

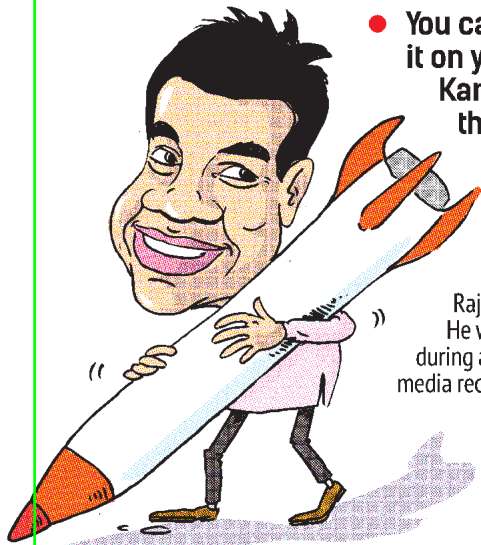


Daily Mirror



Visit Pallekele to know all about Chichi's rocket

You can learn all about it on your next trip to Kandy, with a visit to the Pallekele centre



All questions regarding Rohitha Rajapaksa's satellite can be answered with a visit to Pallekele, Kandy, MP Namal Rajapaksa said. He was responding to a question during a live Q n A session on social media recently. You can learn all about it on your next trip to Kandy, with a visit to the Pallekele centre, MP Namal Rajapaksa said.

Anti-Terrorism Bill delayed

Opposition groups allowed time to challenge Bill in court

Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapaksa announced yesterday that the presentation of the controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill has been delayed following requests by opposition groups, lawyers and activists.

Kalubowila Hospital decides not to accept bodies until existing ones are cleared: Administration

The storing of 28 unidentified corpses on which post-mortems have not been done for a year has worsened the situation

The hospital administration at the Kalubowila (Colombo South) Teaching Hospital has decided not to accept any more bodies that are unidentified and without owners that are brought to the hospital. Hospital Director Dr. Sagari Kiriwandeniya said a notice has been issued to the relevant police stations of the area to remove the bodies from the hospital morgue that have been brought to the hospital for various reasons.

Sri Lankan who died in detention in Japan

Video shown to public

Approximately 7 minutes of roughly five total hours of government-provided security camera footage, was shown at a press conference in Tokyo

Security camera footage showing a Sri Lankan woman before her death in a central Japan detention facility was publicly released Thursday for the first time by lawyers representing her family.

Request to issue arrest warrant on Diana Gamage

Order reserved for April 24

Defence counsel raised objections for the request and argued it is too early to issue an arrest order while investigations are pending into the incident

The Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court yesterday fixed for April 24 to decide whether it issues or not, an arrest warrant against State Minister Diana Gamage for allegedly committing offences under Immigrants' and Emigrants' Act.

Washington is controlling our country and economy - Cabraal

The Central Bank Governor and the leaders of the country must be mindful to work and not complain, former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal said. 'I have done this job for the last nine years. Have I ever complained or cried for a single day? We did our work despite a war. That is what is required of a Central Bank Governor and leaders of the country,' Cabraal said. 'There is no point in talking to us anymore, or the leader of this country. You must ask these questions in Washington as they are now controlling our country and economy,' he added responding to questions by journalists.



SJB MPs SPLIT FOLLOWING DAILY MIRROR ARTICLE SOME CRITICIZE DM WHILE OTHERS CONFIRM TALKS WITH RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

Sajith Premadasa @sajithpremadasa

Sounds more like @Dailymirror_SL losing its grip on being relevant. Try real journalism next time.

Sajith loses grip on a dying SJB? - Top Story | Daily Mirror dailymirror.lk

Harsha de Silva @HarshadeSilvaMP

Looks like the @Dailymirror_SL knows more about my life than myself. Yes, I said reforms are essential and current #SriLanka plan w @IMFLive is similar to our Blueprint except for their total lack of focus on social safety nets. But all of this stuff is pure conjecture

Eran Wickramaratne @EranWick

Tabloids joining the fringe call for Schrödinger's legislators - he must stand on principle but also sit with crooks...the erosion of professional integrity seems contagious, thoughts and prayers.

Daily Mirror learns that Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka is targeting the leadership of the SJB due to differences with Premadasa



The opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya is in a quandary following the Daily Mirror article titled "Sajith loses grip on a dying SJB?" which was published on April 4, 2023 in its newspaper and online platform. While MPs such as Harsha De Silva, Eran Wickremaratne and even Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa himself were quick to take to social media, criticizing the Daily Mirror, there were many MPs within the party who agreed on its contents and wanted an actual change following the publication of the article.

Dulanjalee Premadasa responds to allegations of interference in SJB

My involvement in politics has simply been limited to that of a private citizen of Sri Lanka

Dulanjalee Premadasa, sister of Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa has responded to the article titled 'Sajith loses grip on a dying SJB?' which was published in the Daily Mirror on April 4, 2023. Below is a letter she sent to the Daily Mirror in response to the article.

"It is with profound disappointment that I refer to an article published in the Daily Mirror Online Issue dated 4th April 2023, wherein I have been named in connection with a remark and/or statement devoid of any substance and/or premise and/or irrefutable evidence.



WRITER'S NOTE -

The Daily Mirror has published the news story titled 'Sajith loses grip on a dying SJB?' after speaking to several SJB parliamentarians who all confirmed the details published as well as the accuracy of its contents. The Daily Mirror stands by its story.

SOME SJB MPs WILLING TO SUPPORT RW IN A GROUP INCLUDING HARSHA

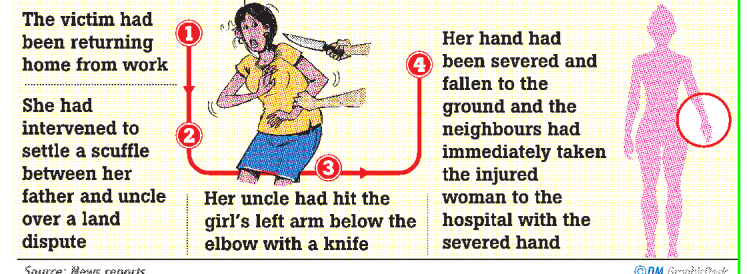
Many want to work with the President but are a bit reluctant to contest an election with him. The MP said he would accept a ministry on political grounds as well and would not consider improving the health sector as a sole criteria for a crossover

Several Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MPs are willing to support President Ranil Wickremesinghe and will do so as a group if the party fails to take a decision, SJB MP Rajitha Senarathne said yesterday. 'MPs like Harsha de Silva are willing to support President Wickremesinghe no matter what anyone says. We will support the President as a group and not individually the MP said responding to a question raised by journalists at a media briefing. 'Many want to work with the President but are a bit reluctant to contest an election with him,' he added.



SURGEONS RE-ATTACH YOUNG WOMAN'S ARM

After uncle severs arm during an argument



Surgeons have successfully re-attached a young woman's severed arm, after a surgery of nearly four hours led by Dr. Ananda Jayawardena, at the Kegalle General Hospital. The young woman from Nilapalagamma, Alapalawala, Kegalle, had part of her left arm from the elbow downwards, severed by her uncle with a knife, after an argument broke out between her father and uncle over a land dispute.



SL AGAIN RAISES CONCERNS WITH CANADA ON TAMIL GENOCIDE WEEK ACT, OTHERS

Sri Lanka has taken the position that the multi-faceted bilateral relations should not be decided by a group acting in political interests

Sri Lanka, once again raised concerns with Canada on a host of matters including the enactment of the Tamil Genocide Education Week Act in Ontario, Daily Mirror learns. According to a source, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry is reported to have expressed Sri Lanka's concerns in this regard when he had a meeting with Canadian High Commissioner Eric Walsh yesterday. After the meeting, the Minister tweeted that issues of bilateral concerns were discussed.

CEB acquires 163 MW power plant

The Ceylon Electricity Board has successfully acquired the 163 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant which was operated by Sojitz Kelanitissa (Pvt) Limited on March 28, 2023. The acquiring process was initiated in the latter part of the year 2022, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The untiring efforts of the CEB team led by the General Manager, CEB; Eng. Rohan Seneviratne has resulted to enhance CEB's power plant capacity by 163 MW.

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Daily Mirror

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CEB ACQUIRES 163 MW POWER PLANT

Under the GOSL policy framework, CEB signed the PPA with Sojitz Kelanitissa (Pvt) Limited in June, 2000 as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) on BOOT basis. The contract period was for 20 years and the power plant is located in Colombo, Kelanitissa Power Plant complex.

SJB MPs SPLIT FOLLOWING DAILY MIRROR ARTICLE

Yesterday, senior MP Rajitha Senarathne at a media briefing said several SJB MPs were willing to support President Ranil Wickremesinghe and they will do so as a group.

Senarathne said MPs such as Harsha de Silva were willing to support President Wickremesinghe no matter what anyone says and further said that many MPs want to work with the President but were a bit reluctant to contest an election with him.

However, prior to Senarathne meeting the press, SJB MP S. Marikkar in a media briefing, when questioned if SJB MPs were going

to cross over, said that it was only the social media and "President Ranil Wickremesinghe's family owned media" that was publishing such news. Marikkar said that such allegations were only planted in the media owned by President Ranil Wickremesinghe's family but other than criticizing the Daily Mirror, Marikkar had nothing further to say on allegations that several SJB MPs were in discussions presently with the President.

The Daily Mirror learns that hours before Sajith Premadasa hosted the SJB MPs to dinner on April 3 at the Monarch Imperial, he held a committee meeting with

the SJB Parliamentarians during which he said that he had heard that a group of SJB MPs including Harsha De Silva was in talks with the President, a senior SJB MP said. At the meeting he requested his MPs to stay together in the SJB.

Senior SJB MPs said that Premadasa maintained a very friendly attitude with all the parliamentarians who attended. Already Patali Champika Ranawaka has announced that he will form a new political party next month while Daily Mirror learns that Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka is targeting the leadership of the SJB.

SL AGAIN RAISES CONCERNS WITH CANADA ON TAMIL GENOCIDE WEEK ACT, OTHERS

The meeting took place in the context of a court in Canada upholding the Tamil Genocide Week Act. It is learnt that the minister briefed the envoy about it and expressed concerns on it.

The Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, establishes seven days each year, May 11 to 18, during which Ontarians "are encouraged

to educate themselves about, and to maintain their awareness of, the Tamil genocide and other genocides that have occurred in world history. Canada has also imposed sanctions on four top Sri Lankan officials including former presidents Mahinda and Gotabaya Rajapaksa, over what it called "gross and systematic violations of

human rights" during the war time between 1983 and 2009.

Sri Lanka has taken the position that the multi-faceted bilateral relations should not be decided by a group acting in political interests. Canada is home to a large number of expatriate Sri Lankan Tamils who have secured even parliamentary representation.

OBITUARIES

HEWAWASAM – NANDANA.

(Retired hotelier, Hofheim/Ts nr Frankfurt/ M Germany) passed away holidaying in his native Sri Lanka on 2nd April 2023. Beloved husband of Corinna Bode, loving father of Judy Hewawasam and Jane Hewawasam (Germany) and loving brother of Dhammika Hewawasam, Mallika Wijewardana and Indrajith Hewawasam (Sri Lanka), loving uncle of Asiri Madhubashini Wimalaweera and Thilina and Dilini Wijewardana. Fondly remembered and sadly missed by a host of friends and the "Frankfurt Spice Boys". His remains lie at Western Funeral Home No. 115, Colombo Road, Negombo. Open for viewing from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. on 7th April and from 8.30 a.m. till 2.00 p.m. on 8th April. Cortege leaves at 2.30 p.m. Cremation at 3.00 p.m. at the Public Cemetery of Negombo. Tel: 0773552228. 572617

ONLINE OBITUARIES
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries

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Order reserved for April 24

However, the Attorney General had moved the court not to make such an order until the Court of Appeal makes an appropriate order regarding a petition filed over a similar issue.

Meanwhile, defence counsel that appeared on behalf of the State Minister raised objections

for the request and argued that it is too early to issue an arrest order while investigations are pending into the incident.

The order regarding these applications are to be delivered on April 24 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Prasanna Alwis.

In 2021, the CID had filed a B

report in the Chief Magistrate's Court against Diana Gamage over a complaint that she is a British citizen residing in Sri Lanka without a dual citizenship status. The CID had commenced investigations into this incident subsequent to a complaint lodged by social activist Oshala Herath.

KALUBOWILA HOSPITAL DECIDES NOT TO ACCEPT BODIES UNTIL EXISTING ONES ARE CLEARED: ADMINISTRATION

She said the decision was taken due to the mortuary exceeding its capacity. "The number of bodies that can be stored in the hospital morgue is 36. But we have received bodies that exceed this maximum capacity."

"The storing of 28 unidentified corpses on which post-mortems

have not been done for a year has worsened the situation. Also, not conducting follow-up action on bodies and not conducting post-mortems on bodies currently deposited in the hospital by police stations such as Piliyandala, Mirihana, Dehiwala and Mt. Lavinia have worsened the situation. Even though notices had been issued,

certain police stations have not shown any concern."

"Bodies identified by court orders or for other reasons are brought to hospitals daily. Until the existing bodies are removed, the bodies brought to the hospital have to be kept on the hospital beds," another official from the hospital said.

Dulanjalee Premadasa responds to allegations of interference in SJB

● I demand an apology from the journalist concerned – Jamila Husain – and from your establishment

The journalist responsible, Jamila Husain, has evidently used my name inconspicuously to fuel outright assumptions and baseless remarks, with complete disregard to my reputation and safety including that of my very own family at a time that the political culture prevalent in the country appears to be volatile.

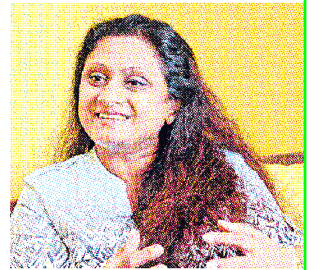
I vehemently deny any such baseless remarks, accusations and proudly state that my involvement in politics has simply been limited to that of a private citizen of Sri Lanka, exercising their freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution.

I come from a family engrained in the political culture of this country and have always adhered to the rule of law. However, I hold no political position in any political party that enables me to act as distastefully as the aforesaid Article portrays me to be, and as such I have no influence

over any politician as implicitly and/or explicitly alleged by the aforesaid journalist.

I strongly condemn this level of low journalism exhibited in your journalists by making false accusations against me in order to attract more readers, and consequently your establishment that involves tarnishing the reputation of individuals, while attempting to further your own ulterior political agenda or otherwise, especially with regard to fundamental assumptions and/or mere speculation disguised as 'news'. I strongly question the integrity of your establishment for the lack of proof thereof, with regards to the defamatory, false, unethical remarks permitted to be made in the Daily Mirror Online Issue dated 4th April 2023 and subsequently seen circulating on several social media platforms.

In these circumstances, I demand an apology from the



journalist concerned - Jamila Husain - and from your establishment namely Wijeya Newspapers Ltd., and a retraction of any remarks involving my name as seen in the Daily Mirror Online Issue dated 4th April 2023.

I further state that if you have a shred of integrity in your profession, you shall issue a formal apology from the journalist concerned and your establishment namely and a retraction of the remarks involving my name and verify the credibility of these defamatory, unethical, false remarks. However, it is evident, given your actions that I may not be able to expect such a level of professionalism from you."

PRIVATE-PLAINT AGAINST AJITH NIVARD CABRAAL DISMISSED

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Colombo Chief Magistrate's court yesterday ordered to dismiss a private-plaint filed against former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal.

Colombo Additional Magistrate Harshana Kekunawala made this order taking into consideration the preliminary objections raised on behalf of the former Central Bank Governor. Former Southern Province Governor Rajith Keerthi Thennakoon had filed a private-plaint in terms of section 136(1)(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act seeking legal action against Cabraal for committing alleged offences while he was serving as the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

President's Counsel

Sampath Mendis appearing for Ajith Nivard Cabraal had raised preliminary objections challenging the maintainability of the plaint on the grounds of insufficient evidence to support the allegations and concealing material facts to the effect that a petition filed over similar allegations has been dismissed by Court of Appeal.

In this case, petitioner Keerthi Thennakoon alleged that Cabraal is responsible for the country's crippling economic crisis since he took measures to pay a 500 million US dollar sovereign bond. President's Counsel Maithri Gunaratne with counsel Iresh Seneviratne, Ashan Nanayakkara and Migara Gunaratne appeared for the petitioner.

Some SJB MPs willing to support RW

"There are no policy differences between President Wickremesinghe and the SJB. SJBers went separately not because there were policy differences but because they were not happy about his decision making style," he added.

Also, he said the notion that the President has put the country to a better position is a reality.

He has had discussions with

the President especially on the health sector crisis. The President has promised to do whatever that should be done to correct it. Referring to the proposed Counter Terrorism Bill, the MP said there are positive aspects about the legislation but stressed that some amendments have to be made. Citing an example he said the definition of terrorism in the Bill has to be amended.

Video shown to public

Approximately 7 minutes of roughly five total hours of government-provided security camera footage showing Ratnayake Liyanage Wishma Sandamali, who died at the age of 33 while being held at the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau in March 2021, was shown at a press conference in Tokyo. A segment of the released footage taken less than two weeks before Wishma's death shows her bedridden and begging officers to take her to hospital.

In another piece of footage from the day of her death, an officer tries to wake an unresponsive Wishma after reporting over an intercom that

her fingertips feel cold.

While Wishma's family and some members of parliament have been able to privately view the footage, which the government submitted as evidence in a lawsuit, it marks the first time a portion of it has been made available to the public. Wishma arrived in Japan in 2017 as a student but was taken into custody at the immigration facility in August 2020 for overstaying her visa.

Wishma's family is seeking damages from the government over her death, alleging she was illegally detained and died due to a lack of required medical care. **(The Mainichi)**

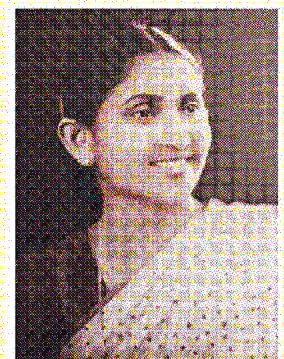
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Loving, Selfless Mother and Grandmother
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Extraordinary & Irreplaceable
Remembered with Love, Gratitude
and
Sorely, Sorely Missed
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Pradeep, Rehani and their families

Seventh Day Remembrance



Mary Asuntha Samaranyake

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Rest In Peace In The Arms Of Jesus

Sadly missed by your children Loretta, Dilip, Clarence & Roshan, In-laws Athula, Nuri, Nilakshi & Thushani, Grandchildren, Great grand children, Nieces & Nephews

6th BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN



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1990/09/22 2017/04/07

Today is such a painful day full of sadness and grief for us as we mourn the moment that you left recalling how life used to be

You were someone very special who left your mark on so many lives Things just haven't been the same since we said goodbye

The Bond we shared will never end even though we are apart we find comfort in the memories, deep within our heart

This heartfelt message is for you, we miss you more than words can say the world lost someone precious on the day you went away

Thaththi, Ammi, Malli, Roshana & Family
5/8, ROBERT PLACE, DEHIWALA

Live . Laugh . Love

CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

ANTI-TERRORISM BILL DELAYED

"The first reading of the Bill was scheduled for April 4. But whoever chooses to challenge the Bill would face difficulty due to the court vacation period of three weeks, starting from April 6" Rajapakse said. Therefore the Bill will most likely be presented to Parliament during the last week of April or first week of May, he said.

The Government gazetted an Anti-Terrorism Bill on March 22, 2023 seeking to abolish the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and introduce an Anti-Terrorism Act in its place. The move has been met with strong criticism both locally and

internationally, with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) observing that the Bill was published without adequate consultations with respective stakeholders, including the BASL. The BASL said it has appointed a committee comprising senior lawyers to review the Bill.

While many government members have endorsed the move, activists have pointed out that the Bill in its existing form is open to misuse, similar to its predecessor, the PTA. Secretary of the Ceylon Teachers' Union Joseph Stalin said they will challenge the Bill in court, stating that a President with no mandate

does not have the authority to classify activists as terrorists.

Meanwhile MP Johnston Fernando responding to questions by journalists said that he is suffering from the consequences of the government not enacting counter-terrorism provisions of the law. Counter-terrorism laws should be brought in as much as possible to control this country, MP Johnston Fernando said. "We are suffering the consequences of not enacting even the existing laws. These Acts should be brought in as much as possible to control the country. Otherwise the country will be a madhouse," he said.

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Seventh of April marks the World Health Day and also the 75th anniversary of the World Health Organization

This year's theme is "health for all" which probably denotes equality in accessing healthcare, because good health should not remain as a privilege of a few but should fall within the reach of everyone and no one should be either discriminated based on their social status or financial position.

Unfortunately, poverty and economic crisis can fuel malnutrition, starvation and deprivation causing many non-communicable diseases. Life expectancy can in fact, reduce by as much as eight years among the malnourished and deprived. One of the studies, found a twenty year difference between the affluent and the socially deprived groups.

Lifestyle factors such as eating calorie dense food, processed food, low physical activity, smoking etc cause weight gain, raise blood pressure, insulin resistance (where the secreted insulin is unable to drive glucose into the cells, causing high blood sugar levels, which is damaging to many if not all internal organs of the body), diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Irrespective of the social status, every individual should have access to good healthcare and take control of one's health, understand the common disease that afflicts us and more so with age and take the right steps to minimize its dangers and risks.

There obviously, has to be a lot of effort on the part of each one of us to ensure that we lead a good life by sticking to all the health recommendations and guidelines, which is formulated after adequate research, Reduce Blood pressure and keep it under control, do moderate exercise for about 20 to 30 minutes at least, five times a week, eat a healthy balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables, know your blood cholesterol levels and control it, maintain a healthy body mass index of 18.5 - 23 and a waste circumference below 36 cm for men and 32 cm for women, stop smoking, reduce alcohol intake, know your blood sugar level and control diabetes and manage stress.

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This is to inform members of the Old Thomians' Swimming Club that the 65th AGM will be held at the Club House - 38, De Saram road, Mount Lavinia on **Friday the 28th of April 2023 at 07.30 p.m.**

Notice of any resolution to be moved at the AGM shall be given to the undersigned duly proposed and seconded by members entitled to vote fourteen days prior to the AGM.

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06th April 2023

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EDITORIAL

"The only thing you can be sure of, Herr March, is that - whoever wins - still standing when the smoke of battle clears will be the banks of the cantons of Switzerland."
- ROBERT HARRIS

OUR THOUGHT

A GEOPOLITICAL SHIFT, THE US AND THE WEST

French President Macron is presently on a visit to China. IMF Chief von der Leyen too will be in that country. Speaking in Brussels last week Ms von der Leyen publicly criticised China's 'no limits' ties with Moscow in the face of an 'atrocious and illegal invasion of Ukraine.'

While we do not condone invasion, whether, by Russia or any other country, it may be better if Ms von der Leyen starts by ordering the US and NATO countries, who still hold on, and cling onto colonies they invaded in an earlier era, than spring with such alacrity to solely pick on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

France continues its rule in its colonies in Western Africa, Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and even in Antarctica.

According to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the UK remains the colonial ruler in Anguilla; Bermuda; British Antarctic Territory; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands; St Helena and St Helena Dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha); South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands; Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (Cyprus); and The Turks & Caicos Islands

The Smithsonian Magazine reveals the US has remnants of its colonial empire, for example in Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Today the politico-economic situation in the world is fast moving away from a US-West European centre of gravity.

In fact, the hegemony of the US and Western colonialists are being challenged in nearly every sphere of activity.

Saudi Arabia, one of America's closest allies in the Middle East, is taking small steps toward the restoration of bilateral ties with its old foe Iran under a Chinese-brokered peace plan. Just a week ago the two Foreign Ministers of those countries spoke via the telephone - the 4th or 5th call between the two countries. Under the Chinese brokered plan which both countries agreed to their Foreign Ministers agreed to the return of Ambassadors as a means of discussing restoring relations.

The Print claims restoring diplomatic relations may come to fruition within months. The two States are also looking to revive the Security Co-operation Agreement signed in 2001 and as well as the 1998, General Agreement for Co-operation in areas of trade, investment, science and sports.

Saudi Arabia has shown every indication of moving out of the shadow of its earlier US/European-centric alignment. It is also moving toward an agreement with Syria, this time brokered by Russian-sponsored talks. Saudi has also pushed OPEC to cut down oil production in the face of the US and West European pressure not to do so.

The US continues enforcing sanctions on various nations it has disputes with, using dollar transfer as a weapon. A major problem with this is that it disrupts trade between countries that are not targets of sanctions.

In the face of this challenge BRICS a grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - representing the largest developing economies and formed in 2019 - are now working on a programme to use a single 'BRICS currency' that could be used for trading purposes.

Even today China and Russia trade using their own currencies - the Yuan and Ruble. India and Russia use the Indian Rupee to Ruble for payments.

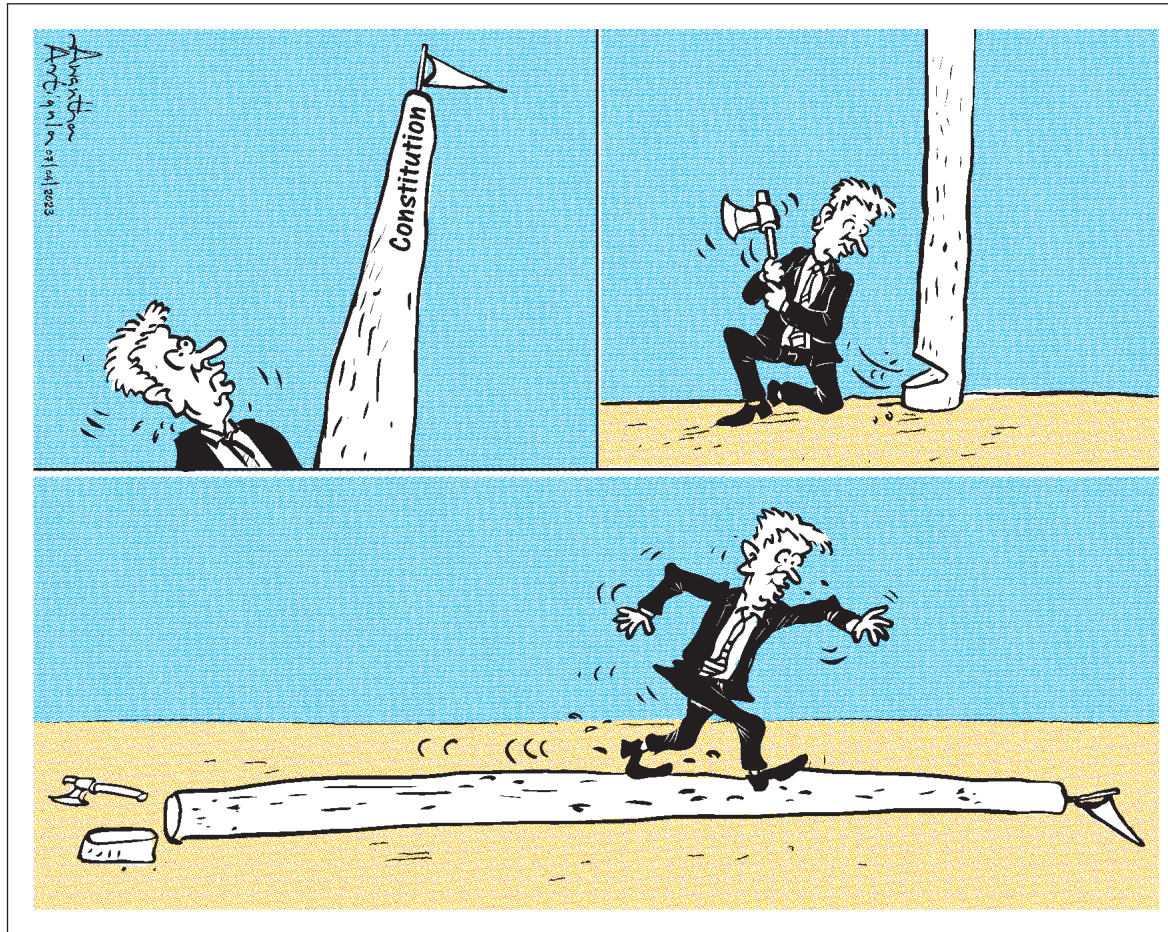
Again according to China, Yuan has already replaced the US Dollar as the most traded currency in Russia. In a multi-polar World Order, many could trade using their own currencies. However, using the BRICS currency has many advantages because it is backed up by multiple currencies, gold and other rare minerals and therefore it is much more stable and less risky.

The Common Currency being developed via BRICS is not to replace the domestic currencies - like the Euro did in the EU Zone.

Rather, the common currency under discussion is to settle trade between members. Say, India wants lithium from Brazil/Argentina, instead of paying in US dollars, India can cost in the BRICS currency or the Rupee (INR).

Today's reality is that the world is moving away from dependence on the US and Europe. It would be best if the US and Europe come to terms with this new reality.

Let them 'remove the beam from their own eye before they point to a speck in the eye of others.



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



By Ameen Izzadeen

I am just the average American citizen, formerly a housewife, now an activist, who cannot stand quietly by while my government enacts and enforces laws that are unfair, unbalanced and just plain mean."

These were the words of Laurie Kozuba, founder and director of Citizens & Immigrants for Equal Justice. She personally experienced the consequences of a dubious law, when her husband, a long-time legal permanent resident from Canada, was deported under the 1996 Immigration Acts. She was compelled to start asking questions and demanding answers about laws, passed in the wake of tragedies such as 9/11 - laws that tread heavily on civil liberties.

And it is now time for us, average Sri Lankan citizens, to be an activist like Laurie and ask questions about a dubious and draconian anti-terror law the government is trying to enact in our name. The draft law is so ambiguous that even asking a question can be interpreted as an act of terrorism and the questioner could be detained and taken to court. Journalists and social media users exercising their freedom of speech can be arrested, charged with terrorism, and jailed if they urge people to oppose a government that is turning out to be autocratic or incompetent.

Government leaders should understand that they have no divine power to rule over us. Whatever power they exercise is derived from the people, who are sovereign. They should remember that governance is a sacred task flowing from a social contract, through which the people had handed over some of their rights to an authority they themselves chose -- not to make such an authority an autocratic monster with killer instincts, but to act as a trustee of their rights.

The hallowed statement that Government is a trust comes from this unwritten social contract regarded as the fount of democracy. It vests in the people the right to change and even overthrow a government that betrays the trust. In a society that values democracy, elections are an organised way for a change of government. But people-power protests are also democracy and a legitimate exercise if the government is seen to be breaking the social contract.

If we strictly interpret the social contract, all democracies worth their salt should include in their constitutions the right of the people to resort to people-power protests. Far from it, most democracies have terrorized people's power. Sri Lanka's proposed anti-terror law is doing just that.

It's a welcome development that civil society activists, including human rights campaigners, trade unionists and student organisations are aggressively decrying the proposed law. Seldom in Sri Lanka's post-Independence history, has Sri Lanka's civil society been as vociferous and agitated against a piece of law as it is now. During Sri Lanka's war against terrorism, with our silence, we endorsed many a regulation proclaimed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), even though we knew it eroded civil liberties, including our right to free speech, free assembly, and free movement.

And our silence was also deafening when the governments in the past misused laws in what appeared to be a witch-hunt against human rights activists and members of minority communities. Like the man in



German pastor Martin Niemöller's famous statement that begins with the line "First they came for socialists and I did not speak out, because I was not a socialist..." and ends with "Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me," we spoke not when laws such as the PTA and the ICCPR (International Convention on Civil and Political Rights) Act were passed and abused to harass civilians, minority community members and journalists.

Government leaders should understand that they have no divine power to rule over us. Whatever power they exercise is derived from the people, who are sovereign

Journalist J.S. Tissainayagam who was arrested and arraigned under the PTA was like an orphan in his own country. He was abandoned by civil society, trade unionists, and human rights activists who now issue statements and hold daily demonstrations against the proposed anti-terror law.

It was pressure from the European Union and the United States that eventually secured Tissainayagam's release after he was sentenced to a 20-year jail term in what was seen as a travesty of justice. In a country that is known for misinterpretation of laws to suit political machinations, the 2007 ICCPR Act was often invoked to uphold anything but what has been emphasised in the 1966 UN convention. Instead of ensuring freedom from torture and promoting fair trial rights, freedom of thought, equality, and non-discrimination, the ICCPR Act became a dreaded piece of legislation. It was used to harass or terrorise writers, human rights activists, tourists and minority community members.

Given our past experience with laws misinterpretation and misapplication, the anti-terror bill that tolerates no dissent makes us shudder.

As recently as a few months ago, student leaders spearheading anti-government protests were arrested under the PTA and detained. If not for the good behaviour condition the international community had set for the government to facilitate the

economic bailout packages, the country would have slipped further deep into a democracy-swallowing dark hole.

We agree that recent anti-government protests had been infiltrated by vested political interests, both local and foreign, and public-sector trade union leaders are acting like Mafiosi holding the government to ransom and denying the battered people access to free health and children free education, but to deal with such unruly situations, there are other laws.

A comprehensive anti-terrorism law should concentrate on preventive measures, intelligence gathering, wiretapping procedures, surveillance, arrests, use of force, detention, interrogation, and rehabilitation among other subjects, but Sri Lanka's anti-terrorism bill appears to be a law tailor-made for crushing democratic dissent and trade unionism and establish an autocratic rule, which the authorities now mistakenly believe is necessary to achieve economic recovery.

Though the government yesterday announced it was delaying the presentation of the bill for consultation with civil society members, it is still problematic, for it lacked a proper definition of what constitutes terrorism. The definitional problem of terrorism is an international crisis. Even the United Nations has not reached a global consensus on what terrorism is, given the truism that one's terrorist is another's freedom fighter.

When laws, especially those dealing with a controversial subject such as terrorism, are drafted civil society participation is an essential requirement, and international best practices should be taken into consideration.

However, laws passed after the 9/11 terror attacks, especially by those nations which devised a war on terror to assert their global domination and further their national interest, fall short of civil liberty standards. The US Patriot Act, which undermines the judiciary's role and the people's right to privacy, is a case in point.

Sri Lanka has been beset by insurgencies and terror wars. Four years ago this month, a group of Muslim terrorists carried out terror attacks on churches and hotels on Easter Sunday. Therefore, the country certainly needs comprehensive laws to prevent future tragedies, but we cannot allow our outrage against terrorists and terrorism to give the government justification to enact laws that trespass on our freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.

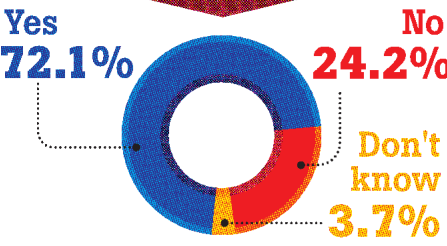
DM Poll

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

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



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



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wasting water on rallies?

During a recent protest near Lipton Circus, Colombo the Police resorted to using water cannons to disperse the demonstrators. Unfortunately, this resulted in the protesters receiving a heavy bathing.

Eventually, the Police used their common sense and invited a delegation from the protesting group to the UGC premises to discuss their issues with the officials.

We question why previous rallies, where water cannons and tear gas were used to disperse crowds, did not involve arranging a delegation for peaceful discussions between the conflicting parties.

Tear gas is not a cheap commodity, and the process of importing it depletes our US dollar reserves. Similarly, the cost of water whatever the source involves costs.

Therefore, we recommend that the Police set up a makeshift office on the sidewalk on their side to conduct meetings with the opposing parties before the use of water cannons.

-SUMITH DE SILVA

Too many cooks spoiled the soup

Chief Chef came to power without a proper interview. However, he nominated several cooks under his command.

One cook was ordered to prepare medicated soup for the hospitals. From the time he became chef all in a mess. All hospitals have a shortage of several soups. He always makes unsatisfactory explanations for the medicated soups shortage.

The other cook is a masterminded electric cook. He has to prepare current soup and petrol soups. However, all of a sudden he increased the prices by hundreds and reduced them in cents, after months.

The mess has 225 members. Most of their educations and qualifications are also like a mess.

Slip of the tongue is not the fault of the brain. It is the fault of the public who sent them to the mess by voting them in. The country is facing hardship willing to face a change as a new chef which is now becoming a daydream only.

-S.I.JOTHY, PANNIPITIYA

ATA published without adequate consultation with stakeholders - BASL

WEB COMMENTS

- NATALIE NANAYAKARA** - This bill is there to suppress the citizens of their basic rights such as voting and when we protest, to treat us mercilessly. We should be very worried that the current president and his criminal gang will set the country back to the dark ages in terms of Human Rights. They have already done so with the economy. Sri Lanka will be put in the same basket as Afghanistan and Burma by the international community.
- JUDE** - SL has a very weak legal system!! The government wants to intimidate trade unionists with ATB yeah!!
- OBSERVER** - The BASL is the only saviour to come to defend the democratic rights of the people. They have done this in the past and are doing so now.
- RANIL IDI AMIN** - The true purpose of this bill is to deny the basic rights of the people and keep on wrecking what is left like a bunch of scavengers fighting over a carcass.

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED...!

By Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Eymard Fernando

Bishop's House, Kurunegala

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter Sunday, is the Christian day to commemorate the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His Salvific Death on Calvary.

Ever since Jesus died and was raised from the dead, Christians have proclaimed the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus to be the most decisive turning point for all creation and history. On Good Friday, we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by Crucifixion as the Ultimate Sacrifice for our sins (cf. Galatians 1:4).

The Holy Cross, which became the Altar for Jesus to offer the Supreme Sacrifice of His Life to God the Father, is the principal and most widely-recognized symbol in Christianity, recalling the redeeming benefits of His Passion and Death. Thus, it is a sign of both Christ Himself and the faith of Christians. The Holy Cross is, no doubt, a holy symbol; a constant reminder of profound love and forgiveness.

Many of us wear a Cross around our neck to proclaim, even in a quiet way, that we are Christians - we belong to Jesus Christ! We place images or icons of a Crucifix or a Cross in our houses and hang Crosses in various places as a powerful means of fighting against evil. While it is really nice to see this symbol so accepted, it is also easy to lose sight of what this symbol was originally used to represent. Re-examining its origin puts the Cross in an entirely new light. It is more than the near-universal symbol of Christianity.

This simple design carries with it a powerful and inspiring message of Love and Humility, Finality, Fulfilled Promises, and much more... to everyone around the world!

LOVE AND HUMILITY IN THE CROSS

Crucifixion was a despised method of execution by the Roman Empire reserved only for the worst criminals. Jesus the Son of God absolutely did not deserve to die this way. But His choice to die this way in fulfilment of the prophecies shows His great humility in both life and death and His immense love for us. He gave up everything for us and for our salvation offering this Ultimate Sacrifice on the Cross.

FINALITY IN THE CROSS

Right before dying, Our Lord Jesus declared: "It is finished" (St. John 19:30). The meaning of this statement can be understood as first as the immediate Earthly Life of Jesus was over. He would certainly show Himself after the Resurrection, but the Cross marked a turning point in His relationship with the world. Secondly, the ultimate price for our sins is paid in full. No amount of prayers or good deeds could ever make us fitter for Heaven than what Jesus did and completed on His own on the Altar of the Cross.

FULFILMENT OF PROMISES IN THE CROSS

For anyone familiar with the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, the Cross represents the culmination of all the prophecies dating back to ancient times. God promised to send a Saviour to suffer and die, taking upon Himself the punishment that we deserve for our sins. The Holy Bible made everything clear, even down to the exact method of death - for instance, Psalm 22 describes the method of Crucifixion centuries before it took place. The Cross of Christ Jesus ends this line of prophecy and shows the fact that Our God is a God Who is ever faithful to His promises.

MY DAILY CROSS IS MY UNION WITH THE LORD!

Jesus' Cross comes to me in my daily life in the form of a struggle. What is this struggle? It is none other than the continuous conflict between God's Holy Will and my own will, two sides of the Cross representing each.

Most of the time, we complain that the Cross we have to carry is too burdensome. Here, our attitude has to be that God knows what is best than we ourselves do.

A story is told of a man who goes to Jesus wanting to trade out his life's Cross for a smaller one. He tells the Lord, "I see the Crosses others are carrying and theirs are much more bearable than mine. Why does my Cross have to be so cumbersome and heavy? Other people carry their Crosses with ease but mine is hindering my day-to-day life."

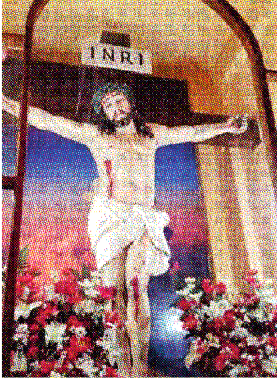
Jesus leads the man to a room full of Crosses. Some are big and others are small. The man is then instructed to put down his Cross and then go and select a new one. The only stipulation was once he made his selection, he could never complain or exchange his Cross again. He went

on for hours searching for a Cross that fits him. The big Crosses were just as he assumed very large and very heavy. He knew there was no way he could ever carry those Crosses. Even the smaller Crosses were shockingly painful. Some had stickers that constantly stuck you in the shoulder or back. Others were oddly shaped and rubbed the neck raw. Finally, the man came upon a Cross that he thought was perfect for him. Not too big; not too little! There were no sharp protruding objects and it rested perfectly on his shoulder, so it would not irritate him as he carried it. The man, with delight, cried out, "Here it is, Lord." Jesus asked the man, "Are you sure? Remember there are no trades or exchanges and no more complaining about your Cross." The man replied, "I am sure. This is the perfect Cross for me." To which

Jesus replied, "My Child, don't you realize that it is the very Cross you were carrying with you today?"

The obvious moral to the story is that we all have our own Crosses to bear. We all have struggles in life. Regardless of the type of Cross, the plain and simple truth is that we all have Crosses that we are capable of bearing!

Let us, therefore, keep our eyes fixed on our ultimate goal and know that we can make it to the end being inspired by the words of St. John Mary Vianney which go as, "You must accept your Cross; if you bear it courageously it will carry you to Heaven!"



W.M. MENDIS

The family of the Founder of W M Mendis & Co Ltd informs the public that the company was formed in 1960 and sold in 2011. The Founder Mr. W M Mendis and family relinquished directorship and management rights and had no involvement in the company after the sale.

NOW SCREENING



Crucify Him

He stood condemned
Before a thronging, jeering mob that cried
Crucify Him! Crucify Him!
Today!
As we condemn our fellowmen
On social grounds
Of race, caste, creed and class
We shout anew
Crucify Him! Crucify Him!
He stood bound
Lashed, scourged, humiliated
And with tongue lashings, slanderous
gossip
We scourge anew
And in the background resonates
Crucify Him! Crucify Him!
Beneath the load, he fell

An unwilling Cyrenean, helping him on
No Cyreneans we!
Fellow human tottering under the weight
of human problems
Groveling, wallowing in poverty
We heed not!
Fallen through human frailty
We scorn, we detest, we snigger
We holier than they!
The mockery of a crown, a circlet of thorn
A Royal, purple robe
Ah! the mockery of our lives
We who don might
We who crucify

By Jeannette Cabraal Kelaniya

Easter message by The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka

An occasion to deepen our faith in Christ

Easter is the central mystery of the Christian faith and it is the most significant feast in the Catholic liturgical calendar.

Lord Jesus who conquered sin and death saved us from eternal darkness. At Easter, we celebrate the fact that the Lord is truly risen and is present among us: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He has risen" (Lk. 24:5).

These are the words of the angels told to the believers who came early morning to the tomb of the Lord. St. John records that the disciples too went to the tomb on the day after the death of Jesus and saw nothing in the tomb.

It is the risen Lord who strengthened their faith and it is the risen spirit that sustains our faith today to share the light of the Resurrection among all mankind.

Thus, the feast of Resurrection is an occasion to deepen our faith in Christ. We believe in Christ who is risen and alive. He accompanies us in our journey through life and never abandons us. It is this faith in Christ that gives us the inspiration, inner strength and courage to carry our own crosses to live that new life in Him. However far we may wander, He is always there to restore our strength and revive our hope, calling on us to return to Him to start afresh.

This year we celebrate Easter at a time when our country is going through an unprecedented economic crisis. Our people are faced with enormous difficulties and sufferings due to the spiralling cost of living and price increase of essential items, particularly basic food items and medicine. Most Government Hospitals lack the basic medicines to relieve the suffering of people. Nevertheless, as Easter people, we believe that the Risen Lord is with us.



Easter is a time of hope, a moment of living like the believers of the early Church where they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42) and had everything in common and "there was not a needy person among them" (Acts 4:34). We need to be concerned of the poor and the needy to give them hope and lend a hand to live joyfully.

Let us, therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord during this Easter season to deliver us from this unfortunate predicament and resurrect our country where all people could live in harmony and dignity so that true democracy and justice will prevail for the citizens of our country to live in peace. We believe that the radiance of Christ's Resurrection enlightens our own lives. May the light of Christ in this dark hour of our country lead us from darkness to light.

We wish all our faithful and our readers the joy and the peace of the Risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

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දැඩි කැපැප්පවක වේවා!

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Pride of the Nation

SPORTS

National Super League Final

PAWAN STARS IN DAMBULLA'S DOUBLE TITLE WIN

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Opener Pawan Ratnayake shone with a fine knock of 62 and was well supported by Sonal Dinusha in Dambulla's five-wicket win against Jaffna in the final of the National Super League limited over tournament played at the R. Premadasa Stadium yesterday.

Ratnayake laid the foundation for Dambulla's run chase of 161 with his knock which came off 80 balls that included six boundaries and a six.

He also associated in two fruitful partnerships after they underwent an early setback having lost two wickets within four overs with six runs on the board.

Ratnayake's first partnership was of 73 runs for the third wicket with Ashan Priyanjan who made 33 with four boundaries and this followed with a 40-run stand for the fourth wicket with Sonal Dinusha.

Dinusha and Dushan Hemantha brought Dambulla closer to the target with the pair putting on a brief 33-run stand for the fifth wicket before Sonal, who remained unbeaten on 45 made in 52 balls with four boundaries, guided them to reach the target with ease in the 39th over.

The win meant that Dambulla were able to achieve a double, having earlier bagged the National Super League four-day title.

Earlier in the day Jaffna skipper Janith Liyanage won the toss and elected to take first lease of the wicket and his openers



The champion Dambulla team

Navod Paranavithana and Nishan Madushka giving them a sedate start putting on 31 runs.

Paranavithana along with Kasun Abeyratne added 37 runs for the second wicket and Jaffna were making steady progress with the score on 68 for 2 in the 14th over.

But they fell back after the third wicket that of skipper Liyanage who put on a brief stand of 28 runs for Paranavithana.

From a healthy position of 96 for 2 they lost four quick wickets for the addition of

just three runs and slid to 99 for 6 at the halfway stage of the innings.

The dismissal of Paranavithana, who made 51 with six boundaries, which was the seventh wicket, put them in a spot of bother with the score on 108 for 7 in the 29th over.

Dilum Sudeera and Jeffrey Vandersay came to the rescue of the side with the pair putting on a valuable 35 runs for the eighth wicket before being bowled out for 160 runs.

RESULTS

Jaffna 160 in 47.3 overs (Navod Paranavithana 51, Dilum Sudeera 23, Kasun Abeyratne 17, Janith Liyanage 16, Jeffrey Vandersay 26 n.o.; Lakshan Sandakan 3 for 22, Dushan Hemantha 3 for 22, Sonal Dinusha 3 for 33)

Dambulla 163 for 5 in 39 overs (Pawan Ratnayake 62, Ashan Priyanjan 33, Dushan Hemantha 15, Sonal Dinusha 45 n.o.; Binura Fernando 2 for 17, Jeffrey Vandersay 2 for 48)

BBK Stallions debut in MCA Super Premier League 2023

TEXT AND PICTURES BY P. D. DE SILVA

President of the Jaffna Stallions Cricket Academy Dr. Rajive Nimalasingham said that the former Lanka Premier League franchise team would be making their debut as BBK Stallions in the Mercantile Cricket Association Super Premier League 2023 tournament which will commence on Saturday (08).

Despite being replaced as owners of the Jaffna LPL franchise, they continue to support the national system by promoting cricket and talented players in the North and East by establishing the Stallions Cricket Academy.

Anandan Arnold a founding partner of Jaffna Stallions and senior partner of the accounts firm BBK Partnership said that their vision is to provide cricketers with a professional career pathway in sports and accountancy qualification as well.

The Stallions are developing cricket at grassroots level in the two provinces.



Vasanthan Jathushan grabbed the invite to play for BBK Stallions with both hands

Vasanthan Jathushan, captain of St. John's College Jaffna in 2018 and presently captain of the University of Colombo cricket team, said he grabbed the opportunity with both hands when invited to play for the BBK Stallions team.

"This exposure would give me the opportunity to be noticed," he said.

The BBK Stallions will be led by



Former Sri Lanka Cricketer Chaminda Vass has taken up the challenge of coaching the BBK Stallions

Sangeeth Cooray and comprises of Jeni Fleming, Isitha Wijesundera, Sohan de Livera, Rajive Nimalasingham, Vijayakanth Vijayakanth, Sriharan Sarangan, Murvin Abinash, Jathushan, Arul Pragasm, Kamalarama Iyalarasan, Imtiaz Slaza, Sheran Fonseka, Kathiragamanathan

Bhanujan, Mahendran Kavilan, Kuganeswaran Karisan, Jehan Daniel, Chandramohan Thevapradas and Antonselvasdas Saraan.

Former Sri Lanka cricket Chaminda Vass has taken on the responsibility of coaching the BBK Stallions.

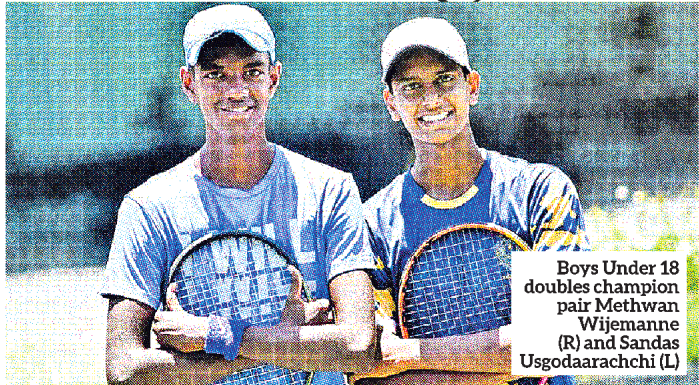
SLTA Hard Courts Tennis Nationals

Methwan bags two titles

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Royal College Colombo schoolboy Methwan Wijemanne bagged two titles in the ongoing SLTA Hard Courts Tennis Nationals being played at the SLTA tennis courts in Greenpath, Colombo when he came out victorious in the Boys Under 16 singles event and then partnered by Sandas Usgodaarachchi went on to bag the Boys Under 18 doubles title.

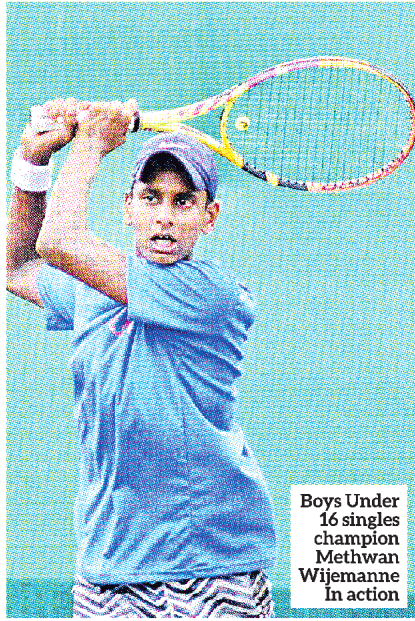
In the singles final Methwan cruised through to an easy two sets to nil win over Ganuka Fernando and in the doubles event he along with Sandas overcame the pair of Anujan Abeywickrama and Hasal Ahangama by the identical winning margin of two sets to nil.



RESULTS (FINALS)

Singles:
Boys Under 16 - Methwan Wijemanne beat Ganuka Fernando 2-0 (5/3, 7/5)

Doubles:
Boys Under 18 - Methwan Wijemanne/Sandas Usgodaarachchi beat Anujan Abeywickrama/Hasal Ahangama 2-0 (6/4, 7/6)



Boys Under 16 singles champion Methwan Wijemanne in action

Winston Hoole Memorial Trophy on April 9

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

The 34th one-day limited over cricket encounter between Kingswood College and Dharmaraja College will take place on April 9 at the Pallekelle International Cricket Stadium.

This will be the 34th encounter between the two schools and is played for the Winston Hoole Memorial Trophy.

Kingswood College is led by Amesh Rupasinghe while Dharmaraja College is led by Thisara Wanninayake. Out of the 33 encounters played so far Dharmaraja College having won 16 teams lead against the Kingswoodians who won on 13 occasions with four encounters ending in no decisions due to rain.

Under 19 Final Sandith puts Taxila Central on top

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

An unbeaten 79 in 100 balls inclusive of ten boundaries and a six by Sandith Ranaweera helped Taxila Central Horana to end day one in the final of the Under 19 inter-schools Division Two Tier 'B' two day cricket tournament against Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte MV in a strong position.

Sri Jayawardenapura MV taking first lease of the wicket were bowled out for a low score of 138 with Savindu Savin who ended with a four wicket haul doing the damage.

Taxila Central in their turn helped by

Ranaweera's unbeaten knock ended the day on 177 for 3. The match will be continued today.

RESULT

At Campbell Place Sri Jayawardenapura MV Kotte 138 (Jayadu Sankalpa 42, Sachin Shehan 30, Biyanika Thameera 18, Ashen Randima 16; Savindu Savin 4 for 46, Rathan Nawanjana 2 for 16)

Taxila Central Horana 177 for 3 (Chamod Mihiran 44, Deshan Dilmith 21, Sandith Ranaweera 79 n.o.)

Minister appoints Competent Authority for football after suspending FSL

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe, who has suspended the local administration of Football Sri Lanka (FSL) which has been banned by FIFA, has appointed the Acting Director General of the Department of Sports Development A. Muthumala as the Competent Authority to continue its administrative activities temporarily.



Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe

The Minister of Sports has issued a special gazette stating that the current football administration has been suspended according to the powers assigned under the Sports Act.

Relevant measures have been taken in accordance with the powers assigned to the Minister of Sports under Sections 32 (b) and

33 of the Sports Act No. 25 of 1973. Due to various problems in the FSL administration, FIFA banned Sri Lanka, and the Sports Minister also took steps to appoint a five-member special investigation committee chaired by former High Court Judge Kusala Sarojani Weerawardena to look into the crisis in the Football Federation. After the completion of the investigations, the committee handed over the report to the Minister of Sports on April 4.

According to the report, it was revealed that 30 instances of corruption took place in the last decade from 2012 to 2022.

A former Member of Parliament J.C. Ranga was working as FSL President until now.

12th Battle of the Oldies Cricket Encounter for the Mayor's Cup

Nuwara Eliya's Battle of the Oldies Cricket Encounter will take place on April 8, 2023, at the Race Course Grounds.

The event features an intense competition between the old boys of St. Xavier's College and Gamage National School for the Mayor's Cup.

This annual event, which began 13 years ago with a few dedicated old boys, has grown significantly and holds the distinction of being the longest continuous cricket match in the hills of Nuwara Eliya.

While cricket has been played in Nuwara Eliya since 1856 and school cricket at St. Xavier's College since 1925, this endeavour, initiated in 2010, has provided a platform for promoting sports and a common ground for discussing matters relating to the revival of education.

The Battle of the Oldies Cricket Encounter has been a trendsetter in promoting inter-school cricket matches and school-level junior cricket in Nuwara Eliya, popularising the game among youth who spend quality time practising and organising hardball cricket matches. By providing opportunities to reshape the lives of young people, the event's primary objective is to strengthen the existing bonds among old boys while building goodwill and fellowship among past pupils of different eras.

The encounter has also helped revive the

standard of education, prompted the concept of Past Pupils' Associations and encouraged inter-school cricket encounters.

The event serves as a reminder of the essential role that sports and education play in building a better tomorrow for Nuwara Eliya.

The Organizing Committee comprises members of both Gamage PPA and St. Xavier's OBA - Kapila Senarath, Benjamin Jeganathan, Nilan de Zoysa, RM Nawaz, Suren Ekanayake, Vadivel Balendra, Chaminda Emmanuel, Nadika Jayasinghe, Rukmal Fernando, John Christopher, Ujitha Samarawickrama, Mohamed Faleel, Mohamed Zaky, Dilan Dominic, Sunanda Ratnasiri, Lakmal Eranga and Sanjeeva Weerasinghe.

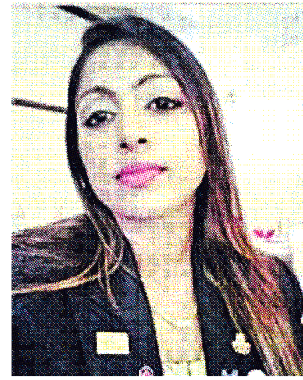
Old Xaverians XI: Sanjeeva Weerasinghe (skipper), Gerald Anthony, Mohamed Irfan, V. Sujeewan, Pradeepan, Tony Peter Paul, Wanapushpa Peter Paul, K. Murali, Ravi Chandran, John Christopher, Sudaharan Awadaya, H. De Silva, Columbus C. Gokul Kumar

Old Gamage XI: Lakmal Eranga (skipper), Sameera Lakmal, Chinthaka, Asanka Dissanayake, Asanka Silva, Buddhika Tharanga, Pubudu Priyadarshana, Kasun Dhananjaya, Yasitha Gunasena, Ruwan Thilina, Sumith Ranasinghe, Chamalka Muthumal, Chandimal Wimalaratne, IG Rangan, Ovin Benedict

Chief selector raises questions over training of Sri Lanka Youth Netball squad

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Netball Selection Committee (NSC) Chairperson Damayanthi Jayathilaka says that although the 15 best Under 21 players have been named for the 12th Asian Youth Netball Championship 2023 (12 players and 3 stand-bys), the question remains whether they received appropriate training before facing an international tournament.



Netball Selection Committee Chairperson Damayanthi Jayathilaka

This tournament, conducted by the Asian Netball Association, is scheduled to be held in South Korea from June 10 - 17 with the participation of 12 Asian countries.

NSC Chairperson Jayathilaka told 'Daily Mirror' that she is not satisfied with training (33 member national pool and 15 member youth squad) ahead of an international tournament and has informed the authorities concerned including the National Sports Selection Committee, National Sports Council and Ministry of Sports.

She further points out that it is difficult to achieve

international success by training two or three days a week from January 2023 for an Asian level netball tournament.

Amalka Gunathilake, a well-known schools netball coach in Kurunegala area, is the coach of the Asian youth netball squad.

Due to insufficient training for the Sri Lanka youth netball pool and squad, the Ministry of Sports had to assign the Head Coach of Sri Lanka for the Netball World Cup Tilaka Jinadasa to the Sri Lanka pool youth squad for a few days a

week to supervise it.

Meanwhile, the NSC Chairperson said that before the Asian youth netball squad final selection trial, pressure was put on the Netball Selection Committee and Sri Lanka Netball Federation to include more schoolgirls from the Kurunegala area.

After the Asian youth netball pool was reduced to 18, the Sri Lanka Netball Federation had taken steps to recall the initial 33 member pool for the final selection on the request of the coaches.

The presence of National Sports Selection Committee Chairman General Shavendra Silva at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium to oversee the Sri Lanka Youth Netball Final Selection was also a highlight.

In the history of Asian youth netball championship, Sri Lanka has won the championship three times in 1998, 2002 and 2015.

At the last 2019 Asian Netball Championship held in Japan, Malaysia won the championship, Singapore were runners-up and Sri Lanka clinched third place.

Queenstar Open chess classic Tournament from April 16-20

The Queenstar open classic chess tournament 2023 will be held in Gampaha district from 16th to 20th April at the

Covanro Hotel, Naiwala. The Queenstar International Chess Coaching Academy is organizing the event

and Queenstar open Blitz Tournament will be held in the Covanro Hotel on 17th April evening.

Antonians take first innings win in Mini Battle

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

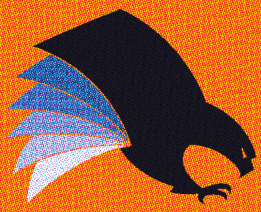
St. Anthony's College Katugastota took a first innings win in their Mini Battle of the Blues of Hill Capital which concluded at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy recently.

This encounter was played for T.H. de Silva Memorial Shield.

Trinity 204 (Supun Waduge 95,

Mohamed Aadham 36; Dinura Oshan 5 for 36, Tharusha Dasun 2 for 32) and **155 for 5 at stumps day 2** (Mohamed Aadham 68, Ometh Bandara 29; Bimash Vidudaya 2 for 28)

St. Anthony's 207 all out (Januka Ratnayake 62, Kevin Waduge 49, Rayan Gregory 41; Malith Rathnayake 4 for 73, Supun Waduge 2 for 26)



Mirror Business

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Full Stock Market **POB**

March workers' remittances record sharp increase to US\$ 568mn

First time since April 2021 for workers' remittances to cross US\$ 500mn mark

Workers' remittances to Sri Lanka crossed the US\$ 500 million mark for the first time since April 2021, data released by the Central Bank last evening showed.

For March 2023, Sri Lanka recorded workers' remittances inflow of US\$ 568.5

million compared to US\$ 318.4 million in March 2022.

The cumulative inflows for the first three months of the year stood at US\$ 1413.2 million compared to US\$ 782.5 million in the corresponding period of 2022, which is an increase of 80.6 percent.

Sri Lanka saw a record 320,000 people migrating in 2022, the highest for any year.

If the current uptrend in workers'

remittances persists, such income could hit US\$ 6 billion this year.

Sri Lanka is currently seeing some easing in the domestic foreign exchange market with increased inflows, lower imports and positive sentiments stemming from the country's deal with the International Monetary Fund.

As a result, the rupee which depreciated over 80 percent last year, had appreciated by 13 percent against the US dollar as at April 6, 2023.



ADB urges government to revisit proposal to set up credit guarantee institution for SMEs

Policy decision was taken in 2016 to set up credit guarantee institution for SMEs

US\$ 50mn ADB loan was committed for the project, which still remains at proposed status

IFC says SMEs remain crowded out from the banking sector by larger corporates

According to IFC estimates, SL has highest share of SMEs either fully or partially credit constrained

Asian Development Bank (ADB) urged the government to revisit the policy decision taken in 2016 to set up a small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) credit guarantee institution in order to enable access to credit for the country's credit-constrained SMEs.

"Establishing a credit guarantee institution for small and medium-sized enterprises would encourage entrepreneurs and private sector participation," ADB stated in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report released in this week.

Responding to a request by the government in 2016, ADB initiated a capacity development technical assistance (TA) committee to support and proposed a project to assist the move to set up a SME credit guarantee institution, a new non-bank financial institution that would support SMEs to

access commercial loans, with a US\$ 50 million loan. However, the project to-date remains in proposed status.

As banks and other financial institutions consider SMEs to be of high credit risks and lending continues to be largely based on collateral rather than cash-flows, SMEs remain crowded out from the banking sector by larger corporates.

The World Bank (WB) and its private-sector funding arm, International Finance Corporation (IFC) have also echoed a similar sentiment on the need for such an institution given the significant role played by SMEs in the economy as SMEs account for 52 percent of the country's gross domestic product while employing 45 percent of the country's workforce.

"A credit enhancement fund for SMEs through a partial credit guarantee agency could help address banks' reluctance to

engage in cashflow-based lending. Apart from increasing the flow of credit to SMEs, this would build banks' capacity for cashflow-based credit appraisals and over time induce more cashflow-based lending without the need for guarantees," IFC pointed out in a report released last year.

According to IFC estimates, Sri Lanka has the highest share of SMEs that are either fully or partially credit constrained.

"These unmet financing needs are particularly acute among SMEs where 50 percent of MSMEs have reported that their working capital came from their own resources. The finance needs of the agriculture sector are also large, with IFC estimating the credit gap to the sector at US\$2 billion in agriculture financing; 2.45 percent of Sri Lanka's GDP," it said.

MORE ON P8

Visa tells Sri Lanka to improve acceptance of digital payments to boost tourism

Says SL should look to market itself in a more structured and systematic manner

Points out the modern traveller is looking for experiential travel, and not just visiting tourist hot spots

Stresses need for SL to provide variety of payment options wherever travellers are, to which they are accustomed to in home countries



Sandeep Ghosh - Pic by Pradeep Pathirana

pivotal to its recovery and set it to grow as a major economic category, Visa Group Country Manager India and South Asia Sandeep Ghosh said.

"Sri Lanka should look to market itself in a more structured and systematic manner to cater to tourists from across the world and this is an area where we can help.

"There is a need to work more closely with banks and look at how the acceptance of cards can be improved in the market. The reason is, there is a large number of tourists coming from the developed world where the common transaction method is via cards. We should be able to allow them to continue to do that," said Ghosh in a media interaction during his visit to Sri Lanka recently.

Insights from Visa show that the modern traveller is looking for experiential travel, and not just visiting tourist hot spots, thus seamless and secure payment access is critical for tourism growth.

Accordingly, Sri Lanka needs to extend its payment infrastructure to enable businesses, regardless of the scale,

MORE ON P8

Visa, a leader in digital payment technology, expressed confidence in the local tourism sector playing an active role in helping Sri Lanka's economy revive, provided the proper digital payment infrastructure is in place.

With an improved focus on making payments easy for tourists, Sri Lanka can make tourism

Argentina facing US\$1.46 bn bill after losing case over GDP-linked bonds

REUTERS: Argentina faces a potential 1.33 billion-euro (US\$ 1.46 billion) bill after losing a lawsuit at London's High Court on Wednesday over payments due on euro-denominated securities linked to Argentina's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013.

Four hedge funds, holding around 48 percent of the GDP-linked securities issued between 2005 and 2010, sued the South American republic in 2019, seeking damages of up to 643 million euros.

Palladian Partners L.P., HBK Master Fund L.P., Hirsh Group LLC and Virtual Emerald International Limited argued at a hearing in October that Argentina had a "propensity" to manipulate economic data in order to save billions of dollars.

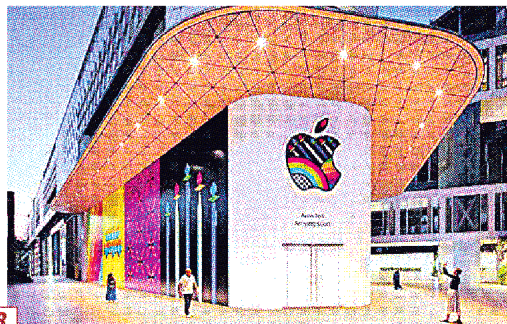
Susan Prevezer, representing the funds, said economic statistics were "the subject of political direction" in Argentina under former president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who served from 2007 to 2015.

MORE ON P8

Apple set to open first retail store in Mumbai as it bets big on India

CNN: Apple is finally getting ready to open its first physical store in the country as it bets on India as a market and manufacturing base.

The company teased the opening of its retail outlet in a brief statement Wednesday, saying it was preparing to greet customers in the financial and commercial hub of Mumbai. Its previous plan to open a store in the country in 2021 was derailed by the coronavirus pandemic.



MORE ON P8

Bond markets price in rate cuts expected as early as next monetary policy meeting

Economy could stage growth in 2023 as opposed to aour outlook by multilateral agencies, says Bloomberg Economics

Bond markets have already priced in rate cuts as early as the next policy meeting in June as yields fell sharply across government securities even before this week's monetary policy meeting.

The bill yields fell sharply across the board this week at the weekly bill auction held on Tuesday just ahead of the announcement of the third monetary policy for the year where the members voted to hold policy rates at current levels.

The 3-month bill yield fell by 187 basis points to 24.12 percent, 6-month bill yield shed 169 basis points to 24.10 percent and the benchmark

12-month yield gave up 194 basis points to settle at 22.37 percent this week, falling by the most for a week in recent times.

With this week's plunge, the yields have fallen by a cumulative 852 basis points for 3 months bills, 810 basis points for 6 months bill and 690 basis points for the 1-year bills since the current streak of declines began in mid-December 2022.

Meanwhile, the lending markets too have been responding swiftly defying even the shock rate hike in March as they accelerated their declines in recent weeks.

The prime lending rate which is closely aligned with key policy rates and market liquidity fell sharply in the recent weeks.

By the end of last week, the prime rate fell by another 34 basis points, extending its weeks-long descent in the benchmark lending rate to 21.40 percent.

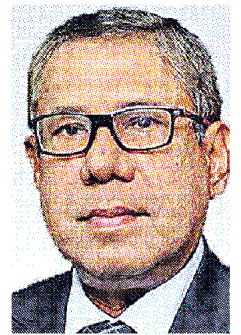
MORE ON P8

Sunshine Holdings appoints Reyaz Mihular to Director Board

Sunshine Holdings announced the appointment of Reyaz Mihular to the company's Board as an Independent Non-Executive Director with effect from 06 April, 2023.

With the new appointment, the Board of Sunshine Holdings will comprise of 12 directors, eight of whom are non-executive, independent directors.

Reyaz served as the Managing Partner of KPMG Sri Lanka & Maldives from 2012 to 2022 and was the Chairman of KPMG's Middle East & South Asia (MESA) Regional Cluster during 2018 to 2021. He previously served a term as the Chief Operating Officer of the MESA regional office. He also



Reyaz Mihular

served on KPMG's Europe Middle East & Africa (EMA) Board and on the Global Council of KPMG International.

He is a Past President and Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka

and is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) - UK. He also served as Chairman of the CIMA Sri Lanka Division in year 2013. Reyaz has completed International Executive Education programmes at INSEAD, France, Harvard Business School and the London Business School, UK.

MORE ON P8

SLAITO partners with Travelife to help members embrace sustainable tourism practices

In an effort to promote sustainable tourism in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO) and Travelife, an internationally recognised sustainability certification programme for the tourism industry, entered into a partnership to bring best practices into the local sector.

The tourism industry thrives on the natural environment, wildlife, and culture, which Sri Lanka has in abundance. To maintain these treasures, sustainability should

be at the core of every tourism venture, SLAITO shared in an announcement yesterday.

"This means that tour operators should operate their business in an economically-sound, socially-acceptable, and environmentally-friendly way. Companies working towards sustainability score better on customer satisfaction, staff motivation, and business efficiency with positive effects on their competitive advantage," said SLAITO.

MORE ON P8

Visa applications from Sri Lanka on course to reach pre-pandemic levels this year

Visa applications from Sri Lanka touched 68% of pre-pandemic volumes in 2022

By Nishel Fernando

Indicating a full recovery of outbound travel, visa applications from Sri Lanka is on course to reach pre-pandemic levels this year after reaching 68 percent of pre-pandemic levels in 2022 driven by pent-up demand, opening of international borders, and eased COVID protocols.

This is according to VFS Global, the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions.

In 2022, visa application volumes handled by Zurich and Dubai headquartered VFS Global grew more

than threefold or 332.12 percent over 2021 and reached 68 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

"We witnessed unprecedented demand from Sri Lanka and the entire South Asian region as a whole in 2022 which led to an extended peak outbound travel season with steady volumes witnessed until December.

We are confident that the momentum will further grow and hence it is advisable for applicants to apply for their visas in advance to avoid last-minute surprises," VFS Global Chief Operating Officer (South



Prabhudha Sen Pic by Kithsir De Mel

Asia) Prabhudha Sen told reporters in Colombo.

In 2022, Australia was the popular destination for visa applicants, with United Kingdom (UK) and Japan tied to a close second place.

Accordingly, Sen shared that visa applications are projected to reach pre-pandemic levels this year based on market analysis.

The company currently caters to 19 direct client governments and 17 represented client governments in Sri Lanka through five centres including one centre in Jaffna.

Meanwhile, Sen noted that Visa rejection rates also went above

per-pandemic levels in 2022 due to number of reasons including documentation issues, fraudulence and forgery as activities of grey market players intensified.

Therefore, VFS advised Visa applicants to beware of fraudulent entities who charge fees from customers for scheduling appointments or providing any other services using VFS Global brand or independently.

Ahead of the peak travel season and the limited appointment slots available, VFS Global urged applicants to apply for their visa as early as possible.

With the peak students' travel season few months away, Sen assured that VFS Global centres in Sri Lanka would operate extended hours to accommodate the rush.

MORE ON P8



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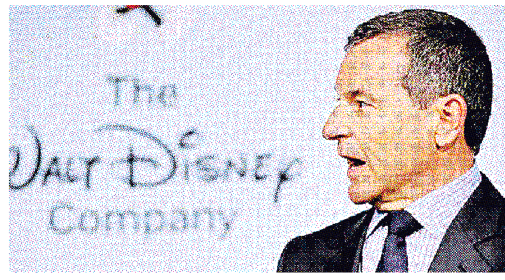
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SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.W.A. %	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.W.A. TODAY'S	CHANGE
MAIN BOARD								LANKA HOSPITALS	28,685	112.5	113.5	118.75	113.5	117.25	4.75	SINGER SRI LANKA	95,469	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.3	14.50	0.40
ASPEN HOT HOLD	2,264	59	61	61	59.5	61.00	2.00	LANKA IOC	149,668	167.5	169.75	174	166	171.25	3.75	SLT	734,215	91.5	92.1	102	92	100.25	8.75
ABANS	19	130	152	152	152	130.00	-	LANKA REALTY	8,544	12.7	13.4	13.4	12.5	13.00	0.30	EMPOWER BOARD							
ACCESS ENG SL	161,952	14	14	14.5	13.8	14.00	-	LANKA TILES	32,919	44.1	44.3	44.7	44.1	44.50	0.40	CHRISWORLD	760	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.30	(0.20)
ACL	964,039	83	82.9	84.6	81.8	84.00	1.00	LANKA VENTURES	4,612	38	35.7	38	35.6	38.00	-	FML CONSULTANTS	366,312	4.2	4.2	4.3	4	4.20	
ACL PLASTICS	1,482	390	390.5	395	388.75	391.00	1.00	LANKA WALLTILE	84,360	49	49.5	49.6	48.5	49.00	0.30	DIRI SAVI BOARD							
ACME	2,651	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.60	-	LANKEM DEV	10,756	25.1	26.3	26.3	25.1	26.00	0.90	AGSTAR PLC	423,374	11.1	11.2	11.4	11	11.10	
AGALAWATTE	42,070	31.3	32	32	30.5	30.80	(0.50)	LAUGFS GAS	5,263	27.3	26.2	28.8	26.1	26.80	(0.50)	ALUMEX PLC	223,464	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.3	8.50	0.20
AHOT PROPERTIES	9,778	42	43	43.7	42	43.60	1.60	LAUGFS GAS [LGL X0000]	5,833	17.8	18.4	18.5	17.5	18.00	0.20	AMANA LIFE	29	31.5	31.8	31.8	31.7	31.50	
AITKEN SPENCE	19,381	129	129	129	128	128.00	(1.00)	LAXAPANA	9,175	13.1	13	13.2	13	13.10	-	AMANA TAKAFUL	250	12	12	12	12	12.00	
ALLIANCE	8,931	67	67.7	67.7	66.9	67.00	-	LB FINANCE	80,735	54.3	53.1	56	53.1	55.40	1.10	AMBEON HOLDINGS	906	35.5	33.9	35	33.7	34.30	(1.20)
AMANA BANK	321,488	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.60	-	LION BREWERY	192	713.5	713.5	714	713.5	714.00	0.50	AMF CO LTD	1,024	8	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.90	(0.10)
ASIA ASSET	5	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.80	-	LMF	5,806	143	144.5	147.75	143.5	146.50	3.50	ASIA SIYAKA	77,812	4.1	4.1	4.1	4	4.00	(0.10)
ASIA CAPITAL	1,050	4	4	4	4	4.00	-	LVL ENERGY	69	7.6	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.60	-	BOGALA GRAPHITE	1,503	63	62.5	64.8	62.5	62.70	(0.30)
ASIRI	357	24.2	23.4	25	23.4	25.00	0.80	MALWATTE	5,115	78	74	78.9	74	77.90	(0.10)	BOGAWANTALAWA	18,220	39.8	40	46	38	45.90	6.10
ASIRI SURG	7,061	12.5	12.2	12.9	12	12.70	0.20	MELSTACORP	563,235	54.3	54	55	54	55.00	0.70	BROWNS	3,792	116.25	118.5	120	115.5	119.00	2.75
BAIRAHA FARMS	2,162	144	143.25	145.75	143.25	143.50	(0.50)	MERC SHIPPING	1,143	154.25	163.25	170	152.5	162.50	8.25	BROWNS INVSTMENTS	3,082,223	6	6	6.1	5.9	6.00	
BALANGODA	1,046	63.3	64.2	64.2	63.2	63.50	0.20	MERCHANT BANK	3,663	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.50	(0.10)	CT LAND	1	24.2	25.9	25.9	25.9	24.20	
BUKIT DARAH	500	402	390	390	390	390.00	(12.00)	MULLERS	10,400	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.10	-	C W MACKIE	65,092	80.1	80.2	82.5	79.5	82.00	1.90
C M HOLDINGS	1	64	64.9	64.9	64.9	64.00	-	NAMUNUKULA	4,195	361	368	368	360	360.25	(0.75)	CALT	592,469	33.7	34	34.4	33.1	33.60	(0.10)
CARGILLS	2,129	233	233	242.25	233	240.00	7.00	NAT DEV BANK	59,727	43.8	43.9	45.5	43.9	44.10	0.30	CEYLON BEVERAGE	2	1,134.00	1,134.00	1,134.00	1,134.00	1,134.00	
CARGO BOAT	37	45.1	50.1	52.6	50.1	45.10	-	NATION LANKA	28,118	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.50	0.10	CEYLON TFA BRKRS	136,655	4.1	4.2	4.2	4	4.00	(0.10)
CENTRAL FINANCE	11,420	67	67.1	67.2	67	67.10	0.10	NATIONS TRUST	55,156	61	61.1	61.7	61	61.60	0.60	CIT	50	117.5	117.5	117.5	117.5	117.50	
CENTRAL IND	20,309	82.3	85	86.9	82.5	85.40	3.10	NATIONS TRUST [NTB-X0000]	10	56.8	52	52	52	56.80	-	CITRUS HITKADUWA	13,344	5.1	5.1	5.3	5	5.00	(0.10)
CEYLINCO INS.	3	2,166.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,166.00	-	OVERSEAS REALTY	3,389	15.4	15.5	15.6	15.5	15.50	0.10	CITRUS WASKADUWA	89,940	2.9	2.9	3	2.8	2.90	
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	501	1,046.00	1,006.25	1,049.00	1,006.25	1,049.00	3.00	PAN ASIA	32,185	11.9	11.9	12.3	11.9	11.90	-	COM.CREDIT	2,315	25	24.6	24.6	23.2	23.90	(1.10)
CEYLON GUARDIAN	1,080	62.1	66.9	69.7	66.9	69.60	7.50	PANASIAN POWER	52,142	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.30	(0.10)	COMMERCIAL DEV	301	95.2	98	99.8	98	98.00	2.80
CEYLON INV.	2,445	34.8	33.3	34.9	33.3	33.50	(1.30)	PEOPLES INS	3,475	21.4	21.3	23.3	21.2	21.30	(0.10)	DILMAH CEYLON	163	1,020.00	1,012.00	1,012.00	1,012.00	1,012.00	(8.00)
CEYLON TOBACCO	2,321	689	697	720	697	710.00	21.00	PEOPLES LEASING	136,677	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.4	7.60	0.10	E-CHANNELLING	663,055	16	16.1	18.8	16.1	18.50	2.50
CHEMANEX	15	74.4	72.1	72.1	72.1	74.40	-	PGP GLASS	109,632	19	18.9	19.7	18.9	19.00	0.30	ELPITTA	2,748	77.4	77	77	75.5	76.10	(1.30)
CHEVRON	86,911	90.1	92.9	92.9	90.3	91.00	0.90	PRINTCARE PLC	26,021	49.5	50	50.9	49.5	50.80	1.30	EXTERMINATORS	156	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.10	-
CIC	243,730	73.8	73.1	74.1	73.1	73.10	(0.70)	R I PROPERTY	402,243	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.30	(0.10)	FC TREASURIES	649,605	23.3	23.6	24.2	23.4	24.00	0.70
CIC [CIC X0000]	202,960	49.5	49.5	50.1	49	49.60	0.10	RENUKA AGRI	783,769	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.30	0.10	FIRST CAPITAL	383,935	33.7	34.5	34.8	33.9	34.00	0.30
CITRUS LEISURE	3,100	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.50	-	RENUKA FOODS	1,011	22	21.5	22.5	21.5	21.50	(0.50)	FORTRESS RESORTS	3,061	22.3	22.4	22.4	22	22.10	(0.20)
COLD STORES	70,655	39	38.6	41	38.6	40.00	1.00	RENUKA FOODS [COCO X0000]	10	17	16.9	16.9	16.9	17.00	-	GALADARI	174,858	14.3	14.2	14.6	14.2	14.50	0.20
COLOMBO LAND	14,911	20.3	21.5	21.5	20.2	21.20	0.90	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL X0000]	1	11.3	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.30	-	GALADAR SENNE	202	47	47.8	47.8	43.4	43.40	(3.60)
COMMERCIAL BANK	57,387	62	62	63	60.5	62.10	0.10	RESUS ENERGY	555	13.1	13.1	13.4	13.1	13.30	0.20	HATTTON	28,561	18.9	18.9	19.1	18.5	19.10	0.20
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	1,723	53.9	52.5	54.5	52.5	52.20	(1.70)	RICHARD PIERIS	48,548	20	20.2	20.9	20	20.20	0.20	HNB FINANCE	24,001	5.2	5.4	5.4	5	5.00	0.20
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	66,684	20	20.3	20.3	19.9	20.00	-	ROYAL CERAMIC	494,213	28.2	28.4	29.5	28.3	28.90	0.70	HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-X0000]	6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.40	-
DFCC BANK PLC	3,965	42.6	42.5	43.6	42.1	43.30	0.70	S M B LEASING	8,937,608	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.70	HVA FOODS	9,600	3.8	3.9	4	3.8	3.80	-	
DIALOG	1,190,823	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.50	0.10	S M B LEASING [SEMB X0000]	9,568,464	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.30	JANSHAKTHI INS.	1,659	28	28.4	28.4	27.6	27.80	(0.20)	
DIMO	10	461.25	489.25	489.25	461.25	461.25	-	SAMPATH	548,480	50	49.2	51.3	49.2	50.80	0.80	JETWING SYMPHONY	4,117	7	7	7	7	7.00	-
DIPPED PRODUCTS	96,021	27.6	27.7	28.2	27.6	27.90	0.30	SANASA DEV BANK	10,352	25.4	26	26.2	26	26.00	0.60	JOHN KEELLS	200	65.2	65.2	65.2	64.5	64.50	(0.70)
DOKYARD	56,936	58.7	62.5	62.5	60	60.00	1.30	SARVODAYA DEVFIN	418	11	11	11	10.8	10.80	(0.20)	KAHAWATTE	10,354	20	20.5	21.5	20.1	20.30	0.30
DOLPHIN HOTELS	17,209	33	33.9	34.3	33	33.80	0.80	SEYLAN BANK	520	32.3	32.3	32.3	32.1	32.10	(0.20)	KEES HOTELS	1,400	18.5	18.3	18.5	18.3	18.50	-
DURDANS	1,061	128.5	125.5	130	125.5	129.75	1.25	SEYLAN DEVTS	5,656	12.1	12.5	12.5	12	12.00	(0.10)	LANKA CERAMIC	6	100	109.5	109.5	102	100.00	(0.10)
DURDANS [CHL X0000]	25	96	99	103	99	96.00	-	SHAW WALLACE	48,489	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.70	(0.10)	LANKEM CEYLON	7,375	75.8	78	79	75.3	77.50	1.70
E EASTWEST	542,263	8.1	8	8.7	8	8.50	0.40	SIGIRIYA VILLAGE	2,505	56	56.5	56.5	56	56.50	0.50	LAUGFS POWER	51	8.4	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.40	-
EASTERN MERCHANT	9,676	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.30	0.10	SINGER FINANCE	73,034	11.2	11	11.8	11										

DailyMirror

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DISNEY CHIEF SAYS FLORIDA PUNISHING ITS FREE SPEECH

Disney chief Robert Iger on Monday said Florida's governor is retaliating against the entertainment giant for exercising its right to free speech in an anti-business move that "seems really wrong." Governor Ron DeSantis seized control of Walt Disney World's self-governing district in February, hailing the end of the "corporate kingdom" as he effectively punished the entertainment giant over its opposition to his political agenda. **AFP**

INDIANA JONES 5 TO PREMIERE AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Indiana Jones will be swinging back into action at the Cannes Film Festival in May, organisers confirmed on Monday, with Harrison Ford launching the world premiere of his final outing as the adventurous archaeologist. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny", which also stars Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Antonio Banderas, is the fifth installment of the action franchise and will premiere at the Cote d'Azur festival on May 18. **AFP**



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FASHION WEEK

Ajai Vir Singh has been instrumental in crafting modern Sri Lankan style. He founded Colombo Fashion Week (CFW) in 2003. It has been a tremendous effort and a lot of hard work that Ajai has invested in to sustain this CFW. The ups and downs as well as the highs and lows Ajai has gone through can only be imagined. Kudos to Ajai as CFW celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

For those who are not aware, CFW is a development project that aims to drive progressive change in every aspect of the fashion industry in Sri Lanka. Colombo Fashion Week's mission is to establish, develop and maintain an efficient fashion eco-system that incubates the best of Sri Lankan fashion designs before it is presented to the world.

Considering the number who clamour to be invited to CFW each year and the many designers showcasing their collection to our worthy Colombo crowd, we would expect to see in the audience beautifully clad women in stylish clothes or being avante garde. One does not. A mere percentage of the audience dress age appropriately in grand style and look chic or elegant. The rest are a dreadful sight.

One lot float around in horrendous outfits that seem to have been created by cutting up a coloured garbage bag, throwing some blotches of paint

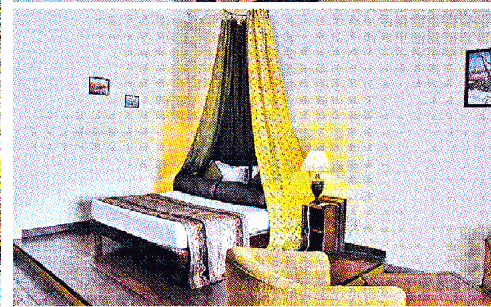
Compiling the CFW's worst dressed list would have been easy peasy lemon squeezy but the best dressed would have been tough

on it and cutting some holes for the arms and neck or seem to be inspired by curtain drapes or look like divans floating around. The other lot appear as if they have searched the world and dived into latex condoms with parts of their body bulging out. All these have invested in fancy shoes that they can hardly balance on and look like



the inflated displays wobbling outside supermarkets advertising a sale. Then comes the naki vise category who decide to wear revealing outfits where their bodies look like siri siri bags filled with water that make the bosoms look lopsided. My thoughts went out to the children at home who had to see their mothers going out looking like that.

If you are Lady Gaga you could get on with all of this but these were Latha and Katha looking like lanterns caught in a storm. Compiling the CFW's worst dressed list would have been easy peasy lemon squeezy but the best dressed would have been tough. All I can say is that all of this provided amusement which was extended when looking at the styles posted boldly online and in the newspapers.



Executive Chef keeps the traditions.

The Hotel also offers theme nights to keep guests' changing appetite' Chef Sarath said. Indian, Mongolian, Italian, BBQ Night, Hopper Night, International Night and Chinese are some of the popular theme nights.

Hotel Suisse is the ideal base to visit many adventurous and historical sites such as centuries old Buddhist Temples and devalas (Degaldoruwa, Gadaladeniya, Ambekke, Dodanwala Natha Devalaya etc), the elephant orphanage in Pinnawala, Victoria, Randenigala reservoirs, historic Mahiyangana, Ambuluwawa, Tea Museum in Hantane and of course the popular Knuckles Range. 'We arrange excursions for all adventure lovers on request. Even Udawatta Kele is more adventurous than some known places' said Ranjan said.

Popularly known for its excellent banqueting facilities, the Hotel Suisse has the largest amongst the best in the Central Province. In recent years the hotel has had the distinction of hosting the best local and International Conferences. Main Ballroom and Mini Ballroom offer up to 400 pax function facilities.

Hotel Suisse operates under the management of Galle Face Hotel Management (GFHMC) 'Hotel Suisse is considered as one of the best properties under the GFHM Company and the Chairman Sanjeewa Gardiner is taking keen interest of this property. He always guides and encourage us' Ranjan said.

Hotel Suisse has a special package for Sri Lankan holiday makers.

PIX BY Shan Bandu Weerasinghe



Traditional woodfire Kitchen

Hotel Suisse Kandy

Keeping its traditions alive

BY SANATH WEERASURIYA

Attractions and places of interest may change from time to time, but traditions will live long. Destination Kandy is a year-round attraction for travellers around the world, packed with new appeals backed by century old traditions.

Hotel Suisse is just a classic example for old world charm. This 165 years old colonial bungalow, rising amidst three acres of landscaped splendour, is ideally located right beside the historic 'Kandy Lake'. The traditions at Suisse is somewhat still the same as the Colonial era.

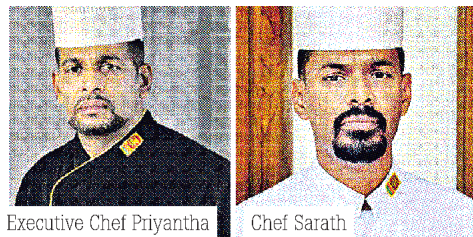
Hotel Suisse, a pre-World War II guest house and once used as a garrison for British soldiers, was the last strong hold of the ancient Sinhala Kings. The building was originally the residence of Pilimatala Gabada Nilame, the Chief Minister of the Royal Granary of the Kandyan King.

After many centuries, Suisse Hotel has returned to the traditional Granary scene at their abandoned backyard as Mountbatten Courtyard. Since January this year, Hotel Suisse has recreated its aged old traditions from 'Kamatha' and Granary concept as the 'Mountbatten Courtyard' serving organic village food. The abandoned old armory has now a modern winery complex in the midst of organic vegetable and fruit cultivation.

'After a carefully studied plan, we have recreated this 'kamatha' and traditional wood fired village kitchen next to a modern winery and organic farm that provides the all-vegetable and fruits to the village kitchen. We serve traditional Kandyan cuisine at this kitchen to our guests in al fresco style - open dining area' explained Ranjan Peiris, Director General Manager of Hotel Suisse and the Vice President of Kandy Hotels Company.

Since lately, this 'Mountbatten Courtyard' has attracted a major portion of Sri Lankans and foreign tourists visiting Hotel Suisse.

'It opens for breakfast up to dinner



Executive Chef Priyantha

Chef Sarath

giving the real flavours of authentic Kandyan cuisine. Bar be que style servings and traditional camp fire type atmosphere is created during the dinner time' added Ranjan Peiris.

Designed to cater exclusively to the holiday makers and leisure travellers, the hotel has 90 breathtaking many old traditional style large smoke-free rooms including four suites and four junior suites. Some of them come with free wireless internet along with a minibar and coffee/tea making facilities. They have a colonial-style interior. Certain units overlook the garden and the pool, the East wing overlooks the lake.

The hotel is now undergoing a series of refurbishment programmes. 'Mainly because

of the inflow of tourists at present and in view of Avurudu, the Bradby and Perehera season to follow' said Ranjan, one of the veterans in the hospitality industry.

The new facelift which concentrated on the rooms and bathrooms and at the same time preserved the colonial atmosphere of the Hotel and the food and beverage outlets too were given a face lift.

'All this is designated to add to the standards and facilities of the most fastidious individual, who demands nothing less than the very best. That's why we have a good repeat market' he added.

Apart from the popular 'Mountbatten Courtyard', the hotel offers international and global cuisine in its traditional English style main restaurant. It takes pride in the gourmet food, prepared by the hotel's experienced chefs Sarath Rathnathunga and Priyantha Gunasinghe. Keeping with all the traditions, the culinary experience of Hotel Suisse too is authentic. Whether it is Sri Lankan, English, Swiss or Italian, the



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