	17.00	16.70	17.00	0.30	HAPUGASTENNE	1,507	46.90	46.00	48.00	46.00	47.00	0.10	
CHEMANEX	214	75.00	75.00	75.00	74.00	74.40	(0.60)	RENUKA HOLDINGS	20,000	13.00	13.30	13.40	13.30	13.40	0.40	HATTON	3,700	18.80	19.10	19.10	18.90	18.90	0.10	
CHEVRON	157,496	92.20	92.90	92.90	90.00	90.10	(2.10)	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	45	11.30	11.40	11.40	11.40	11.30	-	HNB FINANCE	2,958	5.10	5.20	5.30	5.00	5.20	0.10	
CIC	3,225	73.00	74.00	74.00	73.00	73.80	0.80	RESUS ENERGY	9,650	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.10	13.10	(0.20)	HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-0000]	1,141	5.10	5.40	5.40	5.00	5.40	0.30	
CIC [CIC.X0000]	79,613	49.50	50.90	50.90	49.00	49.50	-	RICHARD PIERIS	386,280	20.40	21.00	21.00	20.00	20.00	(0.40)	HVA FOODS	20,010	3.90	3.90	4.00	3.80	3.80	(0.10)	
CITRUS LEISURE	5,299	6.40	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	0.10	ROYAL CERAMIC	387,887	27.90	28.00	28.50	27.80	28.20	0.30	JANASHAKTHI INS	1,102	28.40	28.00	28.40	28.00	28.00	(0.40)	
COLD STORES	77,128	40.00	40.00	40.00	38.90	39.00	(1.00)	S M B LEASING	82,593	0.70	0.80	0.80	0.70	0.70	-	JETHWING SYMPHONY	68,694	7.10	7.00	7.10	7.00	7.00	(0.10)	
COLOMBO LAND	3,014	21.40	20.20	21.50	20.20	20.30	(1.10)	S M B LEASING [SEMB X0000]	1,099,091	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.30	0.30	-	JOHN KEELLS	347	65.00	65.10	65.20	65.00	65.20	0.20	
COMMERCIAL BANK	37,557	61.10	62.00	62.90	60.40	62.00	0.90	SAMPATH	263,214	51.00	50.60	50.90	49.20	50.00	(1.00)	KAHAWATTE	276,162	20.50	20.70	20.70	19.80	20.00	(0.50)	
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	5,261	54.50	54.50	54.50	52.80	53.90	(0.60)	SAMSON INTERNAT	47	240.00	250.00	253.25	240.00	240.00	-	KEELLS FOOD	19	160.00	172.00	172.00	159.00	160.00	-	
CONVENIENCE FOOD	52	1208.00	1203.00	1220.00	1203.00	1208.00	-	SANASA DEV BANK	2,292	25.10	25.70	25.70	25.00	25.40	0.30	KEELLS HOTELS	664,087	18.60	18.80	19.00	18.40	18.50	(0.10)	
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	13,771	20.00	20.00	20.20	19.90	20.00	-	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	900	11.10	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	(0.10)	KELSEY	600	21.30	22.60	22.60	22.60	22.60	1.30	
DFCC BANK PLC	1,948	42.90	42.80	42.80	42.10	42.60	(0.30)	SEYLAN BANK	48,539	32.90	32.10	32.80	30.50	32.30	(0.60)	LANKA CERAMIC	10	100.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	100.00	-	
DIALOG	2,230,081	10.50	10.50	10.60	10.40	10.40	(0.10)	SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]	18,108	22.60	22.60	22.60	22.00	22.00	(0.60)	LANDEM CEYLON	71	75.80	78.70	78.80	78.70	75.80	-	

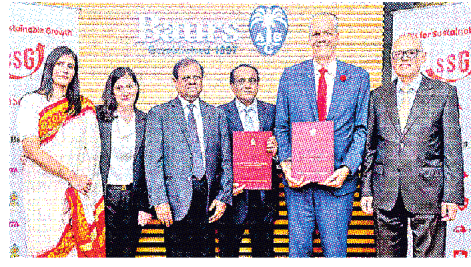


# SHMA-VTA SL to implement Swiss-designed curriculum

Swiss Hospitality and Management Academy (SHMA) of A. Baur & Co. (Pvt.) Ltd, also known as Baur's, a leading conglomerate with diversified business interests, recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka (VTA), under the Education Ministry, to implement its Skills for Sustainable Growth (SSG) project among selected learning centres across the country.

This partnership marks a significant milestone, following its ongoing discussions with the VTA since 2019. The planning phase is already underway and SHMA is currently in the process of evaluating and selecting the existing learning centres of the VTA, building on their infrastructure and reach, with the aim of uplifting the learning capacities and aligning the current learning content, curriculums and teaching methodologies to that of international standards.

With its first phase running from last year up until 2025, a total of 2,240 students will be trained and the lecturers at the VTA learning centres will go through a Train the Trainer programme, which will enhance their teaching skills to embrace newer and practical approaches that deliver a hands-on learning experience to the students. The focus will go beyond just grasping technical skills to also include personal development and language training.



From left: Baur's Director Finance Pavithra Samarasinghe, SHMA Dean of Academy Daniela Munasinghe, Education Minister Prof. Susil Premajayantha, VTA Chairman Upali Keppitipola, Baur's CEO/MD Rolf Blaser and Swiss Ambassador Dominik Furgler



A moment of MoU signing

The aim of the entire SSG initiative, which is based on a public-private funding partnership, is to strengthen and match the learning standards in the country to that of the global industry, to enable fast-track routes to employability in just nine months with the learning taking a hands-on practical approach and to minimise or bridge the widening skill gap. The internationally aligned qualification delivered through this initiative will help various unskilled and semi-skilled young men and women in Sri Lanka, including providing migrants with a skill set needed for better employment opportunities. The programme is developed on a 'Plug & Play' basis, giving more practical and feasible learning modules

and methodologies for the learner and learning centre.

Site visits have already begun, with a pool of total 22 centres across 16 districts across the country, to select the most feasible centres to kick start the SSG project. By July 2023, six centres will be selected and 240 students will see themselves equipping with the skill set required today in the world of hospitality management over a period of nine months.

The skills development project is established to align and implement a Swiss Vocational Skills Development (VSD) curriculum. The project will take a lead in bridging the skills gap, instil quality education standards, encourage female participation and make Sri Lanka not just a most sought-after talent destination for hospitality but also one of the best tourist spots. These will undoubtedly go on to strengthen the economy further.

# Aitken Spence Hotels to host authentic Avurudu festivities

As the sun rises and sets on another day, the Sinhala and Tamil New Year draws closer and is almost upon us.

According to ancient history, as the sun moves from the house of Pisces to the house of Aries, a time of prosperous growth begins. Avurudu has always been a special time of celebration where families and loved ones come together as one to spread happiness as they rise and blossom into the future.

To mark this illustrious occasion and truly celebrate as one, Aitken Spence Hotels will host an array of authentic Avurudu festivities across each of its unique properties. Guests at each property will have the opportunity to experience distinct Avurudu celebration, which will adhere to traditional practices whilst creating a modern experience of hospitality.

From vast offerings of veritable and mouth-watering authentic cuisine presented at each of its hotels - Heritage Kandalama, Heritage Ahungalla, Heritage Tea Factory, Heritage Negombo, Turaya Kalutara, Amethyst Resort and Earl's Regency on April 14 - to traditional games and festivities with prizes and surprises,



Avurudu with Aitken Spence Hotels is guaranteed to be a fun family affair.

Avurudu will be celebrated whilst keeping to the theme of the Heritage Hotels and Resorts, which have been developed around a holistic idea of heritage and inheritance - celebrating the former whilst paying homage to the latter.

The vibrant Turaya Kalutara will convert the South Wing Garden to a 'Soorya Mangalya', presenting a mini village carnival atmosphere with toddy counters, 'saruwat' corners, a 'kopi kade' with 'yaara' tea and plenty of Avurudu games such as 'kamba adeema' (tug-o-war), the thrilling

'kotta pora' (pillow fight) or the sack race among others.

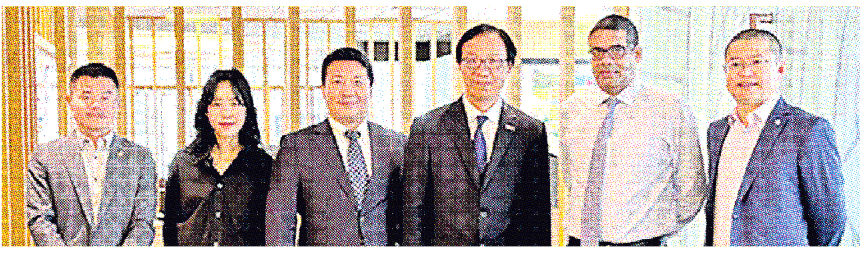
Special Avurudu high teas and 'yaara' tea experiences have also been curated at Heritage Tea Factory, Heritage Kandalama and Heritage Ahungalla, presenting favourite local sweetmeats along with aromatic tea.

The hotels have also extended special stay offers for their guests with discounts affiliated with a host of popular bank credit cards for the convenience of guests. The discounted stays can be booked on [www.aitkenspencehotels.com/credit-card-offer](http://www.aitkenspencehotels.com/credit-card-offer).

# South Korean envoy and KOTRA head visit Port City

South Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin JEONG and Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency Director General Colombo Son Joo Hong recently met with Port City Economic

Commission Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody and officials to discuss areas for mutual cooperation for investment promotion. They also discussed opportunities to promote the Port City project in South Korea.



# ISMM elects Jayantha Gallehewa as new President

At the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Supply and Materials Management (ISMM) held recently at the Organisation of Professional Associations (OPA) auditorium, Jayantha Gallehewa was unanimously elected as the 17th President of the ISMM.

Gallehewa has been a Vice President since 2019 and had also served as Assistant Secretary, General Secretary and Chairman of the Professional Development and Training Committee, Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Management Committee, Chairman of the Seminars



Jayantha Gallehewa

Workshops and Functions Committee and many other committees for several years, having joined as a member of the

ISMM in 1997.

Gallehewa currently serves the OPA as a Vice President, Chairman Membership Committee, and served as Chairman Supply Chain and Logistics Committee of the OPA. He has been of service to the OPA for eight consecutive years in various roles. Currently Gallehewa serves as Director, Supply Chain of Capital Maharaja Group.

The ISMM, established in 1972, is the pioneer in supply chain education in Sri Lanka and was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1981.

At present, the ISMM conducts 16 courses in English and Sinhala in supply chain-

related subjects for the benefit of school leavers as well as those already employed in the relevant fields.

The ISMM is a member of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management, which is the international body, which encompasses all supply chain institutes worldwide. The ISMM is also affiliated to the International Trade Centre in Geneva and is their franchise holder in Sri Lanka for conducting of ITC's International Diploma in Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Course in Sri Lanka.

# Ceylon Golden Villa wins BWIO award

The Ceylon Golden Villa won the Gold in the Small Hospitality and Tourism category, at the Business World International Organisation (BWIO) Awards 2022 ceremony held in Colombo recently.

The award was presented to hotel proprietor W.J. Upali by AGSEP Research founder and BWIO-USA Advisory Board Member Dr. Dietmar Doering. BWIO-USA organised the event.



# Power, Energy and Construction Expo in July

The Power, Energy and Construction Expo is set to take place from July 7 to 9, 2023, at the BMICH Exhibition Centre, Colombo.

The expo will showcase the latest developments and innovations in the power, energy and construction industries. This event is organised by Lanka Exhibition & Conference Services (Pvt.) Ltd, a presidential award-winning company for organising exhibitions in Sri Lanka.

The expo will feature exhibitors from various sectors of the industry, including power generation, renewable energy, solar power technologies, housing, building and construction materials and machinery, interior décor, etc.

Due to the increasing cost of living and soaring electricity bills, the organisers have identified a high demand for quality products and services for renewable energy, solar power and building materials. One of the key challenges facing the industry is the need to diversify the energy mix and the need to improve energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy. This will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government, industry and consumers. While Sri Lanka has made great strides in developing its renewable

energy capacity, there is still significant potential for growth in the country.

Apart from the energy sector, the government has been investing heavily in infrastructure development projects such as highways, airports and ports. This has led to an increase in demand for construction materials such as cement, steel and concrete, etc.

Many establishments are looking at revamping and renovating their work places. It's been three years since the COVID pandemic and industries like the tourism sector are heavily investing in upgrading their facilities to serve the number of tourists visiting our country. This is where interior products and services can be useful.

This expo is a great opportunity for all the industry leaders to showcase their products and services to a wide audience. It will also be an excellent platform for networking and building relationships with potential clients and partners.

Overall, the Power, Energy and Construction Expo is a must-attend event for anyone involved or interested in these industries and the organisers identified the need for such an event in this nation and invite you to explore the opportunities in Sri Lanka.

# AHRP concludes grand finale of groundbreaking and much-awaited HR Think Tank series

The Association of Human Resource Professionals (AHRP), in partnership with the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) and Platinum Sponsor Zing HR, recently concluded its Human Resource Think Tank (HRTT) series for the fourth consecutive year.

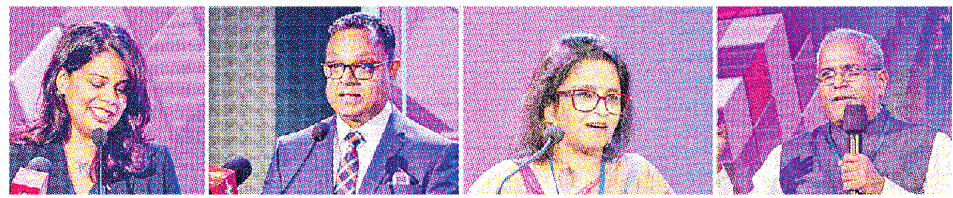
The event provided a platform for industry leaders to discuss and discover solutions to challenges faced by the HR fraternity, standing as a testament to the AHRP's objective to uplift the skills and standards of the HR profession in Sri Lanka.

Held under the timely theme 'Creating Future-Proof Organisations: Focusing on Engaging and Retaining Talent in a Volatile Environment', the forum attracted over 130 HR and business professionals and featured guest speakers SHRM India, APAC and MENA Chief Executive Officer Achal Khanna, Zing HR Founder and Managing Director Prasad Rajappan and other industry experts.

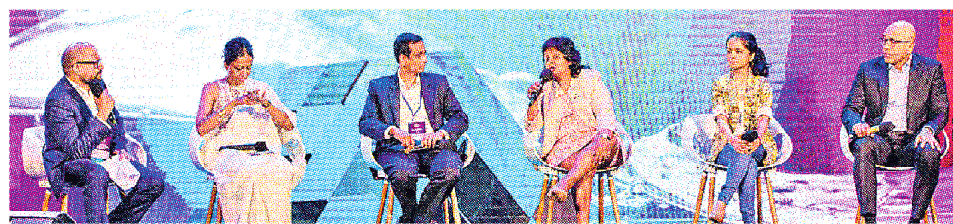
The event also hosted an informative and insightful panel discussion on 'Transforming the Leaders We Have into Leaders We Need', which harnessed the collective thinking of various business leaders as they discussed critical shifts in leadership styles, trust and diversity.

At the forum, AHRP President Roshan Kulasuriya stated, "The AHRP was formed to boost the capabilities of the HR community in Sri Lanka and our role is to harness the intellectual capacity and expertise of industry professionals to uplift our nation as a whole. The HR Think Tank series has been a resounding success. We are confident that the insights and recommendations from the event will help elevate the current standards of the HR profession in Sri Lanka."

Sharing valued business insights during the panel discussion, CIMA President and World Bank Sri Lanka and the Maldives Head of Finance and Administration Melanie Kanaka addressed the audience on the importance of leadership roles in building an inclusive



From left: AHRP EXCO member and Vice President External Alliances Oshana Dias, AHRP President Roshan Kulasuriya, SHRM Chief Executive Officer Achal Khanna and Zing HR Founder and Managing Director Prasad Rajappan



'Transforming the Leaders We Have into Leaders We Need' panel discussion

and diverse talent pool. Meanwhile, Hemas Holdings Group Chief Executive Officer Kasturi Chellarajah Wilson highlighted the personal life lessons that factor into a long-range leadership development strategy. Fortude Managing Director and Brandix Apparel Board Member Arjuna Sirinanda identified the key aspects in hiring and identifying leaders within the industry while engaging and retaining talent. John Keells Property Group President Nayana Mawilmada and Unilever Sri Lanka Director HR Ananya Sabharwal discussed how business leaders need to take ownership of building the next generation of leaders, by engaging with them and preparing them for new challenges.

Since its inception in 2019, the AHRP HR Think Tank has evolved, with enriched content and diverse participation representing multiple industries and sectors. The HR Think Tank serves today as a platform to share expert knowledge, enabling cross-pollination of ideas and stands as the only established HR Think Tank in the country.

"This year's HRTT saw the participation

of over 70 companies and 130 leaders, who have come together to share best practices and facilitate meaningful, open discussions on pertinent topics. The future is dynamic and we can only transcend industry norms by leveraging the wide-ranging experience from the past to keep the learning, partnership and transformation alive," stated AHRP EXCO member and Vice President External Alliances Oshana Dias.

The occasion also commemorated the launch of Zing HR in Sri Lanka. This cloud-based HCM platform provides the right technological solutions to help companies align their organisational aspirations and make well-informed decisions based on insights.

Furthermore, the AHRP exclusively launched its white paper, an amalgamation of inputs from thought leaders such as SHRM, speakers and panellists from the series of knowledge-sharing sessions. The event was well-received by attendees and served as a valuable networking opportunity for HR and business professionals to connect with peers, share experiences and gain insights into best practices, which will further transform the HR landscape in Sri Lanka.

# CIPM SL signs MoU with KAATSU International University

CIPM Sri Lanka, the nation's leader in human resource management, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently with the Faculty of Management of the KAATSU International University, Sri Lanka (KIU).

It is to promote and develop principles, techniques and practices of human resource management to optimise its utilisation at a national and international level by developing collaborative programmes and activities.

The signing ceremony was held at the CIPM head office, 'HR House' in Colombo. Both parties will reap significant benefits under this mutually beneficial academic-professional collaboration.

"We are delighted to be cooperating with KAATSU International University in Sri Lanka in a mutually beneficial manner, including sharing of knowledge and learning resources, conducting of collaborative research and mutual recognition of and promotion of the qualifications of the two institutions," said



CIPM President Ken Vijayakumar and KIU Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. Nadeeka Ranadeeva exchange MoU along with other dignitaries

CIPM Sri Lanka President Ken Vijayakumar.

President Ken Vijayakumar, Hony Secretary Priyankara Seneviratne, Hony Treasurer Col. S. Jayawickrama (Retired), CEO UAC Obeysekere, Director Professional and Academic Affairs G. Weerathunge, Director Operations Himali Dasanayake and CIPM staff represented CIPM Sri Lanka at the ceremony while Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. Nadeeka Ranadeeva, Faculty of Management Hony Dean Dr. Chandima Sanjeevanie, Faculty of Health Sciences, Dean Nirmani Samarakoon, COO Chamara Lakmal Weerathunga, Senior Assistant Registrar Harshani Weerasinghe, heads of the

Faculty of Management departments, academic staff and students represented the KIU.

Under the terms of the MoU, CIPM will offer a gold medal award and scholarship to the most outstanding student following the Bachelor of Management Honours in the HR degree programme at the KIU in each batch for each year at the KIU annual convocation. CIPM will also offer students and academics at the KIU to use its extensive library and e-facilities at no cost, invite the KIU academics to participate in lectures, seminars and conferences conducted by CIPM and provide exemptions to graduates and undergraduates as per the exemption plan.



# DailyMirror

# Life

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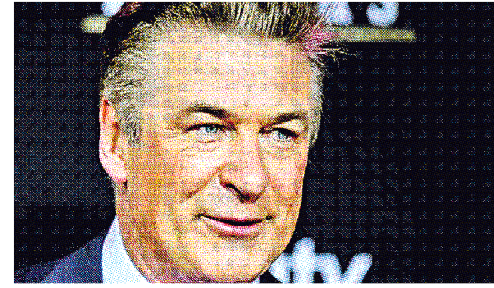


## SCORSESE, DICAPRIO TO PREMIERE NEW FILM AT CANNES

Martin Scorsese's new film starring Leonardo DiCaprio, "Killers of the Flower Moon", will get its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival on Friday. It will be the first time the veteran filmmaker presents a new film at the festival since he won best director there in 1986 for "After Hours". AFP

## US JUDGE ACCEPTS 'RUST' FILM SAFETY COORDINATOR'S PLEA DEAL

A New Mexico judge on Friday accepted the plea deal struck between prosecutors and the safety coordinator of the film starring Alec Baldwin whose cinematographer was shot and killed on set. Dave Halls, assistant director of the low budget Western "Rust," handed Baldwin the loaded gun which ultimately discharged, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounding the film's director, Joel Souza. AFP



## STREAMING FILMS MORE DIVERSE THAN CINEMATIC RELEASES

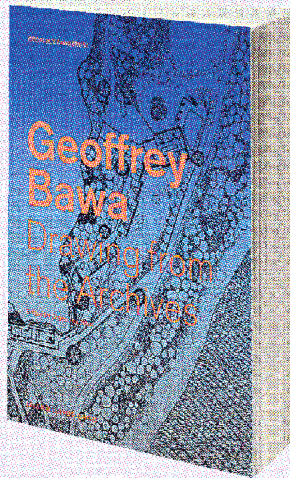
Films released by streaming services are more racially representative and more likely to have female leads than those that debut in theatres, a study released Thursday showed. Movies destined for the small screen were almost entirely reflective of the US population, the Hollywood Diversity Report said, with majority-minority casts doing especially well with audiences. AFP

### Architecture

## DRAWING FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY GEOFFREY BAWA

The Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa fused sensitivity for local context with the technological discoveries and design principles of modernism. Accordingly, Bawa often incorporated materials (local stone and timber) and layouts (high roofs, cross-ventilation, vast overhangs) specific to Sri Lanka's monsoon climate and storied architectural history from the cave monasteries of the Anuradhapura period to the feudal Walaawa style of manor houses into his modernist designs. Gathering together essays by scholars and writers across a multitude of disciplines including architecture, photography, geography, urban design and art history.



Available at Sarasavi Bookshop Nugegoda, No. 2 Samudradevi Mawatha

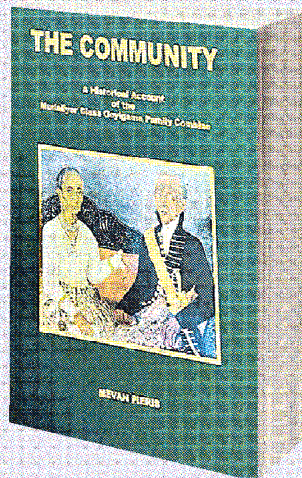
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### Non Fiction

## THE COMMUNITY

BY MEVAN PIERIS

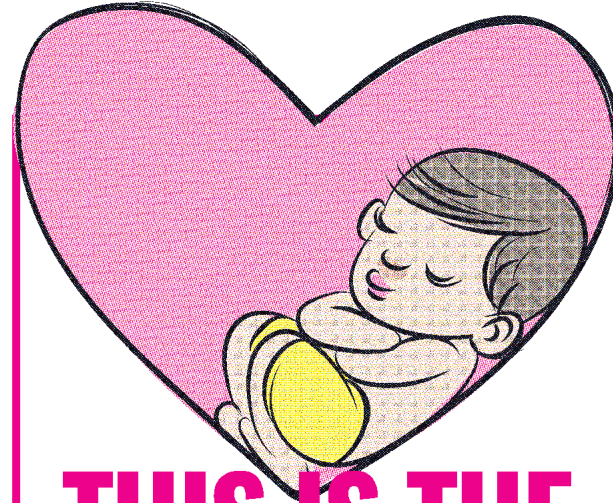
The hardcover book printed on art paper is a unique historical account of the Mudaliyar class Goyigama Family Combine, who were a powerful Community that wielded much power and influence during Dutch and British times. The book traces its evolution from Portuguese times and covers a period of 500 years. 'The Community' comprises 580 pages and carries 159 photographs in colour and black and white and detailed family history with names. The thrust of the book is to bring to light who the Master Spirits of the Community were and the enormous contribution to the good of society done by the Community. An essential book to those who want to know the role played by the powerful Goyigama family.



The author is the former national cricketer Mevan Pieris.

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## THIS IS THE SAD TREND

I had a message recently from a friend which said that many Sri Lankan people are clamouring against politicians, in order to make the country prosperous. But the people themselves practice fraud, dishonesty, and find ways of circumventing the law at every level. Unfortunately this is the sad trend we see today. Headlines in the media speak of little else but murders, robberies, devastation of public and private property and so

on. Rape, abuse against women and children all go on unabated. So the mindset of people also has to change if we are to rebuild our nation in a united effort, irrespective of political differences, race or religion. Kindness, respect for elders and women, love for children, gentleness, courtesy and to treat others as we would like them to treat us are all important. We need peace, permanent reconciliation, progress and development for our beloved nation.

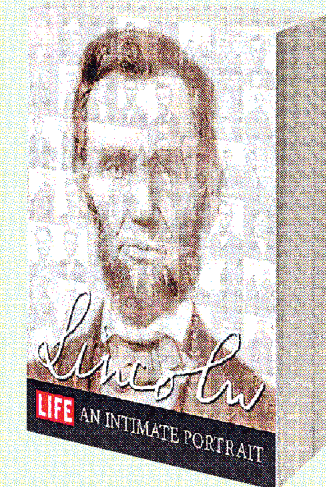
## 'The Community'

A book launch held recently at the Sri Lanka Foundation was of a book 'THE COMMUNITY' BY Mevan Pieris. He had done detailed research into the Mudaliyar class of the Goigama combine. The book should be an interesting read for those interested in the history of families here. The Chief Guest was Professor G.L. Pieris, a classmate of Mevan's at S. Thomas College Mt Lavinia, who according to Mevan carried off all the prizes, walking in and off the stage to receive the prizes several times. The Guests of Honour were Rev Mark Billimoria, Warden of S Thomas who made an informative speech and Mr S. Skandakumar, former head of several companies and a former High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Australia. His speech was amusing and witty and he couldn't resist the fact as a Royalist of mentioning the recent



victory of Royal against St Thomas. Mevan, besides his writing, is a man of a myriad talents and he, his father Ashmore Pieris and his son Nilantha were all Thomian cricketers, Nilantha having captained S. Thomas. They were all bowlers of fame and I'm sure Mevan would have bowled many a maiden over in his day! His grandson Dineth gave the vote of thanks which was short, and to the point, excellent for a fifteen year old schoolboy. Mevan's wife Dr Nirmala, children, Nilantha and Dilani, and grandchildren were all there to support Mevan at the launch.

### Photography / Biography



BY THE EDITORS OF LIFE MAGAZINE

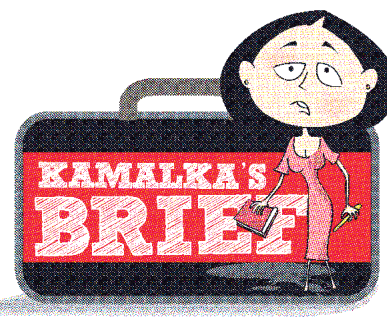
In what is perhaps the most splendidly marvellous book ever published on Abraham Lincoln, everything that has been left to us from him is brought to life in rich, vivid, detail. With help from experts and several famous commentators, his pictures, actions,

## LINCOLN

speeches and letters are analyzed and pointed inward toward the person, to help us understand the heart and soul of this icon. As gorgeous as it is scholarly, this book will long be treasured for its brilliance and its insight.

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## Lunch at Cinnamon Lakeside

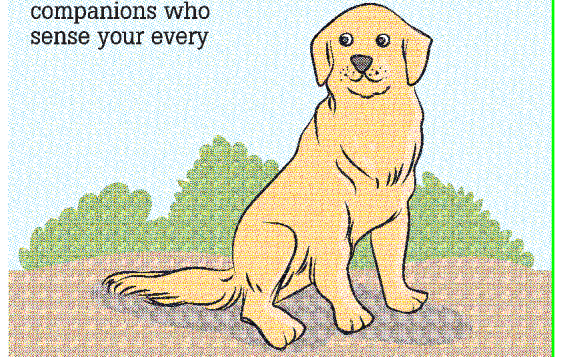
Yamuna Ganeshalingam hosted her close friends to a post birthday celebratory lunch at Cinnamon Lakeside recently. In her usual kind, thoughtful way she arranged for her driver to help me as I arrived alone. I was honoured to sit with the birthday girl, one of my favourite people Roshi Page, who in her usual kind way helped me to serve what I chose from the buffet. Also sitting with us was Dr Maheshi Wijeratne, who I couldn't resist teasing about an old flame of hers and Fathima Azeez. Among others were

Ramani Imbuldeniya, Sarla Nagendra, Romola Sivasunderam, Shyami Dodanwella, Thanchi Coomaraswamy and several others. People seemed to be in better spirits, and well endowed with resilience, strength, will and the capability to bounce back! Yamuna has ebullient and consummate hosting skills, and walked around from table to table to see that her guests were all happy and content. It was a most pleasant afternoon and Aroshi, another favourite of mine kindly gave me a lift back home.

## Golden retrievers

During the time when Covid was at its worst, Golden retrievers became the most popular breed in the UK. It's not surprising as I have one and they are the very best of companions who sense your every

need and mood, never hold back in their love and faithfulness. It's not surprising that a restaurant only for Golden retrievers has been opened in London.



## Catching up on each other's news

Sujani Bogollagama, a surrogate daughter, took me for lunch to the Commons. Her little daughter Banari, is at Ladies College, so as we chatted and ate, she left me for a few minutes to pick up Banari to join us. Banari suffers from her name as the little boys in her class in the KG would nickname her Banana. Sujani and I hadn't met for a while and we enjoyed catching up on each other's news.

Sujani is an excellent mother, rarely parted from her two little girls although I often fear for the infections they may catch as she takes them everywhere with her. Her problem is that she is too kindhearted and gets taken in by sob stories from some who borrow from her but never return what they borrow! There are I suppose confidence tricksters in all walks of life!

**Hi!!!**  
The Young Channel

**PISU KANNA**  
(CHALITHA WEERAKKODY)  
APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY AT 10.00PM

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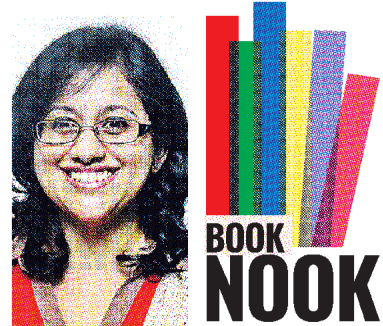
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BY RIHAAB MOWLANA

If you would like to get in touch to feature books or book-related events, drop me an email at

**lifedm123@gmail.com**

## RICE LOAF

**METHOD**

Boil rice in stock. Mix meat with onion, vegetables. Lime juice, chillie sauce, parsley and nutmeg. Place half rice in bottom of greased dish. Fill with meat mixture, Place rest of rice on top. Bake for 30 mins and turn out.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 500gms rice
- 80zs minced meat
- 2 pints meat stock
- 2 B onions chopped
- 4 oz leftover cooked vegetables
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tsbps chopped parsley
- dash chillie sauce
- pinch grated nutmeg
- 1/2 pt white sauce seasoning.