

Three SLMC rebel MPs suspended

Three Sri Lanka Muslim Congress MPs, namely, H. M. M. Harees, Faizal Cassim and Hafiz Nazeer Ahamed, who defied the Party High Command decision and voted for Budget 2022, have been suspended from the party, according to SLMC leader Rauff Hakeem.



Hakeem

The Island

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Flower controversy: Indian envoy claims innocence

Consul General of India in Jaffna Raakesh Natraj Jayabhaskaran says he was not aware of any events outside the official programme in Jaffna when he attended a recent function.

The statement is in response to media reports that Jayabhaskaran formally launched the 'Karthikai Vaasam' flower garden in Nallur Kittu Park, Jaffna, on 20 Nov., by wearing a Niyangala flower (karthigaipoo), which was used as the LTTE's official flower.



LTTE's official flower being pinned on Jayabhaskaran

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New Cases 744 Total: 559,604	Active Cases Total: 17,470	Recovered 401 Total: 527,929	Deaths 23 Total: 14,205
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COVID-19 Daily Death Count: 23

Kinniya UC chairman blamed for ferry disaster



The new Kelani Bridge was yesterday declared open by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, together with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando.



Capsized ferry

BY SAMAN INDRAJITH

Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister, Nimal Lanza, told Parliament, yesterday, that the Kinniya Urban Council Chairman, a brother-in-law of SLMC Batticaloa District MP Imran Maharoof, was responsible for the ferry tragedy, in Kinniya, which claimed six lives on Tuesday.

Minister Lanza said that the govern-

ment had not issued any permits for a ferry service in the Kurinchenkerni lagoon.

Regional politicians had operated the ferry service and lives had been lost due to the actions of the Urban Council Chairman, the Minister said, requesting the Governor of the Eastern Province to remove the UC Chairman concerned from office immediately and take disciplinary action against him.

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Foreign funding for 'environmental projects' sans Treasury approval rife



Environment Ministry officials appearing before the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) on Nov 19 in Parliament.

BY SHAMINDRA FERDINANDO

Former Treasury Secretary Dr. R.H.S. Samararatunga has said the Environment Ministry had routinely receives foreign funds for projects implemented without prior approval from the External Resources Department (ERD) of the Treasury.

Dr. Samararatunga said so when *The Island* sought his response to the Auditor General's disclosure that the Environment Ministry had

implemented projects to the tune of USD 9.96 mn and one project worth Euro 1.86 mn in 2017, 2018 and 2019 during his tenure as the Secretary to the Treasury.

The Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) has taken up this issue at a meeting on Nov 19, chaired by Prof. Tissa Vitharana, at the Parliamentary Complex.

Dr. Samararatunga emphasised that other ministries, too, had utilised such funding, sans proper approval

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Ferry owner among three arrested over tragedy

Police yesterday arrested the owner of the ill-fated ferry, the ferry operator, and the collector of fares.

Two of them surrendered to the Trincomalee police and the other to the Kinniya police.

Police say that out of 20 persons who fell into the water and suffered injuries, six died including four children.

Covid testing ramped up

BY RATHINDRA KURUWITA

Deputy Director General of Health Services, Dr. Hemantha Herath yesterday said a large number of tests to determine COVID

were carried out daily. However, those tests were not indicated in daily reports, he said.

"We do both PCR and Rapid Antigen Tests. The medical

Dr. Herath

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Groundwater pollution ticking time bomb in Jaffna and elsewhere

BY IFHAM NIZAM

A research conducted in Jaffna last year has revealed that the rapid salinisation and pollution of groundwater in the northern peninsula and very likely elsewhere in Sri Lanka is leading to the adaptation of freshwater malaria and arbovi-



Prof. Pathmalal

ral mosquito vectors to brackish water and polluted water with physiological changes that reduce the effectiveness of present vector control methods.

Snr. Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, Professor of Zoology Dean, Faculty of

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- The Kinniya UC Chairman has been blamed for the ferry disaster.
- How many more lives will be lost before a bridge is built?

Former UPFA bigwig, wife indicted by CIABOC

CM's spouse received extra fuel allowance

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) has indicted former North Central Province Chief Minister S. M. Ranjith Samarakoon (UPFA) and his wife Shanthi Chandrasena, in the Colombo High Court for allegedly causing losses to the government by fraudulently obtaining fuel allowance between 27 Sept, 2012, and 31 Dec. 2014. The alleged fraud took place during the UPFA administration.



S.M. Ranjith

S. M. Ranjith Samarakoon is the younger brother of Lands Minister S. M. Chandrasena.

The Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption filed indictments against S. M. Ranjith and his then private secretary Shanthi Chandrasena under section 70 of the Bribery Act on eight charges.

The CIABOC has alleged that first accused S. M. Ranjith, while serving as the NCP Chief Minister, allocated

Rs.2.68 mn as fuel allowance to his P 4 >>>

New US project supports Lanka's renewable energy goals

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced its new \$19 million, five-year Sri Lanka Energy Programme. Once finalised, this grant will support the government of

Sri Lanka's plan to increase the generation of renewable energy to 70% by the year 2030 and will contribute to the transformation of Sri Lanka's power sector into a market-based, secure,



Reed Aeschliman

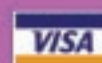
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Navy Christian Council commemoration

The Navy Christian Council organised a Christian commemoration and thanksgiving service at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena, on 23 November to coincide with the series of religious events being held in view of the 71st anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy. The Christian commemoration and thanksgiving service was conducted by Auxiliary Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Anton Ranjith and was presided over by Commander of the Navy Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne.

During the event, blessings were invoked on fallen and disabled naval war heroes, naval personnel, both serving and retired, as well as their family



Navy Christian commemoration in progress (pic courtesy Navy media)

members.

The proceedings were

organised, adhering to COVID-19 protocols. President Navy

Seva Vanitha Unit (NSVU), Chandima Ulugetenne, Chief of Staff of the Navy, Rear Admiral Y.N. Jayarathne, Area Commanders, Executive Committee members of the NSVU, Director Generals, President Navy Christian Council, Commodore Prasantha Anthony, a group of officers attached to the Navy Headquarters and Western Naval Command attended the occasion.

Earlier, the 'Kanchuka Pujā' and Naval Flag Blessing events were held at Ruwanweli Seya and the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi, in Anuradhapura, on 11 and 12 November.

New Chief Sanghanayaka

Arrangements have been made to confer the *Sannas Pathra* (the act of appointment) on Chief Sanghanayaka of Kandabapattuwa of Matara Maha Disawa of Sri Rohana chapter of Shyamapali Nikaya on Ven Dematapitiye Somananda Nayaka Thera at a ceremony to be held at 8.30 am on Nov 28 (Sunday) at Sri Ratnajothi Pirivena in Thiahagoda Urapola.

The ceremony to welcome new Chief Sanghanayaka is scheduled to be held at 4 pm on the same day at the Sri Pushpama Vihara in Hakmana.

Ven Somananda Thera is

the Chief Incumbent of the



Sri Pushpama Vihara at Veruwewela, Hakmana, and the retired principal of the Kongala Abhaya Central College, Matara.

The *Sannas Pathra* is scheduled to be presented

by Acting Mahanayake of the Rohana Chapter of the Shyamapali Nikaya, Ven Agalabada Piyasiri Nayaka Thera.

Bail application of heroin trafficking accused: CA reserves order for Dec 07

By CHITRA WEERARATHNE

The Court of Appeal reserved for 07 December the order in respect of a revision bail application filed by a heroin trafficking accused Senadheera P. S. Pradeep Senadheera held in remand custody since 14 Feb. 2019.

The High Court of Negombo has refused him bail.

Anuja Premaratne, PC, who supported the bail application told the Court of Appeal that the accused had been arrested by the Katunayake police on the suspicion of having 100 grams of heroin. But

the Government Analyst report said that he had possessed only 3.57 grams. That is only three percent of the alleged quantity.

The Counsel requested the Court to grant bail to the suspect.

State Counsel Chathuranga Bandara however argued that the possession of more than two grams of heroin was an offence, which carried a life or death sentence. Hence the application should be dismissed.

The State Counsel appeared for the state.

The bench comprised Justice Menaka Wijesundera and Justice Neil Iddawela.

Minister Lanza tells Sajith to get facts right before pointing finger at govt.

By NORMAN PALIHAWADANE

Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza on Tuesday said that Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa should get his facts right before pointing finger at the government whenever something went wrong.

"Now, the Opposition Leader blames the government for the ferry disaster in the Kurunchenkerny lagoon in Kinniya. It is his party men, with the SLMC, who are running the Kinniya Urban Council that gave the permit for the ferry service. They are responsible for the tragedy, but the Opposition is blaming us.

The Opposition Leader should blame his party men for giving that permit for ferries to transport people, exposing them to danger," Minister Lanza said during an inspection tour to the Muthurajawela marshland to meet people there.

Minister Lanza said that the government extended its condolences to the victims and an investigation was underway into the unfortunate incident. Eleven other children had been admitted to hospitals in Kinniya and Trincomalee, he added. The ferry was transporting around 25 children and teachers to school at the time of the incident.

"Some claim the ferry belongs to the Road Development Authority. That is not true. There is a need to construct a bridge across this lagoon. Those now trying to blame the gov-



The ill-fated ferry in dilapidated condition

ernment did nothing to construct the bridge during their *yahapalana* government. We have commenced the work and we will expedite that project. It is the urban council there that should be held responsible for giving the permit for the unsafe ferry to operate in this dangerous place," the Minister said.

Police Media Spokesman Senior Superintendent of Police Nihal Taldewa said the bodies of the victims were kept at the Kinniya

Hospital.

SSP Nihal Taldewa said Police and Navy teams had been deployed to search for the missing.

The Navy says it deployed eight rescue teams to locate the missing persons, following the ferry tragedy adding that the rescue and recovery mission comprised teams representing the Rapid Action Boat Squadron (RABS) and the Special Boat Squadron along with Marines and Divers.

Pera Uni International Management Research Sessions on Friday

KANDY: The annual International Management Research Sessions of the University of Peradeniya (iPUMSE) will be held on Friday (26) at the auditorium of its Faculty of Management.

The research sessions held for the second consecutive year, is chaired by chairman, University Grant Commission (UGC) senior Professor Sampath Amarantunge.

The keynote address will be delivered by Prof. Adrei Yu Panibratov of St. Petersburg University, Russia.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya will welcome the participants to the conference, being



Peradeniya University

held in keeping with COVID-19 health guidelines, commencing at 8:30 am. (CW)

India announces awarding of Gold Medal in name of Tagore to top academic performer at Sri Palee Campus of Colombo University each year

Acting Indian High Commissioner Vinod K. Jacob has announced that New Delhi recently institutionalised a Gold Medal in the name of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to recognise the highest academic record holder in the Sri Palee Campus of University of Colombo.

Jacob said so when he attended the Annual Research Symposium 2021 of the University of Colombo on 23 November 2021 on the theme: 'Impactful Research through an Interdisciplinary Approach' which was also joined by Prof. G. L. Pieris, Minister of Foreign Relations, Sr. Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo, Distinguished Alumni, Scientists, Faculty Members and Students.

Speaking as the Chief Guest on the occasion, the Acting High Commissioner recalled the historic academic linkages between the two countries, including the visits of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to Sri Lanka.

Highlighting the education reforms undertaken by the Government of India in the last few years, including New National Education Policy 2020, the Acting High Commissioner said that the contemporary challenges require innovative solutions which could be achieved through interdisciplinary approach. In 2015, the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its Cognitive Science Research Initiative has developed a new research programme - Science and

Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) which provides interface with Neuroscience, Medicine, Psychology, Philosophy, so on as an interdisciplinary approach.

He mentioned that owing to its immense knowledge capital, strong interdisciplinary approach, vibrant start-up ecosystem and public-private partnerships, India has moved to rank 46 in the Global Innovation Index in 2021, a significant jump from rank 81 in 2015. He also spoke about India's ambition and commitment for combating climate change through concrete actions as articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26. These future steps called "Panchamrit" or the five nector elements was a highlight at Glasgow in particular the target of net zero by 2070 and emphasis of renewable energy in the overall energy mix.

The Acting High Commissioner said that with the establishment of Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) at the University of Colombo, a multidisciplinary research centre, both the countries have successfully conducted several programmes through an institutionalised network between the two countries. Recalling the robust bilateral cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, climate change, disaster management and sustainable development, he invited all the scholars and academics to fully avail the opportunities put forward by both the countries for the advancement of research, innovation and betterment of society.



Appointment of eight ministry secretaries approved by High Posts Committee

The appointment of eight Secretaries to Ministries has been approved by the Committee on High Posts, Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said.

General (retd.) Kamal Gunaratne, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence was among the Secretaries to the Ministries who received approval of the Committee on High Posts chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena yesterday (23).

The Secretary General of Parliament also announced that W.H. Karunaratna as the Secretary to the Ministry of Development Coordination and monitoring, D. L. P. R. Abeyratne as the Secretary to the State Ministry of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion, Ms. D. N. Liyanage as the Secretary to the Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation have also received approval for their appointments.

He also revealed the appointments of M.A.B.V Banadaranayake as the Secretary to the State Ministry of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Industrial Promotion, Ms. K. A.D.R Nishanthi Jayasinghe as the Secretary to the State Ministry of National

Heritage Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion and D.P.G Kumarasiri appointed as the Secretary to the State Ministry of Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure were also approved by the Committee.

The Committee on High Posts also granted its approval for the appointments of M. N. Ranasinghe a state Secretary to the State Ministry of Promoting the Production and Regulating the Supply of Organic Fertilizer, and Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promoting, Seed Production and Advanced Technology, Agriculture.

The Committee also approved the appointment of Sirimal Perera as the Secretary to the State Ministry of Urban Development, Waste Disposal and Community cleanliness.

Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Dinesh Gunawardena, Douglas Devananda, (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Udaya Gammanpila, State Ministers Vidura Wickramanayaka, (Dr.) Sudarshani Fernandopulle, Members of Parliament Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, John Seneviratne, Thalatha Athukorala, Dharmalingam Siddharthan were present at this Committee meeting.



Acting Indian HC Jacob, Prof. Peiris and other dignitaries at the event (pic courtesy Indian HC)

Prof. Peiris reiterates commitment to post-war reconciliation process

Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris has briefed UN Assistant-Secretary-General (ASG) for Political, Peace Building and Peace Operations, Khaled Khiari on progress made in domestic processes in relation to reconciliation and human rights, including the proposed revisions to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and reiterated the Government's commitment to achieving tangible progress.

Khaled Khiari called on Prof G.L. Peiris, on Tuesday (23) at the Foreign Ministry.



Prof Peiris with Khaled Khiari

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister discussed mat-

ters related to Sri Lanka's post-COVID recovery, including the economic challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic and the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Sri Lanka.

The Foreign Minister highlighted that Sri Lanka would continue to cooperate with the United Nations in order to achieve sustainable peace and development, in line with the international obligations that the country had voluntarily undertaken.

ASG Khiari was accompanied by Resident Coordinator, United Nations Sri Lanka Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, and other UN officials. Foreign Secretary and officials of the Foreign Ministry participated in the meeting.

ASG Khiari is visiting Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka as a follow-up to the bilateral meeting with the President and the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) held in September this year on the sidelines of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Prabhakaran's kinsman vows to go ahead with commemorations

BY DINASENA RATUGAMAGE

The Tamil people had a right to commemorate those who died during the war and thus Mahawiru celebrations would be held in many places in the North on 27 November, former MP M.K. Sivajilingam said.

Speaking to the Jaffna media, the kinsman of



Prabhakaran said that the Police had sought court orders to prevent people from holding Mahawiru celebrations. It was a violation of human rights as well as common decency, Sivajilingam said.

"No matter what the obstacles that are placed before us, we will hold the Mahawiru celebrations. The events will start at 6.05 pm," he said.

Public employees can retire on reaching age of 55

Public Service, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon told Parliament yesterday that any public sector employee who was above the age of 55 years could retire from the service after 01 Jan.

The Minister said so while responding to a question by Gampaha District JVP MP Vijitha Herath.

MP Herath said that there was confusion among the general public follow-

ing the government's decision to raise the retirement age of public servants to 65. Many state sector employees who were on the verge of retirement age and many who are scheduled to retire next month had raised questions, the MP said.

"In the meantime, there are some



Janaka

media reports that the government is considering lowering the retirement age of public servants from 65 to 63. What is the exact situation with regard to this," the MP queried.

The Minister said that any public servant who had completed the age of 55 years could do so from 01 Jan, 2022 if she or he so desired. (SI)



Ministers Wimal Weerawansa and Namal Rajapaksa at a recent event at the Waters Edge, Battaramulla (pic by Nishan S Priyantha)

All Divisional Secretariats in Kandy issue copies of birth, death and marriage certificates without having to fill forms



A Divisional Secretary receiving a set of equipment from the Kandy District Secretary Chandana Tennakoon.

BY CYRIL WIMALASURENDRE

KANDY - Copies of certificates of births, deaths and marriages hereafter can be obtained from the Kandy district Divisional Secretariats by giving only the number of the respective certificates without filling forms

The new system is in operation at all 20 Divisional Secretariats of the district. Necessary equipment including computers and software, were

handed over to the District Secretaries by Kandy District Secretary Chandana Tennakoon on Wednesday 24.

Funds for the project were provided by an organisation for public assistance in the USA.

Present at the handing over of the equipment were representatives of the public assistance organisation of USA. Travis Gardner, Additional District Secretary Uthpala Jayaratne and Assistant Registrar General central province Champika Ratnayaka.

UK: Sri Lanka's Human Rights situation deteriorating

The UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has categorised Sri Lanka as an Area of deterioration.

FCDO Statement on Sri Lanka (23/11/21): The human rights situation in Sri Lanka continued to deteriorate during the first half of 2021. The January 2021 report on Sri Lanka by the Office of the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expressed deep concern over "trends emerging over the past year, which represent clear early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation and a significantly heightened risk of future violations" [footnote 8]. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted resolution 46/1 in March, expressing serious concern about these trends, and stressing the importance of a comprehensive accountability process for all human rights violations and abuses committed in Sri Lanka.

Security forces increased their surveillance and intimidation of human rights activists and their use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, with a number of arbitrary arrests. The government proposed

new regulations with powers to arrest and send individuals to rehabilitation centres to be 'deradicalised' with no judicial oversight or requirement for further process. The President pardoned a convicted murderer on death row and appointed controversial individuals to lead independent institutions such as the Office of Missing Persons. The government initiated activity to obstruct accountability in a number of emblematic human rights cases. There were several deaths in custody which the Sri Lankan Bar Association described as having "all the hall-marks of extrajudicial killings."

Government marginalisation of minority groups continued, with the banning of several groups, including Tamil and Muslim welfare organisations, and restrictions on memorialisation events, particularly for communities in the North and East.

Full Report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-priority-countries-autumn-2021-ministerial-statement/human-rights-priority-countries-ministerial-statement-for-january-to-june-2021>

ICTA roadshow in East

The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) will conduct a one-day roadshow on 26 Nov. in the eastern region, in collaboration with the Ministry of Technology, Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRCSL), Telecommunications Partners, and Industry partners. The Main Forums of

the Eastern Region Roadshow will be held at the South Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The forum's main objective is to create awareness about the country's national digital transformation plan and engage with regional stakeholders to create a conducive environment in the Eastern region for establishing technology clusters, an ICTA release said.

Air Force carries out sixth seed bombing mission over Kabilitta forest reserve

The Sri Lanka Air Force, under the guidance of its Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana, together with the Forest Conservation Department, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya, Central Environmental Authority and MAS Capital (Pvt) Ltd, carried out the sixth wave of seed bombing at Wattegama Kabilitta Government Forest Reserve in the Siyambalduwa Divisional Secretariat, on 23 November 2021.

The Command Agro Unit at SLAF Base Katunayake, under the leadership of Group Captain Rajeev Kodippili, and the Department of Forest Conservation, organised this mission to achieve the aim of improving the forest density of Sri Lanka in order to reach the sustainable development goals of the country by increasing the forest cover from 27% to 32% by the year 2030.

The first wave of the mission was executed at Ranorawa government forest in a five acres land area and approximately 5,000 seed bombs were released. During the second wave, 67,000 seed bombs were dropped over a 60 acres area inside the for-

est of Lahugala in Ampara. The third wave which was conducted in December 2020 saw the dropping of approximately

the Lahugala National Park where 70,000 seed bombs were dropped over a 60 acre area. The fifth wave was also carried out



Preparing for seed bombing mission

30,000 seed bombs over a 25 acres land area within the Lahugala National Park. The fourth wave was also carried out in

in the Kabilitta Government Forest Reserve where 80,000 seed bombs were dropped over a 75 acre area.

NOTICE
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC - PQ 116
LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

Name and Address of Shareholder	Share Certificate No.	No. of Shares
Eman Saheb Mohamed Sahabdeen 16 Ambegamulla Road Gampola	2011/0001786	6,508 (Voting)

The above Share Certificate has been misplaced/lost. If no objection is lodged (to the address given below) within 21 days of publication of this Notice, a Duplicate Share Certificate will be issued in the name of the above-mentioned Shareholder and the Original Share Certificate shall be deemed to be cancelled.

Company Secretary
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
"Commercial House", 21, Sir Razaq Fareed Mawatha
(formerly known as Bristol Street)
Colombo 01.

MILLERS PLC
Co. Reg. No. PQ 3281
No. 121, Biyagama Road, Kelaniya.
LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

An application has been received for the issue of Duplicate Share Certificates, the Originals of which are reported to have been lost/misplaced/destroyed.

Name of Shareholder	Original Share Certificate Nos.	Number of Shares
Mr. P. L. Baudhasara - Do -	P361 024/B-004	200 800

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that if within 14 days from the date of publication of this NOTICE, no claims or objections are lodged with the Company, the Directors shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates, the Originals of which shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MILLERS PLC
S S P CORPORATE SERVICES (PRIVATE) LIMITED
REGISTRARS
101, Inner Flower Road, Colombo 3.
Date: 25-11-2021

LICENCE FROM THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF COMPANIES

In pursuance of Section 34 of the Companies Act No.7 of 2007 an application has been made to the Registrar-General of Companies for a Licence directing an Association about to be formed under the name and style of HUSSAIN RASHARD JANAZA FOUNDATION to be registered with Limited Liability without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name:

The objects for which the Foundation is proposed to be established are:-

1. This Foundation commits itself to provide necessary assistance in case of deaths of persons, who have been left as Orphans and/or Destitutes in order to grant the dead a decent burial according to his/her religious rites.
2. To grant necessary assistance for students who need assistance to continue their studies and to conduct seminars, workshops, examinations, and training programs for students.
3. To provide necessary assistance to develop spiritual, educational, economic and social status of persons providing value based quality awareness and self-confidence as a means of producing efficient productive as well as good Citizens needed for the Society.
4. To provide and encourage active participation in building up national integrity and also national development efforts for the upliftment of all community development and projects.
5. To formulate projects, participate and provide relief assistance, for rehabilitation.
6. To conduct programmes to eliminate misconception and misunderstanding among the communities through healthy dialogues and promote peace and harmony.
7. To concentrate and to work in collaboration with other organizations nationally and internationally having a common objective on matters of common interests.
8. To organize blood donation programmes, health related activities, medical camps.
9. To support disabled and poor people for the improvements of their health conditions.
10. To support underprivileged families and to empower the livelihoods and self-employment of needy families.
11. To provide ambulance service and health transportation.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person company or Corporation objecting to this application may bring such objections on or before 18th December 2021 by a letter addressed to the Registrar-General of Companies "Samagam Medura" No.400, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo-10.

M.C.M.Nawas
Attorney-at-Law
Date: 25/11/2021



Ravi Kumudesh

48-hour token strike gets underway

Health professionals launch strike, claim some TUs have misled Prez

By RATHINDRA KURUWITA

The issues faced by health professionals will not be solved by granting chancellor posts to vocal trade union leaders, College of Medical Laboratory Science (CMLS) President, Ravi Kumudesh told *The Island* yesterday.

Kumudesh said that the ego of ministers and the incompetence of officials had led to a number of strikes and demonstrations that inconvenienced the people.

Speaking about the 48-hour token strike, which was launched yesterday at 7.00 am, by 15 health sector non-medical trade unions over irregularities in promotions, salary anomalies and several other issues in their services, Kumudesh said that the President had been misled by a few trade unions.

"All health sector decisions are

made after consulting a few people in one trade union and these decisions have angered everyone else. People are blaming the President. This token strike could have been easily avoided if the health authorities had been flexible enough to listen to us," he said.

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa had told Parliament that the President had instructed him to solve the issues faced by health sector professionals, Kumudesh said, adding that however, the Finance Minister had not taken any steps to solve those issues through the Budget.

"The Secretary to the Ministry of Health apparently has no idea about the statement made by the Finance Minister in Parliament. The Secretary had not had a single meet-

ing with the unions to resolve this crisis. Initially, we thought that he was not ready to meet us because he had a military mindset. But we were wrong, he is not meeting us because he can't solve our issues," he said.

Given that neither the politicians nor officials were ready to solve the issues faced by health professionals, the unions were compelled to act, Kumudesh said. "This token strike is aimed at reminding politicians, and officials, that the unions are ready to escalate if their demands are not met," he said.

"We urge the President, the Prime Minister and Health Minister to step in and solve this issue. Don't let it escalate and inconvenience the people. This is your responsibility. Over 50,000 have joined this token strike," Kumudesh said.

Pakistan allows India to transport 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat and medicines to Afghanistan via its territory



Indian wheat waiting to be sent to Afghanistan via Pakistan

By S VENKAT NARAYAN
OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, November 24:

Pakistan today decided to allow India to transport 50,000 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat and life-saving medicines to Afghanistan via its land border at Wagah. This decision was formally conveyed to India's Charge d'Affaires Suresh Kumar in Islamabad by the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan said the decision was taken as a goodwill gesture towards "the brotherly Afghan people on an exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes." The decision comes more than a month after India offered humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

Pakistan has also decided to facilitate "the return of Afghan patients who had gone to India for medical treatment and are stuck there."

The Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to the announcement from Pakistan. On November 11, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said India was looking at all possibilities to transfer the aid "but there have been difficulties due to lack of unimpeded access".

The offer of wheat and other medical supplies was made formally to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan by a Ministry of External Affairs delegation that attended the Moscow format conference in Russia, and met Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi on October 20.

During the meeting, senior MEA official JP Singh had said India was keen to provide Afghanistan "exten-

sive humanitarian assistance" in its "time of difficulty". The meeting was one of only two publicly announced engagements with the Taliban regime since it took control of Kabul on August 15.

However, despite the Taliban accepting the offer from India immediately, Pakistan did not respond given the tensions between the two countries for weeks. The border post at Atari-Wagah has been closed for trade since August 2019, when Pakistan cancelled all trade links after India amend Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir.

Subsequently in July 2020, Pakistan opened the route only one-way, for Afghan exporters to send goods to India as stipulated in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA).

A senior officer of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari on the Indian side of the land border with Pakistan said: "The wheat and medicines will be transported in around 5,000 trucks. We can send 200 trucks every day. Every truck has to pass through a proper security cheque, including the Customs' risk management system. The entire process of shipment will take around 25 to 30 days."

Afaq Hussain, Director at the Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF) institute said thousands of workers and traders who were left unemployed after the break in trade ties will now hope that Pakistan will restore bilateral trade as well.



Sanath

THASL anniversary celebrations today

The 56th anniversary celebrations of The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka will be held today at the Samudra Ballroom, Taj Samudra Hotel, from 7.00 pm onwards.

The current President of the association, Sanath Ukwatte, who is also the Chairman and Managing Director of Mount Lavinia Hotel (Pvt) Ltd., will han-

dover the reins of the prestigious hospitality industry association to M. Shanthikumar, its incumbent Vice President. He is a Past President of Colombo City Tourist Hotels Association.

Shanthikumar is also a Director of Ramada by Wyndham Colombo.

(HG)



Shanthi

New ...

dependable, and long-term system. "Government coordination, community engagement, and private sector participation are key to expanding the generation of renewable energy," said USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman. "We are excited to partner with Sri Lanka as it prioritizes renewable energy to fuel its economic and social development."

The Sri Lanka Energy Program's local and international experts and partners will accelerate renewable energy adoption through promoting energy efficiency, strengthening the grid to accommodate increased renewable energy, and catalyzing private sector investment in

the energy sector. They will identify low-cost, competitive options for renewable energy and support start-ups in the sector to encourage the development and deployment of innovative technologies. Further, the initiative will work to safely and reliably deliver affordable electricity to all citizens to help power a competitive, 21st century economy in Sri Lanka.

Speaking at a reception, the Secretary of the Ministry of Power said, "Sri Lanka has now committed to the Nationally Determined Contributions of reaching 70% share of renewable energy by 2030 for the power sector and carbon neutrality by 2050. These are mammoth targets and we have to put a lot of effort to reach

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them. Therefore, in doing so your support, assistance, and encouragement will be critical. To help support a clean, green country we will also need to coordinate efforts between all stakeholders responsible for energy efficiency".

This is one component of the long-standing partnership between the American and Sri Lankan people to support Sri Lanka's development journey and promote economic development. USAID's program in Sri Lanka, totaling more than 350 billion LKR (\$2 billion) since 1961, promotes a healthy, educated, and employed population. To find out more about USAID's work, please visit usaid.gov/sri-lanka.

Kinniya...

Making a special statement in Parliament, State Minister Lanza said: "We extend our condolences to the victims and family members of this disaster. We also wish speedy recovery of those who are in the hospital owing to this tragic accident. People in Kinniya had suffered for a long time because they did not have a bridge across the Kurinchenkerni lagoon. Some had used boats for their travel across the lagoon. Following the requests from the people, several ministers of the yahapalana government went there and placed foundation stones several times. Yet they could not construct the bridge. After we came to power we laid the foundation stone to construct the bridge on April 10, 2021. There had been a meeting on Nov 24, 2020 at the Kinniya Divisional Secretariat where permission was granted to use a three and half km long road as an alternative route until the bridge is completed. That decision had been made by the political authorities of the Urban Council and Members of the Pradeshiya Sabhas of the area. While people were using that alternative route

the political authority gave permission for the operation of the ferry.

"When the Kinniya Pradeshiya Sabha asked for permission from the Road Development Authority that request was turned down because it was not safe. The RDA also turned down a request by Kinniya Urban Council for the use of a barge because it was unsafe. It is after that the Urban Council had issued the permit on its own. The permit had been issued to a businessman. There are safety measures to be followed when operating a ferry service. These operators have not even provided a life jacket to the passengers. I state that the first person responsible for this tragedy is the chairman of the Kinniya Urban Council. It was he who arrogated power to himself to grant the permit while the government and the officials continuously rejected the requests for a permit. A question has been raised in parliament on July 14, 2021 seeking the approval for the ferry service and in response to that we instructed the contracting company to expedite the work on the bridge. As per

From page 1

the request of people and MPs a decision was made to consider the start of a ferry service and RDA was planning to commence a proper ferry service with safety precautions but the urban council chairman by the name of Riyaz, who is the brother in law of SJB MP Imran Maharroof, issued a permit on his own. MP Maharroof too was involved in commencing the ferry service. The urban council has no powers to start a ferry service in this manner. I table all the documents with regard to this process which violated many regulations. It is wrong for the opposition to try to place the blame at our doorstep. We call on the President, the Prime Minister, and Minister in charge of police, and the IGP to investigate this incident. I also call on the Governor Eastern Province to suspend this chairman immediately and to take disciplinary action against him. It was he who should pay for this crime and loss of lives of innocent people by his imprudent act of assuming powers not belonging to his post to give a permit for the operation of the ferry."

Groundwater...

Graduate Studies Co-Chair, Research Council Director, Center for Water Quality and Algae Research Ecotoxicologist Water Quality Specialist, Environmental Scientist of the Sri Jayawardanepura University, speaking on State of Sri Lanka's Environment 2020, a brainchild of Centre for Environmental Justice, also said Nitrate contamination in drinking water was a major crisis in Jaffna.

He said that due to harmful biological impacts of nitrate concentrated water caused methemoglobinemia (bluebaby syndrome), tumors and gastrointestinal cancers).

A recent investigation in the Chunnakam area revealed nitrate-N level of 45 ppm. Hence, nitrate contamination of groundwater in the Jaffna is found to be the most challenging issue

in the water management system.

"Without any consideration on nitrate reduction from groundwater in the peninsula, nitrate pollution will affect large areas and bring about potable water scarcity in Jaffna. The long-term exposure of the kidney via drinking water with elevated levels of ions will add to the occurrence of kidney failure. In conclusion, Chemical Water pollution, domestic water pollution, fecal contamination, water scarcity, over extraction of ground water, remains unresolved throughout the year 2020."

Meanwhile Senior Environmental Lawyer Jagath Gunawardena termed the 2020 a bad year for forests of the country.

He said the closure of the country during the first half of the year saw an

From page 1

upsurge in illegal forest clearings and massive forest destruction.

CEJ, Executive Director Hemantha Withanage said that it was a report produced to give an assessment of the positive and negative environmental developments of a country in a given year.

He said a country should have a baseline to get a clear picture of the status. Sri Lanka lacks much of the environmental data since there is a lack of knowledge management and also a loss of historical data.

CEJ prepared this status report to see whether Sri Lanka has achieved negative or positive developments in various environmental sectors during the year 2020, so that interested readers can have an idea about its annual environmental status.

Flower...

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The Consulate General issued the following statement: We have seen several incorrect media reports regarding the inauguration of a Green Exhibition and distribution of plant saplings by Consul General of India in Jaffna at Sangiliyan Park in Nallur, Jaffna, on 20

November 2021. He attended the event upon invitation and such participation can in no way be associated with the organisers or their acts, outside the official programme, about which he had no prior information."

Covid ...

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supplies unit issues about 20,000 Rapid Antigen Test kits every day. However, these tests are not indicated in the daily reports but if you look at the weekly or monthly reports, you will see that the large number of tests we carry out" Dr. Herath said.

The Deputy Director General of Health Services said that the initiative to give a booster shot was progressing rapidly and that 382,213 had been given the third jab by Wednesday.

Paediatrician Dr. Channa de Silva of

the Lady Ridgeway Hospital said that there was an increase in the number of children afflicted with COVID-19 and that the schools would be closed again if the numbers kept increasing.

"This is not a good development. Most school children are not vaccinated. Most adults have been vaccinated, and therefore they do not develop Covid-19 symptoms. So, if an adult contracts the virus and it spreads among family members, we often see symptoms in children. We have to be vigilant," he said

Former...

From page 1

private secretary Shanthi Chandrasena although her fuel allowance had already been added to her salary.

When the two accused appeared before Colombo High Court Judge Adithya Patabendi, they were ordered

to be released on a surety bail of Rs. 2.5 million each.

Defence counsel Darshana Kuruppu appearing for the accused informed court that he wished to raise preliminary objections challenging the maintainability of the indictment.

Foreign...

From page 1

and contrary to specific laid down procedures.

According to Dr. Samararatunga who served as Secretary to the Treasury during Ravi Karunanayake and Mangala Samarawe's tenure as Finance Minister, the funds originated from both governments and INGOs.

Jathika Jana Balavegaya National List MP Dr. Harini Amarasinghe and Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) MP Niroshan Perera who had been present at the meeting presided over by Prof. Vithana underscored the responsibility on the part of ministries and government institutions to adhere with specific instructions pertaining to foreign funding. Lawmaker Niroshan Perera said that the failure on the part of the Environment Ministry to secure approval of the External Resources Department was unacceptable.

During yahapalana administration, President Maithripala Sirisena held the environment portfolio. Former General Secretary of the Communist Party Dew Gunasekera, who had served as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) told *The Island* that the Treasury should take tangible measures in consultation with relevant authorities to prevent utilization of foreign funds without proper scrutiny.

The former Minister pointed out that the External Resources Department, too, should be on alert and make necessary interventions when required.

Parliamentary watchdog committees have highlighted waste, corruption, irregularities and negligence in public sector enterprises though the government was yet to take action on their findings, Gunasekera said.

Tamil Nadu lines up fresh investments worth over \$7 billion



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin

BY S VENKAT NARAYAN
Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, November 23: Tamil Nadu lined up 82 industrial projects worth INR525.49 billion or \$7.05 billion on Tuesday in a development that is likely to boost its image as an investor-friendly destination.

The southern Indian state has signed in Coimbatore memoranda of understandings (MoUs) with major industry players across sectors, such as the Dalmia group, Hindustan Unilever, TVS Motors, Adani Enterprises and Larsen & Toubro to set up manufacturing units and data centres with an investment of INR352.08 billion (\$4.72 billion).

The remaining projects worth around INR173.41 billion (\$2.33 billion) were inaugurated or had foundation stones laid on Tuesday. All these projects are expected to cumulatively create around 92,420 direct jobs.

In addition to this, the state's Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin also launched "Tamil Nadu Fintech Policy 2021," which includes the establishment of a FinTech City in Chennai and Neo-TIDEL Parks in Tier-2 and Tier-

3 cities.

A top government official said that the top four investments signed today were with Dalmia Group, Welspun, Hindustan Unilever and TVS Motor. TVS Motor Company signed a deal to invest around INR12 billion in Krishnagiri for future technologies and electric vehicles (EV) in the next four years. It said in a statement that the signing of the MOU underlines the company's "belief in the potential of the State in terms of human resources, infrastructure and overall business environment." The investment will be mainly for the design, development and manufacturing of new products and capacity expansion in the EV space.

Other major projects for which MOUs were signed include phase-II of a data centre in Chennai by Adani enterprises, cement manufacturing units at Karur, Tuticorn and Ranipet by Ultratech Cement, Industrial Park by Welspun One Logistics Parks at Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur; a unit for nutritional and beverage products in Chennai by Hindustan Unilever; a data centre by L&T in Kancheepuram and a retail outlet and tank farms by Shell India among others.

A total of seven MOUs worth around INR4.85 billion came into the aerospace and defence sector itself. In total, MoUs were exchanged for 59 projects with a cumulative investment of INR352.08 billion, which may create employment opportunities for 76,795 people.

A total of 10 projects with investments of around INR39.28 billion were inaugurated on the day. They are likely to create close to 4,000 direct jobs. These projects include an IT park in Chennai by RMZ One Paramount, a Nextra By Airtel data centre at Chengalpattu, a data centre at Chennai by STT Global Data Centres, an EV two-wheeler unit by Ampere Vehicles, an IT park at Chengalpattu by Feather Lite, an industrial park at Kancheepuram by Motherson Auto Solutions among others.

The chief minister also laid foundation stones for 13 projects with an investment commitment of INR134.13 billion and employment potential for about 11,681 persons.

Japan's wearable devices aim to promote better sleep, running form

The Yomiuri Shimbun

Having trouble sleeping? Before heading to a specialist, perhaps wearing something new to bed can help.

Just make sure it's electric.

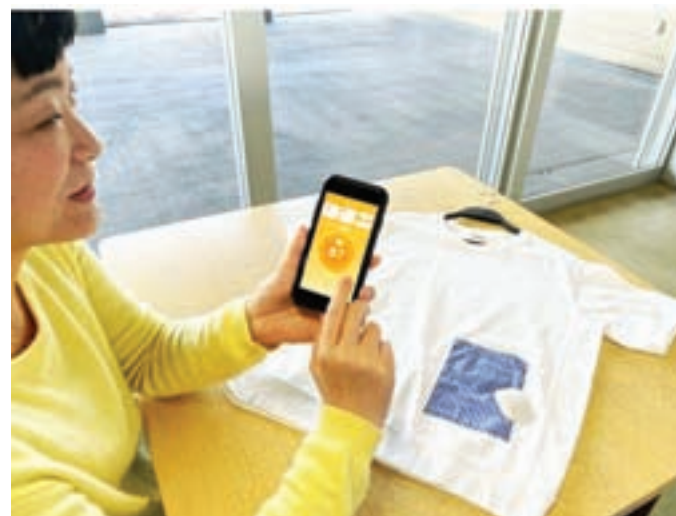
Xenoma Inc., a Tokyo-based start-up spun off from the University of Tokyo, in May launched the e-skin Sleep T-shirt that is worn to bed to provide sleep diagnosis.

A patch of fabric embedded with

of my need to get a good night's sleep, such as by going to bed earlier and waking up earlier," he added.

Fashion retailer Urban Research Co. is also selling originally designed pajamas that use the same device.

"Just by wearing the product, customers can easily monitor their sleep status," said Xenoma's Misako Tatsuyama, who is in charge of public relations. "It's popular among health-conscious people in their 30s and 40s."



A device that comes with Xenoma's shirt affixed into the blue pocket measures health and other information when sleeping in it. The next morning, a sleep quality score is displayed on a smartphone, as seen at the start-up's headquarters in Ota Ward, Tokyo.

Wearable technology is often associated with watches and glasses, but with the spread of flexible, stretchable sensors, there has been an increase of wearables in clothing.

The sophistication in fabrics has been especially remarkable, leading to the development of a variety of smart textiles with sensory functions.

According to a report released by Yano Research Institute Ltd. in August last year,

the domestic smart textile market in 2020 was expected to grow 72% from the 2019 level to ¥487 million, and in 2030 it is expected to grow to 47 times the 2020 level to ¥22.681 billion.

Kyoto-based Mitsufuji Corp.'s hamon is a shirt made of silver-plated fibers that conduct electricity. By acquiring and analyzing biometric information such as heart rate, the shirt can visualize health risks by sending information to a smartphone.

In May last year, the Kyoto prefectural government adopted hamon to manage changes in the physical condition of overnight patients with COVID-19 and to prevent secondary infections among staff such as nurses.

Hamon is also being used in an increasing number of cases to manage the physical condition of workers at construction sites under the

hot sun. The health data can be monitored remotely by site supervisors, so it is said to be useful in preventing some health incidents.

■ **Listen to your shoes**

Kobe-based Asics Corp. and Tokyo-based start-up Orphe Inc. have developed Evoride Orphe shoes that give advice on proper form while the wearer is running.

Sensors built into the cushioned part of the shoe acquire data such as stride length and ankle angle. The data is immediately analyzed by a dedicated smartphone app, which vocally tells the user how to run in a way that suits the person. It also displays tips on how to improve and practice running technique. In a way, the shoes become a personal trainer.

■ **Diversifying roles**

Smart wear is also expected to play a role in supporting the aging society amid the low birthrate.

In January this year, Nagoya-based textile trading company Toyoshima & Co. launched the Wearable Smart Town Kurumi Project, which aims to solve regional issues. The first step is to promote the use of smart wear as part of local governments' health and welfare measures.

Toyoshima signed a partnership agreement with Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, that same month. They have started using such wear to watch over sleeping children in nursery schools and for citizens' physical training projects.

"By visualizing the effects, we can increase understanding of the measures and realize a safe, secure, healthy society," said Chihiro Izumi, an official of Toyoshima.

The applications of wearable devices are diversifying and the places where they can be worn are expanding.

However, Hiroshi Ashida, a fashion critic and associate professor at Kyoto Seika University, said:

"Currently, wearable device users are still limited to those who seek specific functions. If something is developed that everyone can find value in, such as a fashionable jacket that adjusts the temperature accordingly, these items may spread rapidly."

A Nepal Airlines Twin Otter bound for Rukum landed in Nepalgunj on Sunday after the pilot was out of time to fly to Salle Airport and on to Nepalgunj as per the timetable.

A plane load of passengers on a Nepal Airlines flight got the surprise of their lives when they stepped out to find themselves at the wrong air-

port. The pilot was out of time to fly to Salle Airport and on to Nepalgunj as per the timetable.

ulations under which a pilot operates an aircraft in weather conditions generally clear enough to allow the pilot to see where the aircraft is going. "So we decided to cancel the flight and informed the passengers accordingly," Deepu Raj Jwarchan, director of the operations department at Nepal Airlines, told the Post. "All passengers then went home."

"As we started to take some photographs at the airport, the airline crew came and informed us that they had arranged a hotel for us in Nepalgunj. Then we knew we were at the wrong airport."

Bam said that they were not informed about the revision.

Nepal Airlines officials said that all passengers were put up at a hotel

Pilot lands aircraft at wrong airport after duty hours end mid-flight

port. Did the flight crew get the latitudes and longitudes mixed up? Had they been given the wrong schedule? The reason was more mundane.

The pilot of the Nepal Airlines Twin Otter headed for Salle airport put down the aircraft at Nepalgunj airport after his duty hours ended mid-flight, and he was out of time to fly to Salle and then on to Nepalgunj as per the timetable.

The story starts on a hazy Sunday morning. The 17-seater Twin Otter was scheduled to depart for Salle airport at 6:30 am. Ten passengers had booked seats on the one-hour flight.

But fog and high winds delayed takeoff, and at 10:30 am, Nepal Airlines announced that Flight RA181 had been cancelled.

The reason was that no alternative airports were open due to the bad weather conditions, although Salle airport was open with perfect visibility and clear skies.

Alternative airports are airports that are close enough to the scheduled destination that can be used should an emergency occur. In Nepal, where the weather fluctuates by the minute and flights are operated under visual flight rules, an alternative airport is a must.

Visual flight rules are a set of reg-

ulations under which a pilot operates an aircraft in weather conditions generally clear enough to allow the pilot to see where the aircraft is going. "So we decided to cancel the flight and informed the passengers accordingly," Deepu Raj Jwarchan, director of the operations department at Nepal Airlines, told the Post. "All passengers then went home."

But after 12 noon, the weather improved and almost all airports across the country opened. "We decided to resume flights to clear the backlog because, during the winter, flight cancellations are normal."

The flight crew and passengers were asked to report to the airport. But they got there late because they were stuck in traffic, and departure was delayed.

"The flight eventually took off at 2:58 pm, late by nearly two hours as per the revised schedule," said Jwarchan, who is also a senior captain.

As a result of the delays, the on-duty captain had only an hour left for his duty to end. And it was not possible to fly to Salle airport and then on to Nepalgunj. So the flight captain decided to fly to Nepalgunj where there was better accommodation.

"It was, anyway, a planned schedule," said the captain. But the passengers were not informed about the revised plan.

"We were scheduled to land in Rukum, which I thought was a hilly region," Aayushi Bam, a passenger, told the Post over the phone from Rukum.

"We were surprised to see the flat land where we landed," said Bam, who was on her first visit to Rukum.

at the airline's expense. They were flown to Rukum on Monday morning.

Online media were quick to pick up the story, accusing the carrier of sheer negligence.

An official at the flight safety department of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, the regulator, told the Post that special permission was required if a pilot's duty period ends. "But the pilot cannot fly if his or her flying duty period or flight duty time ends."

Buddhi Sagar Lamichhane, joint secretary at the Tourism Ministry who looks after aviation affairs, told the Post that the ministry was not aware of the incident. "It's not a serious issue that deserves so much attention."

There are two sets of duties: Flying duty period and flight duty time. The flying duty period is the time set when the pilot's presence, from office attendance to the end of office hours, is accumulated. Flight duty time begins when the pilot starts the aircraft engine and ends when it is shut down.

According to the Flight Operations Requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, the maximum flight duty period during a 24-hour period for pilots engaged in two pilots operation shall be 11 hours



Passengers board the flight for Salle, Rukum (West) on Sunday at Kathmandu airport.

of which not more than nine hours shall be for operation by aeroplane for non-short take-off and landing (STOL) domestic operation.

For domestic STOL operations, the maximum flight duty period in any 24-hour period for pilots engaged in two pilots operation shall be 10 hours of which not more than eight hours shall be for operation by aeroplane.

A senior Nepal Airlines official told the Post that the decision to fly to Nepalgunj was taken for the convenience of the passengers. "In the winter, the weather is unpredictable. If the passengers reach Nepalgunj, they have the option to travel to Rukum overland if the cancellation

lasts longer."

He said that the pilot had enough time to land at Salle airport, but the airport had no engineering support, security and refuelling facilities. "A night stop in Rukum would be another problem."

Usually, the period from mid-November to February is considered to be the worst period for airlines due to a pattern of frequent weather fluctuations. The weather may be clear in Kathmandu but bad at other airports.

According to the statistics of the Tourism Ministry, domestic airlines normally have to cancel more than 18,000 flights annually, mostly during the winter.

(Kathmandu Post/ANN)

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Thursday 25th November, 2021

Winners and losers

The private sector has been allowed to import agrochemicals with effect from yesterday. Sri Lankan farmers, who are celebrating the success of their protest campaign, should be thankful to their Indian counterparts who brought the mighty Modi government to its knees after a year-long struggle. The Indian farmers' victory gave a scare to the Sri Lankan government, and boosted the morale of the farming community, here, protesting against the current fertiliser shortage.

The government has been left with egg on its face, once again. There seems to be no end to its humiliating policy reversals. It is doubtful whether anyone takes gazette notifications announcing government decisions seriously. But the government has been able to save a lot of foreign exchange owing to its agrochemical ban; now, farmers will have to pay for synthetic fertiliser.

Faced with a huge foreign exchange crisis, the government could not pay for fertiliser imports, but at the same time, it could not scrap the fertiliser subsidy for fear of the political fallout of such a course of action. It imposed a blanket ban on agrochemicals, and farmers found themselves in such a desperate situation that they said they were even willing to pay for chemical fertilisers and demanded that the ban on agrochemicals be lifted. The government has lifted the ban and farmers will have to buy fertilisers. They will not have the fertilisers of their choice under the government subsidy scheme; they will get only organic fertiliser by way of state assistance. This must be a huge relief for the government in the dollar saving mode.

Meanwhile, the main reason given by the government for banning agrochemicals was that they were harmful to humans and the environment. It said it had acted out of its concern for people's health and the environment. Having said so and striven to go ahead with its organic fertiliser drive, come hell or high water, how would the government justify its decision to allow 'harmful' agrochemicals to be imported again?

Sirisena vs Aluthgamage

Former President Maithripala Sirisena, MP, has fraked Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage over the coals for the mess in the agriculture sector. He says the minister must be held accountable for the fertiliser fiasco, which, he says, has taken a heavy toll on agriculture. There is no love lost between them, and they have been taking swipes at each other for the past several weeks. Protesting farmers also burnt many effigies of Aluthgamage. Attacks on the Agriculture Minister may warm the cockles of many a heart, but how fair is it to single him out for criticism?

The organic fertiliser project is President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's brainchild, and Aluthgamage was only implementing it. True, he cannot absolve himself of the responsibility for the mess as the Agriculture Minister, but why don't the critics of the failed fertiliser experiment criticise the President? The President himself has said on numerous occasions that the organic fertiliser drive is one of his promises to the people and is in keeping with his election manifesto.

Is it that Sirisena and others lack the courage to blame the President, and therefore have turned on a soft target?

Now that Sirisena is out for his scalp, Aluthgamage can call for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI), which probed the Easter Sunday carnage (2019). The PCoI has recommended criminal proceedings against Sirisena for his serious lapses as the President and Defence Minister at the time. Several others named in the PCoI report have been indicted, and among them are ex-IGP Pujith Jayasundera and ex-Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

Starvation comes centre stage, reigniting North-South questions

Will Tesla Corporation CEO Elon Musk prove the proverbial wisdom wrong that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to 'Enter the Kingdom of God'; that is, selflessly part with his wealth to feed the poor and destitute? Thanks to UN Food Program Director David Beasley this crucial question is occupying centre stage in current international conversations on world hunger and connected issues that have made a strong comeback in the wake of the present-day global health crisis.

The background in brief to this re-emergence of world hunger and connected issues as hot talking points is the appeal made by Beasley recently that the world's billionaires 'step up now, on a one-time basis' to help combat world hunger. The appeal was pointedly made to the two richest men in the world currently; Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos.

The amount of funds needed to meet the challenge is \$6.6 billion but Musk needed to know in detail how the money would be spent. Musk is on record that he would 'sell Tesla stock right now and do it', if such a detailed and credible program of spending was conveyed to him. This request has been reportedly met by the WHO chief and it is left to be seen whether the Tesla CEO would rise to the challenge.

For the sake of the starving millions around the world it is hoped that the billionaires in question and many more would provide their largesse ungrudgingly to stave off the spectre of famine and death which is stalking underdeveloped countries in particular at present. And these processes of dying slowly and painfully for want of sufficient food are not only peculiar to the African continent. They are very much present in parts of South and South West Asia, for instance, and beyond.

It ought to be perceived that starvation and famine are not the results of so-called natural causes, although the latter do aggravate these issues. They are mostly man-made and we in Sri Lanka, for example, ought to know. It is now public knowledge that seeming rice shortages in Sri Lanka are caused by parasitic rice millers for whom hoarding and market manipulation are second nature. Governments that are held to ransom by these hoarders are, of course, very much complicit in this process of hurtling populations into starvation and death.

The challenges posed to the world's wealthy in connection with global famine come close on the heels of broad agreement reached at the recent COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow that the underdeveloped regions should be financially helped out by better off countries to meet their climate-linked challenges.

These initiatives make it plain that the main international policy trend now is to play on the sense of goodwill of the world's wealthy persons and countries to discharge what have come to be seen as their responsibilities towards the global poor and vulnerable. The question is, how workable is this strategy in particularly the long term? How viable is it to depend on the mere goodwill of the powerful?

These questions throw into relief the sea change that has occurred over the decades in North-South relations. The weakest of the South are compelled by the situation in which they find themselves today to depend on the beneficence of the North for their survival; this is the stark



Poor people in South Asia



These questions throw into relief the sea change that has occurred over the decades in North-South relations. The weakest of the South are compelled by the situation in which they find themselves today to depend on the beneficence of the North for their survival; this is the stark reality. And this is no viable survival strategy since they open themselves to an uncertain existence.

reality. And this is no viable survival strategy since they open themselves to an uncertain existence.

It is not the case that the South's lot was fundamentally better in the decades of the sixties and seventies, for instance, when the South was more organized as a body of countries, but today the South's weaker members' dependence on the North has deepened gravely. There are no collective formations, such as the Non-Aligned Movement, to champion the causes that relate intimately to the South's survival issues. To the extent to which this is so, the

South leads an existence riddled with grave uncertainties.

To be sure, movements such as NAM, have not completely withered but they have lost the authority and influence they once wielded in international politics. So much so, it is correct to say that the most underdeveloped countries of the South have been orphaned and left to be tossed around by the vagaries of international political and economic currents. Thus, they have become crucially dependent on the mere goodwill of the North.

However, movements such as NAM, in their heyday, were seeking the polar opposite to the above in North-South ties. They were demanding 'Equal Exchange' in North-South economic relations, for example, as of right. Essentially, the underlying argument in their campaign for equitable relations with the North was that they had suffered immeasurable harm in a number of spheres as a result of colonial domination and they were now seeking to right these wrongs of the past.

Consequently, there was no question of the South seeking the sympathy of the North for the facilitation of its wellbeing. Unequal systems, particularly in the area of international economic relations, had to be rectified in favour of the South. In decades past, UNCTAD, with some success addressed some of these issues.

However, over the past three decades the issues of the South have been allowed to suffer neglect and have been veritably forgotten as a result of the free enterprise system and market economics triumphing over the socialist model of development, in the wake of the radically restructuring impact of economic globalization. Amid these drastic changes, some former developing countries have driven themselves into the select band, as it were, of the most developed economies. The BRICS countries are just one case in point. Thus, keeping together and strengthening collective Southern organizations, such as NAM, is proving an uphill challenge.

Magnanimous gestures by the world's wealthiest to end poverty and famine would help in the short term but they are no answer to the systemic inequalities that have been bedeviling the world for decades. But in the absence of strong collective bodies among the poor of the world, impoverishment and famine in the developing world would only further entrench themselves.



Tribute to Mangala Samaraweera

By SAMANTHA POWER
Administrator - United States
Agency for International
Development

Mangala Samaraweera was a remarkable public servant and one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever known. He was also a courageous leader, who dedicated his life to pursuing his vision for a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-lingual Sri Lanka that would, as he described it, “guarantee equal rights, justice and dignity for all.”

I was devastated by Mangala’s passing and these days find myself craving his wise counsel, irrepressible mischief, and rare gift for friendship. I also miss knowing that Mangala is out there hustling, refusing ever to give up on the idea that people could change for the better, that his country could realise his ideals, and that the world’s nations could think—and act—beyond their immediate self-interest.

The son of an open-hearted, trail-blazing mother and a pioneering human rights lawyer father, the seeds of Mangala’s immense impact began, as he witnessed the brutality of Sri Lanka’s civil war, with a simple thought: “Maybe I can make a difference...”

As Mangala would later recall, when he got involved in organising and politics in the late 1980s, “I dreamt mostly of peace where all Sri Lankans—irrespective of their caste, class, race or religion—could live in harmony and dignity.”

With this desire as his guiding



Mangala with Samantha

light, Mangala would embark on over 30 years of service to his country, while using his growing influence to try to make this foundational dream a reality. While he took on a number of different roles throughout his career, Mangala

was always trying to ensure that Sri Lankans were not only surviving daily life, but able to build lives of dignity. When I had the opportunity to visit Colombo in 2019 to celebrate Mangala’s legacy of public service, this was the

word I heard over and over when I spoke to colleagues and peers about what they felt most defined Mangala: “Dignity, dignity, dignity.”

From helping launch the renowned Mothers’ Front to spearheading the creation of the Office of Missing Persons, helping secure passage of a law to provide for reparations for war victims and survivors, and orchestrating the forgiveness of loans taken out by desperate families after the war, the pursuit and promotion of individual dignity was perhaps the animating principle in Mangala’s career. But the best measure of Mangala’s regard for the dignity of those who lost their loved ones or their livelihoods was that he knew none of this was nearly enough.

Mangala once described true reconciliation as “a journey that requires constant striving.” He recognised that building a more inclusive society was a generational challenge that demanded sustained efforts and a willingness not to be deterred by the many visible obstacles that stood in the way. An indefatigable reformer and insistent moderniser, Mangala never wavered in his belief that democracy and strengthened institutions were the necessary foundations for achieving the change he hoped to see in Sri Lanka. This commitment earned him not just widespread recognition, but widespread respect—even from political rivals and those who disagreed with various decisions he made over time. Through it all, not even his political opponents could deny how much Mangala loved Sri Lanka and its people.

I experienced Mangala’s devotion

to Sri Lanka not only in my many conversations with him when he described, with a poet’s precision, the country’s stunning scenic beauty—from majestic mountains, like the Sri Pada to the beaches of Unawatuna, as well as the vibrant celebrations that occurred on Poya days—but also as he incessantly texted me, after I became USAID administrator in April this year, in support of the Rajapaksa government’s effort to secure more COVID-19 vaccines. Watching the pandemic take Sri Lankan lives broke Mangala’s heart, and, even if he had stepped back a bit from public life, he couldn’t let an hour pass without trying to do something to...“make a difference.”

Mangala would be the first to admit that the dream which started his career in public life has yet to be fully realised. But in addition to the progress he helped achieve on numerous fronts, his leadership, integrity, and ceaseless energy are a blueprint for new generations who share his commitment to equality and opposition to injustice. As one Sri Lankan newspaper editorialised after his death, “to keep hope alive for a different future, citizens must demand political leadership that inspires, and dares them to dream of a kinder, more inclusive country. Someone to finish what Mangala started.”

That is our shared mission now. Without Mangala here to steer—and prod—us, we must do all we can to support the next generations following in Mangala’s footsteps as they seek to finish what he started.

Mangala never, ever gave up, and neither can we.

Renewable Energy

This is a short reply in response to G. A. D. Sirimal’s article on renewable energy, which appeared in your esteemed newspaper of Nov.21

Sirimal spoke to me sometime ago on the telephone (I believe it was May of this year) where we discussed seawave energy and OTEC in particular.

In our conversation, I made it known to him that my PTC patent had nothing at all to do with OTEC (Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion), but was a method based on the conversion of the great power of the breaking waves into compressed air, and the use of that compressed air to drive conventional turbines and generators to produce very large amounts of electricity.

If Sri Lanka adopts this method, based on my PCT patent, and manages to get some rights or somewhat sympathetic conditions from the present patent holder, this invention could deliver very large amounts of clean commercial electricity to our neighbour India through an undersea link, and even other countries in the neighbourhood.

The amount of electricity could be in the thousands of megawatt hours, and if Sri Lanka could get some concessions it may rival our other exports, and may even be our largest export in the future.

I believe this is a major invention for the world, and will in some years dominate the world’s production of clean renewable energy to the detriment of Coal, Gas and Oil, and even the other forms of renewable energy.

GAMINI SAMARASINGHE

The very planets bribed

Whenever an election to choose a President, or a Parliament is on, astrologers flock to television programmes and explain to us yokels that X has a rajayoga, and that he is bound to be elected to that position. Sometimes, it is the wife of the candidate that has a rajayoga; sometimes the elder brother; some other time, the younger brother’s wife. An astrologer from Galle predicted the dawn in early 2015 of his own neecha yoga. Agnananangi of Hastishailapura, sitting in a bar, may be rewriting her own horoscope.



Rajayoga, indeed. But how come that every time some dummy has a rajayoga, the people have a neecha yoga? How come that every time that sikuru and budha are in kanya rasi, kanya navamsaka of a candidate, that guru and sani are in the kataka rasi of the common man and woman? How come that the people cannot trump Trump, but be trampled under a jackboot of a semi-literate in Sudan, Uganda and else-

where? In this land of kleptocracy, the very planets have been bribed!

YOKELGE GANITHAYA

Traffic snarl at Narahenpita

Narahenpita Railway Station is situated on the Muhandiram Dabare Mawatha, and it is very close to the traffic lights at four intersections of main roads. Every morning we pass this road on the way to the office, and vehicles are a chockablock always on Dabare Mawatha, due to the rail gate closing, as well as another parking menace caused by selfish people.

The other parking menace, the police should look into is that the “private vehicles parked on a regular basis on one side of the road” are very close to the railway

crossing. This is adding insult to injury, as traffic is also always slow moving towards the traffic lights junction due to rail crossing cautionary notices.

On behalf of vehicle users, we request the Narahenpita Police to patrol this area on a regular basis, in the morning from 7.30 am to 9.am and after office-closing time, and put up no parking, boards on sides of Dabare Mawatha, close to the railway crossing of the station.

If vehicle parking is prohibited it will ease the traffic block on Dabare Mawatha.

SUMITH DE SILVA

Bouquet to MOH, Kirula Road

We have seen a quite number of articles published in the print and social media, appreciating the Sri Lanka Army over the methodical and speedy manner in which Covid 19 vaccinations and boosters have been administered.

However, very rarely bouquets have been bestowed on the MOH offices that also undertake similar vaccination programs, for the benefit of the residents living in the respective geographical areas, with minimum facilities.

My wife and I had the rare opportunity of experiencing a commendable service last Friday (18), when we went to the MOH Office, Kirula Road, for our booster jab at a short notice at 12.00 noon.

There were two queues meant for the 60-year-old visitors, who called over in response to SMS messages, and one for the same group who visited without prior intimation to receive the booster jab. The arrangements made for the two segments were

excellent, with the limited space available and the medical staff and the auxiliary staff extremely courteous and effective. When handicapped and elderly people came, the medical staff had the decency to visit the vehicles in which the people came, and they administered the jab in the midst of heavy rain, much to the amusement and dismay of the general public, which we rarely witness in the public service.

Though the registration process was somewhat tedious, the administration of the booster was a hassle-free exercise. The lady MOH who supervised the entire campaign should deserve a big thank you, if not a bouquet of carnations for the excellent arrangements made, and the discipline maintained across the board. Obviously, this particular MOH is a role model for the rest of the MOH offices to emulate in the island.

MATHUPALI and ATHULA
RANASINGHE
Colombo 05.

Memorial

Squadron Leader Prasanga Balasuriya (RWP) 26th Year of Remembrance

There are so many ways to be brave in this world. Sometimes bravery involves laying down your life for something bigger than yourself, or for something worthy. Sometimes it involves giving up everything you have ever known, or everyone you have ever loved, for the sake of something greater - freedom and unity of one’s country - nation’.

That is the sort of bravery we saw in ‘pint-sized’ Bala’ as we, his batch mates used to call Prasanga, the shortest of the two Balasuriyas, and quickest among a group of young but masculine sportsmen chosen for the 19th Intake of officer cadets to serve Mother Lanka back in 1988. We chose the Military in the backdrop of two simultaneous guerrilla wars that turned into insurrection, in the Southern and Northern parts of the country.

This month when we remember fallen war veterans all over the world, I’ve chosen to speak about late Squadron Leader Prasanga Balasuriya, among many others who sacrificed their lives in the defence of Sri Lanka’s national security and the territorial integrity for

our past, our present, and our future.

Bala, my batchmate and roommate for a shorter stint at Air Base Ratmalana, was a character full of humour and laughter - but when he is serious, he means business. An Avionics maintenance engineer and a qualified air crew communicator for the Chinese built transport fleet by profession. He was very well accepted and a sought after communicator by all fixed wing aircraft pilots in the Air Force, during the flying days at the height of missile threatened skies in the mid-1990s. I wish to outline here that our teams were ready for the future of our fight against terrorism - the threats we face, and the way in which we met them. However, on the morning of 18th November 1995, my vivid memory recollects, on that Saturday morning, I saw this Chinese built cargo plane - Yankee 8, taking off into somewhat gloomy skies, with this extraordinary young crew on board conveying military cargo for the fighting troops and medicine for the masses in the Northern Peninsula. This crew comprised some who not only led that fight, but who could have led our country for

decades to come. Bala was a few months into his marriage to a pretty young lady, where I had the privilege to be chosen as his bestman in September 1994. Bala was dreaming to become the proud father to their unborn first child. Still, he opted to volunteer to be part of these routine flights, instead of spending some quality time with his family and friends. He set aside these family obligations to honour and support all the men who have given their time in service to this country we love. They are heroes, each and every one.

They gave Sri Lanka, the most precious thing they had - “the last full measure of devotion.” And because they did, we are who we are today - a free nation, dreaming to be the greatest in the world.

At a time when only very few of our people remember, the service and sacrifice of our men in uniform isn’t always readily apparent. That’s partly because our soldiers, sailors, and airmen are so

skilled at what they do. It’s also because those who served tend to do so quietly.

They didn’t seek the limelight. They didn’t serve for our admiration, or even our gratitude. They risked their lives, and many gave their lives, for something larger than themselves or any of us: the ideals of liberty and justice that make our country a beacon of hope for the world.

The purpose of Memorial Day. To remember with gratitude the countless men and women, who gave their lives so we could now live-in peace and freedom. And we must do more than remember them.

An enemy missile hit this routine flight that Bala was part of the crew, over the Northern seas, while approaching the landing at Air Base Palaly. My dear friend Bala and his smiling face were not lucky enough to recover from that crash landing of the Yankee 8 into the seas of the Indian Ocean. His son was only an infant of six weeks old when Bala left this world. On that same fateful and unforgettable day, I had to



represent his family to identify his silent remains when it was brought to Ratmalana air base - this memory still keeps vibrating in my mind.

What is left with us today, we must care for the loved ones that our fallen service members have left behind. And every day, let us work together to preserve what Prasanga and all our valiant heroes laid their lives for and their sacrifices - to make our country even stronger, even more fair, even more free. That is our mission. It is our obligation. And it is our privilege, as citizens of Sri Lanka.

“Thank you for putting yourself in the way of danger to save others, to save our motherland. This is what it means to be a hero. This is what it means to build a beautiful legacy, Thank you for everything”

My Dear Prasanga, May You Attain the Supreme Bliss of Nirvana!

Wing Commander SANJAYA FERNANDO
(Retd),
19th Intake Sri Lanka Air Force.



Working on the video clip for 'Surali'



Her new track 'Surali'

Doing it in Qatar

...with success



Rubeena Shabnam: Based in Qatar



Rubeena's radio scene as RJ Ruby



With Ivan Alvis

Photographs and articles should be sent to: jetliner02@yahoo.com
Tel: 0777353920

It's heartening to note, despite the pandemic, local artistes, based abroad, are still making an effort to be in the spotlight.

We have Sal Salgado, in Germany, Sujeeva Nivunhella (London), and now news has come our way of Rubeena Shabnam.

In fact, Rubeena was a part of our scene, not too long ago, and she is back, in the spotlight, again...with her latest single, 'Surali,' a song that talks about the freedom of a young girl.

This is also the first time where she raps, on her own track, made in collaboration with music producer, Dinesh Hemantha. The lyrics were penned by Jananga Vishwajith, and recorded by Dileepa Liyanage.

Says Rubeena: "The rap was added to bring in a different flavour for the song, and it was also a new challenge for me as singing is my most comfort zone."

'Surali' was released on all streaming platforms and the music video, directed by Mohamed Shanas, and produced in Qatar (where she is based), is scheduled to be released in December.

Rubeena, has been active in the music industry, in Doha, Qatar, as a singer, since 2017, and her spoken voice is heard on radio, as well - Radio Suno Lanka, which is a popular radio station with the Sri Lankan community in Qatar. Rubeena operates as RJ Ruby, on Radio Suno Lanka.

By profession, she works as a Nursery School Teacher at Little Montessori Nursery and, she says, she loves to be in the company of kids.

Rubeena's first Sinhala original release was 'Ma Dase,' featuring Lucky Lakmina, and it was a successful start to her music career, she says.

Her second track was 'Mile Ho Tum Humko,' a combined effort with Dileepa Liyanage, where they created a newer version of a popular Bollywood hit, originally sung by Neha Kakkar and Tony Kakkar.

Her third Sinhala original release 'Santhose,' features Murshad Huvais from Funky Dirt.

Rubeena is heard on several other songs, in Sinhala and Tamil, and has been doing voice overs, too.

LOOK GOOD - with Disna

Fruity Face Packs

● **Papaya/Honey Face Pack:**

Take two pieces of papaya and one tablespoon of honey. Mash the papaya and add the honey to it.

Apply on clean, dry skin, and allow the mixture to stay for about 15 to 20 minutes.

Wash your face with cold water and pat dry with clean towel.

Use this pack, once a week, for best results.

● **Banana Face Pack:**

Mash a ripe banana and apply it on your face.

Let it remain on your face for 15 minutes and then wash it off with cold water.

This banana face mask will make your

face glow, and even the skin tone.

● **Tomato/Honey Face Mask:**

Mix one tablespoon of honey, with tomato juice, until you get a thick paste.

Apply this mixture, on your face, and wash it off, after 15 minutes...for smooth, glowing skin.

● **Cucumber/Milk Face Mask:**

Take a fresh cucumber and cut it into small pieces.

Blend the cucumber until you get a smooth but solid texture.

Add milk and brown sugar to it.

Apply the mixture on your face and leave it for 25-30 minutes.

Wash your face with cold water and pat dry.



Layout by D.M.P. Boghawatta

Glam Scene

Shyami Mahendra

Pic by: Darshana de Silva Photography

Fifty per cent tax incentive prompting more and more companies to go for IPOs

By HIRAN H. SENEWIRATNE

The government's 50 percent tax incentive for new companies to be listed in the CSE will come to an end on December 31 this year. Therefore, several companies are using that opportunity to enter the capital market by way of Initial Public Offerings (IPO), CSE Head of Marketing Niroshan Wijesundera said.

Wijesundera said that to promote the listing of local companies with the CSE, Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had proposed a 50 per cent tax concession for the years 2021/2022 to be availed of before December 31, 2021, and to maintain a corporate tax rate of 14 per cent for the subsequent three years of these opting entities.

Amid those developments, trading activities at the CSE were positive at the beginning yesterday but later the

market turned negative. But considerable buying interest was witnessed in plantations, manufacturing and consumer related sectors in the market, stock market analysts said.

Due to price increase in retail and consumer items in the market, the consumer sector witnessed profitability. Further, manufacturing sector entities, such as tile sector counters, also witnessed price appreciation in the stock market. Plantation sector was exceptional yesterday and its prices appreciated in a notable manner.

During the day both indices moved downwards. All Share Price Index went down by 18.54 points and S and P SL20 declined by 0.23 points. Turnover stood at Rs 7.5 billion with two crossings. Those crossings were reported in Renuka Holdings, which crossed two million shares to the tune of Rs 36.2 million and its shares traded at Rs 17.60 and Kelani Valley Plantations



350,000 shares crossed for Rs 20.3 million and its shares traded at Rs 58.

In the retail market top seven companies that mainly contributed to the turnover were, Browns Investments Rs 1.3 billion (106 million shares traded), LOLC Holdings Rs 693 million (746,000 shares traded), Sunshine Holdings Rs 584 million (15.2 million shares traded), Expolanka Holdings Rs 562 million (2.4 million shares traded), Agalawatte Plantations Rs 414 million (8.6 million shares traded), Browns Investments Rs 397 million (1.6 million shares traded) and LOLC Finance Rs

359 million (14.4 million shares traded).

During the day plantation sector companies made considerable gains. Agalawatte Plantations share price appreciated by 24 percent or Rs 9.50. Its shares started trading at Rs 40.20 and at the end of the day they shot up to Rs 49.70. Watawala Plantations share price appreciated by 11 percent or Rs 11.75. Its shares shot up to Rs 121.25 from Rs 109.50 and Kelani Valley Plantations share prices appreciated by 11 percent or Rs 5. Its shares increased to Rs 59.70 from Rs 54.10.

It is said that high net worth and institutional investor participation was noted in Brown & Company and LOLC Holdings. Mixed interest was observed in Bogala Graphite Lanka, Expolanka Holdings and ACL Cables, while retail interest was noted in Browns Investments, Lanka Orix Finance and Sierra Cables. During the

day 516 million share volumes changed hands in 54000 share transactions.

Meanwhile, Capital Alliance Limited (CALT) will list its equity shares on the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) via an Initial Public Offering tomorrow. The CALT IPO has gained significant traction and is highly anticipated by investors.

CALT offers 41,177,236 ordinary shares for a 12.5 per cent stake to the public, priced at Rs 10 per share. The IPO price per share provides a discount of 18.64 per cent to an incoming investor compared to the Rs.12.29 price per share derived by the Independent Valuer, Ernst and Young Transaction Advisory Services.

Yesterday, the US dollar rate was quoted at Rs 200.77, which was the Central Bank controlled rate. The actual market rate is more than the Rs 140 level.

People's Bank expands balance sheet by close to LKR 350.0 billion during 9M-21

People's Bank announced the results for its nine months period ended September 30, 2021 reporting asset and deposit growth of LKR 349.7 billion and LKR 276.6 billion, respectively - a record high growing by 15.7% and 15.1% during the said period. Growth in net loans and investment in treasury securities was LKR 167.4 billion and LKR 191.4 billion, respectively.

On a standalone basis, the Bank accounted for close to 20.0% of the Banking sector's asset and net loan growth during the twenty one month period ended September 30, 2021; which is a feat self attesting to the contribution made by the Institution to the national cause and the Government. At September 30, 2021 - close to 50.0% of the Bank's gross loans were to the State and other State Owned Enterprises.

During the said twenty one month period ended September 30, 2021 - the Bank introduced multiple loan schemes in view of supporting its customers.



Sujeewa Rajapakse
Chairman of
People's Bank



Ranjith Kodituwakku,
Chief Executive Officer
General Manager
People's Bank

These included, amongst other, over LKR 60.0 billion in credit to support Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, over LKR 160.1 billion in home loans to over 9,000 customers, over LKR 6.0 billion to retired and disabled officers of armed forces and over LKR 560.0 million

to artists of varying disciplines. In addition, Bank extended LKR 750.0 million to support the development of a Techno Park in Galle, over LKR 485.0 million to support women entrepreneurship and over LKR 260.0 million to University Students to purchase laptops.

Looking at some of the nine month 2021 highlights, net interest income rose by 38.9% whilst total operating income grew by close to 30.0%. Impairment charges rose by 10.7%. Non personnel operating expenses were maintained at near LKR 11.6 billion without any increase. The Bank's gross stage 3 loans as a function of total gross loans was close to 8.1% at September 30, 2021 whilst its gross non performing loans excluding SOEs was 6.1%. Total taxes and dividends to the Government during the said period was LKR 9.7 billion. The Bank's Tier I and Total Capital Adequacy was 10.2% and 15.5%, respectively at end September 2021 compared with a minimum 8.5% and 12.5%.



John Keells Holdings Chairman Krishan Balendra

Revamped, refurbished and ready for the Season: Crescat Boulevard re-opens its doors

Crescat Boulevard re-opened its doors on 19 November 2021 after an extensive refurbishment in time for seasonal shopping. The newly revamped mall features sleek, enhanced interiors and fresh shopping and dining experiences within the well-loved and familiar venue in the heart of the city.

"As one of the pioneering shopping malls in the city, Crescat Boulevard holds fond memories for its loyal customers over the past 24 years. With its refurbishment, Crescat returns to offer a revitalised, upmarket shopping and dining experience for Colombo's shoppers whilst still maintaining nostalgic familiarities. The refurbishment was completed despite challenging conditions within the pandemic, and we are now ready to take on the season. We are grateful for the trust our tenants have placed in us - some have been a part of Crescat Boulevard for the past 20 years and are a part of this new journey. Crescat Boulevard has been a familiar fixture among Colombo's shopping destinations and we are excited to embark on this new chapter amidst a changing city," comment-

ed Nayana Mawilmada, Sector Head of John Keells Properties and Executive Vice President - JKH.

Crescat's new look, feel and ambience positions the mall comfortably within Colombo's leading commercial centres and its evolving landscape. Its uniqueness lies in its convenience, variety of choice and intimate and warm shopping experience in comparison to conventional malls. To date, Crescat also has the most easily accessible supermarket out of the other malls in Colombo, convenient parking and well-equipped amenities and grocery options.

"Crescat's layout is carefully designed so that shoppers can easily avail a host of options with little hassle. Whether it is stationary, cosmetics, footwear, tourist souvenirs, a haircut, grocery shopping or even to get a car wash or a meal or quick snack - Crescat Boulevard offers a vibrant one-stop shopping and dining experience for everyone through a carefully curated selection of establishments and options," said Theekshana Jayarathna - Assistant Vice President and Head of Asset Management - John Keells Properties.

Sarvodaya Development Finance IPO oversubscribed on opening day

Sarvodaya Development Finance's (SDF) Rs. 1 billion Initial Public Offering (IPO) was oversubscribed on the initial opening day. The company secretary issued the announcement of the oversubscription within two hours of the opening.

Underwritten by NDB Bank and Sampath Bank, the IPO was aimed at raising Rs. 1 billion, through 45 million ordinary voting shares at a price of Rs. 22.00 per share. The stake offered was 30.38%. There was active interest from a range of investors, both individuals and institutions alike.

Commenting on the resounding positive conclusion of the IPO, Channa de Silva, Chairman, Sarvodaya Development Finance stated, "We are pleased to receive such



Channa de Silva -
Chairman Sarvodaya
Development Finance



Nilantha Jayanetti -
CEO Sarvodaya
Development Finance

overwhelmingly positive feedback to SDF's initial public offering and would like to offer a sincere note of

gratitude to all those who subscribed to our IPO, placing their confidence in our enterprise and its journey. The tremendous success of our IPO will successfully aid the growth in our rural loan portfolio, which will in turn assist in developing many rural villages across the country and is a true reflection of both local and international investors' faith in the good work that SDF does."

He emphasized the organization's commitment to engage the rural and village base public in the mainstream of the capital market and national economy. "We will also bring new thinking and new ideas through our village-based platform to the economy and will be committed to empower rural and village businesses and entrepreneurs."

'Enjoy Dubai's iconic attractions this winter with Emirates' new complimentary offers'

Emirates, the world's largest international airline and Premier Partner of Expo 2020 Dubai, has launched three iconic offers this winter season for travellers visiting Dubai. Joining a host of other added-value offers for Dubai getaways during Expo 2020, Emirates looks forward to ensuring a memorable experience for visitors in one of the world's most-loved destinations.

Whether returning to Dubai or visiting the city for the first time, Emirates' passengers can enjoy three brand-new complimentary offers to Dubai's world famous and most loved attractions. These include a visit to the iconic Burj Khalifa

'At The Top,' the Dubai Fountains Boardwalk Experience and a visit to The Views Observatory at the Emaar Sky View Hotel.

A visit to Burj Khalifa provides a view of Dubai from the top of the world's tallest building, offering panoramic views of the entire city from its stunning beaches to the iconic Dubai Marina. This accounts for around half of all the excursions sold across the UAE. This complimentary ticket is also extended for admission from November 22 2021 to March 31 2022.

The Dubai Fountains Boardwalk Experience is offered via an all-new floating platform located at the stunning Dubai

Fountain. The Boardwalk allows visitors to get closer to the Burj Khalifa's famous water, music, and light spectacles.

The Views Observatory at the Emaar Sky View Hotel provides an opportunity for a daring skywalk with a glass-bottomed slide, enabling passengers to look across at Dubai city's skyline in this adrenalin-pumping attraction.

The special offer is valid for travellers who book a return trip to Dubai in any cabin class between 22 November and 12 December 2021 for travel from November 23 2021 and March 31 2022.** The offer is also available via participating travel agents and selected Emirates Retail shops.



AFC raises LKR 1 bn in subordinate debt to strengthen the Tier II Capital

Virtusa announces first Inter-University SRE Hackathon



Virtusa, a global provider of digital strategy, digital engineering, and IT services and solutions, announced Sri Lanka's inaugural Inter-University SRE Hackathon, the first national level TechOps competition focused on Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) – an approach to IT operations that focuses on reliability, performance, latency and availability. The sprint will take place on the 26th of November 2021 on a virtual platform, with the winners walking away with top honors, cash prizes and job opportunities at Virtusa. Keeping up with the spirit of innovation and fusion of blockchain with SRE, unique attendance NFT (Non-Fungible Token) badges based on POAP (Proof of Attendance Protocol) will be awarded to all participants.

“Not only is this hackathon a premier talent hunt across the country, it is also a great channel for engagement with the next generation of IT professionals,” commented Suweda Rajaratnam – Head of Campus Reach Sri Lanka – Virtusa's industry-academia partnership initiative. “By introducing globally trending tools and best practices such as SRE through hackathons and other curricular-related initiatives, Virtusa continues to empower IT students to be workforce ready and adaptable to the industry's rapid pace of evolution.”

This hackathon aims to equip university students with SRE best practices across an IT landscape that is fast adopting a reliability-first mindset, a niche skill and sure advantage to support their future career trajectories in the industry. A total number of 12 teams have been nominated from eight local universities; namely University of Moratuwa, University of Colombo, University of Jaffna, NSBM Green University, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), Java Institute, Horizon Campus and ESOF Metro Campus.

Rakuten Viber Partners with Lasith Malinga



Veteran Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga partners with Rakuten Viber to launch his first official community on Viber. His fans can now experience his iconic style through AR-powered Lenses and his popular cricket lingo through custom sticker packs.

Cricket fans can rejoice as Rakuten Viber partners with Sri Lankan cricket legend Lasith Malinga to deliver a cricket experience like no other through a range of exciting features and activities for fans

worldwide. The partnership aims to combine all of the most loved features of the popular messaging platform into one explosive cricket experience featuring the veteran fast bowler.

Malinga, also known as “Slinga Malinga” for his unorthodox bowling action and toe-crushing yorkers, made his international debut in 2004 and stands as the third-highest wicket-taker for Sri Lanka in ODI history, scalping 338 wickets. He is also known as one of the greatest bowlers to have ever played in the Indian Premier League, where he picked up 120 wickets in 122 matches he played for Mumbai Indians making him the highest wicket-taker in the Indian Premier League tournament history.

Viber cricket fans can look forward to custom sticker packs featuring Malinga and an official Community to engage with him, share comments, and be a part of his daily life. The Viber-Malinga partnership will also include Viber's most recent feature, custom AR-powered Lenses on Malinga. The excitement-packed cricket affair doesn't end there. Fans will also be able to engage with the legendary fast-bowler through the Viber Cricket Talks Community during the World Cup, where ten super lucky fans who share a message for him using the custom Malinga Lenses will have the unparalleled opportunity to get on a video call with the legendary cricketer!

And to make the experience even more special on Viber, fans will even stand a chance to win personalized jerseys signed by Malinga when they participate in daily quizzes and trivia contests exclusively on his official Community.

“I'm really pumped to partner with Viber to create a special experience for my fans. This will be a great platform for me to connect with all my fans and loved ones. I will be sharing a lot of pictures, videos in my Community. And there's a lot of fun to come for my fans. So keep following!” said Malinga when speaking about his partnership with Viber.

Alliance Finance Co PLC (AFC) has successfully raised LKR 1 billion in Tier II capital, with the aim of strengthening the regulatory capital of the Company to financially empower and facilitate the development of the Micro, Small and Medium enterprise sector in Sri Lanka. The Tier II Subordinated Debt has a tenure of 5 years and has been structured and arranged by Capital Alliance Ltd (CAL), a leading investment bank in the country.

Commenting on this important milestone, Mr Romani de Silva, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of AFC stated that “This is a reflection of the confidence our investors have in our sustainable business philosophy. Due to the covid 19 pandemic, Sri Lankan micro, small & medium entrepreneurs need more support than ever before and raising of LKR 1 Bn as Subordinate Debt strengthened our Tier II capital which gives us an enormous capacity to develop micro, small and medium scale entrepreneurs of Sri Lanka using our proven business models. Furthermore, we extend our sincere appreciation for the investor, (CAL) for the trust placed in us. Subsequent to an internal restructure with the technical assistance of IFC (private sector arm of the World Bank Group) in 2019, all of the performance metrics of the Company have improved tremendously outperforming its peers in the industry with a Loan book growth of 1.6%, Profit growth of 169 % and a highly commendable reduction in NPLs by 23 % for the financial year ended 2020/21, validating the impact of the restructure. As the oldest finance company in Sri Lanka and as a net lender to the rural economy, AFC is focussing on financial inclusivity and sustainable development of all communities.”

AFC's approach to sustainability is holistic and goes beyond economic empowerment with an equal emphasis placed upon social and envi-

ronmental sustainability as well. AFC has institutionalised the values of its founding fathers by adopting the Triple Bottom Line Approach in 2012, followed by numerous other actions to become the sustainable financial institution it is today. In 2020, AFC became the first financial institution in South Asia to be certified for holistic sustainability under the pioneering Sustainability Standards and Certification Initiative (SSCI). SSCI is governed under the International Council of Sustainability Standards for Value-Driven Financial Institutions, Germany. This has resulted in an even greater focus on this unwavering commitment of the Company and better measurements of the impact created.

AFC is also amongst the highest contributors of net profits towards sustainability initiatives in the industry. The Company has dedicated an annual allocation of 4% of profits for sustainability and CSR initiatives. The Company has many initiatives including the “1 Mn trees for Unity” flagship project that aims to plant one million trees by 2024 whilst meeting social and environmental objectives. To date the Company has

contributed over 350,000 plants to the nation. In addition, conserving biodiversity, empowering social entrepreneurs, promoting sustainable products and undertaking CSR practices that ensure social and environmental wellbeing remain as AFC's key priorities under its sustainability mandate.

The AFC business powered by a dynamic and empowered young team of 1300 visionary individuals will continue to support the global and local sustainable development agenda, with its high impact goals in place to ensure focused value creation in line with the UN SDG's and National Development Agenda. AFC believes that synergistic partnerships with its foreign financing partners such as IFC, FMO, DWM, Tridos Bank and other impact investors will add further value to its approach and facilitate value distribution to a wider range of stakeholders in the country. AFC is eager to uphold these partnerships and collaborations that facilitate sustainable development in Sri Lanka and have confidence that they will undoubtedly accelerate its journey of “making the world a better place through sustainable finance”.



Alliance Finance Co. PLC

Making the world a better place through sustainable finance

Meta and Sarvodaya-Fusion's IT Yahamaga Program launches a new phase

Meta partners with Sarvodaya-Fusion's “IT යහමගා” Program, to launch a new phase of digital skills training program to equip Sri Lankans with the necessary tools to become more aware and responsible digital citizens.

Continuing the partnership since 2018, Meta and Sarvodaya-Fusion, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) in Sri Lanka, launched We Think Digital in Sri Lanka in 2020, providing the resources to foster responsible digital citizens through program editions targeting schools, universities and families.

Meta and Sarvodaya-Fusion's collaboration since 2018, enabled them to educate over 35,000 children and youth. This has helped Sri Lankans develop their skills on how to navigate the growing digital space responsibly.

The Covid pandemic has created a new normal in the country and access and usage of the Internet has increased exponentially. This amplified access and usage brings with it wider scope of opportunities. However, with this comes a need for greater responsibility from its users when consuming these benefits. This collaboration during the new phase in 2021/2022, aims to provide the necessary awareness and guidance to school students, university students, psycho-social

counsellors, youth club members, women and girls. The focus will be on strengthening resilience through capacity building; promoting critical thinking and fostering digital citizenship, to create a harmonious and a less harmful digital world.

In his keynote speech, Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth and Sports and State Minister of Digital Technology and Entrepreneur Development said that more Sri Lankans are now seeing the advantages of digitalization. He added, “Meta and Sarvodaya-Fusion, along with their partnership with ICTA, has played a big role in this perception change and I believe we need more initiatives like this to come forward, analyze data, and develop new mechanisms in order for us to successfully implement and fulfill our vision for the nation.”

At the virtual launch, Maithree Malwattagoda - General Manager, Sarvodaya Fusion mentioned that technology can be used to bring equality and inclusivity in learning to the society. She discussed the need to strengthen resilience through capacity building and fostering digital citizenship with the aim of creating a more responsible digital world that has a positive impact on youth and their future.

The event was also graced by Dr. Vinya

Ariyaratne, President of Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya, and Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Chairman, LIRNEasia/Senior Advisor & Board Member, Sarvodaya-Fusion. There was a session where young people who had gone through the training shared their positive experience.

Other speakers and panelists included Senura Abeywardena, Public Policy Manager, Sri Lanka & Maldives at Meta, Sameera Jayawardena - Director, Capacity Building, ICTA, Vasana Edirisuriya - Deputy Director of Education, ICT branch, Ministry of Education, Nethmini Medawela - Hashtag Generation and Gayani Hurulle, Research Manager, LIRNEasia, Nishshanka De Silva, Technology Advisor and Sanara De Silva, Student Activist.

The event was also attended by special invitees from the partner organizations and industry as well as school principals, teachers school students and university students.

Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama, Policy Programs Manager, Sri Lanka & Maldives at Meta said, “Meta is committed to develop digital citizenship in Sri Lanka, and also is keen to support digital adoption among Sri Lankans. We will continue to work collaboratively with government and civil society stakeholders to reach more Sri Lankans.”

OPPO celebrates 5 years with Abans in Sri Lanka and extends partnership to another 3 years

The global smartphone brand OPPO proudly celebrates 5 years of partnership with Abans PLC together with a renewal of the partnership for the next 3 years. Since 2016, the brand has enjoyed a positive response from Sir Lankan having entered into a partnership with Abans PLC, a major Sri Lankan conglomerate with an extensive product portfolio. For over 50 years, Abans has been a trusted name for high quality electronics and home appliances, mobiles and smartphones, security surveillance systems, IT and communication equipment.

Established in 2004, OPPO is a young, vibrant smart device manufacturer available in over 50 countries and regions. 2021 marks 5 years of effective partnership between OPPO and Abans. Behman Pestonjee - MD Abans PLC reveals that “OPPO has been a welcome addition to the Sri Lankan market and has been embraced by consumers across the island making it one of the most popular mobile phone brands in the local industry today”. The evident success of the partnership also led to its recent

renewal, sparking new opportunity and growth for the relationship between OPPO and Abans.

With 400+ showrooms across the island, Abans has been the catalyst to increase OPPO attraction around the country and create an unparalleled market presence. Bob Li, CEO Xinda Lanka (OPPO Sri Lanka) agrees stating “Abans has been a dynamic organization under which OPPO has been able to thrive and grow in popularity in the local market. The long-standing partnership between these 2 brands is a testament to the strength and reliability behind the two brands and their high standard of quality.”

Abans is no stranger to successful international partnerships and has been a trusted name which is synonymous with a multitude of popular global brands. Their customer-centric approach and easy payment options are a just a few reasons behind the wide market reach and has inadvertently extended this popularity to OPPO making this partnership one that is offers the best of both worlds.



Buddhika Dharmawardana, Chief Marketing Officer – Abans PLC, Bob Li, CEO XINDA Lanka (OPPO Sri Lanka), Dinesh Perera, Director – Operations & Fritz Fernando, Snr. Brand Manager & Category Head – Abans PLC.

Main Board stock market data table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, %V.W.A PREVIOUS CLOSE, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, %V.W.A TODAY'S CLOSE, CHANGE (Rs.)

Colombo Stock Exchange logo and table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, %V.W.A PREVIOUS CLOSE, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, %V.W.A TODAY'S CLOSE, CHANGE (Rs.)

Diri Savi Board stock market data table with columns: SECURITY, VOLUME, %V.W.A PREVIOUS CLOSE, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, %V.W.A TODAY'S CLOSE, CHANGE (Rs.)

CDB Advance Roof Solar green energy financing for a smarter and sustainable Sri Lanka



Citizens Development Business Finance PLC (CDB) has launched "CDB Advance Roof Solar", its newest product in the green financing segment...

nology and aftercare, a convenient financing facility from CDB and access to a special portal to track earnings. In addition, CDB Advance Roof Solar promotes a more intelligent and self-sufficient lifestyle. The goal is to provide a customized service right at your doorstep...

CDB Advance Roof Solar provides customers with an easy way to upgrade to a smarter, self-sustaining energy source with an additional income and no electricity bills. Customers will receive a comprehensive solution inclusive of the latest solar tech-

Commenting on the initiative, Damith Tennakoon, Chief Financial Officer, CDB said, "Our

sustainability agenda encompasses both social and environmental dimensions. As we journey on the path of going from Rs. 100 Bn. asset based company to a company with a quarter of a trillion asset base, we are committed to leaving behind the least carbon footprint and continuing our carbon neutral status. We will contribute towards a greener economy while being a highly socially impactful organization ensuring financial inclusion".

The company's efforts are aligned to help achieve the 7th UN Sustainable Development Goal of 'Clean Energy'. CDB is also committed to the country's sustainable energy goal of 70% renewable energy sources by 2030, and CDB Roof Solar will contribute to achieving this milestone. The scheme will allow individuals and businesses with installed rooftop solar systems to sell any excess electricity back to the grid. The project envisions 1000 Mw of solar power generation capacity by 2025 - all from the rooftops of homes and businesses.

CDB Advance Roof Solar is a part of the CDB Advance initiative to drive sustainable finance, focusing on empowering a smarter and sustainable Sri Lanka. It facilitates sustainable energy production and eco-friendly transport solutions. To learn more about the CDB Advance Roof Solar, log into www.cdb.lk.



Pidilite launches Araldite in Sri Lanka

Strengthens its adhesive and sealant portfolio in the market

Pidilite Lanka Private Limited (PLPL), a Joint Venture between Pidilite Industries Ltd (Pidilite) and Macbertan Holdings Ltd, announced that it has launched Araldite range of epoxy adhesives in retail market of Sri Lanka. Pidilite is a leading global manufacturer of adhesives, sealants and construction chemicals based out of India and Macbertan, a leader in Manufacturing of Insulation material in Sri Lanka is a part of the leading diversified conglomerates in Sri Lanka.

Pidilite recently acquired the Consumer and Bazaar business of Araldite in the Indian Sub-Continent (including Sri Lanka) from Huntsman Group, USA. PLPL will present best-in-class genuine Araldite branded products for consumers in the market which is currently dom-

inated by look-alike products. Araldite range of epoxy adhesives have been the preferred choice in variety of industries and applications. It is the preferred brand for Automotive repair, Machine repair and other Do It Yourself (DIY) usages. Araldite covers a broad range of applications and offers both production and performance benefits in industrial applications, construction segment and consumers. Bharat Puri, MD, Pidilite Industries Ltd, said, "Araldite is an iconic brand and a world leader in Epoxy Adhesives. This launch will help us strengthen our robust portfolio of adhesive and sealant brands and will complement our product portfolio. With this step, we are confident to make Araldite a stronger part of the Pidilite range of products in Sri Lanka."

In Sri Lanka, Araldite will be available in multiple variants including Araldite Standard in 13gm and Araldite KLEAR in 10 gm. The products will be competitively priced and will be made available across Sri Lanka over the next few months. Pidilite began its journey in Sri Lanka more than 10 years ago and today is one of our leading international markets. Pidilite's well-known brands in Sri Lanka include FEVICOL, the high-performance range of adhesives and Dr. FIXIT, an advanced range of waterproofing solution for healthy homes. The Children Art brand ACRON and Adult Arts brand FEVICRYL, White Glue brand Chemifix, and Plumbing Sealant brand M-SEAL, have won hearts of consumers and professionals.

Sudoku No. 4932

4		5	1		8			
		3		8				5
	5					7	2	
6	9							
			4	3				
						5	9	
1	7					9		
5		7	9					
8		2		1				3

Solution to No. 4931

8	3	4	7	9	1	2	6	5
2	9	7	5	6	3	8	1	4
1	6	5	8	2	4	9	7	3
6	2	3	1	5	9	4	8	7
4	7	8	6	3	2	1	5	9
5	1	9	4	8	7	6	3	2
3	5	2	9	1	6	7	4	8
9	4	6	3	7	8	5	2	1
7	8	1	2	4	5	3	9	6

No knowledge of arithmetic is required to enjoy this. All you need is a logical mind, a pencil and an eraser. Try it. Suffer its torture. Discover its ecstasy. It's a mind game you will solve with reasoning and logic. The rules are very simple. Fill in the grid with numbers so that every row, every column and every small 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. Each number has its allotted place if you look hard enough. No number should be repeated in any row, column or 3x3 box. Here's an easy one to try - See tomorrow's Island for solution.

KAKURO 4169

						11	11	
						12		
		6	11					
		4				3		
								27
	16	23				4	13	
20					13			
					18			8
13			19					16
		19				11		
		4				4		

Solution 4168

		3	18			8	15			
11	2	9			5	1	4			
5	1	4			16	7	9	19		
		6	5	1	10	11		2	3	4
			6	3	1	2		11	8	3
		4	12	24	7	9	8	3	2	1
	7		1	4	2		4	1	6	
		11	3	8		13	9	4		

How to play: Fill in the blank squares, using 1 to 9, without repeating any number in any line. The lines must be filled in with numbers that add up to the total in the shaded box at the top or beginning of each line. A number in the bottom half of the shaded box is the downward total; in the top half, it's the horizontal total.

Michael Bublé is singing about Christmas sweaters now

(CNN) Michael Bublé may soon become as synonymous with Christmas as Santa Claus.



Michael Bublé, has several holiday projects debuting soon.

"Hanging out with my family and all our relatives and friends, for me, there's nothing better than that," the singer says. "To me, the holidays are about bringing people together and being with family.

This year he's got new Christmas music coming out, a Christmas television special and a new video for a song titled "Christmas Sweater." That's just the start. He's also about to do a Las Vegas residency and release a new studio album.

Bublé spoke to CNN about his holiday projects and plans with his family, saying he'll be celebrating the season in Argentina and in Vancouver with his wife Luisana Lopilato and kids.

It's no secret it's my favourite time of year. The holidays are a time to step back and cherish your loved ones."

He says he also sees the holiday season as a great time for music.

"In our house, we love to sing and dance during the holidays, everything from 'Santa Claus is Comin' to Town' to 'Feliz Navidad,'" he says.

Calvin and Hobbes

Hey, Twinkie, here's the 25¢ I "borrowed" from you the other day.

Somebody ratted on me, and it's gonna be a dark day if I ever find out who!

I THINK I'LL USE THE QUARTER TO CALL MY INSURANCE AGENT.

Andy Capp

By Reg Henry Scargelli

TOWN COURT

FANCY THAT JUDGE YELLING AT ME AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE, CALLING ME A WORTHLESS HOOLIGAN

TOWN COURT

I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T WALK PAST THE COURTHOUSE, ANDY

Wizard of Id

By Parker and Hart

YOU, SIR, HAVE INSULTED ME. PREPARE TO TASTE CONSEQUENCE!

WEEE!

I BELIEVE YOU SENT HIM DOWN THE WRONG SLIDE, SIRE

Mother Goose & Grimm

By Mike

HEY, LOOK. IT WAS NATIONAL CAT DAY...

WAIT... I THOUGHT THAT WAS EVERY DAY

Mutt & Jeff

MUTT, DID YOU TAKE A BATH?

YES, DEAR!

HAVE YOU SHAVED?

YES!

HAVE YOU CLEANED YOUR TEETH?

YES!

GOOD! THEN YOU MAY KISS BRUNO GOOD NIGHT!

Pickles

LOOK, ROSCOE... GRAMPA HAS LITTLE FRECKLES ON TOP OF HIS HEAD

Z!

YOU KNOW WHAT IT SORT OF REMINDS ME OF?

ZZZ!

ONE OF THOSE CONNECT-THE-DOTS PICTURES.

Z!

GRAMMA, CAN I BORROW A PEN?

Daily Island Crossword No. 3839

1	2	3	4	5	6
7				8	
9		10			
11	12			13	
				14	
15	16		17	18	
		19			
20				21	22
23			24		

Daily Island Crossword No. 3839

- Across**
- 7 An aimless drawing (6)
 - 8 Verse line consisting of iambs (6)
 - 9 Yearn (4)
 - 10 Forceful (8)
 - 11 Footstool/Turk (7)
 - 13 Plastic tube used to suck liquids into the mouth (5)
 - 15 Ill-chosen (5)
 - 17 tremolo (7)
 - 20 Type of sediment (8)
 - 21 Lifeless (4)
 - 23 Accepted or habitual practice (6)
 - 24 Summon to enter (4,2)
- Down**
- 1 Toy (2-2)
 - 2 (of tempo) leisurely (6)
 - 3 Various (7)
 - 4 Crisp (5)
 - 5 Diacritical mark (two dots) placed over a vowel in German (6)
 - 6 Open-eyed (8)

- 12 Unmelodious (8)
- 14 Gizmo (7)
- 16 Dive (6)
- 18 Enigma (6)
- 19 Merry (5)
- 22 Desiccated (4)

Crossword No. 3838

T	S	S	S	T	V						
C	A	R	A	F	E	T	O	I	L	E	T
C	A	R	A	F	E	T	O	I	L	E	T
V	I	V	A	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	S
T	S	H	I	R	T	S	I	D	L	E	R
U	N	E	M	Y	G	R	A	P	P	L	E
V	A	S	O	E	S	O	H	O			
F	I	N	I	S	H	E	D				
S	E	D	U	E	S	E					
C	O	M	E	O	N						
C	R	I	N	T							



Date: 25-11-2021

ARIES: An auspicious day. Works in unity with fiends, relations, and their associates. You'll attend activities which promote mutual ties. Religious minded. Take part in interesting activities. Lucky Colour: Violet, Lucky Number: 05.

TAURUS: A day with happy and unhappy results. Extensive travelling. Distant relations get closer. You'll launch recreation activities. You'll participate in social work and community welfare activities. Expenses go up. Lucky Colour: Blue, Lucky Number: 01.

GEMINI: You'll become restless due to too much travelling. Obstacles erupt against your aims. New friends come your way. Spends the day lightly. Expenses go up. Lucky Colour: Green. Lucky Number: 08.

CANCER: A day of happy results. You'll attend meritorious acts such as almsgiving. Sudden financial rewards likely. Lucky Colour: Rose, Lucky Number: 08.

LEO: An auspicious day. You'll be happy due to receipt of an old debt. Works in unity with friends and relatives. You are firm in your activities as you are pious. Lucky Colour: Light Violet, Lucky Number: 01.

VIRGO: Spends the day lightly. Attend activities which promote mutual ties with distant friends and relatives. Religious minded. You'll devote more time for religious rituals. Lucky Colour: Gold. Lucky Number: 06.

LIBRA: An auspicious day. Spends the day with light mind. You'll attend social services and community welfare activities. You'll act giving priority to religious rituals. Indulge in recreation activities too. Lucky Colour: White, Lucky Number: 07.

SCORPIO: An auspicious day. Expenses go up. You'll attend short journeys. You'll become chief among associates. Lucky Colour: Red, Lucky Number: 02.

SAGITTARIUS: A day of happy and unhappy results. Expenses go up and new friendships built up. You'll work in unity with friends and relatives following religious rituals. You'll be interested in cultivating intellectual virtues. Lucky Colour: Yellow, Lucky Number: 03.

CAPRICORN: A day of mixed results. You'll have to work on needs of your relations. Acts religious minded. You'll participate in social work and community welfare activities. Enemies will be controlled. Lucky Colour: Brown, Lucky Number: 08.

AQUARIUS: An auspicious day. You'll launch your planned ideas. You'll succeed to some extent. You'll work in unity with your relations keeping to religious teachings. You'll launch social welfare activities. Spends the day in light mind. Lucky Colour: Blue, Lucky Number: 05.

PISCES: A day of happy results. You'll work in unity with your friends and relations. Attend short journeys. You achieve your goals to some extent. You'll honour religious rituals. Cultivate intellectual virtues. Lucky Colour: Orange, Lucky Number: 09.



Supun Weerasinghe, Group Chief Executive of Dialog Axiata PLC hands over the sponsorship to Anil Mohan - Founder & CEO of The IPG Group in the presence of Hon. Namal Rajapaksa MP - Minister of Youth & Sports. Also photographed(L-R): Amal Edirisooriya - Director General Department of Sports Development, Anuradha Wijekoon - Secretary to the Ministry of Youth & Sports and Shammi Silva - President, SLC.



Anil Mohan - Founder & CEO of The IPG Group along with the artist line-up presenting the CD of the 'Ekwa Jayagamu' LPL song to Hon. Namal Rajapaksa - Minister of Youth & Sports. Also photographed(L-R): Amal Edirisooriya - Director General Department of Sports Development, Anuradha Wijekoon - Secretary to the Ministry of Youth & Sports, Sanka Dineth, Santhush Weeraman, Bathiya Jayakody, Supun Weerasinghe, Group Chief Executive of Dialog Axiata PLC, Yohani De Silva, Umara Sinhawansa, Shammi Silva - President Sri Lanka Cricket

Sri Lanka's premier connectivity provider, Dialog Axiata PLC, has come forth to power the 2021 edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) as the official Telecommunication Partner. The tourney organisers, IPG Group released the 'Ekwa Jayagamu' LPL song sung by a stellar line-up of artistes at the launch event, in support of the teams.

LPL is a world-class cricket tournament set to feature the best in talent from across the world and will also act as a proving ground for Sri Lanka's budding cricketers, by giving them the opportunity to display their skill and set them on the path to the national team.

"Ekwa Jayagamu" the theme song for the tournament, features a number of Sri Lanka's most famous popstars, including 'Bathiya and Santhush', Yohani, Sanka, Sajitha, Umara and ADK.

The tourney will commence on December 05th 2021, while the grand finale will be played at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket

Dialog Powers Lanka Premier League as 'Telecommunication Partner' Launches LPL Song 'Ekwa Jayagamu'

Stadium, Sooriyawewa, Hambanthota on December 23, 2021 from 7:30 pm. The five franchise teams, Colombo Stars, Dambulla Giants, Galle Gladiators, Jaffna Kings and Kandy Warriors will battle it out in 24 league and knockout matches in this years tourney. In the inaugural LPL played in 2020, Jaffna Stallions, skippered by the experienced Thisara Perera, defeated the Galle Gladiators to clinch the coveted title.

Commenting on the launch of the LPL, Minister of Youth and Sports, Namal Rajapaksa, stated, "Developing our young cricketers is a top priority

for Sri Lanka, and we look forward to the upcoming Lanka Premier League as an avenue to accelerate their development. I am thankful to Dialog Axiata for hosting the launch event, and also look forward to a tournament that is sure to be filled with memorable matches".

Mohan De Silva, Secretary of Sri Lanka Cricket said, "High-calibre tournaments such as the LPL act as an incubator for SLC to identify and nurture players who will one day represent the national team and bring glory to the country at the international level. Budding players get

much-needed exposure playing with and against foreign players which will shorten their learning curve. I wish the LPL the very best for a successful tourney."

Anil Mohan - Founder & CEO of The IPG Group commented "The South Asian region has a diehard cricket base especially for the shorter version of the game with over a billion fans. I would like to congratulate Hon. Namal Rajapaksa MP, the Minister of Youth and Sports, and SLC for taking progressive steps to host a tourney of this magnitude".

"Dialog is pleased to have stepped

forward as the Official Telecommunication Partner of the LPL, which is a vibrant and prestigious tournament in the South Asian region." Supun Weerasinghe, Group Chief Executive of Dialog Axiata PLC said. He further commented, "As the national team sponsor for almost 10 years, Dialog has been an avid supporter of the development of cricket in Sri Lanka, and a tourney such as the LPL will be an excellent platform to scout, identify and select our future champions for the national team."

Dialog Axiata is the proud sponsor of Sri Lanka's National Cricket, Volleyball and Netball teams. The Company also has a close association with the President's Gold Cup Volleyball, National Junior and Senior Netball tourneys, Club Rugby, Schools Rugby, Premier Football, Schools' Cricket, Junior Volleyball and Paralympic sports - whilst also powering the Army Para Games, National Para Games and the Sri Lanka contingent to the World Paralympic Games.

Mercantile cricket commences over the weekend

Weather will hold the key, as MCA gets cracking on their 2022 season, simultaneously commencing two of their divisions - the MCA 'D' Division 40-Over League Tournament and 'E' Division 30-Over League Tournament, this weekend (27 and 28).

The 'D' division has attracted ten teams, which are pooled in to two groups, as follows:

Teams playing Group 'A' are: AIA Insurance, Airport & Aviation Services, Nawaloka Hospitals, National Development Bank, and Ansell Lanka.

Teams playing Group 'B' are: Delmage Group, Melwire Rolling, David Pieris Group of Companies 'A',

Hemas Holdings and Allianz Insurance

The league stage consisting 20 matches will take place from November 27 to January 9, 2022; the knockout stage, consisting of seven matches is scheduled for January 15 (Q. Finals), 22 (S. Finals), and 29 (final) at MCA.

The 'E' division has attracted 20 teams, which are pooled into three groups, as follows:

Teams playing in group 'A': Commercial Leasing & Finance, SLT Mobitel, Ceylinco Insurance, 3DH International, Fairfirst Insurance, and Amana Takaful.

Teams playing in group 'B': LOLC, Hirdaramani Group, Stafford Motors, Commercial Credit, Trellerborg Lanka, Union Assurance, and Expolanka Holdings.

Teams playing group 'C': Brandix Essentials, HSBC, Janashakthi Insurance, John Keells Group 'B', Virtusa, MBSL Insurance, and Softlogic Finance.

The league stage consisting of 57 matches will take place from November 27 to January 9, 2022; the knockout stage consisting of seven matches is scheduled for January 29 (Q. Finals), February 5 (S. Finals), and February 13 (the Final) at MCA.

Daraz becomes exclusive digital streaming partner for Lanka Premier League 2021

Continuing the excitement of cricket and taking local cricket to the next level, Daraz steps up as Exclusive Digital Streaming Partner for Lanka Premier League 2021. Through this partnership Daraz brings the excitement of cricket to the palm of its users, giving an opportunity to all to watch the LPL matches live and for free. Daraz also announced its partnership as the Associate Sponsor for the Lanka Premier League, which will be played from December 5 to 23.

The largest online shopping platform in the country, Daraz launched Daraz Live in September this year; Sri Lanka's first in-app shoppable live stream feature, introducing the concept of 'shopertainment' to its users. The LPL will be streamed via Daraz Live, creating one online platform for all cricket fans to watch the tournament.

Commenting on the partnership, Heshan Perera, Head of Marketing for Daraz Sri Lanka stated, "Sri Lanka is a cricket nation, revered and followed by those from all walks of lives. Our partnership with the Lanka Premier League enables us to enhance the experience of Daraz users by bringing entertainment in the form of live sports on an OTT platform. This partnership also strengthens our commitment to our customers, as we give them an opportunity to watch the game they

love in a medium that is closer to them, as well as our commitment towards Sri Lanka cricket."

"We are pleased to share the Digital streaming rights of Lanka Premier League with Daraz. As the official rights holder for the LPL including global media rights, the IPG Group continues to innovate and push towards sports excellence in the way that it is presented to the world. With over 350,000 daily users on Daraz, we are confident that this partnership will give LPL a high reach of viewership across Sri Lanka," added Anil Mohan, Chief Executive Officer of IPG Group.

The partnership with LPL is part of Daraz's marketing strategy to accelerate the growth of the brand through association with high-profile sports, and a continuation of Daraz's sponsorship as overseas tour partner to the Sri Lanka national cricket team. With the huge following that cricket has in Sri Lanka, it presents an effective platform for Daraz to engage with the nation's passionate fans and drive the brand to the next level, while giving Daraz users a new platform to enjoy the game they love.

Brands in Sri Lanka will be able to advertise on Daraz during the live stream of LPL 2021. With an ever-growing digital audience base in the country, this will be a great opportunity for all

Mahmudullah retires from Test cricket

Bangladesh T20I captain Mahmudullah has announced his retirement from Test cricket, the Bangladesh Cricket Board confirmed on Wednesday (November 24).

Mahmudullah, who made a comeback to the Test format earlier this year in Zimbabwe, had already informed his teammates that he won't be extending his career in the longest format following his career-best 150* against the African nation in Bangladesh's 220-run win.

While the BCB were pondering if Mahmudullah's decision was just an emotional one, the batting all-rounder has made the call official. Despite quitting Test cricket, Mahmudullah has made it clear that he wants to continue featuring in ODIs and T20Is. "Leaving a format of which I have been a part of for such a long time is not easy," Mahmudullah said.

"I had always thought of going on a high and I believe this is the right time to end my Test career. I want to extend my gratitude to the BCB

President for supporting me when I returned to the Test team. I thank my teammates and the support staff for always encouraging me and believing in my ability. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to play Test cricket for Bangladesh and I will cherish the many memories.

"Although I am retiring from Tests, I will still be playing ODIs and T20 internationals and really looking forward to continue giving my best for my country in white-ball cricket."

Mahmudullah, who made his Test debut in the West Indies in 2009, winds up his career having scored almost 3000 runs at an average of 33.49, including five centuries. He also has a five-wicket haul in Test cricket, finishing with 43 wickets.

Meanwhile, Cricbuzz has learnt that Mahmudullah made him unavailable from the upcoming Bangladesh Cricket League, the country's lone franchise-based first-class zonal competition scheduled to be played from December 10. (Cricbuzz)



Lakpriya Edirisinghe

Edirisinghe to officiate at EI Pozo BWF World Senior Championships in Spain

Lakpriya Edirisinghe, a BWF-accredited umpire, will officiate at the EI Pozo BWF World Senior Championships 2021 which will be held in Huelva, Spain from November 28 to December 4.

Edirisinghe, a vastly experienced Badminton Asia Confederation-accredited umpire who has officiated in more than 100 international tournaments, including Commonwealth Games, Youth Olympic Games, and in three World Badminton Championships as an umpire as well as a technical official.

Earlier this year, Edirisinghe also played a role as a chief umpire during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. He is a product of Asoka MV, Colombo.

A total of 49 nations, including Sri Lanka, will take part in the biennial tournament in Spain which will be held for the 10th time. The EI Pozo BWF World Senior Championships 2021 will see More than 20 Sri Lanka shuttlers in action.

Under 19 Division III Cricket

Jaffna Central rout St. Joseph's Enderamulla

Central College, Jaffna put up a dominant all-round performance to knock out St. Joseph's College Enderamulla as they registered ten wickets victory in the Under 19 Division III Tier 'A' quarter-final played at Kotte on Wednesday.

Deciding to bat first St. Joseph's were dismissed for 61 as only two batsmen reached double figures. V. Viyaskanth and Najay took two wickets each, Binthujan, T. Gowtham and V. Kavitharshan grabbed a wicket each.

In reply, S. Sarangan and J. Vithushan kept their wickets intact to cruise to a ten wickets win with many overs to spare.

Scores:

St. Joseph's 61 all out in 27.4 overs (Vinod Weerasekara 12, Dalas Gunasekara 12; V. Viyaskanth 2/09, Najay 2/14)

Jaffna Central 64 for no loss in 10.5 overs (S Sarangan 31n.o., J. Vithushan 17n.o.)

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Sri Lanka four wickets away from big win over Windies



West Indies had no clue against Ramesh Mendis as the off-spinner picked up four wickets in the second innings and at one stage was on a hat-trick. Image courtesy: SLC

REX CLEMENTINE IN GALLE

Sri Lanka could not have asked for a better start in the World Test Championship (WTC). They are just four wickets away from collecting 12 crucial points in the WTC after West Indies collapsed to 52 for six in their second innings after being set an improbable target of 348 in four sessions here in Galle on day four in the first Test yesterday.

In fading light, Sri Lanka depended on their spin options and actually fast bowlers weren't required as Ramesh Mendis bowled cleverly snaring four victims while Lasith Embuldeniya complemented him well accounting for two.

It was a mad rush of wickets as six batsmen were dismissed for 18 runs before you could finish your afternoon tea. There was lack of fight by the tourists and they had no clue how to play spin lacking footwork. At one point, they were in danger of being bowled out for their lowest score in Test cricket, which is 47.

It all started with the dismissal of Kraigg Braithwaite who was adjudged leg before wicket to Mendis and with the captain West Indies lost a review too.

Embuldeniya joined the party soon when Jermaine Blackwood was well caught by Angelo Mathews at mid-on. Sri



The series is played for Sobers-Tissera Trophy. Sir Gary Sobers was called by Sir Don Bradman as the greatest cricketer to play the game while Tissera, a former Ceylon captain before the country had gained Test status, is held in high esteem. Apart from being a captain, Tissera has done yeoman service for the game as Chairman of Selectors, Manager of the national team and Vice-President of the Board.

Lanka's fielding has been top notch this series and it was another terrific catch.

Then followed the real drama as West Indies lost four wickets inside three overs including two wickets in two balls to Mendis.

Apart from lack of footwork, West Indies were playing in the wrong line not picking the straight one. Kyle Mayers shouldered arms to Mendis and was plumb in front as he expected the ball to turn away from him. Similarly, the very

Scoreboard	
Sri Lanka 1st innings 386 all out	Extras: (b 8, lb 2, nb 1) 11
West Indies 1st innings	Total: (for four wickets declared, 40.5 overs) 191
Kraigg Braithwaite c Nissanka b Mendis 41	Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Nissanka), 2-39 (Fernando), 3-162 (Karunaratne) 4-163 (de Silva).
Jermaine Blackwood lbw b Embuldeniya 20	To bat: Ramesh Mendis, Suranga Lakmal, Lasith Embuldeniya, Dushmantha Chameera, Praveen Jayawickrama.
Nkrumah Bonner c de Silva b Jayawickrama 1	Bowling: Rahkeem Cornwall 15.5-0-60-2, Jason Holder 5-0-19-0, Roston Chase 6-1-28-0, Jomel Warrican 9-1-42-2, Shannon Gabriel 4-0-23-0 (nb 1), Kraigg Braithwaite 1-0-9-0.
Shai Hope c Fernando b Mendis 10	
Roston Chase c Fernando b Mendis 2	West Indies second innings
Jomel Warrican c Chandimal b Warrican 1	Kraigg Braithwaite lbw b Mendis 0
Kyle Mayers c Karunaratne b de Silva 45	Jermaine Blackwood c Mathews b Embuldeniya 9
Jason Holder c Chameera b Jayawickrama 36	Nkrumah Bonner not out 18
Joshua da Silva not out 15	Shai Hope b Mendis 3
Rahkeem Cornwall c Mendis b Lakmal 39	Roston Chase b Embuldeniya 1
Shannon Gabriel lbw b Jayawickrama 2	Kyle Mayers lbw b Mendis 2
Extras: (b8, lb5, nb2, w3) 18	Jason Holder b Mendis 0
Total: (all out, 85.5 overs) 230	Joshua da Silva not out 15
Fall of wickets: 1-46 (Blackwood), 2-51 (Bonner), 3-80 (Braithwaite), 4-83 (Hope), 5-86 (Warrican), 6-100 (Chase), 7-163 (Mayers), 8-175 (Holder), 9-224 (Cornwall), 10-230 (Gabriel).	Extras: (b 4) 4
Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 6-1-10-1 (w1), Dushmantha Chameera 8-0-14-0 (w2), Lasith Embuldeniya 32-11-67-1 (nb1), Praveen Jayawickrama 19.5-6-40-4 (nb1), Ramesh Mendis 17-1-75-3, Dhananjaya de Silva 3-0-11-0.	Total: (for six wickets, overs 25.3) 52
Sri Lanka 2nd innings	Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Braithwaite), 2-11 (Blackwood), 3-14 (Hope), 4-15 (Chase), 5-18 (Mayers), 6-18 (Holder)
Pathum Nissanka c Hope b Cornwall 3	To bat: Rahkeem Cornwall, Jomel Warrican, Shannon Gabriel.
Dimuth Karunaratne c Blackwood b Cornwall 83	Bowling: Lasith Embuldeniya 10-3-18-2, Ramesh Mendis 11-1-17-4, Praveen Jayawickrama 4-2-8-0, Dhananjaya de Silva 0.3-0-5-0.
Oshada Fernando lbw b Warrican 14	
Angelo Mathews not out 69	
Dhananjaya de Silva c & b Warrican 1	
Dinesh Chandimal not out 10	

next delivery, Jason Holder expected the ball to come in to him but it pitched full and went onto knock the off-stump.

At one point, Sri Lanka were looking to knock off the Windies with a day to spare. But Joshua da Silva and Nkrumah Bonner batted for 47 minutes to ensure sanity prevailed briefly. Sri Lanka were still going for the kill but were pulled out by the umpires due to bad light.

Sri Lanka had declared their first innings on 191 for four: Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne who has been in great touch this year was unfortunate to miss out on twin hundreds. The 33-year-old had posted 147 in the first innings and came up with a classy 83 in the second essay.

Karunaratne and Mathews were involved in a 123 run stand for the third

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wicket off just 150 deliveries. With the weather proving to be unpredictable, Sri Lanka needed some quick runs and both batsmen executed the plans perfectly. With the fans allowed to attend the game, the duo put up a spectacle scoring 107 runs between lunch and tea in 17.5 overs, that's over six runs an over.

Mathews was unbeaten on 69 with six fours and two sixes when Karunaratne declared the innings. It was Mathews' 37th half-century but the first against the West Indies.



Lakshika Sugandhi established a new meet record in the 100 metres hurdles. (Pix by Kamal Wanniarachchi).



Himasha Eshan clocked 10.29 seconds to win the 100 metres



Roshan Dhammika clinched the gold medal in the high jump.



Dilhani Lekame in action in the women's javelin throw.

Sugandhi creates new meet record in 100 metres hurdles

Hurdler Lakshika Sugandhi smashed the meet record of the women's 100 metres hurdles as top national athletes continued to shine on day three of the Sri Lanka Army Athletics Championships at the Sugathadasa Stadium on Wednesday.

The South Asian Games medalists Lakshika Sugandhi, Himasha Eshan and Roshan Dhammika were the winners in their respective events as they emerged the top performers of the day.

Sugandhi clocked 13.84 seconds to clinch the gold medal in the hurdles event as others failed to reach sub 14 seconds.

While sprinter Himasha Eshan stopped the clock at 10.29 seconds to win the men's 100 metres, men's 110 metres hurdles national record holder Roshan Dhammika clinched the



Udaya Bandara Herath leads the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase.

men's high jump gold with a feat of 2.14 metres on Wednesday.

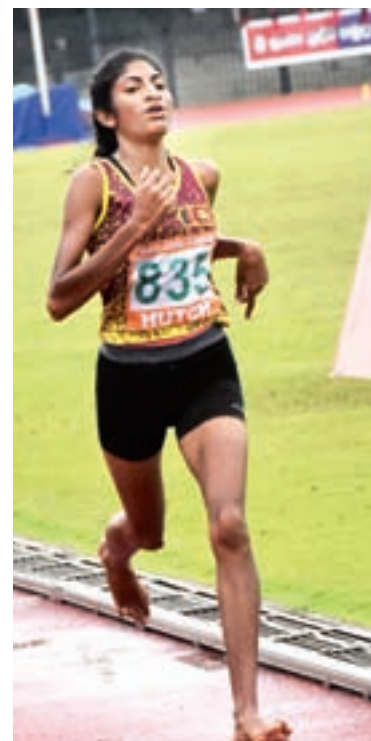
In the grueling 10,000 metres, the former Ratnayake Central distance runner Chamini Herath was the winner as she returned a time of 37:23.50 seconds to win.

National steeplechase champion Udaya Bandara Herath was 13 seconds slow-

er than his personal best but was fast enough to win the men's title (9:13.24 secs) finishing nearly four seconds ahead of former champion Pushpakumara.

Dilhani Lekame was the winner in the women's javelin as she cleared 55.57 metres.

M.D. Saparamadu won the men's discus throw gold with a feat of 44.69 metres.



Chamini Herath wins women's 10,000 metres.

