



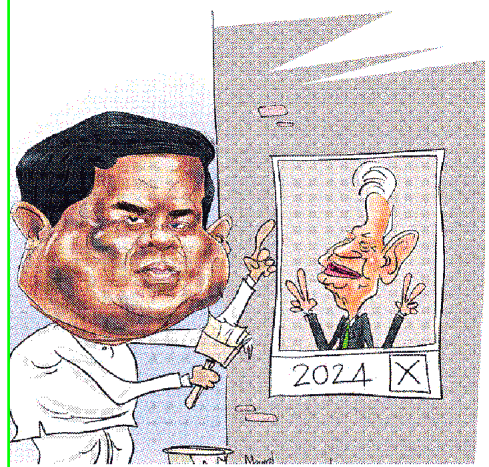
YOUR PAPER TODAY 10 PAGES

Many say Nuwara Eliya is an ugly town

President wants a formal plan

President Ranil Wickremesinghe said a formal plan to develop Nuwara Eliya town must be drafted instead of ad-hoc measures to develop the town.

People should elect Ranil uncontested for next term - Vajira



United National Party (UNP) MP Vajira Abeywardane said Sri Lankan people should elect President Ranil Wickremesinghe uncontested for another term.

Basil could be SLPP presidential candidate: Kariyawasam

False allegations were levelled against him in the recent past. Cases were filed against him and he was freed from all those cases

Claiming that the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) was yet to name its Presidential Candidate, SLPP General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam said Basil Rajapaksa was an ideal candidate who functioned as the Economic Development Minister when making Sri Lanka one of the fastest developing countries in the world.

Remanded for boarding a ship secretly to go abroad

The suspects were young men between 21 and 35 years of age from Jaffna, Velanai, Thondamanaru and Pudukudiruppu

A group of four individuals who secretly boarded a ship to go abroad, were produced before Galle Acting Magistrate Premaratne Thiraganama last morning and remanded till April 18.

NO LG POLLS YET, BUT EC FACES DEBT OF RS.375 MN

- EC writes to Treasury, requesting for the needed funds
EC says have to pay private contractors for orders already given
If Treasury releases advance payment of Rs.700 million can hold LG polls
Sources on ground says LG Polls highly unlikely anytime soon

BY JAMILA HUSAIN

The Elections Commission is facing a debt of Rs.375 million which it has to pay to private contractors for the orders it had already placed for the Local Government Elections which was to be held on March 9 but was subsequently postponed due to the lack of funds, the Daily Mirror learns.

LG polls unlikely before presidential polls, without judicial intervention: PAFFREL

Presidential polls also to be delayed, citing same reasons

- If LG elections are to be held before presidential election, the only window of opportunity is through judicial intervention

BY KALANI KUMARASINGHE

The local government election will not be held prior to the impending presidential election, unless there is judicial intervention, Executive Director of People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) Rohana Hettiarachchi said.

Solution to rising toque monkey population

Sri Lanka to send 100,000 toque monkeys to zoological gardens in China

- Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said that steps should be taken to appoint a committee with the approval of the Cabinet to study the legal situation in this regard

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

A group of Chinese representatives has submitted a request to the Agriculture Ministry to provide Sri Lankan toque monkeys to zoological gardens in China. A special discussion was held yesterday at the Agriculture Ministry in this regard regarding the grant request for 100,000 toque monkeys in our country under the first phase.



Getting ready for New Year

People were seen buying clay pots to boil milk and prepare milk rice for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year day. The New Year is celebrated with boiling milk in a clay pot symbolizing prosperity, as milk spills over from all sides of the pot.

PIX BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE

SJB issues are not important

- As per the agreement the government is bound to identify governance and weakness risks across certain core state functions

BY YOHAN PERERA

Internal issues of Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and crossovers are not the most important issues at the moment as there are greater issues which have to be focused on, such as violation of IMF agreement, SJB MP Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella said yesterday.

Many have misunderstood me: Rajitha

BY YOHAN PERERA

While Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said yesterday that MP Rajitha Senaratne had changed his mind on the crossover, the latter says that many have misunderstood him.

Rajitha Senaratne will not crossover as anticipated; Madduma Bandara said in response to a query made by Daily Mirror on the outcome of the meeting of the SJB MPs had with the Kalutara District Parliamentarian last evening, MP Senaratne too said he explained his stand to the group of SJB MPs including Madduma Bandara and Lakshman Kiriella he met, and they fully understood his position.

Train services increased to 38 during festive season

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

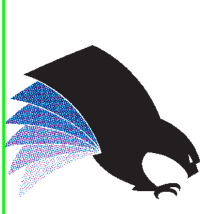
Due to the increase in commuters, the Railways Department has assigned 38 additional train services to operate during the festive season.

CELEBRATE AVURUDU WITH DFCC JUNIOR. Save with DFCC Junior and receive valuable gift vouchers for your little ones this Avurudu! Includes image of children and DFCC Bank logo.

Decision to reduce prices of school bags, shoes immediately: FM. Currently, import of shoes and bags has been completely suspended and only raw materials are being imported for local production. Includes image of school bags and shoes.

Sri Lanka seeks relaxation of travel advisories. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry yesterday urged other countries to review their travel advisories to reflect the stability in the country, which would further encourage tourist influx.

Cargills Food City Price Reductions and More Savings. Includes list of products and prices: White Sugar (Bulk) 1kg Rs.198, Red Dhal (Bulk) 1kg Rs.320, White Raw Rice (Bulk) Local 1kg Rs.175, Red Raw Rice (Bulk) Local 1kg Rs.150.



Daily Mirror

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CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

OBITUARIES

CATHIRAVEL – KATHIRAGAMATHAMBY (Retired Director of Customs), passed away peacefully on 11.3.2023 at his residence. Beloved husband of Sarojinidevi and son of late Cathiravel and late Thangamma, loving father of Baskaran, Bavani, (Canada) and Rudrani (Australia), father-in-law of Yogadinusha, Mayuran and Ravindran, grandfather of Mahesh, Tharani, Kailash, Nagulan Kevisha and Dhivyesh. Viewing will be at Jayarata Parlour from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on 12th Wednesday and thereafter from 8 a.m. onwards on 13th Thursday followed by Hindu rituals at 2.30 p.m. **Cremation at General Cemetery, Borella (Hindu Section) at 4.30 p.m. 109034**

DE SILVA – MRS. NIMALA of No. 16, Galle Road, Urawatta, Ambalangoda. Beloved wife of late Mr. Siripala de Silva (Planter), beloved mother of Prof. Lalith de Silva, late ASP Sumith de Silva (Sri Lanka Police), late Mr. Rajith de Silva, beloved mother-in-law of Poshini, Sepali and Priyantha, beloved grandmother of Jayan (Australia), Diluka (Australia), Yoshani (Australia), Navoda (Dubai), Danushka (SLIT and formerly at Deakin), Ravini (Australia), Anushka (Gampaha Base Hospital), Lakshi, Hasitha and Nirod (UG of Moratuwa), great-grandmother of Baby Rehali, expired. **Funeral is scheduled at 4.00 p.m. on 12th April 2023 at family burial grounds, Urawatta, Ambalangoda. 0912257824. 6663**

FERNANDO – SHANTHI (SEAN). Father of Gayani and Kusai, grandfather of Larissa, ex-husband of Ranjani (Kelsie), brother of Nihal, Ramya, late Keerthie and of Jayanaga and Asoka, son of late KC and Merlyn Fernando. **Remains will lie at A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour on Thursday 13th April from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., cremation at 11.30 a.m. at General Cemetery, Borella. (New Crematorium) 109028**

PARAKRAMA - CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS). Eldest son of the late Sita and Sali Parakrama, beloved husband of Dushy, loving father of Nicole and Laura, adoring grandfather of Cayo, Noa, Henley and Ivan, treasured son-in-law of the late Chandra Selvaratnam, dearest brother of Arjuna, Shehara and Romany, cherished father-in-law of Shamil and Sam, was called to rest in the arms of Jesus on 10th April 2023. **Viewing at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour, from 9.00 a.m. onwards on Wednesday 12th April 2023. Funeral Service will be held at the parlour at 4.00 p.m. followed by cremation at the General Cemetery, Borella at 5.00 p.m. (Old Crematorium). 108917**

ONLINE OBITUARIES
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries

14TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE IN LOVING MEMORY OF



RAVI FERNANDOPULLE

With time years have passed by.
Joy has overcome the sorrow -
Families have overcome the loneliness.
Death has overcome life.
But nothing can overcome
The memory's we shared.
Your life story still continues to inspire us.

Delaine, Chris, Susan & Raaya, Revon & Awandi and Elaine & Yoshan. 'Fatima', Dankotuwa.
27A, Jawatte Gardens, Colombo 5.
12th April 2023

NO LG POLLS YET, BUT EC FACES DEBT OF RS.375 MN

The Elections Commission in a statement yesterday officially announced that the LG polls had been further postponed with no new date set.

Initially the LG Polls were declared to be held on March 9 but it was postponed for April 25. However due to the lack of funds to hold the Polls, it has been postponed indefinitely and will now be held only after a confirmation from the Treasury. However

sources within the Commission said that with some legal cases ongoing, if the court rules that the LG Polls should be held, then the Elections Commission will discuss with the Treasury and declare a new date as per the order of the court.

The Daily Mirror learns that the LG polls are expected to cost an estimated Rs.10 billion and if the Elections Commission gets an advance payment of Rs.700 million, it can

still go ahead with the polls as the remaining amounts can be paid after the polls are held.

However with the present economic crisis, sources on ground said that it is highly unlikely that the LG polls will be held anytime soon and it may be possible that the next election that will be held is the Presidential Election next year.

According to law, the next Presidential Election will be held in November 2024.

People should elect Ranil uncontested for next term - Vajira

Mr. Abeywardane who is believed to be a close confidant of the President said the possible rival candidates of Mr. Wickremesinghe could not even think how to resuscitate the economy and make Sri Lanka a country to be reckoned with in the global context.

"The president took over a country that remained engulfed in public unrest with petrol lines, demonstrations and food shortages. People were queuing in queues for purchasing gas and fuel. Farmers were protesting with their agricultural implements. But, he brought normalcy back within a short time after taking over power. Therefore, people should elect him uncontested for the next term in my view," Mr. Abeywardane said. "The President should contest the next election. If he is in the fray, people should elect him as a national asset," he added.

MANY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD ME: RAJITHA

"I told them what I had to say, and they fully understood my position. I said most of the people including the media have misread me. They wanted me to issue a statement and deny the media reports, but I said I will only release the full video footage of my recent press conference," he added.

New report on demarcation SUGGESTS TO REDUCE LG MEMBERS ELECTED TO HALF

- There are more than 8000 members in municipal councils, urban councils, Pradeshiya Sabhas and provincial councils

The total number of members elected to Local Government bodies has been reduced to 4,714 in the new report on demarcation, that was handed over to Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena by chairman of the National Delimitation Committee, Mahinda Deshapriya.

Currently there are more than 8000 members in municipal councils, urban councils, Pradeshiya Sabhas and provincial councils.

In November 2022, a five-member National Delimitation Committee was appointed for the demarcation of wards for local authorities.

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In November 2022, a five-member National Delimitation Committee was appointed for the demarcation of wards for local authorities.

CLASSIFIEDS

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I am 45 years old, having 22 years of experience in providing Home care service/ Home nursing/ Elder care nursing/ Psychiatric nursing, is in search of employment. Please contact Chaminda 0768-047698 **DMR 108939**

LG polls unlikely before presidential polls, without judicial intervention: PAFFREL

"Political powers, namely the Executive have overruled election law and constitutional provisions. This is a dangerous situation," he warned. Hettiarachchi opined that it is likely for the presidential polls also to be delayed, citing the same reasons.

Hettiarachchi made these comments in response to the official announcement by the National Election Commission on the

postponement of local government polls.

"On one hand the government is deceiving the public; on the other hand the local government contestants are being deceived. It is absolutely uncertain if the elections will be held over the next two years," he said. Hettiarachchi added that the local government elections are likely to be postponed indefinitely, as the executive powers of the country have created such a situation.

SJB issues are not important

- Media institutions were informed that MP Mayantha Dissanayake will also participate in the press conference but he did not turn up

"The most important is the violation of the agreement which the government has signed with the IMF," the MP told a press conference.

"As per the agreement the government is bound to identify governance and weakness risks across certain core state functions namely fiscal governance, financial sector oversight, Central Bank Governance, market regulations and rule of law. What is critical

here is that the government has violated this on six occasions. One aspect of this is the postponement of local government polls," the MP said.

"What is important is the consequence which the government would suffer as a result of violating the rule of law," he added. Asked about the crossovers and taking action against those who are to crossover, he said these are not important at the moment. "I have already talked about cross overs in Parliament and I don't want to talk about them anymore," he said in this regard.

The media institutions were informed that MP Mayantha Dissanayake will also participate in the press conference but he did not turn up for it.

SRI LANKA TO SEND 100,000 TOQUE MONKEYS TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN CHINA

- Toque monkeys have caused complete damage in 110 areas, severe damage in 235 areas, and partial damage in 155 areas
- Toque monkeys are the foremost among the animals that cause crop damage in this country. All the efforts made by the government so far to reduce the population have failed

The minister mentioned that the committee should also include officials from the ministry, the Zoology Department, the Wildlife Department, and the Attorney General's department.

In this regard, a cabinet paper is to be prepared for the immediate appointment of this committee.

During the discussion, it was revealed that the current toque monkey population of our country is close to three million. "Toque monkeys are

the foremost among the animals that cause crop damage in this country. All the efforts made by the government so far to reduce the population have failed," Minister Amaraweera said.

The survey conducted by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agricultural Training and Research Institute has confirmed that the highest intensity or severity of crop damage has been reported from toque monkeys.

According to surveys conducted in 250

agricultural development areas, toque monkeys have caused complete damage in 110 areas, severe damage in 235 areas, and partial damage in 155 areas. Most of the damage caused by toque monkeys is reported from the North-West Province.

However, it was also emphasized that when looking at the damage caused to crops in Sri Lanka by toque monkeys, it is a matter of happiness that another country came forward to get.

'Wasantha Udyani' on air April 14th – Swadeshiya Service

A special music drama titled "Wasantha Udyani" – Soorya Mangalya, written by veteran lyricist Jayampathi Algama will be broadcasted over the Swadeshiya Service SLBC 2023 April 14th at 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. for Sinhala and Tamil New year and CityFM at 5.00 – 10.00 a.m.

Music Directing and Music Composing by veteran music Director M.R. Choolasingha – Sung by Visarad Dilka Handuwala Jayakody, Charitha Priyadarshani, Sandya Bulathsinhala, Rohana Siriwardena,

Subashini Subasena and Vindya Dharshani Dissanayaka.

Production by Visarad Dilka Wimarshani Handuwala and ex-music organizer and veteran and popular singer Rohana Siriwardena. Sound control is by Tharindu Dissanayake, Ananda Padmasiri and Nishantha.

This is a production of Dilka Handuwala under the supervision of Director of Music Mr. Dinesh Bogoda and Assistant Director Mrs. Thusara Baddage.

Decision to reduce prices of school bags, shoes immediately: FM

The minister said this while attending a discussion held at the ministry yesterday on the price of school bags and shoes.

Currently, the import of shoes and bags has been completely suspended and only raw materials are being imported for local production.

The minister pointed out that the price of school bags and shoes in the local market should be reduced according to the depreciation of the dollar.

Minister Siyambalapatiya ordered the Trade and Investment Policy Department to look into the matter and give a report within a week.

If the prices do not come down, he will immediately notify the President and take appropriate measures to reduce the price, the Minister further stated.

Sri Lanka seeks relaxation of travel advisories

The minister highlighted initiatives taken by the government for reconciliation including the convening of the all-party conference by the president in December 2022 and January 2023 and the president's appointment of the Cabinet sub-committee on reconciliation.

President's Chief of Staff Sagala Ratnayaka talked about developments in the government's structural reform regarding the programmes of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

He highlighted the government's measures taken to ensure the country's debt sustainability, fiscal oversight, social protection for the vulnerable segments, good governance and fight against corruption.

Remanded for boarding a ship secretly to go abroad

Investigations revealed that they had secretly boarded the cargo ship CMA CGE belonging to the Panama State when it was at anchor in the Colombo harbour. The ship had been sailing for America when they were identified as strangers by the ship's crew and handed over to another ship enroute to Galle. Immigration and Emigration officials in the harbour had taken over the four men and after recording their statements, handed them to Galle harbour police.

They were young men between 21 and 35 years of age from Jaffna, Velanai, Thondamanaru and Pudukudiruppu areas.

Police told court that the suspect had paid Rs.100,000 each to a racketeer who promised to provide them employment abroad and that he had boarded the four men, dressed in workmen's overall, into the ship.

The suspects were produced in court by Sergeant 20284 Dhanayake on the instructions of OIC Harbour Police CI Meshan Silva.

Train services increased to 38 during festive season

- Considering the increase of commuters in the long-distance services, the department decided to attach more compartments according to the requirement

Additional Railway General Manager Operations V.S. Polwattage said priority had been given to operating long-distance train services over short-distance operations.

Other than the special trains, long-distance train services have been scheduled to operate as usual, he said.

"Several short-distance train services had been cancelled, and the staff assigned to the long-distance and special train service operations. Therefore, there is a possibility of several office transportation services being cancelled. The cancellation of short-distance travel had been done with prior approval," Polwattage said.

"Considering the increase of commuters in the long-distance services, the department decided to attach more compartments according to the requirement," he added.

Basil could be SLPP presidential candidate: Kariyawasam

"He is a leader who obtained international support by working with the international community during the time of the war. He is a leader who developed the north and east excessively.

"False allegations were levelled against him in the recent past. Cases were filed against him and he was freed from all those cases," he said.



FROM BITTER BUS TO BETTER BUS

Expert says Sri Lanka's bus service needs urgent modernisation to provide better service

By Vinuki Medagama



Commuters should be able to see on their phones what time they need to arrive, what time they will reach their destination and even how crowded the bus is



insight

Sri Lanka's public transportation, particularly its bus service, requires modernisation and reformation. Particularly in places like Colombo.

"In Colombo, at least 65 per cent of commuters should ideally use public transport based on the city's population density," Prof. Amal Kumara, told the Daily Mirror.

Prof. Kumara is a Senior Professor in the Department of Transport and Logistics Management at the University of Moratuwa and is an expert in public transport.

"The higher the population density and urban flight are, the higher the percentage of people that need to be hauled by public transport," he said.

"What we need now is to bring in technology. If you look at the recent development in transport globally, it has always been technology-driven, for example, mobile apps, online payments, methods to improve reliability," Prof. Kumara said.

According to Prof. Kumara, buses must have a reliable timetable, and online or card payment options.

"Commuters should be able to see on their phones what time they need to arrive, what time they will reach their destination and even how crowded the bus is. The technology for all of this is available in Sri Lanka, it just needs to be packaged together by the relevant agencies and delivered to the public," he said.

THE END OF THE SEMI-LUXURY BUS SERVICE

"We have made the move to get rid of all the semi-luxury buses and convert them into a normal route service or an air-conditioned service at no additional cost. We won't be cancelling the permits. We have informed most of the semi-luxury bus owners and sent them letters asking them to move into one of those sectors," said NTC Chairman Shashi Welgama.

According to Welgama, the process of converting semi-luxury buses into normal routes or air-conditioned buses is already underway and will be completed very soon.

This conversion also means that more affordable buses will be made available to the public since semi-luxury buses charge a higher fare.

SEMI-LUXURY BUSES: A HISTORY

The objective of the semi-luxury bus service was to provide comfortable travel with only seated passengers and stops only at approved bus stands. Semi-luxury buses charge 1.5 times the regular bus fare.

Since the inception of the semi-luxury bus service, there have been complaints of sub-standard conditions with no real difference to normal buses, but at a higher price.

In addition to this, there have been many public complaints of these buses stopping at points which are not approved bus stands with the number of passengers exceeding seating capacity.

An audit by the National Audit Office's Performance Audit Division on the long-distance semi-luxury bus service (Report No: PER/SLB/2017/01) documents that during the first four months of 2017, 47 per cent of public complaints received by the National Transport Commission had been about the semi-luxury bus service.

In January 2023, semi-luxury buses operating the Kataragama-Colombo bus route were cancelled, resulting in the reduction of the bus fare from Rs. 1,541/- to Rs. 1,117/-.

How is the NTC planning to meet the needs of modern commuters?

Public bus users need to be provided with affordable, comfortable transportation. The bare minimum that is expected in modern-day has evolved beyond past expectations.

According to NTC Chairman Shashi Welgama, there are ongoing discussions on ways to add value to the bus service.

For example, the NTC is considering providing Wi-Fi facilities and introducing GPS, cameras and fans into the bus service.

Introducing cashless payment methods to public transport has been a longstanding discussion. Mr Welgama stated that preliminary studies and pilot projects involving electronic ticketing are being carried out in the Kottawa-Galle bus route.

This week, Transport Minister Bandula Gunawardena announced that the Sri Lanka Transport Board will soon be introducing cashless ticketing to its fleet, in a move to cut the continuous losses incurred by the State transport authority. The Minister also highlighted the need to make SLTB self-sufficient by the year 2025, in order to avoid the possibility of privatising the state entity.

Happy New Year!

Pancha Keliya

How to play with a dice

- Moving forward is as per the value on the dice
- When you throw a six you get 12 points
- In every other throw you receive points from 1 to 5

with seashells

- If all shells face bottom side up you receive zero points
- If all shells face top side up you receive 12 points
- You receive points from 1 to 5 on how many shells face bottom side up

Play between two teams of three players each

Share the pleasure of treasuring our traditions



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Pride of the Nation

EDITORIAL

"The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It's what you're made of. Not the circumstances"
- UNANIMOUS

OUR THOUGHT

UKRAINE OR TAIWAN - WHERE DO AMERICAN INTERESTS LIE?

The war in Ukraine continues unabated. Millions of Ukrainians have crossed into neighbouring countries and many more have been internally displaced. The escalation of the conflict has caused civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure forcing people to flee. According to UNHCR by April 8, 163,268 Ukrainian refugees had been registered.

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), in February 2023 estimated that at least 8,000 civilians have been killed since Russia invaded Ukraine.

A UN report of April 5 put the damage to Ukraine's energy infrastructure at an estimated US\$10 billion plus. The war has left over 12 million people with no or limited electricity. According to a comprehensive Energy Damage Assessment Report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, the conflict had resulted in disrupting water supply and heating systems.

The Washington Post reports that so far more than 2,000 Ukrainian schools have been damaged by the fighting and more than 300 were destroyed.

As at February 22 since the war began, the Biden administration has directed more than US\$75 billion in assistance to Ukraine, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy - a German research institute.

While the US has been Ukraine's major benefactor in the conflict, many believed that the US was merely using Ukraine in a proxy war against Russia and attempt to defeat Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

The truth of this, has become clearer in the aftermath of French President Emmanuel Macron's meeting with Chinese President Xi last Sunday. On his return to Paris Macron told 'Politico' "...Europe should not become a 'vassal' and must avoid being drawn into any conflict between the US and China over Taiwan.

He added: "...the worst of things would be to think that we, Europeans must be followers on this subject and adapt ourselves to an American rhythm and a Chinese overreaction". He added the goal of the dialogue with China was to "consolidate common approaches" over the war in Ukraine. His remarks on Taiwan stoked anger and alarm in the US.

In a social media post linked to the Politico interview, US Republican Senator Marco Rubio said, if Macron spoke for all of Europe, then the US should consider focusing its foreign policy on containing China and leave Europe to handle the war in Ukraine. Adding "maybe, we should basically say we are going to focus on Taiwan and the threats that China poses, and you guys handle Ukraine and Europe."

The Wall Street Journal wrote that the French President's comments would undermine US and Japanese deterrence against China in the western Pacific, while encouraging US politicians who wanted to reduce American commitments in Europe.

It is beginning to appear that US involvement in the Ukraine crisis was more with the intention of buying European support for its adventures in the South China Sea, and in particular the island of Taiwan, long-claimed as part of China. The island is now turning out to be a flashpoint in deteriorating relations between the US and China.

There are numerous similarities between Ukraine and Taiwan. Ukraine lies on Russia's doorstep. The attempt to bring Ukraine into NATO along with US missiles and troops posed a threat to Russian security and led to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Similarly, Taiwan coming under American influence, separated by a small strip of sea from mainland China, poses a major threat to Chinese security. Neither country will tolerate even the thought of US troops and missiles at their doorstep; as the US would not tolerate a Russian or Chinese base in either Mexico or Cuba.

The world has seen the destruction wrought by American support to countries in Vietnam, Philippines (under Ferdinand Marcos), Afghanistan and the Middle Eastern countries.

Asia could well do without another round of close US 'friendship' to particular Asian countries, all of whom have come out of colonial pasts. Asia does not need American troops, missiles, nukes or chemical weapons.

As the late Chinese Premier Chou en-Lai said at the plenary session of the Afro-Asian Conference in Indonesia in 1955, "...We need to develop our countries independently with no outside interference and in accordance with the will of the people."



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

POST-ARAGALAYA SHRILL CHILL



By Amantha Perera

How do you reconcile yourself to leaving a calling? Is it betrayal?

I fought with these sentiments when I first saw the Aragalaya protest wave take off in Sri Lanka last year. My initial thought was to return immediately. But I stopped going through with that decision. I knew that I would plunge right back into reporting for international outlets. I also knew for sure that I would only do that till the international media attention was on Sri Lanka as a news story. I had been through this adrenaline driven Ferris wheel too often that I did not want to get on to it again.

I was sure that I did not want to return to a work cycle which left me frustrated and forced my move out of the country. Instead, I decided to do something that was very much counter-journalistic, I decided to wait. The wait was to understand the ground situation in Sri Lanka better and then make attempts to help my fellow colleagues.

Mid-last year, the Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma Asia Pacific, came up with the proposal to conduct a workshop on trauma informed journalism 101 for Sri Lankan journalists. As we went ahead with it, suspicions that me and my colleagues had, became confirmed. The Sri Lanka journalism community was deeply scarred by historical trauma, the financial meltdown and the protests were placing most of my colleagues at the very edge of a precipice. They understood the dangers to their mental wellbeing their work created. Equally, they were aware that they did not have the skills to stave off those dangers. This is where our work at the Dart Centre came in.

Historically, the Sri Lankan journalism community has been very slow to acknowledge trauma impact. The residue still remains. Last year, when we were laying the groundwork for the workshops, there were a few instances when we heard the archaic refrain, 'we don't need this, we are tough'. Mostly from 'seasoned seniors'

Following our first engagement with Sri Lankan journalists last September in Singapore, we also saw the dire need to take these skills to where they are needed most, to journalists working in Sinhala and Tamil.

This is how I ended up spending the anniversary week of the Mirihana Protests with colleagues who had reported on the protest's first hand.

One young man who was among the very



Since the media industry is facing multiple existential issues, a good number of journalists desperately want a get-out of the country, seeking better prospects overseas, says the author.

The Sri Lanka journalism community was deeply scarred by historical trauma; the financial meltdown and the protests were placing most of my colleagues at the very edge of a precipice. They understood the dangers to their mental wellbeing their work created. Equally, they were aware that they did not have the skills to stave off those dangers

first to reach Galle Face Green protests site and stayed there till almost the last protester had left told me of the nightmares he suffers. How he still fears of being assaulted by military personnel.

Another female colleague spoke of how difficult it was to take on the editorial responsibilities, make sure deadlines were met while also trying to act like the most stable person within the editorial.

In the North, colleagues spoke of repression that had seeped through like an evil mist. Wherever they went, it was now just next to their skin, a shrill chill making its presence clear.

Historically, the Sri Lankan journalism community has been very slow to acknowledge trauma impact. The residue still remains. Last year, when we were laying the groundwork for the workshops, there were a few instances when we heard the archaic refrain, 'we don't need this, we are tough'. Mostly from 'seasoned seniors'.

At least thankfully, a large number of younger journalists have broken away from that cast and are now not only willing to acknowledge the emotional labour of their work but also make sure they are safe.

Along with the historical reluctance to admit emotional harm, Sri Lanka has also been beset by the lack of a professional journalism training culture. We are always willing to accommodate half-baked overseas trainers and their plans without assessing whether these plans were suited for the context. Worse we are now hosting a growing community of quasi-experts with hardly any expertise on what most of them are doing. The worst of the lot are charlatans whose only claim to expertise is social media handles and handing out unfettered opinions.

Addressing emotional labour in journalism is a fraught issue even at the best of times. The unique Sri Lankan situation makes it even more delicate a balance.

Spending a week with journalists from across Sri Lanka made it very clear that the industry is facing multiple existential issues. A high number of journalists want a

get-out ticket from the country desperately. Most of them are actively seeking out ways to seek better job prospects, mainly overseas. The level of institutional lethargy towards physical and psychosocial safety is morbidly high.

Along with the historical reluctance to admit emotional harm, Sri Lanka has also been beset by the lack of a professional journalism training culture. We are always willing to accommodate half-baked overseas trainers and their plans without assessing whether these plans were suited for the context

There is no letdown in the level of political influence and partisan reporting. A whole heap of start-ups has leveraged social media spread and access to popular personalities to create click-bait, marketing it as journalism. The only positive I saw and it was a big positive was that as a community, we are still willing to and capable of taking care of each other.

The Aragalaya has once again shown us how deeply scarred the Sri Lankan journalism community is. We have not taken the time to understand the chasms left by the 30 years of civil conflict. We should have. They are deeper and darker than ever before.

The show of outward bravado is a flimsy veil against the erosion of skills, trust and dedication within the industry.

No amount of followers, reposts, comments and soundbites will hide that you are a charlatan, they only amplify it.

The writer is a journalism researcher and the Project Lead at the Dart Centre Asia Pacific. He can be contacted on amantha.perera@cqumail.com

DM Poll

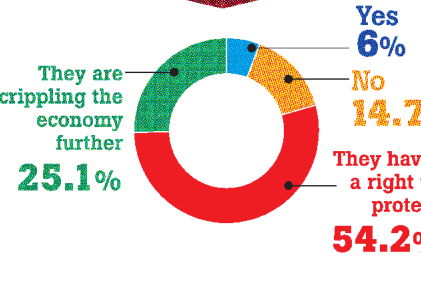
Government's main aim behind introducing new Anti-Terrorism Act is.....

- To protect the country
- To control dissenting voice
- To respond to an urgent danger of terrorism
- To prevent any Aragalaya in future.



LAST 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?



See web poll at www.DailyMirror.lk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stashed wealth in Uganda...

The Daily Mirror gave headline publicity to the request made by Namal Rajapaksa to the President to get the 'claimed' hidden wealth of the family from Uganda. Namal and the clan must be ever grateful to the President who made it possible for them to creep out of the woodwork. Though many nondescripts try to impress that he is their creation and that he should listen to them and the clueless KAPUTA holds no water. Though many barbs are thrown at RW even his worst critics will concede that he provided a breathing space to the people who paid heavily due to inefficiency and corruption. While people are suffering the clan and hangers on, still live in clover.

To come to the point Namal attempts to portray that they are not dollar-billionaires and had the gumption to ask the President to get the hidden dollars from Uganda. Before we reach off shore assets of the Rajapaksa's, may I request Namal to provide answers to what is listed below so that we get to know from where millions of rupees surfaced.

A. The whole country is aware how he got the black coat and I do not want to waste space. It's common knowledge that any person who passed the Law College finals without the luxury of a separate air conditioned room with a computer by his side, spend quite sometime as an apprentice and then actively practice before they dream of having their Chambers.

Namal, before his coat fitted him, set up a CONSULTANCY firm known as Gowers International. He chose that name after using the name of the road in Havelock Town, where he bought a prime property AN IMPOSSIBLE ACHIEVEMENT UNLESS HE HAD MILLIONS. His clients were the state institutions who were compelled to channel legal work to that firm. He was the middleman who hired competent lawyers and the state institutions had to patronise as instructed where government work had to be channelled to him.

B. Then comes the number two. Who entered the Navy after getting the educational qualification bar lowered something which was never done before. The 'shameless Commander' who did that sordid deed was adequately compensated with a diplomatic assignment. He is still in employment with the state. It was said that before the ink could dry on his letter of appointment that he was sent to the world's most prestigious post-graduate institute to DARTMOUTH in the UK at state expenses. It was said that he was a dead failure. He was then packed off to Ukraine, where a Restaurant-Manager-uncle who was appointed as the AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA to Russia organised entry.

C. Now comes the other 'Consultant' who has not worked anywhere, where no academic recognised him, however, he claims to work as a Consultant. One of his achievements was to get to Mt. KILLMANJARO to propose for marriage. It is widely said in academic circles that he had obtained some documents purchased and organised by a woman who was rewarded with a diplomatic posting.

How he purchased a Villa at a staggering Rs.460 million close to Parliament was the subject of talk, but no state institution like the IRD had the ability to question him, as they were above the laws of the land. So Namal, before we go to Uganda, Italy or Seychelles, please let us know via the media how the money came, as it's common knowledge that your grandfather was only a peasant cultivator who was respected as an honest man.

I do want to touch on the Palace which has come up today in Tangalle. It was a cabook single-storey house owned by the highly respected Crown Proctor Wickramasuriya then and was known as... CARLTON

DANIEL YAPA MATARA

'YOUR THOUGHT' is a space, a right of the readers to support or contradict and discuss the issues highlighted in the editorial and other articles in the editorial and op-ed pages. Designed as the reader's editorial; our readers can send in their writings, with a word count not exceeding 200, to 'Your Thought', Daily Mirror Political Features Desk, No 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2 or email to dmreadersthought@gmail.com.

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NEWS FEATURE

2023: THE NOT-SO-HAPPY NEW YEAR

Colombo's bargain clothing hub Pamunuwa has become a hive of activity in view of the national New Year. But vendors have mixed reactions.

By **Kamanthi Wickramasinghe**

Pamunuwa is an area on the outskirts of Colombo, where clothing is a lot cheaper than in other places. The area is popular among bargain hunters.

People, gathered in numbers were bargaining to purchase at least one T-shirt, shirt, dress, carpet or pillow at the Pamunuwa Market.

Vendors said they observed a spike in crowds compared to last year but they are not satisfied with their businesses as they struggle to sell off their stocks before Avurudu.

As the dawn of Avurudu is around the corner, more and more people are seen bargaining and purchasing clothes and other items just so that they could perform the Avurudu rituals.

But unlike in the past, people are unable to afford expensive items and this was evident during our visit to Pamunuwa.

What the vendors had to say....

We spoke to a few vendors selling various items from clothes to porcelain ware, sweets and firecrackers at Pamunuwa.

Business is extremely slow this year - Nimal

R. Nimal is a wholesale clothing supplier at Pamunuwa, who has been supplying clothes for the past 10 years.

"Business is extremely slow this year. Back then I used to bring clothes early in the morning and by about 8-8.30 a.m. all items are sold out.

"But today, the vendors are struggling to sell even one item. Everything is so expensive. The Government didn't bring down the price of clothes. Therefore people are compelled to buy just one item for the sake of the New Year. That too, they will purchase after much consideration and bargaining."



There were lesser crowds last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic - Somasiri

R.A Somasiri was busy explaining how porcelain items in his shop are durable and cost-effective.

"I have been doing this business ever since my teens. My shop sells all porcelain items including mugs, plates and other electrical appliances. Prices range from Rs 250 upwards. All items are durable and are fairly priced when compared to other shops selling similar items."

When asked about this year's business he responded in the affirmative while saying that the number of shoppers was less than last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Hoped for a better business before dawn of Avurudu - Prasanga

Yohan Prasanga sells sweets, sweetmeats and other snacks in Pamunuwa. He is anticipating a better business this Avurudu.

"People will be purchasing sweetmeats this week and I hoped for a better business before dawn of Avurudu. The sweetmeats are being sourced from different places and I have reduced the prices of sweetmeats this year. Last year there were fewer orders because schools didn't purchase sweet items. But this year there are some prospects."



Bargaining a better price

Better business this year - Perera

The former long-distance bus stand at Pamunuwa has now been converted into a space for vendors. "We have been selling clothes at Pamunuwa for the past three years," said Malani Perera.



"Initially we had issues selling items on the pavement and then we were allocated this space." Dresses are now being sold at lower prices. We have items from Rs. 500 onwards. There are some items for Rs. 50 and 100. I feel there's a better

business this year compared to last year," she said.

Initially we had issues selling items on the pavement and then we were allocated this space

Govt. didn't reduce prices of clothes - Sanjeewa

Duminda Sanjeewa is a retired officer of the SL Army who is now doing his own business.

"I served in the Army for over 24 years and now I'm selling clothes here. There was better business last year even despite Covid. This time the wholesale price of clothes is higher than last time. Even though the Government slashed the prices of certain items, the prices of clothes are still expensive. Initially, we bought stocks at Rs. 950. But now the price is Rs. 1,400. We usually purchase stocks from Pettah and Malwana. The prices of clothes in Malwana too are expensive now."



People are thinking twice before purchasing items - Atapattu

Indu Atapattu sells carpets, pillows and nightgowns at the Pamunuwa market.

"There are carpets available from Rs. 450 onwards. This time more people are shopping at Pamunuwa compared to last year. But the prices of the items are a little expensive. So they think twice before purchasing an item."



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Applications are called for vacancies in the international Advanced Level Forms for students taking up Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level Examination in May/June 2024.

S. Thomas' College prepares students for the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in the following subjects:

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Further Mathematics, Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Mechanics, Economics, Business Studies, Accounting, English Literature, English Language, Psychology, Law and History.

Those who are offering the IGCSE Examination in May/June 2023 may apply for consideration.

Shortlisted candidates will be expected to sit a placement test in Mathematics and English.

Those who wish to apply should visit <https://admissions.stcmount.com/> to purchase and submit the application form online during the period 17/04/2023 to 30/04/2023.

The cost of an application form is Rs. 1,000/- (non refundable).

No application forms will be sent or accepted by post.

Submitting an application does not guarantee admission.

WARDEN

HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC

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

Branch: HEAD OFFICE

NEW NAWALOKA MEDICAL CENTRE (PRIVATE) LIMITED

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC held on 03rd March 2023 it was resolved specially and unanimously:

Whereas NEW NAWALOKA MEDICAL CENTRE (PRIVATE) LIMITED as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated the lease hold rights of the property more fully described in the Schedule hereto by virtue of Mortgage Bond No. 4021 dated 30.11.2018 attested by S S Halloluwala, Notary Public of Colombo in favour of Hatton National Bank PLC as security for repayment of Fresh Term Loan Facility I of Rs. 300,000,000.00 Fresh Term Loan facility II of Rs. 275,000,000.00 and Permanent overdraft facility of Rs. 200,000,000.00 totaling of Rs. 775,000,000.00 (Rupees Seven Hundred and Seventy Five Million Only) granted by Hatton National Bank PLC to NEW NAWALOKA MEDICAL CENTRE (PRIVATE) LIMITED.

And whereas the said NEW NAWALOKA MEDICAL CENTRE (PRIVATE) LIMITED has made default in payment of the sums due to Hatton National Bank PLC on the said Bonds and due on the said Fresh Term Loan Facility I of Rs. 300,000,000.00 Fresh Term Loan facility II of Rs. 275,000,000.00 and permanent Overdraft facility of Rs. 200,000,000.00 totaling of Rs. 775,000,000.00 extended to NEW NAWALOKA MEDICAL CENTRE (PRIVATE) LIMITED among other facilities and there is now due and owing to Hatton National Bank PLC as at 06th December 2022 a sum of Rs. 221,357,255.86, Rs. 203,055,264.87 and Rs. 205,072,654.68 totaling of Rs. 629,485,175.41 (Rupees Six Hundred and Twenty Nine Million Four Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Five Cents Forty One) on the said Bonds and the Board of Directors of Hatton National Bank PLC under the power vested by the recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, do hereby resolve to sell the lease hold rights of the property mortgaged as described in the schedule hereto mortgaged to Hatton National Bank PLC by the said Bond No. 4021 be sold by Public Auction by K P N Silva Licensed Auctioneer of All Island for recovery of the said sum of Rs. 221,357,255.86, Rs. 203,055,264.87 and Rs. 205,072,654.68 totaling of Rs. 629,485,175.41 together with further interest at the rate of AWPLR + 1.75% p.a. AWPLR + 1.75% p.a. and AWPLR + 1.5% p.a. respectively from 07th December 2022 on the capital outstanding of Rs. 193,500,000.00 (Fresh Term facility I) Rs. 177,500,000.00 (Fresh Term Loan Facility II) and pay off amount of Permanent Overdraft facility Rs. 205,072,654.68 to date of sale together with costs of advertising and other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 2 depicted in Plan No. 1218 dated 04th October 1999 made by K P Chandrasekera - Licensed Surveyor together with the buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 115, Sir James Peiris Mawatha Situated at Slave Island in Ward No. 22, Wekanda Within the Grama Niladhari Division of Slave Island and Divisional Secretary's Division of Colombo within the Municipal Council Limits and the District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 2 is bounded on the NORTH by Lot 1 in PP 18315 and Lot 1 in Surveyor General's Advance Trading No. Co/c/CLM/97/127 and Lot 3 on the EAST by Lot 1 Surveyor's General's Advance Trading No. Co/c/CLM/97/127 on the SOUTH by Lot 3 on the WEST by Sir James Peiris Mawatha and Lots 4 and 1 and containing in extent One Acre Three Roods and Twenty Five Decimal Nought Nine Perches (A1-R3-P25.09) according to the said Plan No. 1218. The aforesaid property according to a recent survey is described as follows:

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 5 depicted in Plan No. 4299 dated 07th May 2003 made by G B Dodanwela - Licensed Surveyor together with the buildings and everything standing thereon bearing Assessment No. 115, Sir James Peiris Mawatha and Presently bearing Assessment No. 23 (Part) Deshamaniya H K Dharmadasa Mawatha Situated at Slave Island in Ward No. 22, Wekanda within the Grama Niladhari Division of Slave Island and Divisional Secretary's Division of Colombo within the Municipal Council Limits and District of Colombo Western Province and which said Lot 5 is bounded on the NORTH by Lot 4 and 1 and premises bearing Assessment Nos. 28 and 28 1/2, Lillie Street on the EAST by Premises bearing Assessment Nos. 28 and 28 1/2 and 25, Lillie Street and Reservation for Road 40ft wide (Lot 3 in aforesaid Plan No. 1218) on the SOUTH by Reservation for Road 40ft wide (Lot 3 in aforesaid Plan No. 1218) and Sir James Peiris Mawatha and On the WEST by Sir James Peiris Mawatha property belonging to the Ceylon Electricity Board (Lot 4 in aforesaid Plan No. 1218) Sir James Peiris Mawatha and Lot 4 hereof and containing in extent One Acre Three Roods and Twenty Seven Decimal Three Perches (A1-R3-P27.34) according to the said Plan No 4299.

Together with the Right of Way over and along Reservation for Road marked Lot 3 depicted in Plan No. 1218 dated 04th October 1999 made by K P Chandrasekera a Licensed Surveyor.

By order of the Board of Directors.
K A L T RANAWEERA
DGM (LEGAL)/BOARD SECRETARY

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SPORTS

Under 19 Schools Rugby 7's

ISIPATHANA DOWN ST. PETER'S TO CLINCH SCHOOLS RUGBY 7'S TITLE

BY M. SHAMIL AMIT
Isipathana College, the kings of schools rugby, continued their dominance as they lived upto expectations and added another trophy to their collection when they clinched the Under 19 Schools Rugby 7's title with a comfortable 19 points to 10 win over St. Peter's Coleige in the Cup final played at the Royal Sports Complex in Reid Avenue yesterday.

Even though the Peterites succeeded to plant two tries it was not going to be sufficient as Isipathana sealed the game with another try which was converted to bag the title.
Meanwhile in the other segments Wesley ran circles around the hapless St. Sylvester's College side to record a convincing 31 points to nil win to emerge Shield champions while Thurstan got the better of Piliyandala Central by 24 points to 12 to bag the Bowl title.
Vidyartha pulled off a close 21 points to 19 win over fancied D. S. Senanayake who in the recent past was an improved side to bag the Plate trophy.
Shahid Zumri from the champion Isipathana team was adjudged the best player of the tournament.



The champion Isipathana team posing for a picture after receiving the trophy. PICTURE BY PRADEEP PATHIRANA

RESULTS

Semi-Finals: Shield - St. Sylvester's beat St. John's 28-00, Wesley beat Moratu MV 34-00. Bowl - Thurstan beat Sri Sumangala 36-15. Piliyandala Central beat St Benedict's 19-00. Plate - Vidyartha beat Dhammaraja 24-05. DSS beat Kingswood 24-19. Cup - Isipathana beat St. Joseph's 19-14. St. Peter's beat St. Anthony's 35-24.
Finals: Shield - Wesley beat St. Sylvester's 31-00. Bowl - Thurstan beat Piliyandala Central 24 -12. Plate - Vidyartha beat DSS 21-19. Cup - Isipathana beat St. Peter's 19-10.

DailyMirror SPORTS EVENTS
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
Football : CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER-FINALS
AC Milan vs. Napoli - San Siro
Real Madrid vs. Chelsea - Santiago Bernabeu
Cricket : INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE
Chennai Super Kings vs. Rajasthan Royals - Chennai
DMSportsDesk

World Cup netball squad awaits Sports Minister's approval

BY SUSIL PREMALAL
The national netball team selected to represent Sri Lanka at the Netball World Cup 2023 has now been forwarded for the approval of Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe.
The World Netball Championship with the participation of 16 countries is scheduled to be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Meanwhile, the netball selection committee has taken steps to include Tharjini Sivalingam, who is currently living in Australia, in the Sri Lanka team

The netball selection committee has submitted 12 players plus three stand-bys for the Minister's approval. Only the first 12 players will be allowed to participate in the tour, said Netball Selection Committee Chairperson Damayanthi Jayathilaka.
Meanwhile, the netball selection committee has taken steps to include Tharjini Sivalingam, who is currently living in Australia, in the Sri Lanka team. If she does not participate in the tour, the Sri Lanka Netball Federation is also ready to replace her with another player.
The Sri Lanka team, which has been submitted to the Sports Minister for approval, is as follows:
Gayanjali Amarawansa, Gayani Dissanayaka, Thisala Algama, Semini Alwis, Chathuranga Jayasooriya, Malmi Hettiarachchi, Dulangi Wannithilake, Bashini Yoshitha, Rashmi Perera, Gayathri Kaushalya, Shanika Perera and Tharjini Sivalingam.
Stand byes - Imasha Perera, Chamudi Wickramarathna and Rukshala Hapuarachchi, Head Coach - Tilaka Jinadasa, Asst. Coach - N. Prasad

Former CR & FC Boss to Chair Standing Committee

Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) Dissolved

BY HARSHA AMARASINGHE

Minister of Sports Roshan Ranasinghe has dissolved Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) as per the provisions in the section 32 & 33 of Sports Act No. 25 of 1973. A standing committee is set to be appointed on April 12 at the Sports Ministry premises.

Daily Mirror reliably understands that a former President of CR and FC is set to chair the standing committee having also served as head of Rugby Referees' Society.

Among the key responsibilities of the standing committee is to make amendments to the constitution in a way that the 'A' division clubs could have the voting rights in a major overhaul putting an end to the dictatorship of provincial councils.
The appointment of a standing committee would mean the end of the road for incumbent president Rizly Illyas who has had a very

Official notice regarding the dissolution of Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) and the formation of a standing committee. Includes details of the Sports Act No. 25 of 1973 and the date of the meeting on April 12.

difficult time with the Ministry of Sports from the start of his tenure.
When contacted by Daily Mirror Illyas stated that he has still not been informed about the standing committee thus far.
"WE SLR has not been advised so what can I say," Illyas told Daily Mirror.

Ginige, Bandara crowned national TT champions

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Chameera Ginige of University of Sri Jayawardenapura and Bimandee Bandara of Hillwood College Kandy won the men's and women's titles respectively at the 72nd National Table Tennis Championship 2023 held at S.Thomas' College Indoor Stadium, Mount Lavinia.
The Table Tennis Association of Sri

Lanka (TTASL) conducted the Junior Nationals TT tournament along with this tournament where Bandara, the most talented player in the Junior Nationals Age group Champion, was awarded as the most talented player in the Senior Nationals.
Rehan Senanayaka and Naduni Anupriya were also awarded as Consolation Boys and Girls champions.

RESULTS

Mens Singles: Champion - Chameera Ginige (University of Sri Jayawardenapura), Runner-up - Prasad de Silva (Emjay Pvt Limit);
Womens Singles: Champion - Bimandee Bandara (Hillwood College, Kandy), Runner-up - Maneesha Shalindi (GSM Academy);
Mens Doubles : Champion - Chameera Ginige (University of Sri Jayawardenapura) / Nuwantha Niroshana (Sri Lanka Army), Runner-up - Chanul Dulsen (ALL Sokian Sports Club) / Prasad de Silva (Emjay

Pvt Ltd);
Mixed Doubles: Champion - Nuwantha Niroshana (Sri Lanka Army Sports Club) / Kasuni pittigala (Sri Lanka Army), Runner-up - Bimandee Bandara (Hillwood College, Kandy) / Dinesh Kavishka (Vidyartha Old Boys Club);
Consolation Boys: Champion - Rehan Senanayaka (Ananda College), Runner-up - Udara Weerakoon;
Consolation Girls : Champion - Naduni Anupriya, Runner-up - Osandhi Umayangana.



Winners and runners-up after receiving their awards from the Chief Guest National Sports Council Chairman, Arjuna Ranatunga

Chamari credits her heroic innings to coach and Falcons team management

BY BIPIN DANI

Sri Lanka's women's cricket captain Chamari Athapaththu hopes to continue her current cricket form, after she won the Player of the Match award at the FairBreak Invitational Tournament in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old batting all-rounder is playing for the Falcons Women team and against Sapphires Women, she opened the batting and scored 75 in 44 balls. Her aggressive batting included 13

boundaries (7 fours and 6 sixes) and it helped her team win with 6.3 overs to spare.

"Actually, I am very happy about my performance. Today's game was like a must-win game for us. With the coach Joanne Broadbent and team management including captain Suzie Bates we had decided a specific game plan and we executed in the same way. I played my natural game today. I started with the slow batting but then

I continued with aggressiveness and ultimately we won the match and I am happy for it," she said.

"As a Falcon member I was very happy to get support from all our team members including Danni Wyatt also and hope to continue with our winning streak for the next two games also and win the Champions Trophy. Last year, we were the runners-up team but this year, we hope to win this for our team," she added further.

CCC School of Cricket Junior Inter-Academy tournament gets underway

The 18th CCC School of Cricket All Island Inter-Academy junior cricket tournaments 2023 got underway on April 8.

The tournaments are conducted in two categories - Under 12 and Under 14. The U-12 segment which has attracted 21 teams will be contested for

the "Chance Sports - Nelson Mendis" Trophy.

The U-14 segment which has attracted 15 teams will be contested for "Singer Sri Lanka - Nelson Mendis" Trophy.

All matches are scheduled to be played at seven venues, namely - Ananda Sasthralaya/ Kotte, CMS/Kotte,

Piliyandala Central, NSCA/Ratmalana, Army/Mattegoda, St.John's/Panadura and Colombo Campus.

A significant year for Veteran Coach, Nelson Mendis, who completes 25 years at CCC School of Cricket. The tournaments will end on May 6.

(BM)

Entries for Junior Nationals Athletics close on April 25

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) has decided the final date to receive applications for the Junior Nationals Athletic Championship 2023 is April 25.

SLA has made arrangements to hold the championship from May 7-10 at Mahinda Rajapaksha Sports Complex, Diyagama.

The Asian Junior (U-20) Athletic Championship (June 4-7) in Incheon, South Korea and Commonwealth Youth Games (August 1-11) in Belfast, Trinidad and Tobago are the two international tournaments being targeted.

SLA hopes to select ten athletes to participate in the Asian Juniors and five at the Commonwealth Youth Games. The Junior Nationals will be held under four age categories (U-16, U-18, U-20 and U-23) for men and women.



File Photo

All applications for the championship should be addressed to Palitha Jayathilaka, Assistant Secretary (Competition Committee) Sri Lanka Athletic, No 33, Torrington Place Colombo 7 before the closing date. Nearly 1,000 athletes are expected to submit entries for this tournament.

CDB, Fairfirst Insurance, HNB and Hayleys win MCA Super Premier starters

The defending Champions, Citizens Development Business (CDB), debutants FairFirst Insurance, along with HNB and Hayleys Group, won the starter games, in the 30th Singer-MCA Super Premier League 2023, which commenced April 8.

In the battle of the debutants, Fairfirst Insurance - posted the best team total for the

day - 253 for 9 in 50 Overs vs. CL Synergy, who shot out for 117 runs in 28 overs.

The third new comer to the big league BKB Partnership, lost to Hayleys Group by 38 runs.

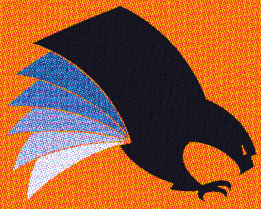
The tournament will be continued on April 10 and 11 with a card of four matches and will get back on track after the festive season on April 19.

(BM)

RESULTS OF THE FOUR STARTER GAMES

At Colts : Fairfirst Insurance beat CL Synergy by 136 runs, Fairfirst Insurance - 253/9 (50) (K.Sanjula 50, Asela Sigera 45, Anuk Fernando 45, Navod Paranavithana 4/38), CL Synergy - 117 (28) (Pawan Ratnayake 23, Wanaja Sehan 3/29, Asela Sigera 2/05, Anuk Fernando 2/24).
At NCC - HNB beat John Keells Group by 2 wickets JK - 137 (31.5) (Dhananjaya Lakshan 41, M. Liyanapathirana 4/22), HNB - 138/8 (28) (S.Weerakody 51, Akila Dhananjaya 4/43),

At P.Sara Oval - CDB beat Mode Engineering by three wickets Mode Engineering - 171 (43.5) (K.Pathirana 35, V.Rubasinghe 32, N.Atharagalla 3/15, T.Ratnayake 3/48), CDB - 173/7 (26.5) (Muditha Lakshan 52 not out, C. Ruwansiri 31).
At Katunayake - Hayleys Group beat BKB Partnership by 38 runs Hayleys - 185 (42.2) (Avishka Fernando 47, I. Wijesundara 3/39), BKB Partnership - 147 (39) (Sangeeth Cooray 34, Travin Mathews 3/28).



Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market **P08**

Interest rates likely to fall to pre-Covid levels, IMF predicts

BBC: Interest rates in major economies are expected to fall to pre-pandemic levels because of low productivity and ageing populations, according to a forecast. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said increases in borrowing costs are likely to be "temporary" once high inflation is brought under control. The Bank of England has been raising interest rates since December 2021, taking them from 0.1 percent to 4.25 percent. This has raised mortgage payments for many homeowners. Central banks in the

UK, the US, Europe and other nations have been lifting interest rates to combat the rate of price rises, otherwise known as inflation. In the UK, inflation is at its highest for nearly 40 years because of rising energy prices and soaring food costs. A number of factors are fuelling inflation, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine which has helped drive up energy costs. However, in a blog the IMF said that "recent increases in real interest rates are likely to be temporary". It added "When inflation is brought back

under control, advanced economies' central banks are likely to ease monetary policy and bring real interest rates back towards pre-pandemic levels." The IMF did not say, however, exactly when interest rates were set to fall back to lower levels. The Washington-based financial institution said ageing populations would be one factor likely to lower inflation. Explaining why older people affect inflation, George Godber, Fund Manager

at Polar Capital, said that they tend to spend less. "The amount that you spend relative to your income is highest when you're in your 20s, 30s and 40s - often that's maybe young families, when you've got households forming, you've got couples coming together, they tend to spend the most when they decorate and buy a car or whatever, and you as you get older in life you slow down your consumption," he told the BBC's Today programme. **MORE ON P8**



China tech giant Alibaba to roll out ChatGPT rival

BBC: Chinese technology giant Alibaba has announced plans to roll out its own artificial intelligence (AI) ChatGPT-style product called Tongyi Qianwen. Its cloud computing unit says it will integrate the chatbot across Alibaba's businesses in the "near future" but did not give details on its timeline. In recent months, technology companies around the world have unveiled their own so-called generative AI chatbots. **MORE ON P8**

SL poised to become year-round holiday destination for Russians

- Russian tour operators to extend winter flight programmes to summer season due to high demand
- Sri Lanka expects to welcome 225,505 Russian tourists this year; 77,526 arrivals during the first quarter
- Aeroflot, AZUR air and Red Wings operate direct flights between Sri Lanka and Russia
- Russian outbound travel forecasted to shift more towards Middle East, South and Southeast Asia this year

By Nishel Fernando

Amid high demand, Russia's outbound tour operators have decided to extend winter flight programmes to Sri Lanka in the upcoming summer season which would enable the island nation to position itself as a year-round holiday destination among Russian travellers. According to Russian Travel Digest (RUSSTD), Sri Lanka was in the top three most popular holiday destinations in the winter season among Russian holidaymakers. "Forecasts of tour operators for the summer season are also optimistic. A number of tour operators decided to extend the charter programmes for the summer and autumn seasons. Tourists will be offered to make holidays in the East of the island. Due to on-going geopolitical issues, the number of destinations has become somewhat limited for them. So, we have to make the maximum advantage of it, given Sri Lanka is a popular destination for

Russian tourists," Russian Travel Digest said. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) expects to welcome 225,505 Russian tourists this year. During the first quarter of the year, Russia generated highest tourist traffic with 77,526 arrivals during the period. On 5th of this month, leading tour operator Fun & Sun announced charter flights to Sri Lanka for the summer season, which is set to be joined by two more tour operators in the coming days. Fun & Sun's charter programme is planned on Red Wings flights on the Moscow-Hambantota route, which will be operated twice a week (Thursday and Sunday) starting from 30th of April until 31st of October this year. Last month, aviation authorities of the two countries agreed to increase the number of flights on the Moscow - Colombo route from 14 flights to 21 flights per week, according to Russia's Federal Air Transport



Agency. In addition, the weekly flights on other routes between Russia and Sri Lanka are also to be increased to seven. Direct flights to Sri Lanka from Russia are operated by three airlines. Aeroflot and AZUR air fly to Colombo, while Red Wings flies to Mattala. SLTDA Chairman Priantha Fernando noted that usually Russian tourist traffic slows down from end of March. **MORE ON P8**

People's Bank branches open for Avurudu Ganu Denu

People's Bank is celebrating the traditions of Sinhala and Tamil New Year with a host of gifts being offered for Ganu Denu. All People's Bank branches will be open for Ganu Denu transactions on April 17th, from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The objective of its Ganu Denu celebration is to encourage the habit of saving in corporation with the local traditions which not only serve as a cushion in the event of a financial emergency but also bode well for national development. Speaking about their Ganu Denu programme, People's Bank's Deputy General Manager (Retail Banking), Renuka Jayasinghe said, "People's Bank has always created new initiatives for the Sri Lankan banking industry.

We introduced the tradition of Avurudu Ganu Denu in 1973 and have consistently celebrated the event thereafter. The programme has grown over the years so that people who visit us for Avurudu Ganu Denu on the New Year are presented with attractive gifts. This year, the management once again decided to close the bank on April 14th, allowing our customers and staff members, to celebrate the traditions of the New Year with their loved ones. We are opening all 743 outlets on Monday, 17th of April, enabling them to fulfil the auspicious New Year transaction ritual with our

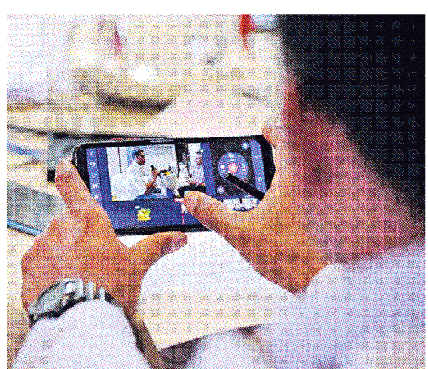


Renuka Jayasinghe

branches that will be open as usual. This year, the bank will give depositors a host of gifts that include a porcelain mug for deposits of Rs.15,000, an attractive travelling bag for deposits of Rs.25,000, a golf umbrella for deposits of Rs. 50,000 and an LED emergency lamp for those who deposit Rs. 100,000. In addition to this, arrangements have been made to give a customary gift of Rs. 10 for every transaction, adding meaning to the Ganu Denu ritual transactions. All customers to the bank will also be treated to traditional Sri Lankan sweetmeats and milk rice in the spirit of the New Year.

USAID and IREX announce launch of MoJo Lanka Academy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) have announced the launch of MoJo Lanka Academy, a platform that will provide robust tri-lingual instruction in mobile journalism. This launch is the first step towards the MoJo Lanka mobile journalism festival, planned for June 24-25, 2023. USAID's Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND) programme works in conjunction with IREX to improve citizens' demand for, and access to, balanced, reliable, and objective news and information in Sri Lanka. MEND has also been a pioneer in mobile journalism in the country, providing training and mentoring for hundreds of aspiring mobile journalists. MoJo Lanka Academy is a virtual training centre consisting of a series of explainer videos on the basics of



mobile storytelling. The videos are available in English, Sinhala and Tamil, and have been compiled by experts in the field: David Hayward, the Editor of the first BBC newsroom to be led by video journalists; K.C. Saranga, an award-winning Sri Lankan mobile journalist; and Nadaraja Manivanan, a media trainer and independent filmmaker based in Sri Lanka. All MoJo Lanka Academy products can be found on Mojolanka.lk. **MORE ON P8**

Skills Expo 2023 to be held at BMICH from May 12-14

Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 will take place at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre (SBMEC) at the BMICH in Colombo on May 12th, 13th, and 14th. A ground-breaking event aimed at showcasing new and emerging techniques in 5 key sectors and providing opportunities for job seekers to find employment across these industries, the Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 is an initiative of the relevant Industry Sector Skills Councils (ISSCs), which were established in 2016. ISSCs are industry-owned, industry-led, and industry-driven organisations recognised, advised, and supported by the government. The official inauguration ceremony will be held on the 12th of May at 09.00 a.m. at the BMICH under the patronage of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., daily (entrance free). The ministers representing the

5 councils, together with other key dignitaries will be present at the inauguration, to support this collaborative effort to showcase and drive transformation in the skills and job market in Sri Lanka. This event is a national-level conference and exhibition with the objective of providing a platform to bring together skills and skills-related national and international stakeholders. Primarily, the Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 seeks to showcase new and emerging techniques across the five ISSCs represented, which are the Construction Industry Skills Council (CISC), Information and Communication Technology Industry Skills Council (ICTISC), Manufacturing and Engineering Industry Sector Skills Council (MESSCO), Tourism Industry Skills Council (TISC), and Agriculture Sector Skills Council (ASSC). The event will serve as an ideal opportunity to educate the public on



Education Minister Susil Premajayantha speaking at a press conference where Sri Lanka Skills Expo 2023 was announced

the industrial training programmes available, share data related to available job vacancies within these sectors, and provide opportunities for job seekers to apply. A number of career guidance programmes will be available to educate individuals about the present trends within these 5 key industries, and career paths

available to them. The expo will also be an excellent platform for students and job seekers to meet industry experts and employers, and learn about the various opportunities available in these sectors. Through this event, the organisers hope to build the image of the 5 involved sectors, and provide consultancy and advisory services related to technology adoption and competency development, and share information and data about the labour market. Skills Expo 2023 is expecting a participation of more than 15,000 participants throughout the three days. The five organising ISSCs have extended open invitations to their members who would like to seize this opportunity to obtain vendor stalls in order to exhibit their products and services, present the skill demand on the respective sectors and network with those who are interested in building careers in these sectors. **MORE ON P8**

Sri Lanka Tourism hosts familiarisation tour for Filipino tour operators

The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) in collaboration with Sri Lanka Embassy in Manila recently hosted a familiarisation tour for nine Filipino tour operators from March 29th to April 6th. The goal of the tour was to increase awareness about Sri Lanka as a new travel destination and to establish connections between Sri Lankan travel agents and Philippine travel agents. The familiarisation tour included visits to various tourist destinations such as Sigiriya, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Yala, Galle, Bentota, and Colombo, showcasing the diverse offerings of Sri Lanka including luxurious resorts, beautiful beaches, wildlife, ancient heritage sites, and world-renowned cuisine. One of the main highlights of the tour was a visit to the ancient Sigiriya rock fortress, a UNESCO world heritage site. The participants also visited the Sri Dalada Maligawa, and were entertained by the Udarata Cultural Show in the evening. Additionally, a B2B session was conducted between Sri Lankan travel agents and Philippine tour operators with the aim of establishing Sri Lanka's presence in the Philippines as a preferred travel destination and to establish partnerships and linkages. **MORE ON P8**

China's consumer inflation falls below 1% in March

AFP: China's consumer price inflation fell below one percent in March, official figures showed yesterday, a sign of weak demand as the world's second largest economy tries to recover from its pandemic-driven slump. The March consumer price index (CPI) - the main gauge of inflation - came in at 0.7 percent, down from the one percent seen a month earlier, according to the country's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Beijing is targeting an average inflation rate of three percent for 2023, which is still far below the current rates of many developed economies. Analysts had expected a faster pace in March, with economic activity picking up again after the abandonment of zero - Covid restrictions at the end of 2022. **MORE ON P8**



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11.04.2023

Market data table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, V.W.A. (VOLUME), OPEN, HIGH, LOW, V.W.A. (TODAY'S), CHANGE. Includes sections for MAIN BOARD, LANKEM DEV, and AMANA LIFE.

Bullish momentum continues

The ASPI closed in green as a result of price gains in counters such as Lanka IOC, Expolanka Holdings and LOLC Holdings with the turnover crossing Rs. 1.6 bn.

Mixed interest was observed in Expolanka Holdings, Tokyo Cement Company nonvoting and Lanka IOC whilst retail interest was noted in SMB Leasing nonvoting, Marawila Resorts (rights) and Browns Investments.

Foreign participation in the market activity remained at subdued levels with foreigners closing as net buyers. Materials sector was the top contributor to the market turnover (due to Tokyo Cement Company nonvoting) whilst the sector index gained 1.68%.

The share price of Expolanka Holdings increased by Rs. 6.00 (3.69%) to close at Rs. 168.50. Lanka IOC, John Keells Holdings and Sunshine Holdings were also included amongst the top turnover contributors.



share price of John Keells Holdings recorded a gain of Rs. 0.75 (0.54%) to close at Rs. 138.75. The share price of Sunshine Holdings appreciated by Rs. 2.30 (5.11%) to close at Rs. 47.30.

Contd. from Page 7

Interest rates...

"There's less heading to Glasgow and nights out on the town, there's more sitting at home and watching the Antiques Roadshow, so therefore your spending patterns sort of reduce and you save more and so an ageing population tends to be disinflationary."

of March. It will die down a bit in April-June and will pick up again in July- August. Once again, there's a lean period during September-October and it will pick up again. That's based on the outbound trend," he said.

China tech...

Earlier this year, Alibaba revealed it was working on a rival to ChatGPT. Tongyi Qianwen roughly translates as "seeking an answer by asking a thousand questions", although Alibaba has not given an English version of the name.

The public has until 10 May to give feedback on the proposals. Last month, a group of high-profile figures in the technology industry called for training of powerful AI systems to be suspended amid fears of a threat to humanity.

Director Gabriel Grau. "A well trained and responsible press is a cornerstone of democratic societies and especially important in these times when democracy is under pressure in so many places. USAID looks forward to the success of the Mojo Lanka Academy."

SL poised...

"Typically, it's the tail-end of Russian traffic towards end

Russian tour operators expect the volume of Russian tourists through their tour operators on foreign destinations to grow up to 20 percent YoY in 2023. Last year, tour operators sent about 7 million Russian tourists to the top twenty tourist destinations.

Under the proposed rules, companies would be responsible for the legitimacy of data used to train the technology, the Cyberspace Administration of China said.

USAID and...

In the coming weeks, MEND will also be announcing a competition aimed at celebrating Sri Lankan mobile journalists. The entries will be judged by local and international judges and the winners will be announced at the Mojo Lanka festival in June.

China's consumer...

The producer price index (PPI), which measures the cost of goods leaving factories, shrank for the sixth consecutive month, with prices falling 2.5 percent - indicating lower margins for businesses.

DailyMirror

Life

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 12, 2023
WWW.LIFE.LK
P-09



DALAI LAMA APOLOGISES

The Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama apologised on Monday after a video which showed him asking a boy to suck his tongue triggered a backlash on social media. The video, which has gone viral, shows the Dalai Lama, 87, planting a kiss on the boy's lips as he leaned in to pay his respects. The Buddhist monk is then seen sticking his tongue out as he asked the child to suck it. **AFP**

JOKER LEFT DRAINED

One of Greece's top seismologists has been left badly shaken after his April Fool's spoof about the volcanic island of Santorini badly backfired. Akis Tselentis, the director of Greece's Geodynamic Institute and Tsunami Centre, quipped that a funnel could open up under the tourist hotspot and suck away the Aegean Sea. But the authorities failed to see the joke and Tselentis is now under investigation. **AFP**



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FIFTY YEARS CELEBRATIONS

One of the highlights, as part of the fifty years celebrations of Christ the Living Saviour was 'Never Thirst Again' by Ishan de Lanerolle, and the Choir of the Cathedral. The Choir Director was at his best once again in a musical event in celebration and this particular one was a Passion cantata. This had meaningful narrations between the singing all done to perfection under Ishan's expert guidance. The choir is now undoubtedly one of the very best here. The

next planned event is a choir festival featuring some of the foremost choirs in our country. I have always been a fan of the De Lanerolle Brothers as a duo and consider them and Gehan Cooray to be among our very best singers. Ishan has done a wonderful job with the choir at the cathedral ever since he became its Director and the choir has improved by leaps and bounds, beyond all expectations. One of the best parts of any service at the cathedral is the singing of the choir under Ishan's direction.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS

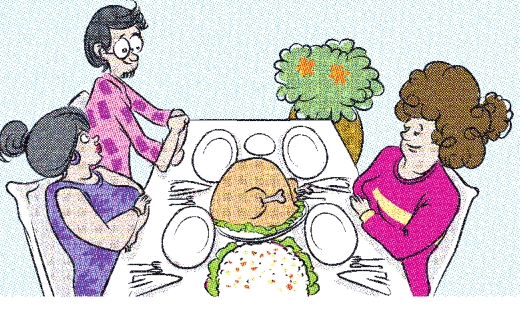
The English language is full of some wonderful collective nouns for the various groups of animals; we are all familiar with a Herd of Cows, a Flock of chickens, a School of fish, a Gaggles of Geese and a Pride of Lions. However less widely known is a Murder of Crows. An exaltation of Doves, and presumably because they look so wise, A Congress of Owls. Now, please consider a group of Baboons. They are the loudest, most viciously aggressive and the least intelligent of all primates... And what is the proper collective noun for a group of Baboons. Believe it or not! A parliament of Baboons. Interesting isn't it?



AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON

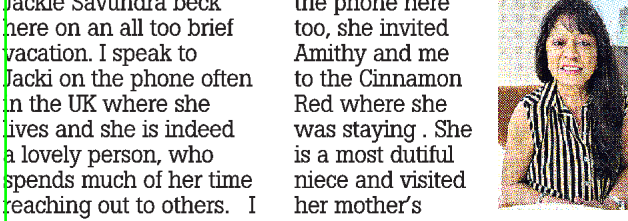
A favourite cousin and her husband who I'm very fond of too sent their car for me to have lunch and spend Sunday afternoon with them. A day when everyone was relaxed and able to enjoy ourselves with ease, comfortable in each other's company, the busy host not having to rush from meeting to meeting or be disturbed by phone calls from work. Their daughter, a great favourite of mine too joined us. She spends much of her time in helping others, with health

problems in which she is trained and also in guiding them in marketing their products, helping those who have talent in producing attractive gift items with design in keeping with modern market trends. She has an idea which has not taken off the ground yet, in how those who are able to can help those in need to get their essential commodities by paying for another for when they buy their own items. It was most relaxing and enjoyable.



Spending a vacation with elderly relatives

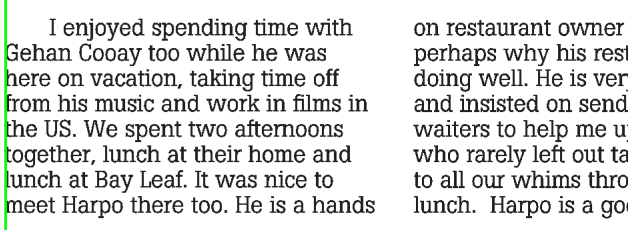
It was nice to have Jackie Savundra beck here on an all too brief vacation. I speak to Jacki on the phone often in the UK where she lives and she is indeed a lovely person, who spends much of her time reaching out to others. I spoke to her on the phone here too, she invited Amithy and me to the Cinnamon Red where she was staying. She is a most dutiful niece and visited her mother's



sister Lucy Page, the Matriach of the Page and Aloysius families daily, which is rare in young people, to spend most of a brief vacation with elderly relatives and friends. She promised to come back next year too when I hope we will all, old and young among her friends see much more of her.

SPENDING TIME WITH GEHAN

I enjoyed spending time with Gehan Cooray too while he was here on vacation, taking time off from his music and work in films in the US. We spent two afternoons together, lunch at their home and lunch at Bay Leaf. It was nice to meet Harpo there too. He is a hands



my nephew Senaka de Soysa and immediately recognised my part time driver, and chatted to him too as he has worked for Senaka's family for several years. We had a delicious lunch and a heart to heart chat as it was during Gehan's last few days here. He and his lovely mother Shiromal left for Paris a few days later to spend time there before he returns to the US.

CURRIED OMELETTE



- INGREDIENTS**
- 1 oz butter
 - 3 B onions thinly sliced
 - 1/2 tsp turmeric
 - 2 cloves garlic chopped
 - 2 green chillies finely chopped
 - 1 tsp grated ginger
 - 8 Ozs cooked meat
 - chicken or ham finely chopped
 - 5 eggs
 - 1 tbsps water
 - 2 oz butter for omelette, seasoning.
- METHOD** For filling. Fry onion in butter till brown. Add spices. Add meat and seasoning. Beat eggs with water. Heat butter pour in egg when set. Put filling in centre fold over and serve.

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Fiction

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LABOUR STUDIES

BITTER BERRY BONDAGE

BY DONOVAN MOLDRICH

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Sudoku

4756

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6	1	4		9				
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4			1					9

SOLUTION NO. 4756

7	8	3	6	1	9	4	2	5
9	5	1	2	3	4	6	7	8
6	4	2	7	5	8	9	1	3
4	1	6	3	2	7	8	5	9
8	7	5	9	4	1	3	6	2
3	2	9	5	8	6	1	4	7
1	3	7	8	6	5	2	9	4
2	9	4	1	7	3	5	8	6
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Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. The solution will be published on next game page.

DailyMirror CROSSWORD

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD NO. 1526

Solution for No. 1525

1	P	2	A	3	A	4	A	5	T	6	D		
7	P	R	E	F	A	B	8	D	E	U	C	E	D
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23	T	U	R	D	Y	24	D	E	P	A	R	T	
	E		T		P		S		Y		L		

Across

- 7 Protective (6)
- 8 Make deeper (6)
- 9 Awe (4)
- 10 Under a curse (8)
- 11 Being of crucial importance (7)
- 13 Twist (5)
- 15 Order by virtue of superior authority: decree (5)
- 17 Assume (7)
- 20 Congress (8)
- 21 The act of giving (4)
- 23 Ask for or request earnestly (6)
- 24 Two-dimensional (6)

Down

- 1 Afforded (4)
- 2 Someone deranged and possibly dangerous (6)
- 3 Nightclothes (7)
- 4 Derive (5)
- 5 To draw again; (6)
- 6 Message transmitted by telegraph (8)
- 12 Insinuation (8)
- 14 Grandfather (7)
- 16 Group of followers hired to applaud at a performance (6)
- 18 Indicate (6)
- 19 Embrocated (5)
- 22 Defect (4)

	1		2		3		4		5		6		
7							8						
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Due to the prevailing situation in the country there will be no crossword competition. The publication of the crossword is purely for your enjoyment.



INTERFLASH 23

Sri Lanka's Biggest Musical Extravaganza Rocks Colombo

INTERFLASH 2023 was an event that was eagerly awaited for two long years. After a hiatus of two years, Sri Lanka's biggest musical concert was finally back with a bang, promising to be an



unforgettable evening of music, entertainment, and excitement. The anticipation was palpable, and fans could hardly wait to immerse themselves in the world of music and entertainment that INTERFLASH had to offer. The event did not disappoint, with a lineup of Sri Lanka's biggest and most renowned artistes delivering performances that were simply outstanding.

The heart of Colombo was buzzing with excitement as Sri Lanka's biggest musical concert, INTERFLASH 23, was held at the Nelum Pokuna Outdoor Theatre on April 4, 2023. Organised by the Interact District 3220, the event was a massive success, attracting over 10,000 music lovers from all over the country.

INTERFLASH 2023 kicking off with the Finals of LIVELIGHT 23, featured a line-up of talented contestants, including Dinomi Perera, Ransaree Kolonne, Sihansa Mudalige, and Team Hathike, who were backed up by the dynamic band STEREO. Each contestant brought their unique style and energy to the stage, impressing the judges and the audience with their captivating performances. The LIVELIGHT finals at INTERFLASH 2023 showcased the incredible talent of Sri Lanka's up-and-coming musicians, and the performance by Team Hathike won the most votes, solidifying their position as the ultimate winners of the competition.

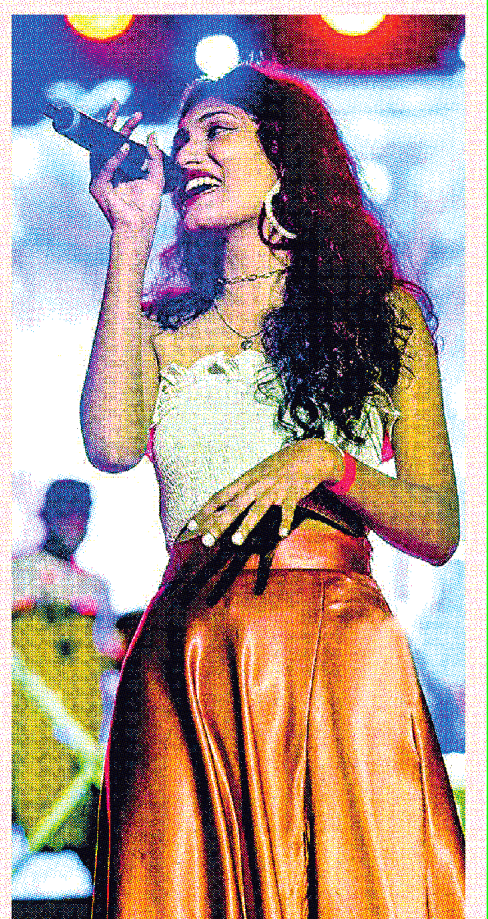
The concert featured some of the most renowned and talented

artistes in Sri Lanka, including Kazier, Dinesh, Wasthi, Kanchana, Yaka Crew, Infinity, Daddy, and Funk Island, who performed some of their best hits alongside the finalists of LIVELIGHT 2023.

The concert was a visual and auditory extravaganza, with state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems that left the audience mesmerised. The event was a feast for the senses, with a variety of food and beverage stalls that kept the taste buds up and running while enjoying the evening.

Kaizer and Dinesh's soulful voices had the crowd swaying and singing along, while Wasthi's witty lyrics and Kanchana's electrifying songs kept the energy levels high. Yaka Crew's fusion of traditional and contemporary music had everyone on their feet, and Infinity's unique style of music had the audience spellbound.

The event was not just a concert; it was an experience that left everyone breathless. The organisers had pulled out all the stops to ensure that the event lived up to its hype, and they did not disappoint. INTERFLASH 23 was an unforgettable evening that showcased the best of Sri Lankan music and entertainment.



INTERFLASH 23 was a resounding success, and it will be remembered for years to come as one of the biggest and most hyped-up musical events in Sri Lanka's history. The Interact District 3220 and all the artistes involved in the concert deserve a round of applause for putting together such a fantastic event that rocked Colombo!

Sent by - Int. Jezon Fernando Interact Club of St. Joseph's College

The anticipation was palpable, and fans could hardly wait to immerse themselves in the world of music and entertainment that INTERFLASH had to offer



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