



YOUR PAPER TODAY 10 PAGES

No national government - Sajith

Calls for a snap poll

- Accuses media and government of spreading falsehood

BY YOHAN PERERA

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) will not be a part of a national government with those who do not have a mandate, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said yesterday.



SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

French woman sexually harassed at massage clinic

- Investigations revealed that the suspects had been running the massage clinic without a license

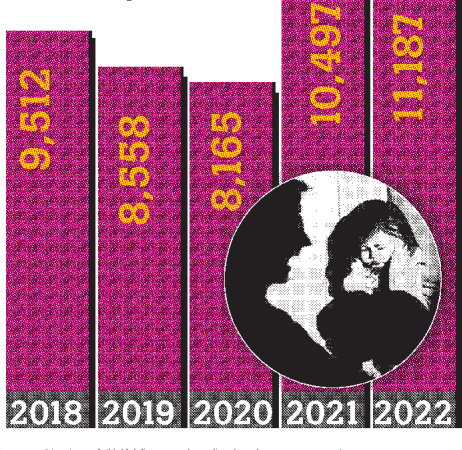
BY LALITH NAVARATNE

The owner of a massage clinic at Thalavila in Thoduwawa and one of his employees were taken into custody on suspicion of sexually harassing a French young woman. The suspects were 38 and 43 years of age.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Penal Code Amendment will decriminalize Child abuse - Civil Group

Complaints reported to the National Child Protection Authority



Sources: National Child Protection Authority

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- Omitting the words "any man, woman" in the proposed bill will automatically abolish the entire amendment

BY YOHAN PERERA

The proposed amendment to Chapter 19 of Section 365 and 365A of the Penal Code, will lead to the decriminalization of child abuse, a Civil organization alleged yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Engagement with IMF

President continued what I started - Sabry

- We are sure that our engagement with IMF would be a resounding success
- We are on the right path towards success where the economy is concerned. Our economy is back on its feet

BY YOHAN PERERA

Whilst highlighting that the engagement with IMF to revive the county's battered economy is slated to be a highlight successful endeavour, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry said the incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe had continued the engagement which he began.

"I was the Minister of Finance during the time during which the county was going through its hardest period and it was I who started engaging with the IMF. President Wickremesinghe continued this exercise. We are sure that our engagement with IMF would be a resounding success," the Minister said during the launch of the Blockchain Centre in Colombo on Monday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Solar radiation is the cause for excessive heat - Met Department

- Sri Lanka's situation has no connection with the situation in Mumbai where 11 people died
- Less clouds and winds are other reasons for the increased heat in Sri Lanka

STAY SAFE IN HOT WEATHER

- Plan activities for the coolest times of the day - in the early morning or in the evening
- Wear light coloured, loose fitting clothing outdoors
- Drink plenty of water throughout the day
- Avoid alcoholic, hot or sugary drinks
- Cool off with a cool bath or shower if you feel overheated
- Wear a wide-brimmed, vented hats, sunglasses or use an umbrella, a sunscreen
- Stay indoors or in covered or shaded areas whenever possible, use air conditioners or fans
- Take care of your pets

Sources: Internet

BY YOHAN PERERA

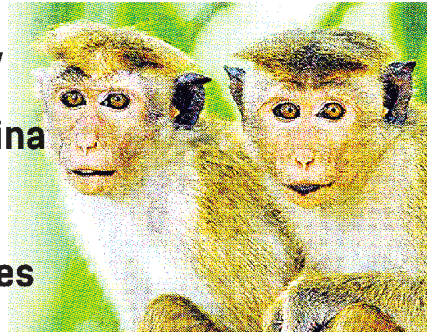
Radiation that emit out of the sun is the main cause for the excessive heat which Sri Lanka is experiencing these days, the Department of Meteorology said yesterday.

A spokesman for the Department of Meteorology said less clouds and winds are other reasons for the increased heat in Sri Lanka.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

GREAT POSSIBILITY THAT THESE TOQUE MONKEYS WILL END UP IN LABS

- As a former minister of wildlife I am totally against the export of Toque monkeys to China
- They should only be sent abroad on exchange programmes between zoos



Expressing his opposition to the government move to export Toque monkeys to China, former Minister Navin Dissanayake said that there is a great possibility that these Toque monkeys will end up in labs and subjected to torture. "As a former minister of wildlife I am totally against the export of Toque monkeys to China. This is an abomination and should not even be considered," the former minister tweeted.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

TID summons former AG Dappula de Livera



BY DARSHANA SANJEEWA BALASURIYA

Former Attorney General Dappula de Livera has been informed to appear before the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) today to record a statement he had made over the 2019 Easter Sunday bomb attacks. Police said he was informed to appear before the TID to record a statement regarding his controversial statement of a coup behind the Easter Sunday attacks.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Bill to amend Penal Code to protect LGBTQI community

Petition to be heard on Thursday

BY LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Special Determination petition filed challenging the constitutionality of the private member's bill submitted to parliament seeking to amend Sri Lanka's penal code, with the aim of protecting the country's LGBTQI community, is to be heard on April 20 by the Supreme Court.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>

Cabinet decision to allocate Galle Face only to spend leisure time

- SLPA has undertaken to develop the Galle Face area as a Corporate Social Responsibility project

BY SANDUN A. JAYASEKERA

The cabinet on Monday has decided from here onwards to allocate the Galle Face Ground only for people to spend their leisure time and prohibit political rallies, protests, musical shows and other social, political and religious events.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



RAILWAY DEPT. TO BE MADE A CORPORATION - MINISTER

- Currently run at annual loss of Rs.10 billion
- Some rails were as old as 50 years, and they should be replaced immediately

BY KELUM BANDARA

The government has initiated discussions for the conversion of the Department of Railways to a public corporation as part of the process of reforming the state owned enterprises (SOEs), a minister said yesterday.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



Certain political elements behind delaying A/L answer script correction

- Political groups and unions must consider this a national constraint without considering their personal benefits
- The teachers' unions had agreed to the government's programme of scrutinizing answer scripts

BY CHATURANGA PRADEEP SAMARAWICKRAMA

An intelligence report revealed that certain extremist political groups wanted to promote extremist political ideologies by using the frustration of the youth by delaying the scrutinization of GCE (A/L) answer scripts, Education Minister Susil Premajayantha said.

SEE REST OF THE STORY ON A2 >>>



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CONT'D.
FROM PAGE 1

No national government - Sajith

● This is the second statement made by Mr. Premadasa rejecting any move to join the government within a course of three weeks

"The present government and the President are carrying out a Hitler type campaign to fool the people by spreading falsehood with regard to a national government. This is just like what Hitler using Joseph Goebbels did during the World War 2. President and the government are spreading falsehood by using those who identify themselves as journalists. Neither the SJB as a whole or any individual MP would join to form a national government," Premadasa said in a special statement.

"We would call for a snap general or a presidential election. If not we appeal to the government to hold the local government election to determine the pulse of the people. We would consider joining in forming a national government if the people give a signal to that effect," he added.

"Some media institutions are publishing falsehood in exchange for rewards," he also said.

This is the second special statement made by Mr. Premadasa rejecting any move to join the government within a course of three weeks.

President continued what I started - Sabry

"We are on the right path towards success where the economy is concerned. Our economy is back on its feet. We have faced lots of challenges in the past with a long civil war, COVID-19 Pandemic and the economic downturn.

The government managed to rehabilitate 12,917 ex-combatants in the North. These youth are being taken care by the government.

Government is currently paying a dole to them," the Minister added.

"We also want international assistance to develop the North and East which has been neglected for a long time. We also want to integrate more with India. Accordingly we are looking for increasing flights to India. We will also begin ferry services between India and Sri Lanka shortly," he said.

State Minister of Tourism Diana Gamage said Blockchain Centre is what the youth who called for a system change wanted. "Blockchain will help Sri Lanka to embrace digital economy. Sri Lanka cannot afford to go back to a position which it enjoyed before the economic crisis. We want to see that Sri Lanka enjoys a better position and engaged with the entire globe," she said.

Solar radiation is the cause for excessive heat - Met Department

"These happenings are usual at this time of the year," he added.

He said that Sri Lanka's situation has no connection with the situation in Mumbai where 11 people have died.

However the Department released a

warning of caution as increased heat may cause heat cramps and heat exhaustion when staying in the sun for a long time.

Heat could remain till Mid May this year according to the Department of Meteorology. Maximum Temperature in

several areas were high yesterday with Polonnaruwa recording a temperature of 36.6 C degrees, Vavuniya 35 C degrees, Anuradhapura 34 C degrees, Hambantota 33.8 C degrees and Moneragala 33.9 C degrees.

GREAT POSSIBILITY THAT THESE TOQUE MONKEYS WILL END UP IN LABS

He also stated that he is against the move because it is against the Fauna and Flora act of Sri Lanka and endemic species which are protected in SL should never be exported en masse. "They should only be sent abroad on exchange programmes between zoos and it is inhuman knowing fully well that there is a great possibility that they will end up in labs and subjected to torture," Mr. Dissanayake said adding that "they are beautiful animals and every right to live a full life roaming in their natural habitat"

TID summons former AG Dappula de Livera

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse also said at a Cabinet briefing that he has informed the Attorney General to record a statement from Dappula de Livera over his statement on the Easter Sunday terror attacks.

In May 2021, a few days before the

end of his tenure as the AG, Dappula de Livera said that he is unable to present indictments against the conspirators and abettors of the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks within his tenure, as the Criminal Investigation Department's probes are incomplete.

Speaking to the media, the Justice Minister said that Dappula de Livera as the Attorney General at the time should have summoned the Police and ordered them to conduct further investigations if the level of inquiry had been insufficient.

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OBITUARIES

FERNANDO - UPALI KULADEVA (Retired Managing Director Sri Lanka Railways). Beloved husband of Dr. Lalani Fernando, loving father of Dr. Imali Fernando and Dr. Harinda Fernando, father-in-law of Dr. Killan Welch and Rukshila Gooneratne, loving brother of late Gamini Fernando, Kusuma Gunaratne and Kanthi Kannagara (Attorney-at-Law) and loving grandfather of Ciaran, Orlagh and Tarun, passed away on the 16th of April 2023. **Viewing and paying of respects at Laksiri Florists, Panadura. Cremation will be at 4.00 p.m. on the 20th April, at the Wadduwa public cemetery. 109483**

BELLETH - MARLENE ANASTASIA JURIANZ. Loving wife of Reginold Belleth (Royal Navy/ Sri Lankan Navy - retired), daughter of late Noel and Sissy Juriansz, mother of Merril Belleth, mother-in-law of Claudia Belleth, grandmother of Carnella Claessen, Conella and Marietta Belleth and grandmother-in-law of Reno Claessen, passed away on the 13th of April 2023. **The Funeral took place at the General Cemetery, Borella on Sunday 16th April. Phone: 0724159610/ 0761232068. 109315**

ONLINE OBITUARIES
www.dailymirror.lk/obituaries

Petition to be heard on Thursday (20)

This petition has been listed to be taken up for determination before Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justice Vijith Malalgoda and Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere.

A Retired Brigadier of the Sri Lanka Army Athula De Silva, Political analyst Shemali Waduge and prominent businesswoman Jehan Hameed filed this Special Determination petition naming the Attorney General and Parliamentarian Premnath C. Dolawatte as respondents. This petition was filed through Attorney-at-Law Dharshana Weraduwa.

Through this petition, the petitioners are seeking a declaration that the bill requires the approval by the people at a Referendum in addition to the 2/3 approval of the Parliament.

The Petitioners state that the proposed amendment has failed to look into and preserve the best interest of the children. The petitioners feared that the LGBTIQI movements may promote their programmes in schools and impact the free decision making of the school children and may also give rise to Transgender Children.

Thanks Giving

SELVARATNAM - CHANDRA. (1st February 1924 - 5th April 2023). A service of thanksgiving in celebration of Chandra's life will be held at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour. **No. 368/3A, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, on Wednesday 19th of April 2023 at 5.30 p.m. (Musical prelude from 5.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.) Chandra's entire international family of four generations will be present to honour her. 109144**

PENAL CODE AMENDMENT WILL DECRIMINALIZE CHILD ABUSE- CIVIL GROUP

Urban Citizens Organisation in a letter addressed to President Ranil Wickremesinghe said crime abuse will be decriminalized under the new amendment proposed in the new private members Bill presented by MP Premnath Dolawatta.

"Section 365 in the principle enactment which states - "whoever voluntarily has Carnal intercourse against order of nature with any man, woman, animal" is proposed to be repealed and be substituted with - "whoever voluntarily has Carnal intercourse against the order of nature with an animal shall be punished with imprisonment of either description of a term which

may be extended to 10 years and shall also be liable to a fine". Omitting the words "any man, woman" in the proposed bill will automatically abolish the entire amendment brought under act number 22 of 1995. In our view it automatically decriminalizes child abuse under section 365 and 365 (a)," the letter signed by Urban Citizens Chairperson Shermila Gonawala said.

According to existing laws, in the event that any person above the age of 18 years commits the said "unnatural acts" against a child less than 16 years of age, it is a serious crime and is punishable.

French woman sexually harassed at massage clinic

The 23-year-old French tourist, and her parents had visited the massage clinic to have a massage. The young woman had been taken into a room and while massaging, the two men had sexually harassed her.

Thoduwa police arrested the suspects during

investigations of the tourist. Investigations revealed that the suspects had been running the massage clinic without a license.

OIC Thoduwa police CI Lalith Ranaweera, and WPS 12767 Dilshani, and WPC 10537 Randima conducted investigations.

Cabinet decision to allocate Galle Face only to spend leisure time

Cabinet spokesman, Mass Media, Transport and Highways Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardana told the weekly post cabinet news briefing that Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has undertaken to develop the Galle Face area as a Corporate Social Responsibility project.

So far, the SLPA has spent about 220 million rupees on development work and only 6.6 million rupees have been spent on repairing the property damages that occurred during the last Aragalaya period.

"The land in Galle Face should be maintained as an area for the

people to spend their leisure time. However, due to musical shows and other events that gather people in large numbers, the area is being damaged and it has become difficult to maintain the beauty and scenic nature of the area.

Therefore, the Cabinet has decided not to allow the use of the Galle Face ground for musical performances, meetings or other activities that may damage the beauty of the Galle Face ground except for religious activities with effect from 2023.04.20, Minister Dr. Gunawardana said.

RAILWAY DEPT. TO BE MADE A CORPORATION - MINISTER

● Rails of the coastal line have to be replaced every five years, but it has not been done for the last ten or more years

A public corporation or a statutory corporation is operated on a commercial basis and governed by a Chairman and Director Board. A department does not possess commercial qualities as such and is directly controlled by the government.

Reforming the SOEs has been prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to qualify for financial assistance to tide over the current economic crisis.

Transport and Highways Minister Bandula Gunawardana told Daily Mirror that the Department of Railways had been run at an annual loss of Rs.10 billion during the recent past years, and its commercial viability should be improved to make it more passenger friendly.

"In 2021, the Department generated revenue of Rs.2.6 billion. However, Rs.2.3 billion had been

spent for the payment of overtime work by the employees, and Rs. 2.7 billion for salaries," the Minister said.

The Minister said he held talks with the rail trade unions representing engine drivers, station masters and guards, and got their positive responses to the proposed restructuring plan.

Sri Lanka has a rail network of around 1,500 kilometres. However, the Minister said some rails were as old as 50 years, and they should be replaced immediately.

"We have placed orders for the import of 10,000 rails. The rails of the coastal line have to be replaced every five years. But it has not been done for the last ten or more years. Therefore, trains cannot speed up to Panadura on the southern coastal line. The speed limit has been restricted to 20 kilometres per hour," he said.

Certain political elements behind delaying A/L answer script correction: Minister

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Vocational Training Authority (VTA) and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) at the Bureau office in Battaramulla, he told the media that the intelligence report was released last week and that the report said that extremist political groups are trying to inconvenience youth in the 18, 19 and 20 age group by delaying the scrutinizing of answer scripts.

The minister said that the teachers' unions had agreed to the government's programme of scrutinizing answer scripts.

"We need 19,000 teachers to complete the task." A/L practical tests have already begun, and teachers are already engaged in their duties. The Ministry had taken measures to

minimise the delay in scrutinizing the answer scripts to some extent. We hope that the Federation of University Teachers' Association (FUTA) will engage with the programme soon," he said.

"Political groups and unions must consider this a national constraint without considering their personal benefits. 350,000 students had faced the A/L examination, and 600,000 students were to face the Ordinary Level (O/L) exam. The O/L exam was postponed by the examination department by two weeks to create a gap between the two main examinations," Minister Premajayantha said.

Therefore, the minister requested that the unions commence scrutinizing answer scripts in the name of their children.

Birthday Remembrance 19-04-1935



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Retd. Senior D.I.G., Attorney at Law
Loving husband, father and friend to all
Affectionately and lovingly remembered by your loving wife Melanie, sons Prasanna and Rohan, daughters-in-law and grand daughter
DYANA

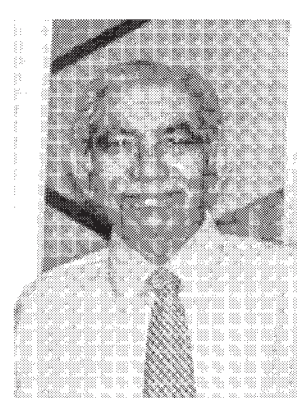
TWENTY SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Gnanee Nanayakkara

Remembered with affection and gratitude by loving children Kalinga, Mala, Indira & Nirupa, In-laws and Grandchildren
149, George E. de Silva Mawatha
KANDY

1st Death Anniversary of KEERTHI BHARETI



Loved too Much to be Forgotten by Dilanganie, Dilki and Gamunu, Kumara and Nilendri, Gihan, Dilshan, Kushan and Nashali
(19th April)

SLPI expresses concern

The Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI), its constituents and affiliated organisations are deeply concerned over the proposed 'Anti-Terrorism Act' (ATA) published on 22 March 2023 (Gazette notification dated 17 March 2023), drafted to replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Temporary Provisions) Act No. 48 of 1979 (PTA). The SLPI said in a statement.

The SLPI is of the opinion that the presented bill has several controversial elements that are not conducive for the media community. The proposed bill consists of an overbroad and vague definition of "acts of terrorism" that can be interpreted in a manner which curtails the freedom of expression. The broad powers vested within the proposed bill enables the criminalisation of speech that is likely to be understood as an encouragement or inducement to commit or prepare for terrorism, with the burden of proof on the defendant to show, that was not their intention. These offences also apply to those who publish, distribute, sell,

or transmit publications that could be interpreted as materials supporting acts of terrorism.

According to the Bill, confidential information could be any information having an 'adverse impact' on 'national security/defence' which includes 'any information not in the public domain.' Therefore, the broad and vague classification of 'confidential information' could place media personnel in a precarious position in the due course of executing their duties, as many offences which fall under the criminal law could now be reframed as 'terrorist offences'.

It is evident that the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights of citizens, in terms of freedom of speech and expression, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom to dissent are threatened through the proposed ATA. While the SLPI understands the need to amend the PTA, it also endorses caution in making amendments that could undermine democracy and good governance.



Inaugural Colombo University's Alumni Pinnacle Awards and Alumni Night 2023

RECOGNISING THEIR CONTRIBUTION

The Inaugural University of Colombo Alumni Pinnacle Awards and Alumni Night 2023 hosted by the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo will be held on Friday, May 12th from 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Galadari Hotel, Colombo. Formed in 1982, the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo is an apex body of the alumni

of various faculties of the University, forming a link between its membership and the University. The Association was formed by the University of Colombo during the tenure of the late Prof. Stanley Wijesundera, Vice Chancellor with Mr Tissa Devendra as the founder President of the Association. The Association has several key objectives including Student Welfare,

Student Development, Member Engagement and Fellowship. The members of the association, as thought leaders of the country, have played many roles at strategic and policy levels. After having completed 40 plus years, the Association is launching its Inaugural Alumni Pinnacle Awards to recognize a select group of Alumni of the University of Colombo who have immensely contributed to the country,

society and the University of Colombo which will be followed by the Alumni Night 2023, an evening of Music, Dance and rekindling of memories at the University of Colombo. This event is open to all Alumni of the University of Colombo and their guests. The Corporate Partners of the Association are Akbar Brothers and LOLC Group.

Entrance tickets priced at Rs. 3,500 can be reserved on a First Come First Served Basis by calling Ayesha on 0777 208 372 or Delanie on 0773 868 159 or visiting the Alumni Association Office at College House between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. on any weekday.

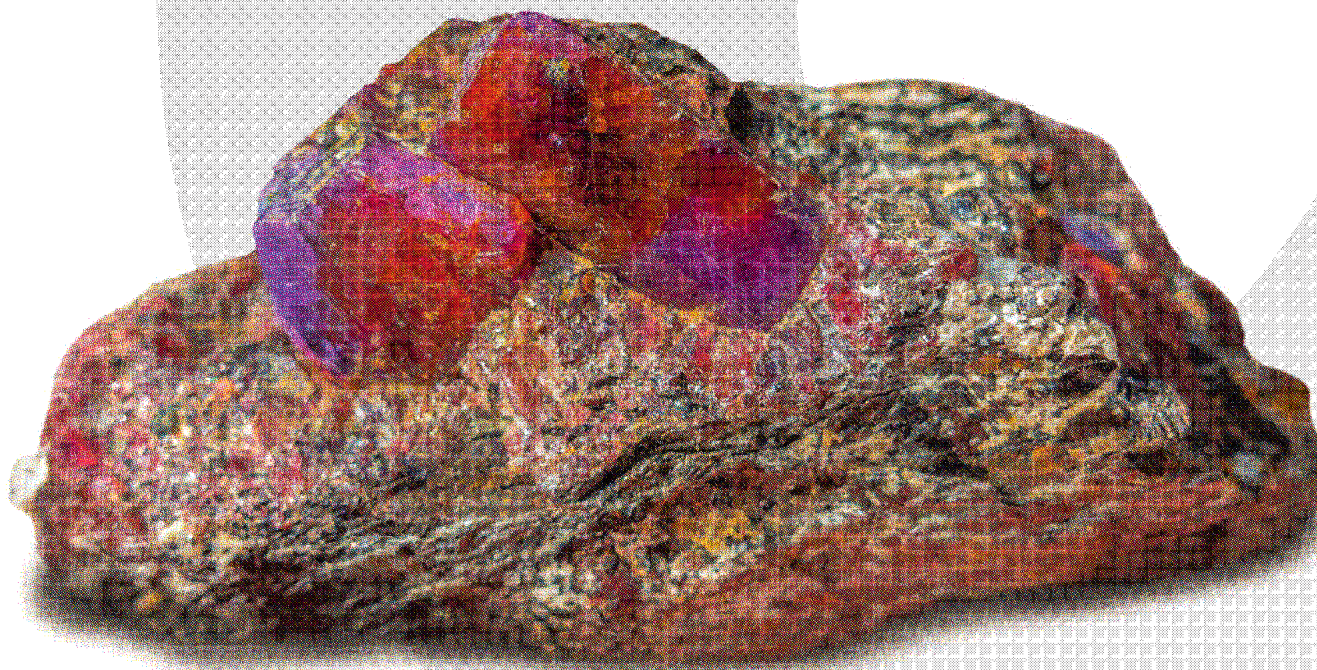
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The bank with a heart

EDITORIAL

"You are never too young to lead, nor too old to act. And you should never doubt your capacity to triumph where others have not."
-KOFI ANNAN

OUR THOUGHT

PTA, ATA, ICCPR AND WE, THE CITIZENS

For the past 73 years, we Lankans have at different times permitted different governments to take away our freedom for one reason or the other. We permitted without too much ado, the right of the government to impose emergency regulations in an effort to prevent workers demanding a living wage.

One of the best examples was when late president JR Jayewardene dismissed over 40,000 public sector workers for demanding a monthly increase of Rs. 300/- in July 1980 using emergency regulations. Neither the public nor mercantile sector trade unions took up the cause of the dismissed strikers. Many a striker committed suicide, but the caravan moved on.

We next accepted a further reduction of rights in 1979, when the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was first introduced as a temporary law and later made permanent in 1982. The PTA, infringes constitutionally vested rights, including freedom from right to be free from torture, arbitrary arrest, detention and punishment, and the right to a fair trial.

At that time, large sections of the majority community - sans a few individuals like MP Vasudeva Nanayakkara - supported the PTA, seeing it as being directed against the Tamils who were calling for a separate state.

Despite numerous warnings from the minorities, that the draconian piece of legislation would come back to haunt them, large sections of the Lankan community continued supporting the legislation.

It was only during the past year, once the PTA began to be used to crush the 'Aragalaya' group, did a majority of citizens become aware of the deadly powers they had conferred to their rulers. In the aftermath of the crackdown on the 'Aragalaya,' ordinary citizens, politicians and political parties soon began demanding the abolition of the PTA.

The Ministry of Defence at an International Research Conference in 2023 admitted there were flaws in PTA; which infringed constitutionally vested rights and the Act had discriminatory provisions which need revisiting.

To 'assuage' the people's feelings, government has presented a new piece of anti-terrorism legislation - the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA). However, the bill in its present form seems to increase the powers of the president to proscribe organizations issue curfew orders, and restrict areas of access.

Human rights organizations, trade unions and even religious groups have joined the political parties in describing the ATA as being worse than its predecessor, the PTA. Political Scientist, Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda speaking to the Daily Mirror columnist Kamanthi Wickremasinghe said the proposed new law would turn the country into a police state, posing a threat to the rule of law, democracy and human rights in the country.

'Sunday Times' columnist Kishali Pinto-Jayawardene points out that the ATA has features worse than its predecessor, the PTA, bringing in Section 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act as a component of the 'offence of terrorism and concentrates even more power in the office of the presidency.

While speaking of terrorism, the ATA is imprecise in its description of what constitutes a terrorist offence and could include perfectly legitimate actions in given circumstances.

The bill also appears to be a direct attack on the freedom of the media, describing any person who publishes or causes to be published a statement which could be understood by some or all members of the public as 'instigating' an act of terrorism. The punishments for violation of the bill are - the death penalty or 20 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine up to Rs. One million upon conviction by the High Court and forfeiture of property.

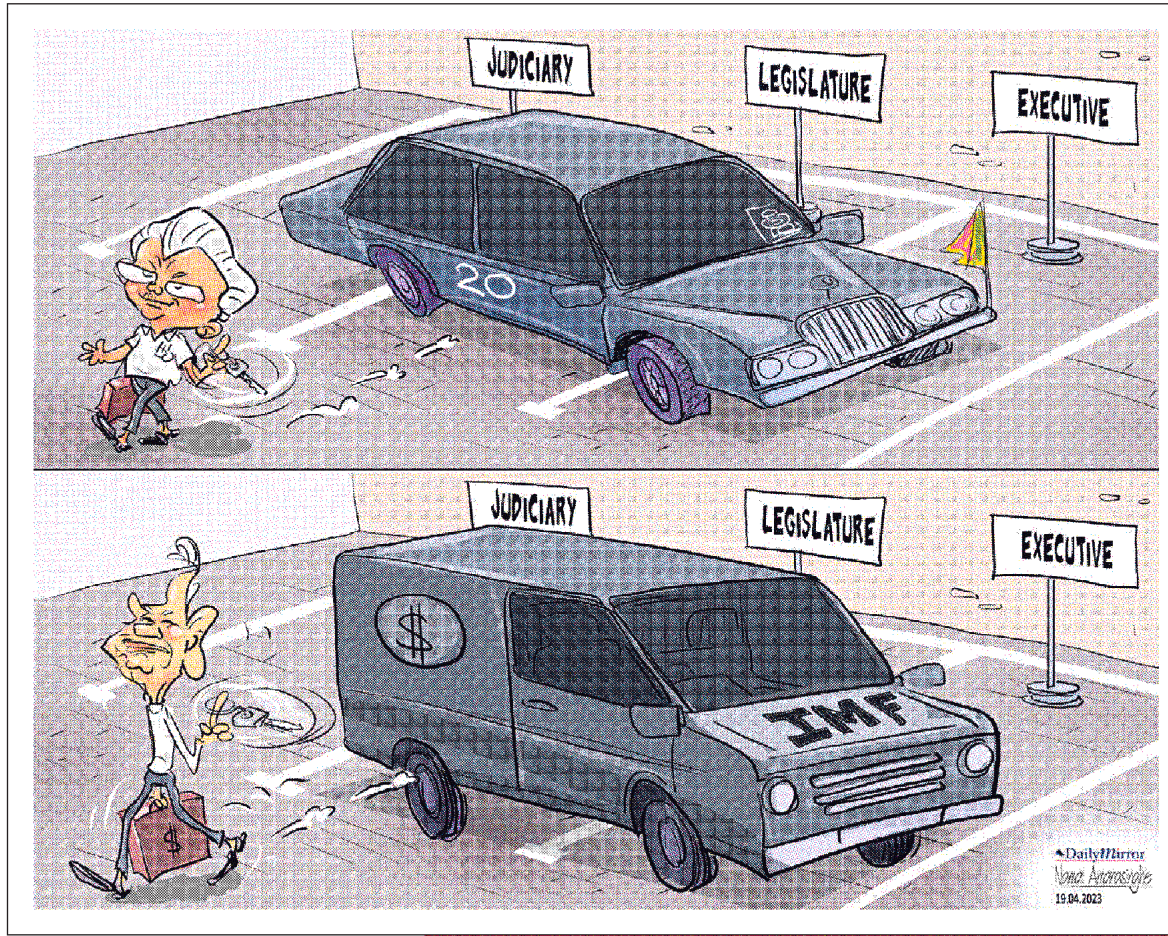
The bill also empowers the president with powers of proscription if he has 'reasonable grounds to believe an organization is engaged in an act amounting to an offence'. What these reasonable grounds are 'God only knows'!

Will we, the sons and daughters of Lanka, once more meekly bow our heads as our rights are being effectively stripped of us?

In Germany, before the World War II, people surrendered their rights and a Hitler emerged. The ATA looks more and more like a 'Frankenstein monster' in the waiting. Will we acquiesce to this?

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka has announced it would not hesitate to challenge any bill it would deem undermines the rule of law and liberty of citizens in the country. In response to mounting criticism, the government has announced that it would delay tabling the bill.

We, the citizens, need be alert to prevent an erosion of our rights whether by our elected representatives or those elected by our elected representatives.



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

OUR TAX: WHERE DOES IT GO?

By **Liyanage Amarakeerthi**

One of my younger colleagues at the University of Peradeniya, recently wrote on his Facebook something a female student had told him: "Sir, we only eat one meal a day."

This is not news to us at universities, especially to those of us whose students are mostly from rural Sri Lanka. Peradeniya itself is rather rural, and the students coming from even its vicinity belong to the rural poor. One of the students told me that her daily bus fare is unbearable for her family. Students are not given hostel facilities unless their homes are 50km away. If one must commute some 40km twice a day, the traveling cost is indeed unbearable.

Once at a committee meeting, I had the opportunity of listening to how one of the university cafeteria managers described the meal purchasing of students during the on-going financial crisis: "Those children come to the canteen at about 10.00 am and buy one meal for both breakfast and lunch. We feel so sad, but we are helpless?" he said.

According to what I have gathered on this matter over these months, many students do not add a piece of chicken or fish to the meal just buy a 'plate of vegetable rice.' A small cooked portion of chicken is sold at least Rs. 150 and a portion of fish is around Rs. 100.

At the faculty where I teach, about 90% of the students are females; on average, they are between 22 and 24 years old. At this age or any age for that matter, these young girls regularly need nutritious meal. These are the brightest citizens of their age group, and they have entered university after performing well at the most competitive national exam in the country. Yet, the above examples show how they are being treated for about two years now.

The way a country treats its women indicates its quality level and priorities of development. I just cannot imagine what kind of health issues these under-fed young women would have to face in future. Those health issues take years to show their consequences. When it happens, we, the teachers or the University administration will not be among them to help them. While the university community has tried out numerous ways to help the students, and unless a "Needy Students' Fund" has been established, the problem would be too heavy for us to handle.

In the meantime, the government has increased our taxes in addition to VAT even those starving students have to pay when they buy those poor meals. On average, a professor pays about Rs.100,000 as monthly tax, and the most senior professor at the University told me that his monthly tax cut was about Rs.150,000.

We, being a community of professionals, and I, as an individual, are not against taxation. In fact, a vigorous programme of redistribution is needed even without a financial crisis such as the current one. But the key word is 'redistribution.' As the above examples from my own life show, if there was a principled programme of



As the economic crisis looms, poor and needy people turn to community kitchens and other donors to fulfil their needs.

'redistribution,' our students would not be as deprived. What we get to hear instead is that many students have not received their Mahapola stipend for months. Since it is the key financial aid programme within the national university system, its monthly stipend has not increased for years and remains around Rs. 5,000! It has not been adjusted at least fractionally to cope with the current inflation. That was why students keep avoiding meals. What is heartbreaking here is the fact that a professor's monthly tax is enough to pay 20 Mahapola stipends at the present rate. Therein lies one of the issues about the increased tax on the professionals.

Professionals believe in redistribution that reach masses in forms of education, healthcare, and improved employment. And there is a segment of population that needs subsidies in nearly everything while they wait to find employment and other sources of income

The on-going professionals' trade union action against increased tax has several pertinent arguments. **Many of us do not know what really happens to our tax money. We are indeed worried about corruption on the part of politicians. All major political parties have produced politicians whose narratives of corruptions are almost mythological. They are not just mythic stories that exist only in imagination. They are real: we have seen politicians with humble beginnings becoming insanely wealthy just about a decade into their political careers. And these political 'new rich' is not ashamed of showing off their newly-acquired wealth and the power of quick-money. Anyone who has observed the lifestyles of many politicians from all major parties knows that without some unknown flow of money towards them, those politicians cannot live the kind of life they did.** That is on top of all the perks legally belong to them.

It is true that the legality of the

material benefits the politicians enjoy cannot be challenged legally. The discourse on the corruption in the country is so rich that nearly all major politicians have been challenged ethically. **On their part, however, there is very little remorse or a sense of guilt. Now, no major politician can visit his/her voters without the entourage of security personnel. This resentment of politicians is shared by professionals like me. We do not want to pay higher tax if it is wasted on politicians.**

Professionals believe in redistribution that reach masses in forms of education, healthcare, and improved employment. And there is a segment of population that needs subsidies in nearly everything while they wait to find employment and other sources of income. Thus, tax money should be redistributed on the principle of equity and justice. If redistribution is guided by such principles, it is a pleasure and an honour to pay tax. Any citizen with a sense of dignity will be happy that his/her tax is enhancing the quality of life of needy citizens. Such transparency is rarely found in corrupt states.

In addition, taxpayers have other personal worries. No matter how much tax they pay they still have to spend from their own pockets for healthcare, transportation, and the education of their children. For example, public healthcare system has weakened so much that it is rarely a middle class person makes use of government hospitals because they know that so many poor people are waiting in line for the similar kind of services. When a middle-class man chooses a private healthcare facility over a government hospital, he/she is in fact paying a 'tax' that is not accounted for, and the person is indirectly participating in a programme of redistribution. When the same person must pay an increased tax, he/she is double taxed.

Higher earners must pay tax, and it is an honour to pay it. But they are prevented from the pleasure of seeing, their tax helping some other fellow citizens taking a shot at a better life. What they see instead is major politicians becoming big shots with insanely luxurious lifestyles. That must not be tolerated.

The writer Liyanage Amarakeerthi is a professor attached to Department of Sinhala at the University of Peradeniya.

DM Poll

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

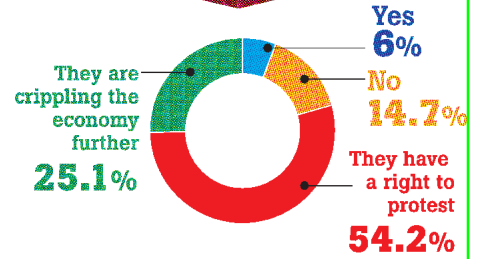
- To protect the country
- To control dissenting voice
- To respond to an urgent danger of terrorism
- To prevent any Aragalaya in future.



Scan to Vote

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Back to 1960s?

It appears that we are going back to 1960s as far as the eggs are concerned. In the 60s we imported eggs from India and were sold at prices varying from 6 to 8 cents. Breakage was heavy due to transport by country craft and broken eggs were sold at a discount.

Later we became self sufficient in eggs and People's Bank played a major role in financing the poultry industry. The only problem the poultry farmers and consumers experienced was the seasonal price fluctuations due to farmers entering the industry when the prices are high and leaving when prices are low. A perfect example of price mechanism prevailed, as enunciated by the 18th century economist Adam Smith said to be the father of economics. The industry managed itself subject to market forces.

Presently there is a shortage of eggs brought about by the price control introduced by the authorities. A farcical situation existed wherein we have banned import of Turmeric to save foreign exchange and support the local farmer but permitted importing of eggs without studying the repercussions. Very soon self sufficiency in eggs will become a thing of the past and a lot of people will lose their jobs. It's advisable to do some re-thinking of the price controls and allow the market forces to direct the industry.

-AG WEERASINGHE

Why SL failed as a nation?

Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga recently said that at 75, Sri Lanka is a failed state. Certainly, the country would have been more prosperous and secular had there not been a division of languages back in 1956.

The repercussions of the 'Sinhala Only' act is being felt even to this date. Discrepancies in treating those in minority communities, the 30-year ethnic conflict and socio-economic crises that have emerged from time to time have done more harm than good to the people of this country.

As a result of the ethnic conflict, the best brains in the North and East are now serving in places such as Silicon Valley - the global centre for high technology and innovation. Another reason for this country to fail is due to lapses in the judicial processes. Families in the North and East are awaiting justice for the disappeared members and loved ones. Offices that were setup, reports that were drafted have now gathered dust. Without accountability and transparency, no country can prosper. Successive presidents who were elected to office are responsible for the crisis that Sri Lankans are currently facing. There are no two words about it.

But Sri Lanka is likely to continue as a failed state if there are no mechanisms in place to discourage corruption and hold elected representatives accountable for their actions.

-CHANDRANI PERERA

Sri Lanka at 75 is a failed state: CBK

WEB COMMENTS

JAFFNA LOGIC - There are three reasons for this; 1) Creating an inter race hate between the Tamils and the Sinhalese by your late father SWRD to gain political support among majority, 2) Introduction of Free Education, 3) Indian

actions and covert operations against Sri Lanka, starting almost from 1948

ROB - If we had one genuine leader to have a powerful office to put all in the correct path, today we would have been a blessed nation

See more web comments at www.DailyMirror.lk

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Advertising - 2479597 / 2479519
Head of Circulation - (Dir.) 0112 479 672, 077 3 219 775
Subscription Manager-(Dir.) 2 479 626, 2 479 628, 077 3 502 183
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SPORTS

Sri Lanka - Ireland 1st Test Match

SRI LANKA DEMOLISH IRELAND WITH OVER TWO DAYS TO SPARE

BY M. SHAMILAMIT

Sri Lanka demolished the visiting Ireland side by a massive innings and 280 runs with over two days to spare in the first Test match concluded at the Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The writing on the wall was there when play ended on day two with Ireland in reply to Sri Lanka's massive score of 591 for 6 ending the day on 117 for 7 and needing a further 474 runs to erase to avoid the follow on.

It was the day one wrecker left arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya who finished off the tail as Ireland resuming their innings yesterday lasted just under eight overs only 45 balls to be exact.

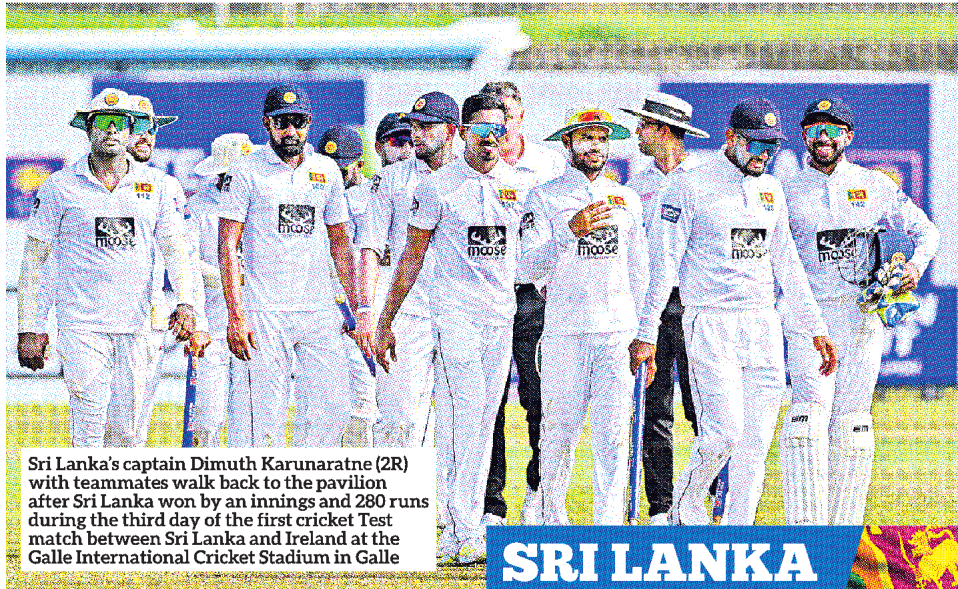
Jayasuriya who ended with a five wicket haul on day two added two more wickets to his collection to end with figure 7 for 52 while Ramesh Mendis bagged the other wicket to bowl out the visitors for a paltry 143 runs.

Ireland made to follow on and left with the daunting task of erasing a massive deficit of 448 runs fared no better.

It was a repeat of their first innings batting as the left arm pace and spin combination of Vishwa Fernando and Prabath Jayasuriya combined again to have them in tatters.

The pair shared four wickets between them and with Ramesh Mendis accounting for the fifth wicket had Ireland batting in shambles as they went into the lunch break in a bad position of 41 for 5.

The post lunch session saw Harry Tector and Curtis Campher putting in some resistance as they succeeded to post the 50 runs stand for the sixth wicket and then put Ireland's 100 runs on the board before Mendis separated them with the wicket of



Sri Lanka's captain Dimuth Karunaratne (2R) with teammates walk back to the pavilion after Sri Lanka won by an innings and 280 runs during the third day of the first cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and Ireland at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle

SRI LANKA

1ST INNINGS 591/6 declared (D. Karunaratne 179, K. Mendis 140, D. Chandimal 102 not out, Samarawickrama 104 not out)

Campher who made 30 and sharing a sixth wicket stand of 60 runs with Tector and Ireland on 100 for 6.

Tector followed eight runs later becoming the second victim of Mendis having made 42. George Dockrell and Andy McBrine featured in a brief stand of 23 before Mendis struck again with the wicket of McBrine to have Ireland struggling on 131 for 8.

Later with Ireland on the brink of defeat Dockrell shared another brief stand of 36 runs for the ninth wicket with Mark Adair which ended with Dockrell becoming Mendis' fourth wicket before Jayasuriya bagged the last Ireland wicket to bundle them out for 168 runs for Sri Lanka to take a 1-0 lead in

the two match series. In the process Ireland in just over two sessions of play lost 13 wickets for 194 runs. Mendis who ended with four wickets was the pick of the Sri Lanka bowlers in Ireland's second innings while Jayasuriya who bagged three along with his seven in the first innings ended with a match bag of 10 for 108 runs and fittingly was adjudged the player of the match. The two teams will play their second Test match from April 24 at the same venue.

IRELAND

1ST INNINGS (overnight 117-7)
 J. McCollum b Jayasuriya 35
 M. Commins b V Fernando 00
 A. Balbirnie c M Fernando b V Fernando 04
 H. Tector c de Silva b Jayasuriya 34
 C. Campher c R. Mendis b Jayasuriya 00
 P. Moor c Samarawickrama b Jayasuriya 14
 L. Tucker not out 45
 G. Dockrell lbw b Jayasuriya 02
 A. McBrine not out 07
 M. Adair st Samarawickrama b Jayasuriya 00
 B. White not out 00
 EXTRAS: (nb 2) 02
 TOTAL: (all out, overs 52.3) 143

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-4, 3-74, 4-74, 5-85, 6-92, 7-108, 8-143, 9-143, 10-143

BOWLING: A. Fernando 5-2-9-00, V. Fernando 9-2-38-02, P. Jayasuriya 23-10-52-07, R. Mendis 14.3-3-40-01, D. de Silva 1-0-4-00

2ND INNINGS

J. McCollum c de Silva b Jayasuriya 08
 M. Commins c R. Mendis b V Fernando 00
 A. Balbirnie c de Silva b V Fernando 06
 H. Tector run out 42
 L. Tucker lbw b Jayasuriya 06
 P. Moor c KNM Fernando b R. Mendis 00
 C. Campher c KNM Fernando b R. Mendis 30
 G. Dockrell lbw b R. Mendis 32
 A. McBrine c K. Mendis b R. Mendis 10
 M. Adair not out 23
 B. White lbw b Jayasuriya 01
 EXTRAS: (b 5, lb 3, nb 1, w 1) 10
 TOTAL: (all out, overs 54.1) 168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-8, 3-24, 4-32, 5-40, 6-100, 7-108, 8-131, 9-167, 10-168

BOWLING: P. Jayasuriya 24.1-6-56-03, V. Fernando 4-2-3-02, R. Mendis 20-1-76-04, A. Fernando 3-0-15-00, D. de Silva 3-0-10-00



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
 Football: CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER-FINALS Bayern Munich vs. Manchester City - Allianz Arena Inter Milan vs. Benfica - San Siro
 Cricket: TEST MATCH SERIES Sri Lanka vs. Ireland - Galle INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE Rajasthan Royals vs. Lucknow Super Giants - Jaipur
 DMSportsDesk

Olga, Imran star in Ogilvy Cup



BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

Former cricketer turned golfer from Kurunegala Olga Herath won the Ogilvy Cup at the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club (NEGC) recently. Meanwhile, 16-year-old school-boy from Keynesia International School Imran Nazeer became runner-up.

Imran, who showed top form, later went on to win the Sylvester Vase Trophy while Adam Mario Fernando became runner-up in the same event.

Kohli fined after high-octane IPL clash

Indian cricket star Virat Kohli was fined Tuesday for breaching the IPL code of conduct, after his side Royal Challengers Bangalore went down to Chennai in a nail-biting match.

Kohli's wild celebration of Chennai batsman Shivam Dube's wicket at a crucial point of the high-scoring game on Monday resulted in the sanction, according to media reports.

The fiery 34-year-old was fined 10 percent of his match fee after admitting to the offence, organisers said, without detailing what rule the batsman broke.

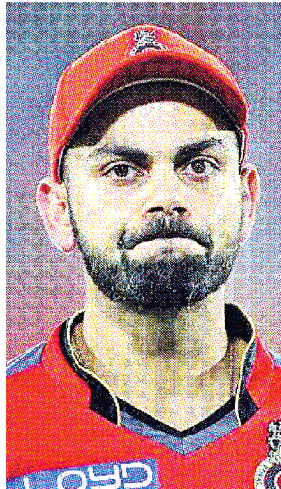
The tense match in front of a raucous capacity Bengaluru crowd witnessed

a record-equalling 33 sixes and was finally won by Chennai Super Kings, led by M.S. Dhoni, by eight runs.

One of the best batsmen of the modern game, "King Kohli" has often run into trouble with his aggressive approach and no-holds-barred emotions on the cricket pitch.

He has had numerous run-ins with opposing players and was once reprimanded after hitting a plastic chair with a bat following his dismissal during an IPL match. He escaped a fine.

According to media reports this week, Kohli has fallen out with India's former cricket chief Sourav



Virat Kohli (File Photo)

Ganguly with the two men reportedly "unfollowing" each other on Instagram.

Kohli's wild celebration of Chennai batsman Shivam Dube's wicket at a crucial point of the high-scoring game on Monday resulted in the sanction, according to media reports

Kohli quit as Indian T20 skipper in late 2021 and in January 2022 was sacked from the one-day captaincy and gave up leading the Test side too after a reported fall-out with Ganguly. (AFP)

Two athletes for Asian Weightlifting Championships

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Sri Lanka Weightlifting Federation (SLWF) has selected Dilanka Dissanayaka and Dilanka Isuru Kumara from Sri Lanka to participate in the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championship.

The Asian Weightlifting Federation has made arrangements to hold the tournament from May 3 to 13 in Jinju, South Korea. Over 30 Asian countries are expected to participate in this tournament.

Silver medalist at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Indika Dissanayaka and Bronze medalist at the 200 Birmingham Commonwealth Games Dilanka Isuru Kumara were selected for the Asian Weightlifting Championship in a bid to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, said SLWF Secretary G. Nishantha.

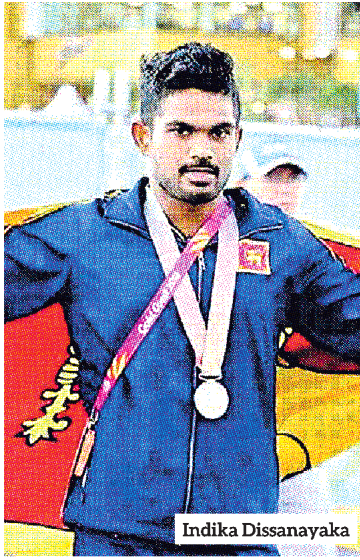
Dissanayaka will compete in Under 73 kg weight while Dilanka Isuru Kumara will take part in the Under 55 kg weight.

National Coach R.B. Wickramasinghe will accompany the players as coach.

SLWF says that the Korean tour will cost 4 million rupees.



Dilanka Isuru Kumara



Indika Dissanayaka

First innings win for Joes

BY SHAMSEER JALEEL

St. Joseph's College scored a first innings win in their Under 19 Inter-School cricket encounter against Trinity College which concluded at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

Batting first Trinity made 189 with Janithu Ravishka

(45) and national youth player Manula Kularatne (40) offering support forwards the home team's score. Lahiru Amarasekera took 6 wickets with Gegan Chamodh taking 4 for the Darley Road lads.

In reply Joes went on to score 235 for 9 at stumps on day 2.

Trinity 151 for 8 (overnight) 189 in 76.3 overs (Janith Ravishka 45, Manula Kularatne 40, Jayavi Liyanagama 27, Supun Waduge 24; Lahiru Amarasekera 6 for 69, Gegan Chamodh 4 for 48)

St. Joseph's 235 for 9 in 78.1 overs (Sadeesh Jayawardena 49, Naren Muralidaran 40, Avintha de Alwis 37, Lahiru Amarasekera 34, Hiran Jayasundera 33; Tharana Wimaladharna 3 for 36, Supun Waduge 3 for 66, Theeraka Ranathunga 2 for 71)

England's Stokes named Wisden's 2022 Cricketer of the Year

England star Ben Stokes was named the Wisden Almanack's leading men's cricketer in the world for the third time in four years on Monday.

Stokes was selected for his dynamic captaincy of England's Test team in 2022, as well as his match-winning performance in the T20 World Cup final.

The all-rounder, who appears on the cover of the 160th edition of Wisden alongside England Test head coach Brendon McCullum, previously won the award in 2019 and 2020.

Stokes has masterminded 10 wins in 12 matches since taking

over as England skipper, with his attacking and imaginative approach revitalising a previously moribund team.

Stokes also made waves in the white-ball game, helping to deliver the silverware for England's T20 side as his half-century settled the final against Pakistan in November.

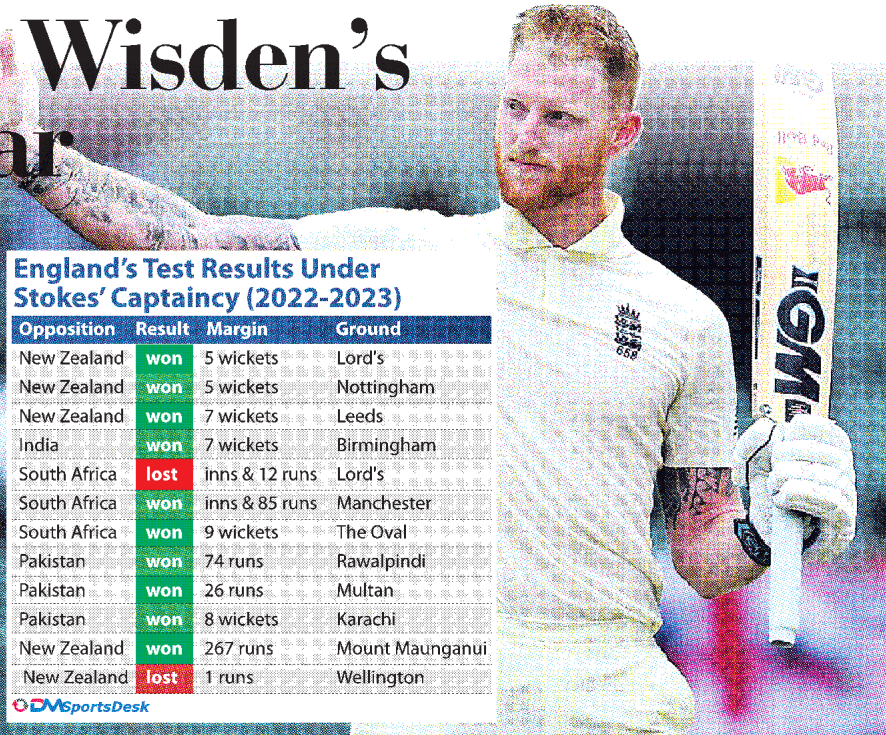
"It's hard to think of any other cricketer who could have transformed his team's fortunes so suddenly as Ben Stokes," Wisden editor Lawrence Booth said.

"When he took over the Test captaincy, England had won one game in their previous 17. By the time they had become

the first visiting side to win 3-0 in Pakistan, they had won nine out of 10, and were playing with unprecedented style and verve."

Stokes' England teammate Jonny Bairstow was the inaugural recipient of the new Wisden Trophy, awarded for the outstanding individual Test performance, after his twin centuries against India at Edgbaston. Australia's Beth Mooney was named the leading women's cricketer in the world for the second time.

India's big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav was handed the award for the top Twenty20 cricketer in the world.



England's Test Results Under Stokes' Captaincy (2022-2023)

Opposition	Result	Margin	Ground
New Zealand	won	5 wickets	Lord's
New Zealand	won	5 wickets	Nottingham
New Zealand	won	7 wickets	Leeds
India	won	7 wickets	Birmingham
South Africa	lost	inns & 12 runs	Lord's
South Africa	won	inns & 85 runs	Manchester
South Africa	won	9 wickets	The Oval
Pakistan	won	74 runs	Rawalpindi
Pakistan	won	26 runs	Multan
Pakistan	won	8 wickets	Karachi
New Zealand	won	267 runs	Mount Maunganui
New Zealand	lost	1 runs	Wellington

Nuwara Eliya Summer Season Badminton from April 22 - 30

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

The Nuwara Eliya Summer Season Open Badminton Championships 2023 will be held at the Municipal Council Indoor Stadium from April 22 to 30.

The organisers, Central Province Badminton Association, has received over 1000 entries for this year's tournament, including more than 70 entries for Open events.

A number of prominent shuttlers in the country will be in action at the championships which will be conducted with the support of Sri Lanka Badminton (SLB).

The events to be conducted are Junior, Open and Senior singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

SLB President Rohan de Silva and former mayor of Nuwara Eliya Chandana Lal Karunaratne will be among the special guests along with SLB officials at the opening and closing ceremonies.

SLA to conduct World Athletics CECS Level II course

BY SUSIL PREMALAL

Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) has decided to hold a World Athletic Coaches Education Certification System (CECS) Level II course for the first time in Sri Lanka in July.

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka will spend nearly Rs. Two lakhs for each person for the relevant course.

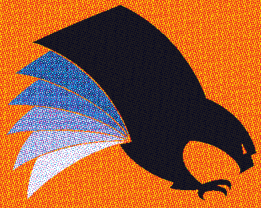
SLA hopes to select 16 athletic coaches from Sri Lanka for this international coaches course (CECS).

The applicants should have passed the World Athletic CECS Level 1 Coaches Course to be eligible for the CECS Level II course.

The applicants should have passed the World Athletic CECS Level 1 Coaches Course to be eligible for the CECS Level II course.

Participants should be less than 55 years. They should get a recommendation from SLA for having worked as an athletic coach after getting the CECS Level I and the contribution made to athletics.

Eligible applicants should send their whatsapp telephone number to get the Google form and for more details contact Lal Chandrakumara (071-8866503).



Mirror Business

www.dailymirror.lk/business

Full Stock Market

08

Govt. plans to spend record Rs.206bn on social welfare

- New welfare programme to come into effect from July post parliamentary approval
- It is designed in line with Welfare Benefits Board Act
- "Largest expenditure on social welfare in post-independence Sri Lanka" - Cabinet Spokesman
- New programme equipped with mechanism to better target most vulnerable groups

By Nishel Fernando

The government plans to spend a record Rs.206 billion per annum in welfare expenditure starting from this July under a new programme prepared in line with Welfare Benefits Board Act to assist the poor and vulnerable who are truly in need of assistance.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies sought the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers for the new welfare programme with defined costs, timelines and number of recipients under the provisions of Welfare Benefits Board Act.

"This would be the largest expenditure on social welfare in post-independence Sri Lanka," Cabinet Spokesman Minister Bandula Gunawardana said. Unlike current welfare programmes, the proposed welfare programme is equipped with a mechanism to better target the most vulnerable groups in the society. Based on recommendations of a technical committee appointed by the Presidential Secretariat, the Government Information Department noted that the recipients would receive welfare benefits based on the poverty gap.



Bandula Gunawardana

MORE ON P8

CEYLON TREASURY INCOME FUND



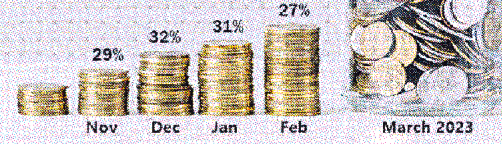
- ✓ Exclusively Invested in Treasury Bills
- ✓ Treasury Bills are exempted from Withholding Tax Deductions

"Sri Lanka will not restructure Treasury Bills outside Central Bank, bonds voluntary"; Governor*

30%

p.a. Last 30 days return as at 20th March 2023

YTD return as at 20th Mar 2023: 4.62% Benchmark: W.A. return of 3 Month Treasury Bill as at 22nd March 2023: -24.23%



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China's economy rebounds after pandemic measures lifted

BBC: China's economy grew faster than expected in the first three months of the year, as the country emerged from its tough Covid restrictions.

Compared to the same period last year, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 4.5 percent, official figures show. The key measure of economic activity was driven up by a boost in household spending and rising factory activity. Beijing pledged to boost the world's second largest economy when it lifted coronavirus measures in December. Also on Tuesday, separate data for March showed that retail sales, the main indicator



of household consumption, jumped by 10.6 percent, compared to a year earlier. At the same time, output from the country's factories rose by 3.9 percent, although that slightly missed forecasts.

Meanwhile, there was also evidence of a strong rebound for the country's airline industry.

MORE ON P8

Asian markets drop as China growth data fails to impress traders

AFP - Asian markets mostly fell yesterday, even as data showed China's economy grew far more than expected in the first quarter after activity resumed following three years of painful zero-Covid measures.

The blockbuster 4.5 percent expansion, helped by above-forecast retail sales last month, revived optimism for an economic recovery in the country after its worst performance in decades last year.

The figures are the first snapshot since 2019 of a Chinese economy unencumbered by public health restrictions, which included months-long city-wide lockdowns that brought large parts of the country to a standstill.

The readings bode well for the world's second-biggest economy, and soothed some worries after inflation data last week indicated consumer activity remained sluggish.

MORE ON P8

Tim Cook inaugurates first Apple store in India

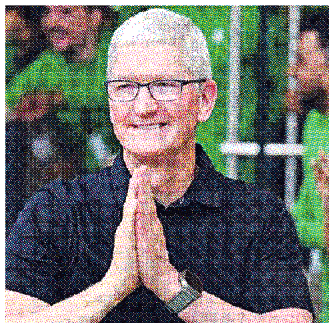
BBC: Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook has launched the company's first retail store in India in the financial capital Mumbai.

Videos showed Cook waving to customers and opening the store's doors as employees clapped and cheered.

He also greeted customers who visited the store and posed for selfies with some of them. Cook will also attend the opening of a second store in the capital Delhi tomorrow.

Reports say that people from across India came to Mumbai to participate in the opening event, which also featured local music and folk dance performances.

The design of the Mumbai store - which is located in an upscale neighbourhood - has been inspired by the black-and-yellow taxis that are ubiquitous in the city.



Tim Cook opened the store's doors amid employee cheer

Until now, Apple products have been available in India either online or through a vast network of resellers. The new stores come at a time when Apple is trying to deepen its retail push in India, the world's second largest smartphone market.

MORE ON P8

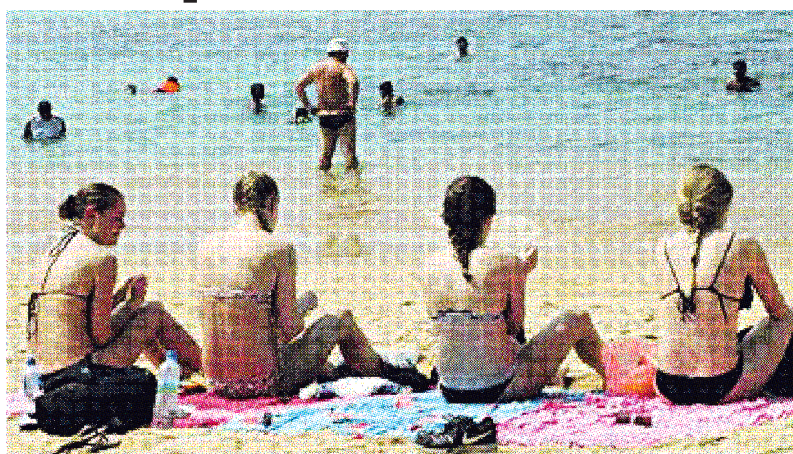
Tourist arrivals top 56,000 in first sixteen days of April

- Daily arrival average dips to 3,500 level from 4,000 level
- India takes over Russian Federation as the largest tourist traffic generator for Sri Lanka tourism

Tourist arrivals for the first 16 days of April topped 56,000, bringing the total number of international visitors entering the country for the year closer to the 400,000 mark.

Provisional data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) showed that for the April 1 to 16 period, the island nation welcomed 56,402 visitors.

The daily arrival average for the second week of April was about 3500, a dip compared with the 4,000



level it was in the first week of the month as the winter season is coming to a close.

The third week of the month, however, is witnessing a lower momentum as from 15 April the arrival numbers are in the 2,000 level.

Accordingly, the cumulative tourist

arrivals from 1 January to 16 April stand at 392,018. Topping the list as the largest source market for Sri Lanka is neighbouring giant India which has taken over the position from the Russian Federation. India has contributed to 17 percent of the total arrivals for the month of April so far.

MORE ON P8

Lalith Seneviratne steps down as SLT Group CEO

Lalith Seneviratne will relinquish his duties as Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) Group CEO with effect from April 30, 2023 upon completion of his three-year term.

However, he will assume the status of Non-Executive Director of the company, a stock exchange filing by SLT said.

Seneviratne, was appointed to the SLT Board as an Independent Non-Executive Director on 23 January 2020. Thereafter, he was appointed as an Executive Director/Group Chief Executive Officer on 1 May 2020.

He is also a member of the Technology Subcommittee. He serves in the Boards of e-Channeling PLC, Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd., Sri Lanka Telecom (Services) Ltd., SLT Digital Info Services (Pvt) Ltd., SLT Visioncom (Pvt) Ltd., and Mobit Technologies (Pvt) Ltd.



Lalith Seneviratne

MORE ON P8

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18.04.2023

SECURITY	VOLUME	V.A.A	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.A.A	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.A.A	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.A.A	CHANG	SECURITY	VOLUME	V.A.A	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	V.A.A	CHANG	
MAIN BOARD								LANKA REALTY	76,092	13.20	13.50	13.50	12.70	12.70	(0.50)	EMPOWER BOARD								
ASPEN HOT HOLD	42,049	60.00	60.00	60.00	59.00	59.00	(1.00)	LANKA TILES	33,573	46.20	47.00	47.00	46.10	46.30	0.10	EMI CONSULTANTS	119,919	4.20	4.20	4.30	4.10	4.20		
ASANS	159	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.50	LANKA VENTURES	45	38.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	38.00		DIRI SAVI BOARD								
ACCESS ENG SL	703,158	14.50	14.60	15.00	14.30	14.90	0.40	LANKA WALLTILE	25,693	50.30	50.40	51.40	49.40	49.80	(0.50)	AGSTAR PLC	186,236	13.00	13.20	13.20	12.80	13.00		
ACL	219,364	82.30	83.00	83.00	80.70	81.70	(0.60)	LANKEM DEV	12,823	26.90	26.50	27.60	26.50	26.60	(0.30)	ALUMEX PLC	1,014,174	8.80	8.80	9.00	8.80	8.80		
ACL PLASTICS	179	390.00	390.00	398.00	382.50	384.00	(6.00)	LAUGFS GAS	1,346	29.00	28.60	29.90	28.20	29.80	0.80	AMBEON HOLDINGS	30	35.90	36.00	36.00	34.50	35.90		
AGALAWATTE	38,928	31.30	31.30	31.30	30.60	30.70	(0.60)	LAUGFS GAS [LGLX0000]	30,962	19.30	18.20	20.10	18.10	19.50	0.20	AMF CO LTD	4,230	8.00	7.80	7.80	7.60	7.70	(0.30)	
AHOT PROPERTIES	3,502	43.00	43.00	43.00	42.50	42.50	(0.50)	LAXAPANA	900	13.20	13.10	13.20	13.10	13.20		ASIA SIYAKA	214,872	4.00	4.00	4.10	4.00	4.10	(0.10)	
AITKEN SPENCE	487,052	129.75	130.00	133.75	130.00	130.25	0.50	LB FINANCE	28,780	56.50	57.00	54.60	55.10	(1.40)	BERUWALA RESORTS	16,252	1.50	1.40	1.50	1.40	1.40	(0.10)		
ALLIANCE	5,921	68.90	67.20	69.50	67.10	68.80	(0.10)	LION BREWERY	180	702.25	710.00	710.00	699.50	701.00	(1.25)	BOGALA GRAPHITE	13,511	65.00	64.00	64.10	63.80	63.90	(1.10)	
AMARA BANK	403,785	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.60	2.70	0.10	LMF ENERGY	4,271	142.00	143.50	143.50	142.00	142.00		BOGAWANTALAWA	3,086	43.90	43.90	45.00	43.00	43.10	(0.80)	
AMARA ASSET	3,778	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.10	8.10	(0.10)	LYLE ENERGY	2,383,944	7.60	7.20	7.70	6.90	7.00	(0.60)	BPPL HOLDINGS	33,756	21.80	22.00	22.00	21.50	21.50	(0.30)	
ASIA ASSET [AAF-P-0000]	273	10.30	10.40	10.40	9.00	9.10	(1.20)	MALWATTE	1	77.50	77.90	77.90	77.90	77.50		BROWNS	25,022	120.00	117.00	119.50	112.50	116.00	(4.00)	
ASIA CAPITAL	631	4.00	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	0.10	MALWATTE [MALX0000]	1	49.90	48.90	48.90	49.90	49.90		BROWNS INVSTMTS	5,644,327	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.00	6.00	(0.10)	
ASIRI	368,954	26.70	27.00	28.40	26.80	28.20	1.50	MELSTACORP	176,250	53.90	53.90	54.00	53.00	54.00	0.10	C T LAND	5,010	27.40	26.90	27.00	26.90	26.90	(0.50)	
ASIRI SURG	39,970	13.10	13.40	13.90	13.00	13.10		MERCHANT BANK	7,151	3.60	3.60	3.80	3.60	3.70	0.10	C W MACKIE	272,143	89.00	90.50	96.00	89.90	93.50	4.50	
BAIRAHA FARMS	8,593	152.50	152.00	153.50	140.50	145.50	(7.00)	MULLERS	5,600	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10		CALT	61,819	33.00	33.00	33.00	32.00	32.00	(0.40)	
BALANGODA	3,382	62.50	62.80	66.40	62.00	62.20	(0.30)	NAMUNUKULA	401	378.00	376.00	376.00	372.25	(5.75)	CEYLON BEVERAGE	10	1134.00	1209.00	1209.00	1209.00	1134.00			
BLUE DIAMONDS	840,993	0.80	0.90	1.00	0.80	0.90	0.10	NAT DEV BANK	102,312	44.50	44.40	45.00	44.40	44.50		CEYLON TEA BRKRS	46,492	4.10	4.30	4.30	4.10	4.10		
BLUE DIAMONDS [BLUEX0000]	327,052	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.10	NATION BANK	2,100	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50		CIT	46	62.10	64.80	65.00	62.30	62.30		
BUKIT DARAH	57	390.00	390.00	390.00	382.25	390.00	(0.60)	NATIONS TRUST	71,132	63.00	62.00	62.50	61.20	62.30	(0.70)	CIT TREASURIES	200	103.00	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00	1.00	
C T HOLDINGS	27	69.00	69.00	69.00	66.50	69.60		OVERSEAS REALTY	58,369	15.80	15.90	16.00	15.70	15.80		CITRUS HIKKADUWA	3,562	5.30	5.20	5.40	5.20	5.30		
C T HOLDINGS	5,150	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00		PAN ASIA	121,518	11.50	11.80	12.00	11.40	11.90	0.40	CITRUS WASKADUWA	60,087	2.80	2.80	3.00	2.80	2.90	0.10	
CARGILLS	23	235.75	240.00	240.00	239.00	235.75		PANASIAN POWER	35,464	3.20	3.20	3.40	3.20	3.30	0.10	COM.CREDIT	250	26.00	26.00	26.00	25.60	25.60	(0.40)	
CARGO BOAT	3	46.60	49.70	49.70	49.70	46.60		PEOPLES INS	3,873	21.80	21.50	22.40	21.50	22.20	0.40	COMMERCIAL DEV	1	98.00	99.40	99.40	99.40	98.00		
CARSONS	36	270.00	271.00	274.00	270.00	270.00		PEOPLES LEASING	308,066	8.00	8.10	8.10	7.90	8.00		DILMATH CEYLON	5	1012.00	1062.00	1062.00	1061.00	1012.00		
CDB	359	220.00	219.25	219.75	219.50	219.50	(0.50)	PGP GLASS	460,009	19.40	19.40	20.30	19.30	19.80	0.40	E - CHANNELLING	66,458	17.40	17.20	17.70	17.00	17.30	(0.10)	
CDB [CDB X0000]	857	73.00	72.00	72.00	71.00	71.00	(2.00)	PRINTCARE PLC	33,952	50.80	50.00	52.30	50.00	50.20	(0.60)	ELPITTYA	1,136	79.20	77.50	80.00	77.50	78.00	(1.20)	
CENTRAL FINANCE	1,358	71.00	73.00	73.00	70.00	70.20	(0.80)	RTI PROPERTY	23,118	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.50	5.50	(0.20)	EQUALITY TWO PLC	1	41.00	40.40	40.40	40.40	41.00		
CENTRAL IND	1,195	88.70	88.60	88.80	86.10	88.70		REGNIS	10,499	45.00	43.30	43.30	43.00	43.00	(2.00)	FC TREASURIES	63,876	23.40	23.00	23.40	23.90	23.10	(0.30)	
CEYLON INV	33,964	34.10	34.10	34.10	32.00	32.60	(1.50)	RENUKA AGR	146,923	5.30	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.30		FIRST CAPITAL	347,778	34.80	34.50	34.80	33.70	34.00	(0.80)	
CEYLON TOBACCO	10,075	747.50	748.00	750.00	743.75	744.00	(3.50)	RENUKA CITY HOT	1	380.00	379.25	379.25	380.00		FORTRESS RESORTS	7,199	21.20	21.90	22.00	20.50	20.80	(0.40)		
CHEVRON	35,691	95.30	96.00	96.00	94.00	95.00	(0.30)	RENUKA FOODS	2,536	21.10	22.00	22.00	21.10	21.20	0.10	GALADARI	243,496	15.60	15.60	15.70	15.20	15.20	(0.40)	
CIC	35,540	73.00	72.90	73.50	71.30	72.00	(1.00)	RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]	114	16.50	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	0.10	HAPUGASTENNE	1,241	49.30	46.00	49.70	46.00	49.60	0.30	
CIC [CIC X0000]	33,705	51.00	51.00	52.00	49.50	50.10	(0.90)	RENUKA HOLDINGS	4,179	13.80	13.70	13.70	13.60	13.60	(0.20)	HATTON	2,213	20.50	21.00	21.00	20.50	20.50		
CITRUS LEISURE	2,200	6.30	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	0.20	RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHLX0000]	24,753	12.00	11.70	11.80	11.70	11.70	(0.30)	HNB FINANCE	29,475	5.00	5.00	5.20	5.00	5.00		
COLD STORES	142,782	40.80	40.50	41.20	39.00	40.50	(0.30)	RESUS ENERGY	659	13.20	13.40	13.40	13.30	13.40	0.20	HNB FINANCE [HNBFX-0000]	3,700	5.00	4.90	5.00	4.90	5.00		
COLBO CITY	4,825	54.33	50.50	50.50	50.00	52.50	(1.83)	RICHARD PETERS	77,619	20.30	20.20	20.50	20.20	20.00	(0.30)	IWA FOODS	100	4.00	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	0.10	
COMBO LAND	3,761	20.90	20.90	20.90	20.40	20.40	(0.50)	ROYAL CERAMIC	162,588	29.10	29.80	29.80	28.50	28.70	(0.40)	JAMSHAKTHI INS	803	28.10	28.10	28.10	28.00	29.20	1.00	
COMMERCIAL BANK	57,955	63.00	64.00	64.00	60.00	61.10	(2.90)	S M B LEASING	2,401,613	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.60	0.70		JETWING SYMPHONY	334,670	7.10	7.10	7.20	7.00	7.10		
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	2,992	52.00	52.90	52.90	51.60	51.80	(0.20)	S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	1,910,515	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.20	0.30		JOHN KEELLS	206	64.50	64.50	64.50	64.50	64.50		
CONVENIENCE FOOD	4	1208.00	1215.25	1290.00	1215.25	1208.00		SAMPATH	287,406	51.00	51.30	51.30	50.00	50.50	(0.50)	KAHAWATTE	4,117	20.70	20.80	20.80	20.40	20.40	(0.30)	
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	20,630	21.80	21.50	21.80	21.00	21.30	(0.50)	SANASA DEV BANK	21,621	26.20	26.00	26.80	26.00	26.10	(0.10)	KEELLS FOOD	13	170.00	165.00	170.00	165.00	170.00		
DFCC BANK PLC	61,924	44.00	44.00	44.20	44.00	44.00		SARVODAYA DEVFIN	225	11.10	11.00	11.00	10.80	11.00	(0.10)	KEELLS HOTELS	89,352	18.00	17.60	18.50	17.60	17.80	(0.20)	
DIALOG	12,248,853	10.50	10.40	10.90	10.40	10.80	0.30	SEYLAN BANK	6,678	33.30	33.00	33.50	33.00	33.50	0.20	KELEY	51	21.20	21.20	21.20	21.20	21		

Emirates Skywards with Dilmah Tea to offer members exclusive tea-inspired experiences



Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, has partnered with Dilmah Tea to offer members an exciting opportunity to experience the lush tea plantations in Sri Lanka.

Starting from April 14, 2023, members can bid Miles with Skywards Exclusives for a chance to win a stay at the Tea Maker's Private Retreat. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity includes a tea-making masterclass, a unique culinary experience inspired by tea, food pairing experiences with tea and a visit to explore the tea fields.

Starting from 200,000 Miles, Emirates Skywards members can bid and win an all-expenses paid trip to Sri Lanka. The prize includes two round trip Business Class tickets on Emirates from Dubai to Colombo, a three-night stay for two guests at Hilton Colombo, a three-night visit to tea plantations at Ceylon Tea Trails, a Relais & Châteaux property, which consists of five restored historic tea planter residences in the Ceylon tea region, a master class with Dilhan C. Fernando, the son of the founder and CEO of Dilmah, to enjoy an educational session on how to taste tea and brew the perfect cup, a special food pairing with tea-inspired gastronomy with the Dilmah family and a seven-course tea-inspired dinner 'Camellia Epicurean', where tea is used as an ingredient for all the dishes.

The package also includes transportation to and from the airport, meals at the all-day dining restaurant at Hilton Colombo and all meals and beverages at the Ceylon Tea Trails. Travel dates will be from May 18 until May 24, 2023. What better way to celebrate the

International Tea Day on May 21 than by being at the heart of a tea plantation!

Emirates and Dilmah Tea have enjoyed a successful partnership for more than three decades, brewing the finest teas on-board and in Emirates' airport lounges worldwide. The airline continues to take the Dilmah brand name to 140 destinations across six continents through its extensive network.

Each year, the airline brews 33 million cups of Dilmah tea for its customers from a specially curated tea menu available in all classes. More than 10 different varieties of tea are available on-board, including popular choices like Dilmah Ceylon Black Tea, Moroccan Mint and Breakfast Tea.

Premium passengers can also savour the aromatic flavours of Emirates Signature tea blend made exclusively for the airline by Dilmah and served only in First Class. Inspired by flavours of the UAE – the exquisite tea has rich aromatic notes of rose, almond and ginger.

Emirates Skywards continues to offer more than 30 million members worldwide unmatched rewards in the air and on-ground.

Skywards Exclusives is a distinctive airline loyalty programme initiative that provides access to exclusive experiences from Emirates' expansive sponsorship portfolio. Members can bid and redeem Miles for some of the world's most prestigious sporting and cultural events, including exciting events featuring Real Madrid, AC Milan, Dubai World Cup, SL Benfica, Emirates FA Cup and other sports such as golf, tennis and cricket. For more information, visit exclusives.skywards.com.

Power, Energy and Construction Expo 2023 in July

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

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

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

Due to the increasing cost of living and soaring electricity bills, the organisers have

identified a high demand for quality products and services for renewable energy, solar power and building materials. One of the key challenges facing the industry is the need to diversify our energy mix and the need to improve energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy. This will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government, industry and consumers. While Sri Lanka has made great strides in developing its renewable energy capacity, there is still significant potential for growth in the country.

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

Singapore Tourism Board and SIA partner Sri Lankan travel trade to reignite outbound travel

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and Singapore Airlines (SIA) joined hands to reignite travel amongst trade partner-friends and media in Sri Lanka through a myriad of engagement activities, which took place from March 29 to 31.

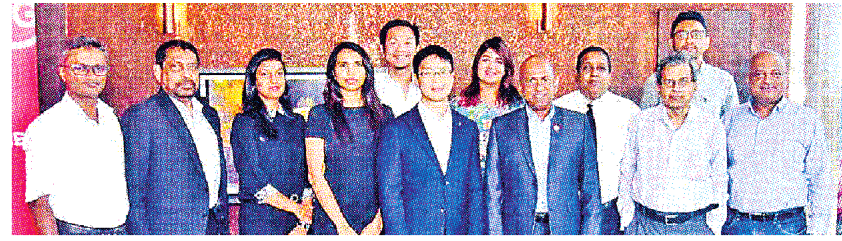
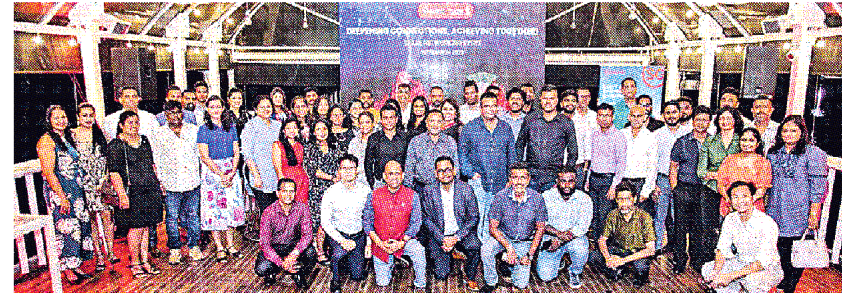
Built around the theme 'Deepening Connections, Achieving Together!', the STB and SIA hosted 130 travel agency professionals over two evenings of networking, had a roundtable luncheon with representatives from nine media outlets and participated in in-depth discussions with industry partners.

Today, travellers are far more open and discerning in their preferences, particularly when it comes to selecting travel experiences; Singapore offers Sri Lankan travellers a wide range of experiences to choose from while visiting the destination. Adding to this vibrant repertoire, the country has announced the soft opening of Bird Paradise on May 8.

Popular amongst Sri Lankan fans as a resort destination for leisure and family-friendly experiences, Sentosa has transformed through the years to become a vibrant destination with hidden gems to be discovered by every generation of travellers. The iconic Singapore Cable Car is launching Pokémon-themed cabins from May 1 onwards, as part of its 50th year celebrations. The island will also unveil Sentosa Sensoryscape, a multi-sensory experience in 2023, the first milestone of the Sentosa-Brani Master Plan, which will transform Sentosa into a game-changing leisure and tourism destination. Sentosa is also buzzing with options from marquee festivals to popular restaurants, attractions and spa retreats.

In a move to encourage visitors to explore more during their travel to Singapore, the STB has recently launched the Singapo Rewards, a new programme that offers complimentary experiences in Singapore for international visitors.

This will run through 2023 and provide visitors with an opportunity to try one of nearly 40 new or 'off-the-beaten path' experiences in Singapore for free. On April 3, Changi Airport Group (CAG), SIA and STB



STB Regional Director India, Middle East, South Asia and Africa G.B. Srithar



SIA General Manager Sri Lanka Zac Liew

relaunched the Free Singapore Tour for transfer and transit passengers with refreshed itineraries and a new Changi Precinct tour.

Pre pandemic, in 2019, Singapore welcomed 98,000 visitors from Sri Lanka and in 2022, 35,500 visitors made their visits to the city. Sri Lanka is recognised as a key visitor source market within the South Asian region. With direct connectivity between Colombo and Singapore, visa-free travel for Sri Lankans and a host of new and improved attractions and activities in Singapore, the city continues to be a prime travel destination.

On March 27, SIA introduced the launch of Boeing B787-10A on the Colombo-Singapore route. This longest variant of Boeing's Dreamliner range offers large electronically dimmable windows, low cabin altitude, generous headroom and a quiet and smooth ride. With exceptional operating efficiency and advanced technology, the B787-10



conversations on travel recovery. Sri Lanka is an important traveller source market for Singapore. We seek to grow the visitorship number from Sri Lanka in 2023. The year ahead in Singapore is exciting, with hotly anticipated tourism developments and we invite many more Sri Lankans with different passion points, travel desires and aspirations to enjoy our diverse, vibrant, and reimagined offerings."

The STB is the lead development agency for tourism, one of Singapore's key economic sectors. Together with industry partners and the community, we shape a dynamic Singapore tourism landscape. It brings the Passion Made Possible brand to life by differentiating Singapore as a vibrant destination that inspires people to share and deepen their passions.

SIA has been flying to/from Sri Lanka for 53 years. SIA currently operates four weekly flights between Colombo and Singapore on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, providing connectivity to the world via the Singapore hub. Daily flights will commence from October 30.

Aitken Spence and SIA recently celebrated its 50 years of partnership. This 50-year milestone represents the longest GSA relationship in the SIA network, which demonstrates decades of trust, teamwork and shared goals in bringing the very best in service and travel experience to travellers.

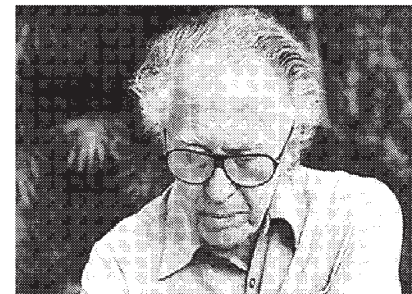
Aitken Spence's Heritage Kandalama takes spotlight at Delhi's first Bawa archive show in India

Premier hospitality company Aitken Spence Hotels iconic resort Heritage Kandalama is at the centre stage at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) Delhi at the 'Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential to be There' architectural and photographic installation, in its first-of-its-kind exhibition drawing inspiration from Bawa's archives and practice.

The world-renowned architect Deshamanya Geoffrey Bawa, acknowledged as 'father of tropical modernism', was responsible for reviving the Sri Lankan architectural space with suave lines and modern sensibilities whilst encompassing local traditions and its vibrancies. The exhibition hosted at the NGMA until May 7, 2023 is a celebration of the 75th anniversary of Indo-Lanka Diplomatic Relations and features over

120 documents from the Bawa archives, most of which have never been shown publicly previously.

On board as a primary sponsor, Aitken Spence Hotels' Heritage Kandalama hosted an exclusive invitees-only event on April 7 at The Claridges, featuring an intimate conversation between Indian photographer extraordinaire Dayanita Singh and leading Sri Lankan architect and student of Bawa, Channa Daswatte. Both heavily influenced by the work and practices of Sri Lanka's most prolific and influential architect, the conversation will take a deep dive into ephemeral yet stoic qualities that make Bawa design what it is revered for today. Daswatte was also heavily involved in the work of Heritage Kandalama and shared first-hand insights into the thought process behind the world's first LEED certified and Asia's first Green



Deshamanya Geoffrey Bawa

Globe certified hotel for sustainable design and practices.

"We are honoured to partner with the Bawa Trust in taking the work of our legendary architect Deshamanya Geoffrey Bawa to the world in an exhibition of this calibre. Among his most formidable creations, Heritage Kandalama is an iconic masterpiece, given its unique amalgamation of nature and modern comforts. We hope this exhibition will inspire a new generation



Breathtaking Heritage Kandalama blending with environment

of architects to think innovatively to address current and future needs of the world, while preserving our inherent traditions and values, symbiotically," commented Aitken Spence PLC Director, Head of Tourism and Leisure and Aitken Spence Hotel Management Chairperson Stashani Jayawardena.

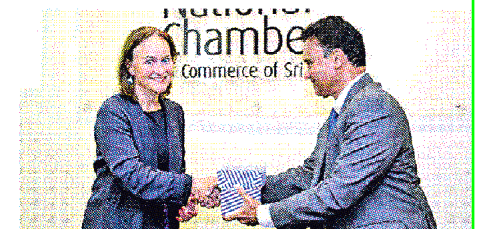
The exhibition is jointly organised by the NGMA in New Delhi, High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and Geoffrey Bawa Trust.



What Went Wrong ...

Mirror Business guest columnist Chandrasena Maliyadde recently launched his book titled 'What Went Wrong' at the BMICH. Maliyadde is a former Ministry Secretary and is currently a Vice President of the Sri Lanka Economic Association. PIX BY NIMALSIRI EDIRISINGHE

Netherlands Ambassador to Sri Lanka visits National Chamber



Netherlands Ambassador to Sri Lanka Bonnie Horbach visited the National Chamber recently along with the officials of the embassy, Senior Policy Adviser Economic Affairs and Sustainability Shanila Athulathmudali and Senior Policy Adviser Agriculture Nishan Dissanayake, to explore bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Sri Lanka and Netherlands.

The delegates were received by National Chamber President Deepal Nelson and Secretary General/CEO Bandula Dissanayake. The other dignitaries who joined the meeting were National Chamber Automobile and Automotive Components Committee Chairman Sarath Algama, National Chamber Youth Forum Council Member/President Dumindu Karunagoda and representatives from Dankotuwa Porcelain PLC and MAC Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd, to discuss the opportunities among their respective industries.

CIPM and University of Kelaniya MoU to collectively develop HR profession

CIPM Sri Lanka, the nation's leader in human resource management, entered into a memorandum of understanding recently with the University of Kelaniya, to collectively develop the human resource profession for the benefit of HR professionals, the managerial community and HR students in the country.

The signing ceremony was held at the Senate House of the University of Kelaniya.

"We are honoured to collaborate with the University of Kelaniya, which is considered

a centre of learning in Sri Lanka, to develop the human resource profession in the country collectively. Our collaboration will help raise the bar for the HR fraternity in Sri Lanka, creating value for all HR professionals, companies and organisations," said CIPM Sri Lanka CEO U.A.C. Obeyesekere.

Obeyesekere, Professional and Academics Affairs Director G. Weerathunga, Head of Business School Anushka Earskin, Head of Finance Wathasla Naddeeshani and Executive

Media and Digital Marketing K. Thiruchelvam represented CIPM Sri Lanka while University of Kelaniya Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Registrar K.K.K. Dharmathilka, Commerce and Management Studies Faculty Dean Dr. P.N.D. Fernando, Commerce and Financial Management Department Head and Senior Lecturer M.M.M. Shamil and academic staff of the Commerce and Management Studies Faculty represented the University of Kelaniya at the ceremony.



CIPM officials (left) and university delegates (right) exchange a souvenir to mark signing of MoU

DailyMirror

Life

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 19, 2023
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CAN MUSIC FESTIVALS GO GREEN?

Coachella brings adrenaline-fuelled sets to hundreds of thousands of festival-goers who gather in the California desert, and it also leaves behind a lot of trash. Beyond the plastic cups and water bottles strewn about each day, there's also the immense energy use of floodlights and ear-splitting speakers. Coachella is far from alone: music festivals across the United States and beyond are a big business, and for all the talk of sustainability, the bottom line usually wins out. **AFP**

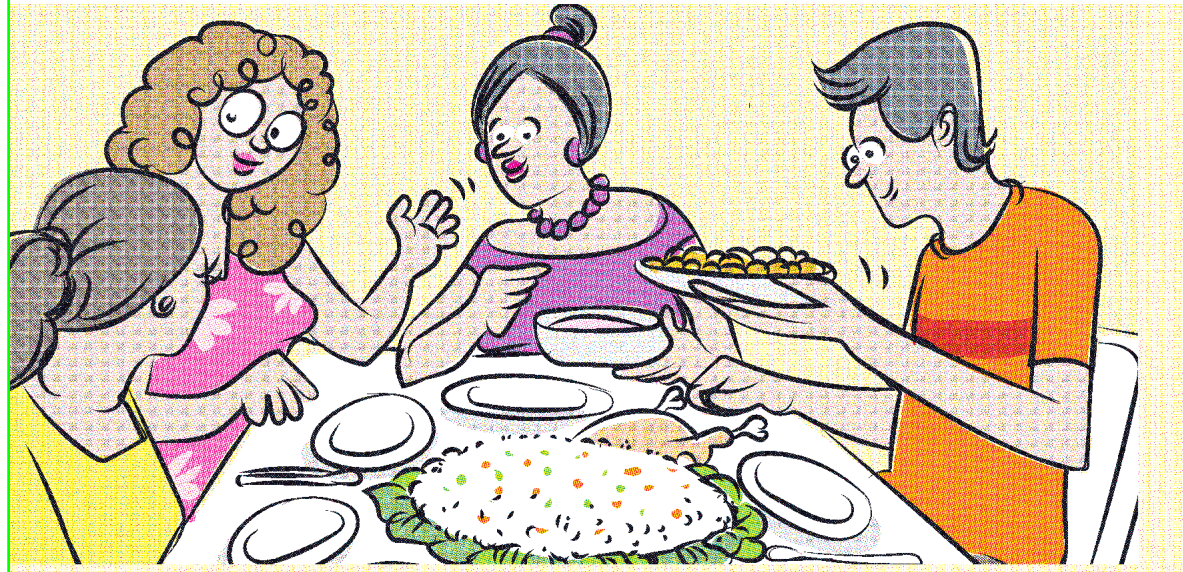
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA ACTOR DEAD

Actor Murray Melvin, who appeared in the 2004 film version of The Phantom of the Opera, has died, his friends said. He was 90. Melvin, who rose to prominence as Geoffrey, the gay art student, in Shelagh Delaney's A Taste of Honey, died at St Thomas' hospital in London on Friday. "It's with great sadness that I have to announce the death of Murray Melvin - actor, director and theatre archivist," theatre director Kerry Michael wrote on Twitter. **AFP**



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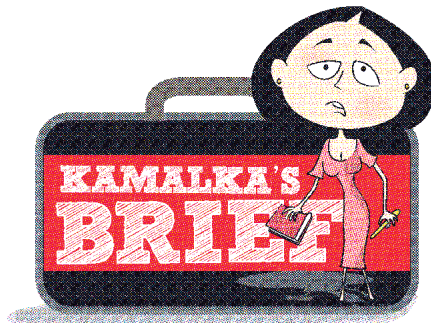
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Easter Lunch with family

We had a family lunch on Easter Sunday at my son's home, it was a pleasant afternoon with a few friends joining us too. The delicious lunch was catered by Priya while a few home cooked items were added to the menu including a Peach trifle made by me. It was an afternoon of family togetherness, ones which I value more than ever now at

the stage when I don't know how many more tomorrows will be mine. We have gone through such a bad time this past year although things are better now. It's time to imbibe the British spirit of squaring our shoulders leaving bad memories behind. One needs the warmth of being cushioned by family love to make life worth living.



BRING AND BUY SALE

The Bishop's College Past Pupils Association plans to have a Bring and Buy sale on the 29th April in the community Hall at St Michaels Church, Polwatte. Donations from Past pupils and well wishers of clothes, books, costume jewellery, household items, handbags, shoes, school books in good condition would be welcome. They can be dropped off at the PPA office at the school between the 21st and 26th April between 10am and 1pm. Please contact Prashanthi on -777668768 for further information. All past pupils who can should help by donating and going to this fundraiser. The school has done its bit for the country. The first lady senator, Lady Adeline Molamure, our first executive President, the late J.R. Jayewardene and the present President Ranil Wickeremesinghe are all ex Bishopsians.

THE KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR

As another New Year dawned last week, my thoughts as did many others I guess, dwelt sadly on that terrible New Year in 1973, when the late Dudley Senanayake passed away. It was the saddest day in our lives for all who had the privilege of knowing him, and for a multitude of others too, which was evident by the mammoth crowd at his funeral. This remains unprecedented at the funeral of any politician before or after him although he was no longer Prime Minister. He was too sensitive to stand harassment by threats of breakaways from the party which resulted in a fatal heart attack. He was the knight in shining armour of Sri Lankan politics, a gentleman to his fingertips with a golden heart and a visionary too. He was totally against the Executive Presidency, a liberal at heart

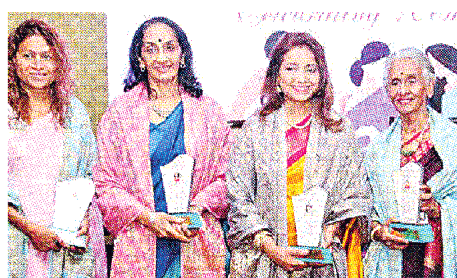


and believed in developing agriculture. I have heard him saying in informal conversation that there is good and bad in us all, that we should try to forget the bad and think of the good in people. Even as Prime Minister, he would drive his little Triumph Herald and drop in unexpectedly to see his friends. He loved reading, photography, listening to music and was a cultured man, a cricketer in his youth and was at Cambridge. He was a firm believer in democracy and law and order. His dream was that every citizen of our nation would proudly say 'This is my own, my native land.' He was greatly respected even by those who were opposed to him in politics and was a good friend of the late Dr N.M.Perera, Dr Colvin. R.de Silva and was the political colossus of his time. Here was a man, when comes such another?

SEEING LIFE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

I miss Anelka so much as she is such a caring, loving child, but I'm glad that she's making the most of her time at University. She is active in the Bar Society of Aberdeen which has helped her to make good contacts in this field. She is also seeing Europe which is important; there is so much one can learn from

seeing life in other countries steeped in history. She is at the moment in Amsterdam having been taken there by Avinda and Christine Rodrigo with their daughter, her friend. She will also spend a few days with Ramani and with Elizabeth, former Brazilian Ambassador here, now retired and living in Amsterdam.



Celebrating IWD

International Womens Day was recently celebrated by The Sri Lanka Tamil Women's Union at the Hilton. The four prominent women felicitated by them at the event were Antonia Joseph, Anushya Coomaraswamy, Parzana Jameel and Vidyani Hettigoda, all were from different communities. A very good and encouraging gesture at this time. The Chief Guest was the Hon Jeevan Thiagarajah, Governor of the Northern Province. It was a well attended event and the Guest Speaker was Mrs Romola Sivasunderam who spoke on 'Gender based violence in Sri Lanka, It's time to turn the tide.' I was very proud of Romola as I've known her since she was a schoolgirl in pigtails, she and her sister Sharadha would often be dropped at my house after school to learn and improve their cooking skills.

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BOOK NOOK
BY RIHAAB MOWLANA

If you would like to get in touch to feature books or book-related events, drop me an email at lifedm123@gmail.com

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INGREDIENTS

- 1 Breadfruit
- 1 egg separated
- Salt
- oil for frying
- 1oz butter
- pepper
- 1/2 pt hot milk

METHOD

Cook breadfruit in salted water till tender. Peel, core and mash. Add butter and season. Add milk slowly. Beat in egg yolk and then whisked white of egg. Put into a greased dish and bake till golden brown. Serve with meat or fish.

Fiction

THE MISTER

BY E L JAMES

London, 2019. Life has been easy for Maxim Trevelyan. With his good looks, aristocratic connections, and money, he's never had to work and he's rarely slept alone. But all that changes when tragedy strikes and Maxim inherits his family's noble title, wealth, and estates, and all the responsibility that it entails. It's a role he's not prepared for and one that he struggles to face.

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PARADISE LOST, PARADISE REGAINED

BY LORD MICHAEL NASEBY

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