



Xi's Backward Odyssey

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In Sports

Mendis magic helps Sri Lanka fight back



Ramesh Mendis' brilliant bowling figures of 6/70 helped Sri Lanka restrict West Indies to 253 before the hosts ended day three on 46/2, trailing by 3 runs.

A16

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Access, CEB, MUSTATA

Bakamuna Police on trail of looting monkey

Bakamuna Police yesterday (1) said a rare complaint has been lodged against a monkey that had stolen the belongings of an individual.

Police added the incident occurred when the victim had visited Bakamuna Police Station on a personal matter. The victim had gone inside the Police...

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

Prior to being allowed into the country Authorities to quality check gas onboard ships

By GAGANI WEERAKOON AND METHMALIE DISSANAYAKE

State authorities will visit ships to inspect the quality of imported gas onboard ships before it enters the country from today (2), and gas will be released...



Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

TPA recognised as political party by EC

By SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHAN

The Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA), led by MP Mano Ganesan, was registered as a political party by the Election Commission yesterday (1), and 'Torch' was designated as the Alliance's official symbol.

Election Commission Chairman Nimal PUNCHIHewa has confirmed this in a letter to the TPA Secretary, according to MP Ganesan.

He said the TPA, formed at an event held in Colombo on 3 June 2015, and launched by a memorandum of understanding signed by three party leaders, namely the Democratic People's Front, the Workers National Front, and the Up-Country People's Front, and marking the six-year journey facing two parliamentary elections, one...

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

Digging up gold in Puthukkudiyiruppu Mullaitivu CI assisted two Ministry Secys - Police

By KEERTHI MENDIS

Police said a Chief Inspector of the Mullaitivu Police Division had provided assistance on the sly to two Ministry Secretaries who had gone to unearth a stock of gold which had been buried in Puthukkudiyiruppu by the LTTE.

According to sources, the Chief Inspector had obtained a SIM card in the name of a Tamil person, while he had proceeded to maintain contact with the...

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If demands not met

CEBEU Threatens Islandwide Blackout

By FAADHILA THASSIM

Following a series of trade union action, the Ceylon Electricity Board Engineers' Union (CEBEU) yesterday (1) warned that they would be compelled to launch a strike, which would result in an islandwide blackout similar to the one that took

place in 1996, if their demands, including terminating the Yugadanavi Power Plant deal are not met.

CEBEU Chairman, Saumya Kumarawadu, said the CEB management, led by the Chairman and General Manager, have changed the CEB senior management staff

who were serving in crucial positions and are critical to sign associated agreements by CEB involving the LNG supply and power supply such as power purchase agreements and fuel supply agreements in the future.

He added that this is an attempt to pave the way to sign such associated contracts and deals for the

Yugadanavi Power Plant deal with the American Company, New Fortress Energy.

"We doubt as to whether such a move by the CEB Chairman is aimed at inconveniencing the Government, the President, and the public, by compelling CEBEU to resort to strict trade union action," he added.

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

Basil discusses economic cooperation with Indian counterpart



Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Finance, sought to further enhance economic cooperation with India, when he met Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister

of India, Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, yesterday (1).

Rajapaksa thanked the support India had given to Sri Lanka in many spheres

through economic cooperation programmes. They discussed how existing economic programmes between the two countries could be further enhanced.

The two Ministers discussed a range of issues pertaining to bilateral economic cooperation.

An economist by profession, Sitharaman has been the Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister of India since May 2019. Prior to that, she was the Minister of Defence from 2017 to 2019.

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

Allow MPs to attend university - Kiriella

By GAGANI WEERAKOON AND METHMALIE DISSANAYAKE

Parliamentarians should be allowed to enrol in the Sri Lanka Law College or any other university to further their studies, Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella yesterday (1), said in Parliament.

Participating in the Committee Stage Debate on Expenditure Heads of the Education...



Story Continued on **PAGE 2**



Warna Kumara takes Samarasinghe's seat in the House

By GAGANI WEERAKOON AND METHMALIE DISSANAYAKE

Manju Lalith Warna Kumara was sworn in as an MP yesterday (1), filling the seat left vacant by Sri Lankan Ambassador-designate to the USA,...

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

IOC Conference in Abu Dhabi Ranil to join President

By SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHAN

Parliamentarian Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was the President of the Indian Ocean Conference (IOC),

will join President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on his visit to Abu Dhabi.

MP Wickremesinghe was the President of the IOC Executive Committee from 2016 to 2019 and the

position was subsequently handed over to President Rajapaksa. However, MP Wickremesinghe continues to be a member of the Executive Committee of the IOC.

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

To resolve economic issues US\$ 6B needed within three months - AKD

To resolve all the economic issues, the country will need around US\$ 6 billion within the next three months, said JVP Leader, Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Speaking at a media briefing, he said in June 2020, the country received US\$ 573 million from overseas workers. However, by June 2021, it had reduced by US\$ 95 million, and the country only received US\$ 478 million.

"Dollar inflows have reduced because the Government failed to come up with a method..."



Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

Petroleum, lubricants PUCSL introduces new system to handle grievances

By THAMEENAH RAZEEM

The Public Utility Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) has set up a mechanism to handle complaints and settle disputes in the petroleum and lubricants industry.

The PUCSL and the Ministry of Petroleum jointly introduced a statement of...



Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

Gas explosions Govt feigning ignorance - SJB

By NABIYA VAFFOOR

The SJB claimed the Government was hiding the truth behind the recent gas explosions for its own benefit.

Addressing a Media briefing yesterday (1), SJB MP Chaminda Wijesiri said the Government was...

Story Continued on **PAGE 2**

SJB Calls on Govt to Compensate Gas Explosion Victims

By NABIYA VAFFOOR

The SJB demanded the Government should take immediate action to pay compensation to all those affected by explosions caused by gas leaks across the country.

SJB General Secretary, MP Ranjith Maddumabandara issued a statement, yesterday (1) emphasising that those who have fraudulently changed the composition of gas in domestic gas cylinders and endangered the lives of the people should be

brought to justice. Maddumabandara further said Prof. Shantha Walpalage of the University of Moratuwa has submitted an observation report on the gas explosions to the Consumer Affairs Authority and that it has not been made public.

Bus engine malfunctions Breakdowns happen due to kerosene use

- Gammanpila

By THAMEENAH RAZEEM

Refuting allegations that bus engines in the country are malfunctioning due to inferior fuel, Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila said that 25 per cent of buses use kerosene leading to bus engines malfunctioning and breaking down. Speaking at the inauguration

ceremony for the Consumer Rights and Obligations Statement and Procedure for Handling Complaints and Resolving Disputes, he said trade unions are issuing statements claiming that bus engines are malfunctioning after they refuel buses with diesel. Gammanpila noted that there are complaints that the diesel imported

by the Energy Ministry is of poor quality, but most buses in fact mix diesel with kerosene or are run solely on kerosene and that buses operated by the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) should also be breaking down if the diesel is substandard, not just private buses.

Digital Libraries Project ICTA signs MoU with National Library

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka and National Library and Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka and 18 local authorities to implement the 'Digital Libraries Project.'

A key objective of this project is to ensure providing convenient and affordable access to electronic information, books, and educational material to the public.



Under this project, 26 digital libraries will be set up to cover all Districts in Sri Lanka and libraries will be equipped with the widely used 'KOHA' Integrated Library Management System. The pilot project was launched in 2017 and

public libraries in Colombo, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Kurunegala, Kiriwetiya, and the National Library were opened to the public. Meanwhile, it is expected to implement the initiative soon in the future. **(ER)**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CEBEU Threatens...

He said the CEB Chairman sent two Additional General Managers on compulsory leave without a valid reason, quoting a non-existent clause in the CEB disciplinary manual, adding that thereby over 300 engineers gathered at the CEB Headquarters yesterday (1) to hold discussions with the Chairman of the CEB, while stating however that he was not available, and thereby

discussions were held with the General Manager. He added that discussions at such level have continuously proven to be futile. The CEBEU also escalated their ongoing level one work-to-rule campaign that was launched on 25 November to a level two campaign yesterday (1), by which CEB engineers will not attend emergencies and breakdowns following normal

work hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Further commenting on the complaint lodged by the Chairman of the CEB to investigate any sabotage behind the power outages reported in certain areas, Kumarawadu assured that such incidents were not intentional, adding that an investigation will however be conducted into the incidents as per the usual practice.

TPA recognised as...

... presidential election, and one local council election, had progressed as planned. "Having successfully faced the election and grown into an unavoidable political movement in this country's national arena," the MP said, "we are today officially recognised by the National Election Commission."

"I know that the desire of the

political parties representing the Tamil people, the parties representing the Tamil-speaking people, to unite in the national arena is deeply rooted in the minds of today's Tamil, Muslim people," he added. He said they are now role models for the entire country. Many expected the alliance to break up after the election, and some waited to see it happen, but

we have proven to those odd ones that unity has triumphed, he added. Therefore, the parties will be urged to unite as we have in the last six years in the face of challenges, bidding farewell to those who have left us, and embracing new parties, but the TPA has gained recognition as a recognised political party in Sri Lanka.

Ranil to join...

President Rajapaksa is expected to deliver his maiden speech at the event on 5 December 2021. The IOC will be chaired by President Rajapaksa under the theme 'Ecology, Economy, and Epidemic.'



Warna Kumara ...

... Mahinda Samarasinghe. The SLPP MP was sworn in before Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapatiya at the beginning of parliamentary Sittings. After being sworn in, he signed the Member Roll in the presence of Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake. Kumara was declared elected as

a Member of the Ninth Parliament for the Electoral District No. 3 - Kalutara to fill the vacancy followed by resignation of Samarasinghe. He is the Chief Organiser of the SLPP for the Bulathsinhala electorate having obtained 46,361 preferential votes in the General Election 2020.

Allow MPs to...

... Ministry, Kiriella said a debate is taking place in society about the education levels of MPs. "There was a programme like that in the 1970s. Under that, some MPs enrolled at the Law College without sitting for the entrance examination. Premier Mahinda Rajapaksa also enrolled in the 1970s and became a lawyer. The MPs are elected to Parliament because they have some sort of intelligence," Kiriella said. Speaking further, Kiriella said there is a discussion among the people regarding the educational qualifications of the MPs at the moment. There are talented MPs in both the Government and the Opposition, and by launching such a programme we can help them improve their education levels, he added.

Mullaitivu CI assisted...

... two Secretaries via that SIM card. They added that the Chief Inspector in question had allegedly previously combed the areas of Mullaitivu and Puthukkudiyiruppu for the buried stock of gold, along with one of the Secretaries. The other Secretary is said to be attached to the Ministry of Fisheries. It is further alleged that the two Secretaries had gone to the

house of the Puthukkudiyiruppu OIC before requesting his help to unearth the gold stock illegally. However, the OIC concerned is said to have dismissed their request. After the incident had been brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security, Retired Major General Jagath Alwis, he had informed the IGP, following which the CID had launched a probe into the matter.

US\$ 6B needed...

... to bring the money of migrant workers to Sri Lanka. The country is facing a crisis due to the dollar shortage. Therefore, a large number of goods are stuck at the port," Dissanayake said. Even though the experts have advised about the ongoing and expected economic issues, our President was not aware of the length, width, depth, and seriousness of the issue. They are making decisions without considering the situation of the public and also, the decisions they are taking do not resolve the problem. The major reason for this economic crisis within the country is the economic policies that are being followed at the moment. Due to this, we urge the public to support us to change the policy which was being followed for a long period before we fall along with the financial crisis. "At present, we have two types

of economic issues. The first crisis is the issues that the public are facing and the second is the fault in long-term strategies which are being used in the economy. To resolve them, the country needs long- and short-term solutions," he said. Meanwhile, fielding a question about the recent gas explosions in Sri Lanka, he said the number of incidents have increased, and it has been a week since the explosions started. The people are taking precautionary measures. Meanwhile, it is important to pay immediate attention to this issue. The President has appointed a committee to look into LP gas explosions. Similarly, the President has appointed several other committees. However, the reports of some committees were not published, or even if they were published, solutions were not given. We urge them to come up with immediate solutions by consulting experts, he said. **(ER)**

PUCSL introduces...

... consumer rights and obligations, as well as a system to handle complaints and resolve disputes. Minister of Energy, Udaya Gammanpila said the public has raised concerns about substandard petrol, kerosene, and diesel for the past few months because they were unsure of who to complain to and who is in charge of overseeing the quality of these products. He said because PUCSL is known as an

independent regulatory body, passing over the task of quality control to the PUCSL will create a win-win situation for both the public and the petroleum service provider. Director General of PUCSL, Damitha Kumarasinghe added that the submission and settlement of complaints regarding petroleum and lubricants will be processed in two stages. "The initial stage would be to settle complaints through service provider

intervention. However, if there is a disagreement, the second stage would be to find a solution through mediation by the service provider and perhaps the appointed regulator," he said. As a result, the PUCSL and the Ministry of Energy yesterday (1) made public the two statements detailing the dispute resolution method, as well as the paperwork that the consumer and the petroleum service provider would need to fill out.

Basil discusses...

Sitharaman has also served as the State Minister of Finance and the State Minister (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. S.R. Attygalle,

Secretary to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India, Milinda Moragoda and officials also attended the discussion. **(SRM)**

Bakamuna Police...

... Station leaving his bag on his motorcycle. When he came out he had spotted a monkey climbing a tree with his bag, Police said.

The driving licence, National Identity Card and money had been in the bag at the time the monkey had stealthily taken the bag away Police said.

Govt feigning ...

... aware of the measures that should have been taken to prevent the gas explosions. However, even now they were deceiving the public by appointing various committees, he said. "We know for a fact that this situation has occurred due to a modification on

the composition of propane and butane in gas cylinders. As a result, both pressure and combustion of LP gas cylinders has increased. Maybe gas companies did this on purpose to increase the consumption of gas by increasing combustion," he said.

Authorities to...

... to the local market after obtaining a report on gas odour, State Minister of Consumer Protection Lasantha Alagiyawanna yesterday (1) said. Speaking to the media after the special Ministerial Consultative Committee which met yesterday (1) to discuss recent gas explosions, Alagiyawanna said the Government will implement the recommendations of the eight-member committee appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on 30 November. The committee is due to submit its report in two weeks. "Apart from that, it was proposed to update and issue amendments to existing standards of the Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI). In addition, experts who attended the meeting noted that gas cylinders will not explode even when the composition of Propane and Butane is changed. However, they pointed out that if equipment such as a regulator does not meet the required standard when the gas composition is changed, then there is

a possibility to cause explosions due to gas leaks," he said. Meanwhile, Prof. W.D.W Jayatilaka who is a member of the committee told the meeting about the possibility of the absence of Mercaptan that emits a pungent odour to warn of a gas leak. It was decided at the meeting to release gas to the market after obtaining a report on gas odour. The consultative committee met following the order of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena on 30 November. He made the order after several government and Opposition MPs requested parliamentary intervention on the gas explosion controversy. Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena chaired the committee. Representatives of the Ministry of Trade, State Ministry of Cooperative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection, Ministry of Technology, State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, Sri Lanka Police, Consumer Affairs

Authority, Department of Measurement Units, Standards and Services, Litro Gas Lanka Ltd, LAUGFS Gas PLC, Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ministry of Energy and the Department of the Government Analyst were present at the meeting. Former Professor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. W. D. W. Jayatilake and Prof. Shantha Walpalage representing the University of Moratuwa were also present and petroleum expert Nimal de Silva was a member of the Committee. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa posed a number of questions at the meeting requesting a written reply soon. Views of all parties and MPs present were sought. Chief Opposition Whip, Lakshman Kiriella, Ministers Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Udaya Gammanpila, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Mahindananda Aluthgamage, State Ministers and a large number of MPs were also present.

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CHANGE OF NAME OF A COMPANY
Pursuant to Section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, Notice is hereby given that the Name of the Company has been changed and Registered with the Registrar General of Companies under the Name indicated hereinafter. Former Name of the Company: THAMBAPANNI HOLDING LIMITED. New Name of the Company: SYNERGY GLOBAL LIMITED. Company Registration No: PE3895. Registered Office of the Company: No. 40/65/7, Langden Avenue, Colombo-07. Secretaries to the Company: Corporate Arcade Ltd, No. 9/4, Edmonton Road, Kirilapone, Colombo 06.

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Incorporated Under 9(1) Section of Companies Act No. 07 of 2007. YAHIKO AUTO SOLUTIONS (PVT) LTD, PV00230705, No. 21, Samagi Mawatha, Attidiya, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka. Company Secretaries

PUBLIC NOTICE
Following Name change Registered Under section 9(2) of Company Act No- 07 of 2007. Former Name: KAVINDU BLOCKS (PRIVATE) LIMITED, New Name: KAVINDU HOLDINGS (PRIVATE) LIMITED, Registered No: PV00204013. Address: No. 418, Hirimbura Road, Galle. Company Secretaries

Health Professionals Up in Arms Over Delays in Implementing Promises

By NABIYA VAFFOOR

The Health Professionals Collective (HPC) has stopped releasing health related data reports to the Ministry of Health from last morning (1).

HPC Co-Convener, Saman Ratnapriya said with this decision, their Collective will not release data related to COVID-19 or any other disease that will affect the public.

"We urge the authorities to implement the recommendations made in the 'Ranugge Committee Report,' rectify overtime

anomalies, give graduates their deserving appointments, and to reduce the price of medicine. There has been no moves in the Budget to solve this issue as well," he added.

Further, Ratnapriya said due to their demands not being met, they were forced to launch the strike action, and urged the Health Minister to solve the issue without delay.

Meanwhile, he also said health guidelines and the mechanism regarding tourism was an unwarranted risk.

"Tourist who already had PCR reports should be tested on arrival for safety purposes. Tourists are allowed to roam around the airport and have access to the duty-free shops to make purchases even before checking or going through PCR or Antigen Tests. In such a scenario, airport staff were running a great risk and their lives were at stake. This should change," he said.

Ratnapriya was speaking at the Health Professionals Collective Media briefing on 30 November.



St. Peter's College launches centenary logo

By EUNICE RUTH

The centenary logo of St. Peter's College was launched yesterday (1) by the Rector of the College, Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo, and the 100-year Anniversary celebration of the College will be held on 18 January 2022.

Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith will grace the occasion.

Several events were planned to celebrate the anniversary including, launching the Coffee Table Book with the history of St. Peter's College and issuing of a commemorative stamp. Also, a charity programme was organised with the help of students led by the Prefects' Body and the Interact Club.

Pix by Dumindu Wanigasekara



Organic cultivation seminar at BMICH

Farmers received Rs 4,500M to make solid organic fertiliser – Agrarian Development Commissioner

By SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHAN

The Government has already provided Rs. 4,500 million to 805,601 farmers to produce solid organic fertiliser. Agrarian Development Commissioner General A.H.M.L. Abeyratne said. The Commissioner also pointed out that the money has been provided for 647,681 hectares of paddy lands for organic cultivation.

Speaking at the 'The National Dialogue on the Progress of Organic Cultivation' held at the BMICH on 30 November, he told farmers that 7,000 metric tonnes of solid organic fertiliser has been produced at regional agrarian development centres. In addition, 85 machines for crushing raw materials used in solid organic fertiliser have been provided to regional agrarian development centres, the Commissioner said. He said steps have been taken to provide cutting machines and lawn mowers to all centres to expedite fertiliser production.

Answering queries by farmers, the Director of the National Fertiliser Secretariat, Chandana Lokuhewage, stated that although the requirement for organic fertiliser for this season is 416,176.73 metric tonnes, only 359,708 metric tonnes could be supplied. Meanwhile, steps have been taken to provide 7,725,099 litres of liquid organic fertiliser to farmers for the Maha season this year, he said. Farmers who received subsidies to produce solid fertiliser at Rs. 12,500 each have produced 101,957 metric tonnes of organic solid fertilisers.

Prof. Udith Jayasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture said that political authorities, the administration, the business community and farmers should work together to make the Government's green agriculture policy a reality and added that all these activities should be transparent.

Dr. Ajantha de Silva, Director

General of Agriculture, stated that the Department of Agriculture is committed to imparting necessary technical knowledge to make organic farming a success.

Minister of Agriculture Mahindananda Aluthgamage, State Minister of Paddy and Cereals Shashindra Rajapaksa, Fisheries Minister Douglas Devananda, Minister of Water Resources, VasudevaNanakkara, and State Minister Janaka Wakkumbura, MP Prof. Tissa Vitarana and several other organisations were also present at this event.

To discuss fishermen and SL refugee issues Indian HC Baglay meets Tamil Nadu CM Stalin



By SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHAN

A three-member team led by Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and senior officials of Tamil Nadu to discuss key matters related to people-to-people relations between India and Sri Lanka. They also visited Tamil Nadu fishermen in the coastal areas of Rameswaram to discuss fishermen issues and also visited the Sri Lankan Rehabilitation Camp in Tiruchirappalli to interact with Sri Lankan refugees living there.

In the constructive discussions held with senior officials of the State Government of Tamil Nadu and other stakeholders, it was agreed to facilitate early holding of India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries as well as interactions between Fishermen Associations of both countries. The High Commissioner was informed that a team from Tamil Nadu would visit Sri Lanka to finalise modalities of auction for the unsalvageable Indian fishing boats in various Sri Lankan harbours.

High Commissioner Baglay, along with two Mission officials, visited the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry from 21-24 November 2021 and also paid a courtesy call on Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru N. Ravi.

On the first day, the High Commissioner visited the coastal town of Rameswaram and interacted with the local fishing community on the issues faced by Indian fishermen. Government of Tamil Nadu officials briefed the visiting High Commissioner on the infrastructure and other facilities they had developed for deep sea fishing in the district. The High Commissioner also used the opportunity to visit the old ferry

harbour in Dhanushkodi that had catered to people-to-people connectivity between India and Sri Lanka.

Meeting Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin, the High Commissioner apprised him and the senior officials of Tamil Nadu of key matters related to people-to-people relations between India and Sri Lanka.

The High Commissioner also called on the Minister for Fisheries – Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry Thiru Anitha R. Radhakrishnan, Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non Resident Tamils' Welfare Thiru Ginge K.S. Masthan in Chennai.

At a trade and investment event organised by the South Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), the High Commissioner interacted with the Tamil Nadu business community on the importance of close collaboration to harness trade and investment opportunities for Indian business in Sri Lanka.

In Puducherry, the High Commissioner called on Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister of Puducherry Thiru. N. Rangaswamy, in addition to meeting senior officials of the Union Territory.

The visit of the High Commission officials to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry afforded useful opportunities for furthering discussions on a number of aspects of importance to the peoples of India and Sri Lanka in the spheres of trade, commerce, connectivity, tourism – especially collaboration in agriculture, organic farming, fisheries, aquaculture, food processing, green and renewable energy, shipping and ports, medical tourism and cultural exchange.





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Citing Fertiliser Shortage

Low Country Tea Small Holders Predict Industry Collapse

By SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHAN

The Estate Owners Association of Galle and Matara said the Government decision to permit the private sector to purchase chemical fertiliser will see a 30% cost increase. A spokesman for the Association said that they will run out chemical fertiliser stocks by December 2021 and it could be predicted that by the Sinhala/Tamil New year the low country tea industry would completely collapse.

"If the Government does not take preventive measures to increase revenue from the tea crop, the low country tea industry will see a natural death before the Sinhala Avurudu 2022," Member of the Association Ruwan S. Jayasundara said and added that within the next four months concerns relating to the low country tea industry would become a serious issue.

He said 50kg of chemical fertiliser costs Rs 6,500 and four bags were needed per acre. Furthermore, labour charges were beyond the revenue they make.

In 1990, the export portion from low country tea was 25% and it has already come down to 12%, he said.

Jayasundara said small growers who pluck 20kgs per day for 25 days of the month, pluck 400kgs of tea and in their estimation it brings in more foreign currency than what a migrant worker earns in the Middle East.

The Association said purchasing fertiliser from the private sector and offering organic fertiliser subsidies will be reversed, to give a boost to the low country tea sector. They said the upcountry tea industry was also promised Rs 1000 per day for workers and that request too was in progress in some estates, however the low country estates are grossly neglected.

"However, the Tea Research Institute had not recommended imported nano nitrogen for the tea sector. Urea has 46% nitrogen and that is only used for the tea industry."

Another member of the Association, J. M. Jayanetti on the other hand said the tea industry's future was bleak. "The plucking cost is more than the

income earned and even the fertiliser cost. In the case of chemical fertiliser, we need to spray at least three times a year."

The tea industry would collapse if this is going to be the future of tea and can predict that this would be so from the way things are going. Jayanetti added that it was not only Galle and Kalura but also small tea holders from Ratnapura, Hambantota, Beliatta and Matara say they will have to fold up in the next four months at the rate things are going.

Currently out of 47 acres 15 acres are tea plantation and the rest are for cinnamon and vegetables, they added.

Wijesundara added that they have been predicting the plight of the tea industry five years ago and had identified many areas that needed focus.

"For the last six months we did not have enough chemical fertiliser and some of the small holders have stocked chemical fertiliser but it would run out by end December. This is going to plunge the tea sector down a precipice," he added.

Govt will stop undue price increases

-Arundika Fernando

By FAADHILA THASSIM

The Government does not have to be submissive to the rice mafia operating in the country and the rice industry should be nationalised if required. Rice should be given to the public at a low price, State Minister Arundika Fernando said.

Criticising the increase in the price of wheat flour, Fernando said the decision was unacceptable and is an additional burden on consumers while promising that the Government will take

necessary action if any unfair price increases of commodities were made to earn a larger profit.

Multinational companies importing commodities including milk powder importers and wheat flour importers have gained huge profits over the recent past and are not supporting the Government during difficult times, he said.

He said these companies were not providing relief to consumers while adding that the Government will put an end to unfavorable increases in the price of goods.

Donations to enrol students

Underprivileged parents struggling to raise money - Stalin

By NAALIR JAMALDEEN

Ceylon Teachers' Union (CTU) General Secretary, Joseph Stalin, yesterday (1) said underprivileged parents are struggling to raise money to pay donations when enrolling their children to popular schools.

Due to this, many underprivileged parents lose the opportunity to enrol their children to popular schools in their area.

Stalin added that this situation must change. It is only then that

talented underprivileged children can reap the benefits of the free education system, he said.

He said the circular issued by the Department of Education regarding the enrolment of children to schools clearly indicates that under the free education system, donations can't be obtained by school administrators after enrolment.

Legal action will be taken against school administrators who demand donations from parents, Stalin added.

Possible COVID surge during holidays

Educating public feasible option

- Dr. Herath

By DILANTHI JAYAMANNE

With appeals from the Public Health Inspectors Union Sri Lanka (PHIUSL) to impose travel restrictions this festive season owing to public behaviour, the Health Ministry noted that it needs to create awareness and educate the people rather than put more restrictions.

Deputy Director General Disaster Management and Emergency Response (DDG), Dr. Hemantha Herath on Tuesday (30) urged the public to refrain from propelling the country into such a situation. With the current threat posed by the highly mutated Omicron variant which has already been detected in over ten countries including Denmark, Germany, Italy, Israel

and Hong Kong, not only is it necessary to keep the particular mutation from entering the country, it is also important to ensure that public movement and activity do not cause another COVID-19 wave.

Currently the number of patients is stabilised with the total number of daily cases reaching a maximum of 700. The daily COVID death toll too fluctuated between 20 and 25.

He said although the Health Ministry was not keen on imposing travel restrictions during the festive season, it is trying to prevent a possible outbreak by educating the public. But everything depends on the public and the behaviour patterns during December could push health authorities to reconsider the current relaxed restrictions, he said.

Australia grants Rs 135M for mine clearance

The Australian High Commission has granted additional A\$ 1 million (Rs 135 million) for the landmine clearance, the Mine Advisory Group (MAG), until December 2022. Australia has been a consistent supporter of mine clearance in Sri Lanka since the end of the 30-year conflict in 2009 and has spent more than A\$ 20 million (Rs 2.7 billion), on mine clearance.

Since 2002, MAG has cleared over 43 sq km of land and recovered over 92,000 landmines and other unexploded items.

Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka David Holly, said Australia was pleased to be continuing its successful partnership with MAG. "We are pleased to have partnered with MAG, and their partner DASH, to have delivered impressive results in demining following the end of the war in the North and Eastern Provinces," he said.

In total, the new project aims to return ca. 220,000 m² of land - equivalent to 15 cricket pitches - to local people for safe use and help remove the threat of landmines. The new funding will support MAG and its



national partner Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH) to conduct humanitarian demining.

MAG Country Director in Sri Lanka, Valentina Stivanello said MAG is grateful to Australia for its generous support, which together with their partner DASH, will help to release large areas of minefields and support the livelihood of communities as well as economic development potential in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

The project will support the Sri Lankan Government's goal to become mine free, in line with its obligations to the Ottawa

Landmine Treaty. MAG estimates more than 5,000 people living close to the minefields will benefit from the initiative.

DASH PM, Ananda Chandrasiri, said the elimination of the terrible legacy of landmines is essential for the future of Sri Lanka.

The three-decade long civil war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, leaving behind over 2,000 km² of contaminated land. Today, minefields cover about 13 km² of land in Sri Lanka that could be used for housing, farming or to build homes, schools and clinics.

(SRM)

Kinniya tragedy

Karainagar-Kayts ferry service provided with lifejackets

By SULOCHANA RAMIAH MOHAN

Following the ferry accident in Kinniya in the Eastern Province which killed seven persons including five children, the Road Development Authority (RDA) in Jaffna has provided life jackets to passengers travelling between Karainagar-Kayts Islands on ferries.

The RDA has been providing the islands with a free ferry service for decades without safety gear to passengers who are mostly students, a spokesman said.

The ferry service covers about a half

a kilometre of sea and is a vital route for people living in Karainagar and Kayts. It is noted that without the ferry service, the islanders have to travel to 40 km to Jaffna.

Despite reports that nearly Rs 1,700 million has been allocated for a permanent bridge connecting the two islands, construction has not yet begun.

It was noteworthy that the RDA has taken this measure and locals said they trust the Government would provide safety gear for an islandwide ferry services.

Pix by T. Pratheepan (Jaffna Corr.)



First Woman in SLAF Contingent to Central Africa

A woman officer, a first in Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) history, will be deployed in an SLAF peacekeeping force, supervised by the UN, which flew to Central Africa on Tuesday (30 November), SLAF said.

This woman is one of the medical officers deployed with this

contingent comprising a total of 110 SLAF personnel consisting of 20 officers and 90 airmen. Wing Commander Sampath Liyanarachchi leads this contingent, the seventh such contingent deployed in peacekeeping missions in Central Africa.

(PA)



Will address public issues

- Thiyagarajah

By NAALIR JAMALDEEN

Northern Province Governor Jeevan Thiyagarajah yesterday (1) said he would pay more attention to pressing issues of the public and find solutions, rather than mollycoddling State officials.

The Governor said if any Government officials in the province are up to no good, the public have been asked to complain in writing.

He said those issues will be addressed on a humanitarian basis and steps would be taken to resolve them using his power as the Northern Province Governor. "The public issues and other matters brought before the Government officials must be addressed within three days. Delays in addressing these issues will not be tolerated," the Governor said.

8-year-old dies in domestic fire in Weligama

By NAALIR JAMALDEEN

An 8-year-old girl tragically died in a fire that broke out in the house she was living in.

Weligama Police yesterday (1) said this incident took place on the night of 30 November in Weligama area.

Preliminary investigations revealed that a sudden fire had broken out in a room of this house and had spread to the roof causing burning rafters to collapse on the victim resulting in her critical injuries.

The Police added that her grandmother and sister had been rescued to safety by neighbours. However, the fire had been caused by the Weligama and Matara fire brigades that arrived on the scene.

The cause for the fire is yet to be determined. Weligama Police are inquiring into this incident.

Govt doctors urge DGHS Strictly Implement Transfer Policy

By DILANTHI JAYAMANNE

Government doctors urged the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to strictly implement the transfer policy, to overcome the shortage of doctors in difficult areas in the country.

Secretary of the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA), Senal Fernando yesterday (1) said there were a total of 6,969 medical officers who had failed to accept transfers that had been approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC). He lamented that it impacted patient care, which suffered greatly.

Failing to strictly implement the annual transfers of doctors has been a major factor in the delay in deploying them to difficult areas. Dr. Fernando said the hospital authorities were responsible for releasing the relevant doctor to assume duties at any hospital which had been approved by the PSC according to the Gazette and Circulars related to doctors' transfers.

Currently, medical care of patients in the State health service is in dire straits, as about 38 per cent of grade medical officers had failed to accept the transfers that had been given to them, the GMOA Secretary pointed out.

Envoys of 15 Islamic nations meet PM



The Ambassadors and High Commissioners of 15 Islamic Countries held a discussion with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on 30 November.

The steps taken by the Sri Lankan Government and the country's health authorities to prevent the

spread of COVID-19 were praised by the diplomats and they said they are expecting to continue to build good relations between the countries by implementing various activities and projects.

In addition, Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris elaborated how the

country has overcome financial issues which arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the meantime, the Prime Minister said Sri Lanka needs the support of Islamic countries to help uplift its economy.

(ER)

National Environment Council Zoom meetings

Environment Ministry helps Veddha Chief go online

By THAMEENAH RAZEEM

The Ministry of Environment has taken steps to facilitate the Leader of the Veddha community, Uruwarige Wannila Aththo to participate in the National Environment Council sessions via Zoom.

Minister of Environment Mahinda Amaraweera issued directions not to summon Wannila Aththo from Dambana to Colombo for the Council's monthly meetings and emergency discussions.

Amaraweera issued these directions to the Central Environmental Authority (CEA), during the 'Surakimu Ganga' programme's progress review meeting.

This is the first time an indigenous leader has been appointed to the Environment Council and despite the fact that the Environment Council has held 13 sessions, no prior efforts was made to appoint Wannila Aththo as a member.

The Minister ordered CEA Director General, Hemantha Jayasinghe to enable the Veddha Chief to join the discussions and other sessions at the CEA's Badulla District Office using Zoom and other online facilities.

Divi Neguma case to be heard today

By HANSI NANAYAKKARA

Colombo High Court (CHC) Judge, Namal Balalle yesterday fixed hearing of the case filed against Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa and another accused on charges of misappropriation of Divi Neguma Development Department funds, for today.

The Attorney General has indicted the aforesaid duo on charges of misappropriating a sum of Rs. 20 million belonging to the Divi Neguma Development Department to print of 500,000 almanacs containing the image of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in the lead up to the Presidential Poll six years ago and for having flouted provisions contained in Sections of the Public Properties Act by their actions.



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Government Fails to Tame Inflation

The main pivot to uplift a country's real growth that spawns employment and doesn't overburden its debt profile is investor confidence.

If that confidence is lacking, a low interest rate regime in place by chance or by design is not going to uplift real growth.

Last month, inflation hit a 154 month high of 9.9 per cent (Yesterday's 'Ceylon Today' (CT)). Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), whilst acknowledging and further forecasting such inflationary developments, attributed those to supply side effects (Friday's CT).

CBSL however refused to tame inflation on the basis that it is due to supply side and not demand side effects. One of the key tools that CBSL has to check inflation is raising rates, thereby drawing in money supply in the economy to financial institutions such as banks due to the cascading effects of a CBSL rate hike.

A reduction in money circulation in the economy also reduces demand, which in turn leads to a contraction in prices, hence mitigating inflationary pressure.

The importance of taming inflation is that it preserves the value of money. This is particularly important to pensioners and savers who have no other source of income, where, pensioners in this instance, defined as retired private sector employees who generally don't have a regular monthly pension unlike retired public sector employees, where, public sector pensions are generally upped, almost in tandem with salary hikes given to public servants, which take place fairly regularly.

Supply side inflationary effects may be due to both external and domestic reasons. With food being one of the major catalysts of inflation in a country like Sri Lanka, coupled with the fact that the country runs perennial trade deficits, external inflationary effects caused by rising international prices of essential items are made worse, if the rupee is weak, a general fact, considering Sri Lanka's perennial trade deficits.

Domestic led supply side inflationary effects may be caused when agriculture harvests are impacted by droughts and such like leading to shortages, as an example.

The issue of external supply side inflation may be met by finding external sources of supply in the context that competition drives down prices, provided those external sources of supply are not cartelised and also if such sources are available. The same such treatment rings true when it comes to treating domestically driven supply side inflationary effects by resorting to imports to meet such shortfalls.

On the assumption that CBSL's view, that current inflationary pressure is due to supply side disruptions and not due to demand side uplift, *vis-à-vis* inflation, CT yesterday, in the above article published under the heading 'Inflation at 154 month high of 9.9%', to quote excerpts said, 'among the main drivers of food inflation last month were rice, vegetables, coconut, chicken, egg, green chillies, big onion and sugar and the main drivers of non-food inflation were high LP gas prices.'

Food inflation has to be looked at in the context that last month's food inflation soared to a 157 month high of 17.5 per cent.

Such high food inflationary levels are not tolerable. The only recourse is imports. As reported in yesterday's CT, the Government, to mitigate 'rice inflationary pressure,' plans to import 20,000 metric tons from Myanmar.

But rice, though a key product in the food inflationary measurement basket as well as being Sri Lanka's staple food is just one among several food items as shown above, which also need to be imported to alleviate high prices.

But the crux of the matter is that the country is starved of US dollars to make such key imports to alleviate inflationary pressure, impacting in particular retired private sector employees living off their savings, made worse by stagnant, or even worse, falling deposit/savings rates.

In short, the Sri Lankan inflationary scenario, according to CBSL is supply led, but with no efforts by the State, other than planning to import rice from Myanmar to mitigate this situation, whilst not taking remedial measures to counter other food shortfalls in the market.

However, such nonchalance has an adverse effect on both the poor and those who live off their savings. A Government is elected to see towards the welfare of its people. If that's not taking place, that signifies that the State has failed to fulfil its mandate to its people.



Xi's Backward Odyssey



By **JOSCHKA FISCHER**

Momentous changes are casting a long shadow on China. The country's political system will soon undergo a profound reform, pending final approval (a quasi-formality) at next year's congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). President Xi Jinping, the Party Chairman and the 'navigator' of the country, has decided on a new course, abandoning the principle of collective leadership. Xi is leading China away from the path taken by Deng Xiaoping after the terror of the Cultural Revolution, and back toward a system of absolute rule by one person without term limits, as under Mao Zedong.

From a Western perspective, these changes may look trivial. After all, the CPC's political monopoly remains untouched, leaving no possibility for genuine democratisation. But for China - which will soon be the world's largest economy and one of this century's two superpowers (along with the United States) - recent developments signal a return to a disastrous past. Xi's formal elevation to the same stature as Mao implies a transition from authoritarianism to personal dictatorship. Given the enormous increase in China's power and strategic importance since Mao's rule, this change will have far-reaching implications for the rest of the world.

For the time being, the CPC seems to have managed to combine its one-party system with Western-style consumerism. Communist ideology has been pushed into the background by mass prosperity and individual wealth, resulting in a successful hybrid system combining elements of both a market economy and a State economy - all under the CPC's sole and absolute control.

Xi's formal elevation to the same stature as Mao implies a transition from authoritarianism to personal dictatorship. Given the enormous increase in China's power and strategic importance since Mao's rule, this change will have far-reaching implications for the rest of the world

To be sure, China's swift rise from a developing country to the leading economy of the twenty-first century has had its downsides, not least widespread official corruption and a widening gap between rich and poor. But as long as the CPC keeps its commitment to pursuing broad-based social advancement, 'core interests' like unchallenged control over Hong Kong and Taiwan and increased international influence, there will be no real risk to its rule domestically.

Jack Ma

Moreover, the CPC leadership has already recognised that something

needed to be done about the corrosive corruption, the scandalous distribution of wealth, the confrontation with America that started during Donald Trump's Presidency, and the increasing power of the country's private sector. Successful entrepreneurs such as Jack Ma, the co-founder of the Alibaba Group, were gaining too much influence (from the CPC's perspective) and becoming too dependent on the US capital market.

When some leading Chinese private-sector figures even dared to express their opposition to domestic policies openly, they obviously crossed a red line and became a threat to the State's (and thus the Party's) control over the financial sector and the broader economy. For the CPC, a change in direction was clearly needed. According to Xi, the Chinese hybrid model that has developed since Deng now needs a fundamental readjustment and social reorientation to account for the escalating political confrontation with the US and the decline of the economy's growth rate.

But it remains to be seen how the Chinese hybrid model will fare with a politically weakened private sector and a public sector (State-owned enterprises) that has been ailing for some time. China is still posting impressive growth figures (especially compared to Western economies), and it managed to recover very quickly from the COVID-19 crisis. The question, however, is whether its growth trajectory - which will continue to weaken as a result of demographic trends - is sufficient for meeting the country's goals and ambitions.

Will Xi's course correction consolidate CPC control without sacrificing any of the country's economic dynamism, or will it derail

China's global rise? If it does succeed, the West's own internal debates over regulation and redistribution would surely intensify.

Against this background, Xi is betting everything on a transition from collective leadership to indefinite one-man absolutism - despite the disastrous results of that approach under Mao. For China, now an economic giant, to resurrect it speaks to the weakness of the country's political system. Mao used the Cultural Revolution to attack the Chinese political elite, with the aim of destroying and then renewing it on his own terms. But that was in the 1960s, when China was still wretchedly poor, not a global superpower. Its internal power structure and its national ambitions are increasingly incompatible, and it is here that the great risk of instability lies.

At first glance, dictatorships seem more decisive and assertive than democracies, with their cumbersome processes of deliberation and consent. But this is an illusion, because most authoritarian regimes are in fact consumed by their leaders' fear of losing power. The more a dictatorship acts on this fear by centralising power, the more brittle and unstable the whole edifice becomes.

Genuine systemic stability would require the exact opposite approach: a broadening of the Government's base of support. That is the principle that China is now in the process of abandoning under Xi. That will make Xi's China a less predictable partner.

Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor from 1998 to 2005, was a leader of the German Green Party for almost 20 years. (Courtesy-www.project-syndicate.org)

The Hubris of Neoliberal Globalisation

By UDITHA DEVAPRIYA

For many, the end of the Cold War meant the triumph of liberal values. It was automatically assumed this would lead to world peace through the convergence of global interests and concerns. 30 years on after the collapse of Communism, it seems like a dream that never came true, an oasis that became a mirage.

The logical extension of post-Cold War globalisation, global governance, has now begun to unravel, prompting scholars and commentators to suggest it has failed. Not surprisingly, the optimism of the 1990s has now given way to a dour pessimism and cynicism.

But make no mistake, while the going was good, the naysayers remained in the minority. Marked on the one hand by faith in a Western worldview and on the other by belief in the establishment of what Benjamin Barber idealised as a group of confederal states, the drive towards integration saw the coming apart of traditional political divisions.

It was in the 1990s that Giddensian Radical Centres, and Third Way liberalism, caught on across the capitals of the West. Freed from the constraints of bureaucracies and welfare States, Western countries, in particular the US under Clinton and the UK under Blair, openly repudiated socialism and began championing an alternative to both the Left and the Right. Ideologically hazy, Third Way liberalism became a front for the new agenda; in Sri Lanka, it came to be known as 'neoliberalism with a human face.'

The assumption underlying these trends was that, with the demise of communism, both the Global North and Global South would usher in progress and development in an increasingly interlinked world. This was taken by political commentators to be a vindication of the tenets of liberal democracy, including the rule of law, and of course the free market.

Liberal democracy

As I have mentioned in a previous column, despite essential differences of opinion, the end of history thesis and the clash of civilisation thesis both underscore a confidence in Western liberalism. After all, the

point in Huntington's book isn't so much that civilisations are pitted against each other as that conflicts between them require a greater force that can set things right. Huntington may have cautioned against misplaced faith in liberal democracy, but that did not necessarily delegitimise liberal democracy in the first place.

Perhaps the most amusing conclusion to come out of all these developments was Thomas Friedman's so-called Golden Arches Peace Theory. With more than a wink at Kant's famous suggestion that republics would never wage war with each other, Friedman contended that no two countries with McDonald's outlets would ever raise the battle-cry. That in itself was a carry forward from the distinction Benjamin Barber once drew between McWorldism and Jihadism, a distinction Andre Gunder Frank later showed to be patently false.

Of course, Friedman has not lost any candour or colour since his theory, so grandiloquently announced, ramed into a wall: less than a year after he expounded on it, NATO invaded Kosovo, an irony considering that Belgrade had been among the first capitals of the Soviet Union, or perhaps the first among them, to open a McDonald's outlet.

Friedman's thesis, and its unravelling, points us to how misplaced liberal dreams used to be back then. It also points us to other problems, pertinent to the Global South.

The idea that a coming together of the world would eventually solve the problems of the world, problems as relevant then as now, like poverty and terrorism, was premised on the belief that these issues required general and across-the-board solutions. Old as they would have been, they were now seen as requiring a completely different approach.

Accordingly, in the minds of liberal idealists, there was no further need for organisations which had been set up during the Cold War to reinforce South-South cooperation. In other words, the poorer countries of the world could find their way out of grinding poverty, not through multilateral and bilateral initiatives that would ensure social equity and justice for the Global South, but by being part



of a new world order led by the West.

Trade by comparative advantage

Speaking at a BCIS forum in 1997, the late Gamani Corea highlighted a fascinating paradox: while speaking for the establishment of a global community, influential NGOs and advocates of multilateralism were calling for the abolition of entities like UNCTAD. Such entities, as Corea clearly noted, had been set up to focus on development issues relevant, and specific, to the Third World. By doing away with those institutions, the most avowed globalists were insinuating that the only way out for the Global South lay in linking with the North. This new strategy would, in effect, entail a shift from campaigns for fairer commodity prices for Third World countries to the neoclassical doctrine of trade by comparative advantage.

Corea was right in sounding the alarm against these shifts in development strategy. And yet, even in Sri Lanka, he was probably in the minority. The Government of the day, along with the Opposition of the day, had by now subscribed to the new world order; thus, while Anura Bandaranaike could passionately argue in support of the Non-Aligned Movement barely a decade earlier, now, ensconced in the party that had deprived his mother of her civic rights, he called for its burial, arguing that its time had come and that we needed to move on from our earlier foreign policy in favour of 'bilateral trade and economic relations.'

The point I am trying to make here is that, in the guise of promoting multilateralism, the

victors of the Cold War sought to globalise and internationalise what they believed had won them a place in history. They thought the end of that War had legitimised capitalism and felt that this in turn legitimised neoliberal globalisation, which they sought to enforce across the Global South. Accordingly, initiatives such as the Non-Aligned Movement and UNCTAD were felt as unnecessary and even cumbersome: the new world had no use for them, because the problems of the world were apparently no longer limited to poorer regions.

Free market economies

Ironically, while belittling Third World initiatives to propel growth across the Global South, the Global North continued with outfits and organisations set up during the Cold War and, theoretically, no longer needed in the post-Cold War

conjuncture.

Prime among these, of course, was NATO. Former Soviet Union countries that transitioned to free market economies, which espoused the cause of liberal democracy, felt it to be in their interests to join an outfit that was much more of a Cold War relic than UNCTAD and NAM. They did not see any contradiction here. Indeed, far from viewing the spread of liberal democratic ideals and membership of a Cold War outfit as two prospects, proponents of the new order saw them as two sides of the same coin.

Supplementing this was another, bigger issue. Neoliberal globalisation, or rather the globalisation of neoliberalism, ruptured the less affluent societies. Despite recording impressive growth rates, both the Global South and Global North began to feel the heat from liberating the market, indeed the economy, from the Government and welfare state. While that may have propped up an affluent middle-class in these societies, it did so at a tremendous cost: the withdrawal of the State from essential services. The disparities that this enabled cut through countries; the difference between average incomes of the richest and the poorest countries, today, stands at a factor of 177.

Of course the effects have been felt differently by both sides. On the one hand, as the Patnaiks have noted, neoliberal globalisation enabled a kind of neocolonialism that keeps Third

World countries tethered to low export prices, while forcing them to import capital goods at inflated prices; on the other, it facilitated the migration of capital from First World to rapidly developing Third World countries, speeding up deindustrialisation in parts of the West and provoking populist, xenophobic backlashes.

Those backlashes have succeeded in generating feelings of discontent across the Global South, particularly in regions like South Asia, fuelling up their variant of populist politics that the pandemic has unraveled. The pandemic, in turn, has made us aware of the inequalities buttressing this so-called multilateral order. The US response to India's desperate requests for vaccines, to give one example, tells us where we are, and where they are.

Underscored by phenomenal growth rates across Asia, as well as the demoralisation of the Left everywhere, advocates of neoliberal globalisation sought to remake the world in their image. In this they were doomed to fail. Flushed with hubris, they laid all bets on the world conforming to their rules. In doing so, they believed there was no longer a need for Third World initiatives. Today, things have come full circle. Divided, ruptured, and broken up like never before, liberal democracy as envisioned by neoliberal globalists has not brought about what it promised. The results have been only too dismally clear.

The writer can be reached at udakdev1@gmail.com



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Message from Mr. Ibrahim Ali Algergawi - Chargé d'Affaires



Sheikh Zayed - Founder Leader | Sheikh Khalifa - President | Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum | Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed | Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed - Minister of Foreign Affairs | Ibrahim Ali Algergawi - Chargé d'Affaires

Today, the UAE celebrates the Golden Jubilee of the union of the Seven Emirates. This occasion marks a sincere reflection of the federation's journey rich in monumental events and achievements, building on the foundation that was first laid down by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his brothers, the fellow founding fathers. His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, follows in their footsteps, leading our nation in its journey towards the future.

Since its foundation on 2 December 1971, the UAE has followed the principle of promoting peace, security and sustainable development in various parts of the region and the world. Through his vision, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan - may his soul rest in peace - guided the UAE towards the adoption of a successful and active foreign policy based on balance, moderation, and non-interference in internal affairs.

Under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, our country continues its journey, emphasising, deepening and developing this dimension through great contributions at various humanitarian, political and economic levels, inspired by

the policies, thoughts, etiquette, and values of the Rulers of the Emirates. It is with great pleasure I wish to mention that through its embassies and representative missions around the globe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation makes restless efforts to ensure the safety and security of Emirati citizens overseas and to be the link between them and the country's visionary leadership through all its departments, embassies and representative missions around the world, in an effort to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with other countries, and to foster economic and cultural development, and peace in the world.

In June 2021, member states of the United Nations General Assembly elected the UAE to serve on the Security Council for the term 2022-2023. The UAE has reiterated its strong belief in the importance of building bridges to promote relations among the Council members and to renew the confidence of Member States in the ability of the Security Council to respond effectively to international challenges facing international peace and security.

The United Arab Emirates won the membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period

2022-2024 for the third time since the establishment of the state. This victory is the culmination of the wise policies pursued by the UAE in consolidating rights and freedoms. It reflects its unremitting efforts at the regional and international levels, and its consistent approach to cooperation with the United Nations and its various bodies to tackle all the challenges facing the international community and to reach a more prosperous future for all countries and peoples of the world. The election of the UAE as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council is reflective of the role the country plays in defending human rights in every country around the world.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the UAE attained achievements in several areas at the national level as well as at the regional and international levels, and Emirati women were at the forefront, partners in a developmental course that reaps successes with unparalleled determination. Emirati women have been an integral part of the most prominent achievements of the UAE during the past period, attesting to considerable role and active presence of the daughters of the UAE in various fields, as they demonstrated the extent of capabilities and competencies that qualify them to

lead and manage several key and vital projects in the sectors of advanced science, space, energy and health. Their role was embodied in the arrival of the "Hope Probe" to the orbit of planet Mars, the beginning of the successful and safe operation of the first reactor at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, in addition to their success and leadership in efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic locally and globally.

This year the United Arab Emirates is hosting the EXPO 2020 Dubai, which coincides with the country's Golden Jubilee. This is a crucial milestone in the country's development and a landmark event which is a key international platform underscoring the values of solidarity, cooperation and innovation. It is an opportunity for promoting cooperation between countries to ensure the connection of minds to shape the future, as well as to exchange expertise and enhance collective action to achieve sustainable and balanced development.

This year the UAE and Sri Lanka complete 41 years of Diplomatic Relations between the two nations. Over these years the two countries have had a relationship that has grown stronger in every field of engagement, be it trade, knowledge sharing, cultural etc. On this occasion, I would like to hail the bilateral

relations between our two friendly countries. These relations found their roots in the principles of cooperation and mutual respect.

The UAE is a leading source of foreign direct investment in Sri Lanka, and is one of the largest trading partners in the Middle East with a trade exchange representing more than half of Sri Lanka's trade with the Middle East. UAE direct investments in Sri Lanka amounted to 18 billion US dollars during the years 2020 and 2021, while bilateral trade amounted to 2.3 billion US dollars during the same period.

A number of joint venture trade projects are being implemented in both countries, helping to link the two countries together even more closely. Charitable and welfare institutions in the UAE continue to provide a lot of aid and humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka in order to uplift the life of the underprivileged in different parts of the island nation.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere and heartfelt greetings to the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and to the government and people of Sri Lanka, wishing them progress and prosperity in the years ahead.



عام الخمسين
YEAR OF THE FIFTIETH
UAE

As the UAE's 50th anniversary since its founding as a nation approaches, notable opportunities exist to highlight the country's recent achievements and constructive vision for international cooperation, security, stability, and prosperity.

The UAE is a young, resourceful, and progressive nation that constantly seeks to better itself and the world around it. It is founded on the values of tolerance, equality, inclusion, moderation, resilience, and generosity. The UAE has developed a unique model that benefits the entire Middle East - one that

empowers women, embraces diversity, encourages innovation, and welcomes global engagement.

Over the past 50 years, the UAE has moved rapidly from a pearl industry to a fully diversified modern economy that is now leading the world in technology, science, and sustainability. A hub for trade and logistics for centuries due to its unique position, the modern UAE has a global presence that focuses on innovation, technology, and education.

The UAE Government is constantly working to enhance the economy's competitiveness and sustainability and

UAE Vision and Achievements

provide new investment opportunities, particularly in the fields of technology, space, food security, and medicine.

The vision for the next 50 years is to make the UAE the global capital of investment and economic creativity, an integrated incubator for entrepreneurship and emerging projects, and an advanced laboratory for new economic opportunities, as the UAE aims to consolidate its status on par with key economic players like Singapore, South Korea, and Switzerland.

Peace and Security

The UAE stands for diplomacy over conflict, partnerships over unilateralism, and dialogue over confrontation. The UAE believes in the power of mediation and de-escalation, maintaining friendly and mutually supportive relations with as many nations as possible. The UAE believes that the most pressing threats to human development - such as food insecurity, violent conflict, global health, and climate change - can be overcome through international cooperation.

In the last year, the UAE signed the Abraham Accords with Israel, ushering in a new era of cooperation, peace, and stability in an often troubled region. It supported the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Al Ula Declaration and has exerted diplomatic efforts to promote stability in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

The UAE seeks peaceful solutions and de-escalation with Iran and Turkey and to assist with humanitarian solutions in Yemen and elsewhere. The UAE has always sought to mediate between parties in conflict, to de-escalate tensions, and develop inclusive political processes and security approaches to ensure durable transitions out of conflict. The UAE

rejects violent extremism in all its forms and works with its international partners to target material and ideological support for terrorism and extremism worldwide.

Following its election as a member of the UN Security Council under the theme Stronger United, the UAE works to bring that belief to life through its actions at home and diplomacy abroad. On the Security Council, the UAE will be a constructive partner to address some of the critical challenges of our time: promoting gender equality, fostering tolerance and countering terrorism and extremism, building resiliency to climate change, prioritising humanitarian relief and sustaining peace, tackling global health crises, and harnessing the potential of innovation.

Women's Empowerment

The UAE is a progressive, moderate society where women hold leadership roles in all sectors and industries - including government, military, business and society - and participate meaningfully in every facet of civic and political life.

Nine women constitute 29% of ministerial positions, one of the highest proportions in the Middle East. Women occupy 50 percent of the Federal National Council's seats. According to the IMF World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020, the UAE ranked first in the female parliamentary representation index.

Moreover, nearly 50 percent of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation's employees are women, and nearly a third of UAE diplomats are female.

77% of Emirati women enrol in higher education after secondary school and make up 70% of all university graduates

in the UAE, among the highest participation rates in the world. 56% of total graduates in the fields of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics are women. 34% of the Emirates Mars Mission team is comprised of women, and women comprised 70% of the team behind the UAE Astronaut Program, which produced the UAE's first astronaut.

Personal Status Reforms

Recently, the UAE adopted important legislative changes in line with its aspirations and international human rights commitments, as well as its vision to continue serving as an open, tolerant destination in which over 200 nationalities live and work. Significant progress has been made to promote and ensure the rights of workers, women, and children; implement domestic legal frameworks for people of determination; and ratify additional international human rights conventions.

In 2020, the UAE Government moved to liberalize laws relating to divorce and inheritance, alcohol consumption, and cohabitation while also strengthening laws around sexual harassment and assault. These reforms include changes to allow expatriates to choose which legal system applies to their inheritance, permit the sale and consumption of liquor in authorized locations, and end the criminalization of consensual relations outside of marriage.

The UAE's National Human Rights Committee is launching a process to strengthen protections for human rights in the UAE. The committee is preparing a national plan that will serve as a comprehensive and integrated national human rights framework in the UAE.



يوم وطنى سعيد

Happy National Day
UAE



A timeless journey of braving the past leading towards a transformative future

In the vast stillness of the desert, a federation of seven Emirates united to form the United Arab Emirates of today. An iconic modern oasis, a testament to the resilience of the people. The nation celebrates 'The Year of the 50th' easing into a futuristic world of accessibility and mobility by becoming the world's most connected city. We are proud to be a business that operates within this remarkable global gateway.

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CEYLON FT

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Wednesday Markets

NFOs record 189 days

By **PANEETHA AMERSEKERE**

Net foreign outflows (NFOs) from the bourse registered a record 189 calendar days to yesterday due to sustained uncertainty, beating the previous record of 188 days established last year.

Consequently the bourse suffered NFOs for the 14th consecutive market day to yesterday with a figure of Rs 55.56 million, increasing NFOs in the calendar year to date to Rs 50.28 billion, the second highest in the bourse's 125 year history, the highest being Rs 50.04 billion established last year due to similar uncertainty. In the 218 market days that have transpired in the calendar year to yesterday, the bourse has suffered NFOs in 86.70 per cent of those days, which is also the second highest ever NFOs the bourse has suffered in percentage terms, with the highest being last year where it suffered NFOs in 90.82 per cent of the market days (207) that transpired that year.

Consequently, the benchmark ASPI fell by 0.27 per cent to 11,409.88 points, though the so-called sensitive S&P SL 20 Index increased by 0.77 per cent to 3,905.65 points on a Rs 11.08 billion turnover and on a 402.01 million share volume, yesterday.

FVMP Debt Rs 1.80 Trillion

Government of Sri Lanka's (GoSL's) face value money printing (FVMP) debt decreased by Rs38,863 million (2.12 per cent) to Rs 1,796,024.88 million (Rs 1.796 trillion) yesterday.

GoSL's FVMP debt has been over Rs one trillion for a record consecutive 90 market days to yesterday due to a lack of revenue.

GoSL's at least theoretical MP borrowing costs fell for the fourth consecutive market day to yesterday, this time by 0.88 per cent (Rs 409.75 million) to Rs 45,905.24 million yesterday.

Money market was short for the 58th consecutive market day to yesterday, thereby causing persistent rate pressure, though market shortfall decreased by 3.96 per cent (Rs 11,972 million) to Rs 290,331 million.

Money market liquidity during yesterday's trading increased by Rs 50,835 million (US\$ 251.96 million), *vis-à-vis*, at the discounted, albeit 'spot' price of Rs 201.76 to the US dollar due to the possible settlement/s of GoSL's dollar swaps with/ sales to Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL's) and/or CBSL's swaps with the market.

CBSL's open market operations (OMO) data don't capture transactions between CBSL and other central banks, Asian Clearing Union and the IMF. Transactions between GoSL and CBSL are foreign reserves neutral. CBSL is not transparent in its OMO data.

Dead 145 days

The interbank foreign exchange (FX) market was 'dead' for the 145th consecutive market day to yesterday with no outright transactions taking place, coupled with all trades in the FX market, including bank-client trades too, since midnight 6 September, mandated to be executed under a controlled exchange rate (ER) regime of between Rs 202-203 to the dollar, aiding in the spawning of a black market.

Non-commercial consumer credit card trades such as for education and health may be executed at a premium of five per cent over the administered ER of Rs 203 to the dollar, leading to such trades being executed at the Rs 213-214 levels to the dollar.

Commercial trades with approvals, which may involve the passing of speed money have to be executed at the administered and discounted price of Rs 203 to the dollar, after, apparently dipping into the country's Spartan foreign reserves, to meet such commitments.

At the controlled ER of Rs 203, the ER will have had depreciated by 7.69 per cent (Rs 14.50) in the calendar year to yesterday (Wednesday) and year on year by between 9.52-8.91 per cent (Rs 17.65-16.60) to the dollar, respectively.

Due to milder controls a year ago where the market operated a dual exchange rate regime, the administered 'spot' and the 'spot next,' respectively, with their respective values being Rs 185.00/35 and Rs 186.10/40 to the dollar in two way quotes, then.

'Spot' trades are settled after two market days from the date of trading. CBSL, the steward of GoSL debt and of its foreign reserves deals in 'spot.'

To achieve economic progress and prosperity through economic freedom Quality of Policies and Institutions a Must

Countries with greater economic freedom exhibit better performance, Sirimal Abeyratne, Professor in Economics and Head of the Department of Economics at the Colombo University, stated in a booklet titled *Economic Freedom of Sri Lanka: Twists and Turns*.

Sri Lanka, which has scored 6.88 for its Economic Freedom Index in 2018, is ranked 83rd position out of 162 countries. Thus, it is a "moderately free" economy in the world as per our country classification.

However, he emphasised the importance of improving Sri Lanka's current status of economic freedom in order to ensure its economic progress and prosperity.

"The nation's reforms need to be aimed at enhancing the quality of policies and institutions by considering both the 'lagging areas' of economic freedom and the 'variations' in economic freedom across the areas and within the areas," he stated.

In the area of the size of the government, fiscal consolidation should be achieved particularly in widening the direct tax base and rationalising the indirect tax



Sirimal Abeyratne

system; the former requires setting up an efficient information system and the latter a consolidation and simplification of multiple taxes.

The component score for the government ownership of assets requires improvement through SOE reforms and land reforms.

The reforms aimed at State control over ownership and operations of the SOEs are expected to lessen their fiscal burden on the one hand and to improve the cost competitiveness in economic activity which depends directly or indirectly on the supplies of the SOEs on the other hand.

The government can also undertake reforms aimed at improving and ensuring private land ownership which would

enhance long-term land consolidation and land productivity.

Sri Lanka has continued to perform poorly in the area of legal system and property rights so that it requires a broad-based reform programme aiming at quality improvement in all its components.

Therefore, as one of the important pillars of a market economy, Sri Lanka needs to emphasise on the quality improvements in rule of law.

Similarly, an area where Sri Lanka has poorly scored is freedom to trade internationally.

Even though initial policy reforms were aimed at trade liberalization, the lack of smooth continuity and the ad hoc revisions intermittently have led significant setbacks in freedom for international trade.

The reforms should be aimed at rationalising tariffs and eliminating para-tariffs as well as removing the regulatory barriers in order to reduce trade costs and administrative bottlenecks.

The government's heavy reliance on trade as a source of tax revenue should be changed by shifting the

focus away from taxes on international trade to domestic taxes, particularly to direct taxes.

Apart from that, the controls of the movement of capital and people are another component that needs to be revisited in improving the quality of regulations and reducing their negative implications over freedom for international trade.

Regulation is another area where Sri Lanka needs to adopt far-reaching reforms in order to reduce lengthy bureaucratic procedures and red tape barriers and to improve the business environment. Particularly with respect to labour market regulations, it is necessary to introduce mandated costs of worker dismissals as well as laying-off flexibility, while maintaining a fair balance in working conditions between government and private sectors.

Significant improvements can be introduced in business regulations as well. Particularly, the reforms should be aimed at improving administrative requirements, bureaucracy costs, and impartial public administration.

(IC)

Treasury (T) Bill auction Only 8% of 364-day maturities sold

By **PANEETHA AMERSEKERE**

Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) was able to sell only 8.18 per cent (Rs 1,800 million) of the benchmark 364-day maturity original offer of Rs 22,000 million at a weighted average yield (WAY) of 8.18 per cent, down four basis points (bps) week on week (WoW) at yesterday's Treasury (T) Bill auction.

Nonetheless, the sale of 126.26 per cent (Rs 22,726 million) of the 91 day maturity's original amount of Rs 18,000 million offered at yesterday's auction at a WAY of 7.23 per cent, down 30 bps WoW to 7.23 per cent and 177.37 per cent (Rs 35,474 million) of the 182 day maturity's original amount of Rs 20,000 million at a WAY of 7.97 per cent, down 56 bps WoW to 7.97 per cent, aided CBSL to sell the full complement of Rs 60,000 million worth of T Bills offered.

In related developments, the value of T Bill maturities which will have to be repaid by tomorrow is Rs 47,535 million, where their splits comprise 91 day maturities, Rs 10,905 million worth of 182 day maturities and Rs 13,294 million worth of 364 day maturities, respectively.

Issuing of T Bills is one of the popular ways that the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) raises money from the domestic market to meet its monetary commitments. Investing in T Bills are risk free, because in the event GoSL is unable to honour such debt, CBSL is mandated to print rupees, which action however is inflationary by nature, to repay such creditors. CBSL is the sole, mandated authority in the country to print money. CBSL is also the steward of GoSL debt. The market, in their day to day activities require T Bills and T Bonds.

Woman Beer industry Veteran to head Ceylon Tobacco

Monisha Abraham joins Ceylon Tobacco Company PLC as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1st December 2021, from Ibecor, a company fully owned by Heineken International, where she served as the Managing Director.

During a career spanning over 16 years with Heineken, she has held various senior Management roles across five countries. Monisha joined Heineken Dubai in 2005, as Trade Marketing Manager. In less than 2 years, was appointed Marketing Manager for the Gulf region. In 2009, she moved to the Netherlands as the Regional Marketing Director for the Africa-Middle East region and later served as the Managing Director for Almaza in Lebanon



Monisha Abraham

from 2014 to 2017. She then moved to Heineken Hanoi as its Managing Director from 2017 to 2019, leading the Northern area of Vietnam. During this time Monisha was instrumental in spearheading the smooth integration of the northern and southern operating entities.

In 2019, Monisha moved to Brussels, Belgium where she took over as Managing Director of Ibecor, a 100% Heineken owned company specialising in Inbound Logistics and Transportation for

Africa and Middle East. At Ibecor she was responsible for transforming the organisation by expanding its business reach to Asia Pacific and the Caribbean.

Possessing more than 25 years of experience in Marketing & General Management roles across the FMCG sector, Monisha has built a reputation as a leader who drives robust business strategies while developing people and fostering high performing teams.

She has continuously worked towards building networks to facilitate collaboration across organisations as well as externally to drive business priorities, delivering sustainable growth in volumes and profits. Monisha holds a Bachelor's Degree and an MBA from India.

Fostering Directors in Diversity

First Chapter of Women Corporate Directors launched

In a bid to promote Boardroom diversity and establish a network of existing and prospective women Directors, the Women Corporate Directors Foundation (WCD) – the largest organisation of women Corporate Board members globally – launched its first local chapter in Sri Lanka, yesterday.

The initiative of 'Women in Work' programme, supported by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), aims to offer a platform for Sri Lankan women Board members to share industry expertise while helping the country increase its pipeline of aspiring and qualified female Board members.

In Sri Lanka, despite higher

education, women are significantly underrepresented in the labour force. Only around one in three women of working age are employed. This gap further widens among Senior managers, Board members, and Business owners. The percentage of women among Board members of listed entities in Sri Lanka is also low, compared to South Asian peers such as India (12 per cent) and Bangladesh (17 per cent). According to IFC's latest findings, around 9.5 per cent of Board Directors on the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) listed Companies are women.

"Despite the low numbers on women on Boards, Sri Lanka has a well-accomplished pool of

women Directors representing a wide spectrum of industries. In this context, as part of WCD's growing presence in Asia-Pacific, we are delighted to launch our first-ever local chapter in the country," said Susan Stautberg, WCD CEO and Chairman. "As a WCD member, Sri Lankan women Directors will have better access to trends and expertise from global economies, helping strengthen their knowledge when advocating for improved Corporate Governance practices for businesses."

A significant and growing body of research points to the business benefits associated with gender diversity on Boards and in Senior management, including increased

financial performance and productivity as well as improved Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. In Sri Lanka, IFC's research highlighted that the top 30 CSE-listed Companies with higher gender diversity perform better in terms of financial measures, including return on equity, return on total assets, and price to earnings ratio.

"Diversity is not just a moral imperative, it also makes perfect business sense," said Alfonso Garcia Mora, IFC's Vice President for Asia and Pacific. "The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that Companies with better ESG practices and Board diversity have been more resilient in recovery."

Microsoft appoints Randeny as Country Manager for SL & Maldives

Microsoft has appointed Harsha Randeny as the Country Manager for Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

He will focus on accelerating digital transformation for public & private sector businesses, SMEs, communities, and industry verticals, collaborating with our extensive partner ecosystem.

"One of the reasons I am so proud to lead the Southeast Asia New Markets is because of the incredible talent we have in all the

countries. Harsha brings a deep understanding of the local business landscape, industry needs, and technical expertise, and I know he will add immense value to every organisation. At Microsoft, we are committed to develop our employees, providing opportunities for them to expand their remit and grow their careers. Which is why I'm so excited that Harsha will play a crucial role in leading the business in Sri Lanka

and Maldives, as he reinforces his position as a trusted adviser to the countries and a mentor to his teams," said Sook Hoon Cheah, General Manager for the Southeast Asia New Markets at Microsoft.

Harsha has been with Microsoft since 2007, and prior to this role, he led teams focused on cloud technologies, established strategic partnerships and as an advisory to the partner ecosystem.



Harsha Randeny

Present Salutes the Past

Kelaniya Uni's FCMS Celebrates Silver Jubilee

The University of Kelaniya's Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies (FCMS) reaches the significant milestone of 25 years since its establishment in 1995. The FCMS is nationally and internationally recognised for producing high calibre entrepreneurs and management professionals. Though the FCMS is one of the youngest faculties in the University of Kelaniya, it has demonstrated a remarkable strength needed for dynamic transformations and developments in Commerce and Management, and has commendably committed to triangulate teaching, research, and community engagement.

In May 1976, the first seed of Commerce education in the University of Kelaniya was planted by W. M. Jayarathna (currently a retired professor), who is considered the founding father of Commerce and Management education in the University of Kelaniya. On 18 May 1976, University of Kelaniya obtained the opportunity to admit 122 students from GCE A/L Commerce Stream to read for a separate degree (in Sinhala and Tamil) in Commerce.

In 1978, with the arrival of M. W. Wickramarachchi (currently an Emeritus Professor), the degree which was started as a three-year course was stabilised as a four-year course. After a year and half, Professor Wickramarachchi returned to his native University; the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It was then in 1980 that arrival of Ananda Patabendige (currently a retired professor), who had dedicated his life to this faculty, took place. He contributed to the development of the academic staff and physical resources. It is through his contribution that the foundation for the establishment of this faculty was laid.

In 1980, Bachelor of

Commerce (Special) degree was legally approved, and the Commerce section, affiliated to the Department of Economics was separated and named Department of Commerce and Ananda Patabendige was its first Head. In 1986, the FCMS commenced the Master of Commerce (MCOM) degree programme.

In 1992, the proposed two degree programmes; Bachelor of Business Management (Special) in Human Resource Management, and Accountancy were approved and the first batches were admitted. In February 1995, the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies obtained the Faculty status with two departments; Department of Commerce and Financial Management, and the Department of Accountancy and Human Resource Management. Ananda Patabendige was the first Dean of the FCMS.

In 1998, Sunil Shantha was elected as the Dean of the FCMS. During his period, the Department of Accountancy and Human Resource Management was separated and identified as two independent academic departments. Historically, it was a new raise for the FCMS as the Department of HRM is legendary as the first HRM Department in the Sri Lankan University system. D. R. Dissanayake and Ariyaratna Jayamaha were appointed as the first Heads of DHRM and DoA respectively. In 1999, the proposed external degree programme was implemented by the HRM.

In April 2005, the Marketing Management Unit was upgraded to Department status and Wasantha Kumara was its first Head. In 2008, Professor Patabendige was Dean of the FCMS and he held the post for one year. Then, Dr. R. P. C. Ranjani was unanimously elected Dean of the Faculty. In 2011, the Finance Studies



Unit was upgraded to Department status and Ruwan Abeysekera was its first Head. In 2012, Dr. D. M. Semasinghe was elected Dean. In 2017, Professor D. M. Semasinghe reached the pinnacle of the University administrative structure being appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya. Dr. P. N. D. Fernando has been serving as the Dean of the FCMS since 2017.

At this significant juncture, the FCMS salutes Senior Professor Ranjani, Professor Tilakarathne; the current Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka, Professor Jayamaha, the current Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Senior Lecturer Dissanayake, retired Senior Lecturer Jayasena, and the Retired Professor Dissanayake for their immense contribution to establish the FCMS.

Currently, 14 undergraduate degree programmes are offered by the FCMS. The Faculty has produced a total of 9,507

graduates, from 1995 to 2019, who are currently working in different corporate atmospheres.

Further, nine postgraduate degree programmes including Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Business Administration and Masters of Commerce, Business Administration, Human Resource Management, Business (MB) in Accounting / Finance, Business Management (MBM) in Marketing, Business Studies (MBS) and Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing (PGDM) are offered by the FCMS. Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is a professional doctorate that the FCMS introduced for the first time to the Public University System of Sri Lanka in 2016. Further, the FCMS offers several diploma and higher diploma programmes including: Diploma/Higher Diploma in Business (DIB/HDIB), Marketing (DIM/HDIM), Human Resource Management (HDHRM),

Business Accounting (HDBA), and Business Finance (HDBF).

The FCMS has aligned all its degree programmes with the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF). The FCMS has received membership of the Association of Advanced Collegiate Schools of Business (AACBS) in 2019, and is currently working towards getting AACBS accreditation.

Since 2003, the FCMS and the Faculty itself obtained three competitive grants from the World Bank; Improving Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education (IRQUE), Higher Education for Twenty-First Century (HETC) and Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD).

At the end of 2020, there were 123 permanent academic staff members belonging to the FCMS, including one chair professor, a senior professor, twelve professors, 43 Ph.D. holders, and 28 senior academics reading for Ph.D. Thirty nine academics hold professional qualifications including CA, CIMA, CFA, ACCA, AAT, CIM and CMA.

Since 2010, the annual research conference of the Faculty International Conference on Business and Information (ICBI) had continued its journey for the 12th consecutive year in 2021. ICBI has given a new face, introducing the Doctoral Colloquium in 2017, and achieved a key milestone in 2020 hosting the full paper proceedings in Social Science Research Network (SSRN). Furthermore, plenary discussions with industry experts were also a part of the ICBI since its inception. A CEO forum was introduced to the ICBI in 2020. Additionally, the Department of Accountancy organises the International Conference in Accounting Researchers and Educators (ICARE), the Department of Marketing Management

organises the International Conference of Advanced Marketing (ICAM) and the Department of Human Resource Management organises the National HR Summit annually.

Kelaniya Journal of Management (KJM) is the official research journal published by the FCMS since 2012. It is published twice a year (June and December). KJM was awarded two-star status for its journal publishing Practices and was indexed in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) in 2018 and is currently under the evaluation for SCOPUS and Web of Science indexing. Other Publications are the Kelaniya Journal of Human Resource Management, the Journal of Business & Technology (JBT), the Journal of Marketing (SLJM), the International Journal of Accountancy (IJA), and the South Asian Journal of Finance (SAJF) as biannual, peer-reviewed, refereed journals.

At this significant and glorious juncture, the FCMS is grateful to all the pioneers, former Deans, Heads of the departments, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and also the students who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of the Faculty from then to now.

May the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya be a victorious Faculty, and a cooling shower of nectar that quenches the thirst for knowledge in the field of Commerce and Management forever!

(Source: 'Glorious Years of Success' - 25th Anniversary Book published by the Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka)
Tharindu Dananjaya Weerasinghe (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya)

Investing in innovation: Why organisations shouldn't hold back during a crisis

By CHATURA DE SILVA

Crises can often lead to significant changes in almost every operational aspect of life. The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic is a fitting example of how profound disruption can be. Many industries and markets had to radically shift to accommodate new norms or had to work around new constraints to continue their operations. Apparently, the pandemic isn't going to go away anytime soon, thus moving from ad-hoc workarounds to creating a sustainable innovation process is necessary for organisations to navigate uncertain business conditions.

According to a recent survey by McKinsey, over 90 per cent of the executive respondents from 200 organisations across industries revealed they expect the way they do business to fundamentally change over the next five years. However, more than three-quarters were certain that while the pandemic holds great growth potential, this would be highly dependent on the industry.

Only less than 30 per cent of the respondents were confident that they were prepared with expertise, resources, and commitment to addressing upcoming changes. A focus on short term business continuity strategies seems to have led to poor investments in innovation and could lead to not being able to capitalise on new opportunities and finally lacking the required tools to do business under the new norms.

Leaders are faced with a clear-cut decision- to support innovation-led growth or not to- and this may leave lasting consequences for organisational continuity. According to the survey, as per historical data, there is clear evidence showing companies that invest in innovation

out perform their competition during the recovery of a downhill.

What did the crisis disrupt?

As businesses adapting to the new market realities, the core capabilities that used to make an organisation distinct may suddenly be less differentiating, and competitive advantages will shift dynamically. For most organisations COVID-19 has amplified the pressure on a decade-long journey in adapting businesses to digital mediums.

For example, the fundamental operations in sales and marketing have shifted to digital engagements with customers after the pandemic due to obvious reasons of mobility restrictions. Organisations are also figuring out that virtual technology allows them to do what was previously impossible, such as assembling the perfect team of experts for every sales pitch. In the sphere of digital sales, small-scale firms can now match up to their competitors. In another example, distributors in the food industry connect directly with their customers through digital channels, after the crisis devastated their core restaurant sales.

Other industries such as entertainment are also evolving to bring digital convenience and access to areas such as sports and even museums through mediums such as virtual reality. According to BAI (Bank Administration Institute), around half of consumers are using digital products more since the pandemic and a large part of that segment will continue to use them even after the pandemic.

The conventional norms in interpersonal communication was also hit, and overnight, the world has



Chief Product Officer Chatura de Silva

gotten accustomed to platforms such as Zoom and MS Teams for various purposes, including social connections, fitness, and even arts and religion. A few years back, setting up a video conferencing platform was mostly limited to Corporate customers, and required expensive infrastructure and extensive training. Things certainly changed in a blink of an eye.

Understanding such shifts allow businesses to gain long-term advantages. As the survey observed, companies that invested in innovation to deal with past crises have experienced exponential growth and performance, post-crisis. For example, companies that invested in innovation through the 2009 financial crisis withstood adverse market conditions and outperformed the market average by over 30 per cent, all while continuing to deliver accelerated growth over the next five years.

Capitalising on innovation

Crises are a natural calling for innovation. They expedite the

transformation of traditional processes - what would usually take years happens in a matter of days. To emerge as leaders in a pandemic-hit backdrop, organisations can rely on following key aspects to formulate a response roadmap for innovation:

Realise: Critically analysing the shifting landscape of business requires the ability to realise the change happening around. Organisations must invest in identifying such new trends in customer expectations and understand how these demands will impact the businesses. Evaluating and addressing the data obtained through this process will give companies a headstart in the innovation race.

Grow: Testing and comparing alternative business models is a sure-fire way to evaluate the limits of what an organisation could accomplish. Removing constraints and questioning previous assumptions about what will generate the most value are powerful ways to develop new, resilient business models.

Choose: Innovation requires a fresh look at the pipeline and reprioritisation of resourcing. Re-evaluating the innovation portfolio based on what will drive increased value creation gives leaders a window to reallocate resources and maximise presence in the right place in the new normal.

Aspire: Leaders may need to relook at their business aspirations and challenge the orthodoxies that shaped them. New aspirations should combine capabilities and strengths that would persist in the post-pandemic world.

Apart from these aspects, companies need to accelerate the pace at which they bring new ideas and offerings to the market. We see organisations globally stretching the limits of legacy

processes and ecosystems, to deliver products in new ways. To enable acceleration, organisations need to create an agile culture that mobilises innovation. Additionally, speed is an important driver of innovation, as is the ability to persevere despite the hardships.

One recent example of software product innovation driven by crises is 'DevGrade', a candidate assessment platform to expedite the recruitment of tech talent without needing one-on-one interviews. 'DevGrade' is a first-of-its-kind solution created by 99x after identifying a gap in the industry in recruiting tech talent virtually. The result was a fully automated assessment platform that allows recruiters to hire the best candidates by virtually evaluating them in simulated real project environments.

In conclusion

The pandemic has shown Corporate leaders how innovation plays a crucial role in reimagining their businesses to meet the demands of the new normal, not only to survive but to grow the business even more. Organisations need to understand that innovation, now more than ever, is a must. The history has proven that it will always be a critical factor in emerging stronger from any crisis.

Chatura de Silva is the Chief Product Officer at 99x where he leads the product management practices within the company. He counts over 17 years of industry experience in software product design and engineering. He is also part of the executive committee of the SLASSCOM Products and Platforms Council. Chatura holds a BSc from University College of Dublin and an MSc from Sheffield Hallam University.

To grow with government securities market

First Capital Treasuries IPO opens on 6th

By RAJESH SEETHARAM

First Capital Treasuries (FCT) officially announced the launch of IPO to offer 7,695,000 ordinary voting shares to the public. Shares have been priced at Rs 39.00 and offers an immediate upside of 15 to 19 per cent to an incoming investor given the value range of Rs 46 to Rs 48 Share derived as per the Independent Valuation carried out by EY Transaction Advisory Services (Private) Limited. FCT aims to raise Rs 300 million from the IPO.

First Capital Treasuries PLC is a subsidiary of First Capital Holdings PLC, a member of the Janashakthi Group. FCT is one of the five non banking primary dealers in government securities.

FCT had an asset base of Rs 25.7 billion as of 31 March 2021, Net Trading Margin of Rs 3 billion, PAT of Rs 1.84 billion, a five year average ROE of 29 per cent, dividend payout of around average 50 per cent for the past 10 years.

Addressing a media briefing, FCT Director/ CEO Dilshan Wirasekera stated that FCT is the highest rated primary dealer, 'A' rated, with stable outlook by ICRA Lanka Limited.

"The decision to list FCT on the Diri Savi Board is part of the



Company's strategy to create liquidity for our shares, broaden the ownership, to further enhance our brand identity and to take advantage of tax concessions offered by the Budget 2021.

"Presently, the Company is the market leader amongst non-bank primary dealers with a capital base of Rs 4.5 billion, which is well above the CBSL requirements. The Company continued to account for the highest amongst non-bank primary dealers," he said.

He added that government securities are the safest and risk free asset class, and FCT maintains a 100% government securities portfolio.

"Colombo Stock Exchange

market capitalisation is Rs 4.9 trillion, whereas the Government securities are a 9.5 trillion market. The Government also wants to move to source funds locally, which means the Government securities market is going to grow, which in turn will benefit FCT to grow. Three years ago, there were 15 primary dealers. Now there are only 10, and the market is growing at 15 per cent per annum. We see a greater opportunity to grow," he remarked.

The Company doesn't need any new capital, thus there isn't much need to retain profits on large basis, therefore, stock holders can expect higher dividends (50 per cent average

for past 10 years) to continue noted Wirasekera.

FCT reported a Loss after Tax of Rs 414 million for the six months ended 30 September 2021.

The September 2021 financial statement states that unanticipated tightening of the monetary policy measures in mid of August 2021 resulting in an upward shift in the yield curve, as the reason for losses.

"Earnings are cyclical in this sector. Primary dealers make money during declining interest rate. During the period when interest rates raise, it's more about managing risk. I recommend investors to look into medium to long-term. It's not a short-term fund - this is a Company which has long term value, which you can notice during our five to ten years of performance," he stated.

Pre IPO, First Capital Limited had 94.44 per cent ownership of FCT, which will be reduced to 89.44 per cent post IPO, as five per cent equity stake is offered to public via IPO. Employee Trust Fund has five per cent ownership, pre and post IPO.

The issue opens on 6 December 2021 and closes on 23 December 2021. Minimum subscriptions per application is 100 shares, shares will be allotted in multiples of 100.

To improve supply chain efficiency

INSEE Cement signs MOU with HIPG



The Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG) signed an agreement with INSEE Cement, the leading cement manufacturing company in Sri Lanka, to ensure the efficient transfer of raw materials to their factory in Galle, via the Hambantota Port. This will have a positive impact on the operational efficiency.

The agreement was signed between Gustavo Navarro, Chief Executive Officer of INSEE Cement and Johnson Liu, CEO of HIPG at a ceremony held at The Hambantota Maritime Centre.

CEO of HIPG Johnson Liu expressed his appreciation of the partnership with INSEE saying, it would be of great mutual advantage for both parties. "INSEE Cement was Hambantota International Port's (HIP) first customer for dry bulk cargo and we greatly appreciate the trust they placed in us. We have worked with them from 2018 and have been able to greatly increase our productivity in handling dry bulk volumes. Recognising the value, the companies bring to each other; we decided to strengthen the partnership by entering into an agreement that will continue creating win-win opportunities that will be of mutual benefit."

The CEO added that the port handled a dry bulk volume of over 1 million metric tonnes in 2021, for the first time exceeding the 1 million ranges, under a single customer, which was a milestone achievement for the port.

Dialog enterprise Extends Smart Fleet Management Solution to Perera & Sons

Keeping abreast with the very latest digitisation developments in supply chain management, Dialog Enterprise, the corporate solutions arm of Dialog Axiata PLC, extended Smart Fleet, a practical solution for fleet management to Perera and Sons (P&S).

Dialog's Smart Fleet solution enables the monitoring of key environmental conditions and also vehicle telematics, ensuring the safety of goods, the fleet and the staff. Equipped with temperature sensors, real-time data is made available for monitoring and decision-making. The solution is a Global Positioning System (GPS) driven, cost-effective IoT solution providing end-to-end visibility to the entire transportation process, by gathering diagnostics and operating information from commercial vehicles.

Smart Fleet facilitates scheduling and monitoring of the entire order delivery process, with the possibility of assigning upcoming jobs/orders based on real-time vehicle availability. Its geofencing feature ensures that the fleet remains within specified boundaries, with alerts enabled for notification if and when vehicles move out of allotted boundaries and reach high-risk or locked down areas during the pandemic, while real-time system alerts are triggered in the event of an emergency or if the vehicle deviates from its assigned task.

"We are happy to support Perera & Sons to further augment their operations with the very latest in technology to ensure safety and reliability. This marks the first step in creating a smarter operational ecosystem at P&S using our analytics-led suite of Smart solutions. Dialog Smart Fleet enables them to manage, monitor and improve the efficiency of their commercial fleets, while collecting and analysing data to optimise resources in pursuit of increased productivity," said Supun Weerasinghe, Group Chief Executive of Dialog Axiata PLC.

Ceylinco Life ushers in early good cheer with first draw of 'Family Savari 15'

As the countdown to the festive season begins, a group of policyholders of Ceylinco Life has been given an additional reason to celebrate with its 176 members being selected as the winners of the first draw of the 15th edition of the life insurance leader's 'Family Savari' mega promotion.

A policyholder from Trincomalee struck the jackpot of gold to the value of Rs 1 million, while two others from Atchuvelli and Ja-Ela each won Rs 250,000 in gold. Another three winners will each receive Rs 100,000 in gold, 20 more Rs 50,000 each in gold and 50 policyholders Rs 25,000 each in gold. Additionally, 100 other Ceylinco Life policyholders have been selected for gift vouchers worth Rs 10,000 each.

Ceylinco Life will present Rs 30 million in gold and gift vouchers by the end of August 2022 to more than 1,000 lucky policyholders under this promotion, via six bimonthly draws. With the 14th edition of 'Family Savari' in 2020 the Company pivoted to rewarding policyholders with gold instead of the overseas holidays and excursions that the promotion's name implies, to conform with the travel restrictions and safety protocols dictated by the COVID-19



Pictured here are Ceylinco Life Chairman R. Renganathan (above left) and Managing Director Thushara Ranasinghe (above right) conducting the draw electronically, and (below) the Directors and senior management of the Company at the event

pandemic. To be eligible to win gold or consolation prizes at the draws, Ceylinco Life customers must simply continue their existing policies with the Company or maintain a minimum account balance in their retirement plans during the promotion period.

SLTTC launches Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Engineering

SLT-MOBITEL, the National ICT Solutions Provider's education arm, the SLT Training Centre (SLTTC) has introduced a new Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Engineering Course (Level 3), from the world-recognised, UK education body, enabling students who have completed their Ordinary Level Examination to make their dream of becoming an engineer a reality.

SLTTC is recognised as a premier educational institution, empowering the youth by developing

knowledge and requisite skills sets in pursuit of affordable higher education, while also contributing significantly to building the Nation's ICT ecosystem.

Understanding the need to support students who seek to fast track their education after completing the Ordinary Level Examination and aspire to become Engineers, SLTTC has introduced the International Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Engineering Course (UK) with a duration of only six months, equipping learners with the knowledge, understanding and

employability skills.

Upon completion of this Foundation course, students can continue their aspirations through three elective pathways conducted at SLTTC. Students can select the Pearson BTEC - Engineering Higher National Diploma (HND) in Digital Technology or Electrical and Electronics. Students can also enrol in UK's prestigious high-ranking University of Hertfordshire's BEng (Hons) Engineering Degree programmes conducted at SLTTC to pursue an engineering career.

Kelani Cables PLC introduces Havelles CAT-6 LAN Cables

Kelani Cables PLC maintains its position of being Sri Lanka's number one Brand in the secure electrical and communication cables manufacturing sphere. The Company added more muscle to its product range by becoming the Sole Distributor for the world famous Havelles Company's CAT-6 LAN Cables.

Now Sri Lankan consumers can experience the total network solutions provided by Havelles CAT-6 LAN Cables that has one of the fastest data entry facilitation ability and other special attributes.

The Launch of Havelles CAT-6 LAN Cables was held at the Kelani Cables PLC Head office with the participation of Kelani Cables PLC Director/CEO, Mahinda



Havelles CAT-6 LAN Cables being introduced to the local market

Saranapala, General Manager, Dr. Anil Munasinghe, Marketing Manager Channa Jayasinghe, and National Sales Manager, Havelles - India, Rohan Gurusinghe.

Havelles CAT-6 LAN Cables is an innovative product made by a world famous Company, Havelles. It is known for its endurance and

is fitting for sound systems and it has a fire-resistant cover and a flexible border. The product is sold to over 50 countries around the world.

Director/CEO Mahinda Saranapala said that Kelani Cables is a name associated with excellence.

"Consumers have faith in the products offered by the Kelani Cables Company. We are thus bound by the responsibility to always offer the best products to consumers. We distribute Havelles CAT-6 LAN Cables with that responsibility. We appreciate the decision made by the Havelles Company to appoint Kelani Cables as their sole distributor," he remarked.

ComBank bags Daraz award for 'Best Engaging Overall Cards Base'

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon was presented the award for 'The Best Engaging Overall Cards Base' at the recent 'Payment Partner Performance Awards 2021' of Daraz, South Asia's premier online shopping marketplace.

The Bank was awarded this title for empowering the Daraz platform by generating the highest number of transactions by both credit and debit card bases and the highest number of unique buyers' engagement during the financial year 2020-21. This is the second consecutive year that the Bank was honoured with this award.



CB Chief Manager - Card Centre Nishantha De Silva (3rd from right) receiving award from Daraz Managing Director Rakhil Fernando (Centre). Also present (from left) Daraz Junior Executive - Partnerships Nimesh Fernando, Senior Manager - Prepayments Sandamina Rajapaksha and Head of Partnerships Dulika Jayamanne and Commercial Bank's Senior Manager - Card Centre Promotions & Merchant Relationships Kalinga Divaratne and Officer - Merchant Acquiring Wishan Fernando

HNB continues steadfast support to CBSL's LANKAQR campaign

Sri Lanka's leading private bank, HNB PLC, continued its steadfast support to accelerate the adoption of digital payments in the country, by joining the 'Rata Purama LANKAQR' campaign of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) in Tangalle.

From its launch in late 2020, HNB has persistently backed the programme, which seeks to increase the usage of Sri Lanka's national QR platform, facilitating, fast, secure and affordable digital payments, benefiting customers and merchants. The bank, participating in the day-long promotion, demonstrated the benefits of its LANKAQR-integrated HNB SOLO payment app, while engaging with and onboarding merchants to its platform. CBSL's other partners in the initiative, including financial institutions and telecommunication companies, also attended the event held at Mahinda Rajapaksa Grounds Tangalle.

"While initially, the pandemic created a need for and boosted the adoption of digital payments, now, both merchants and customers are beginning to see the long-term benefits," HNB Head of Digital Business, Chamika Weerasinghe said. "It is crucial to capitalise on this interest and build further on the successful initial foundation, to extend this programme across the country. HNB has been highly proactive in this sphere - particularly in introducing HNB SOLO and partnering with several leading merchants on dynamic QR technology."

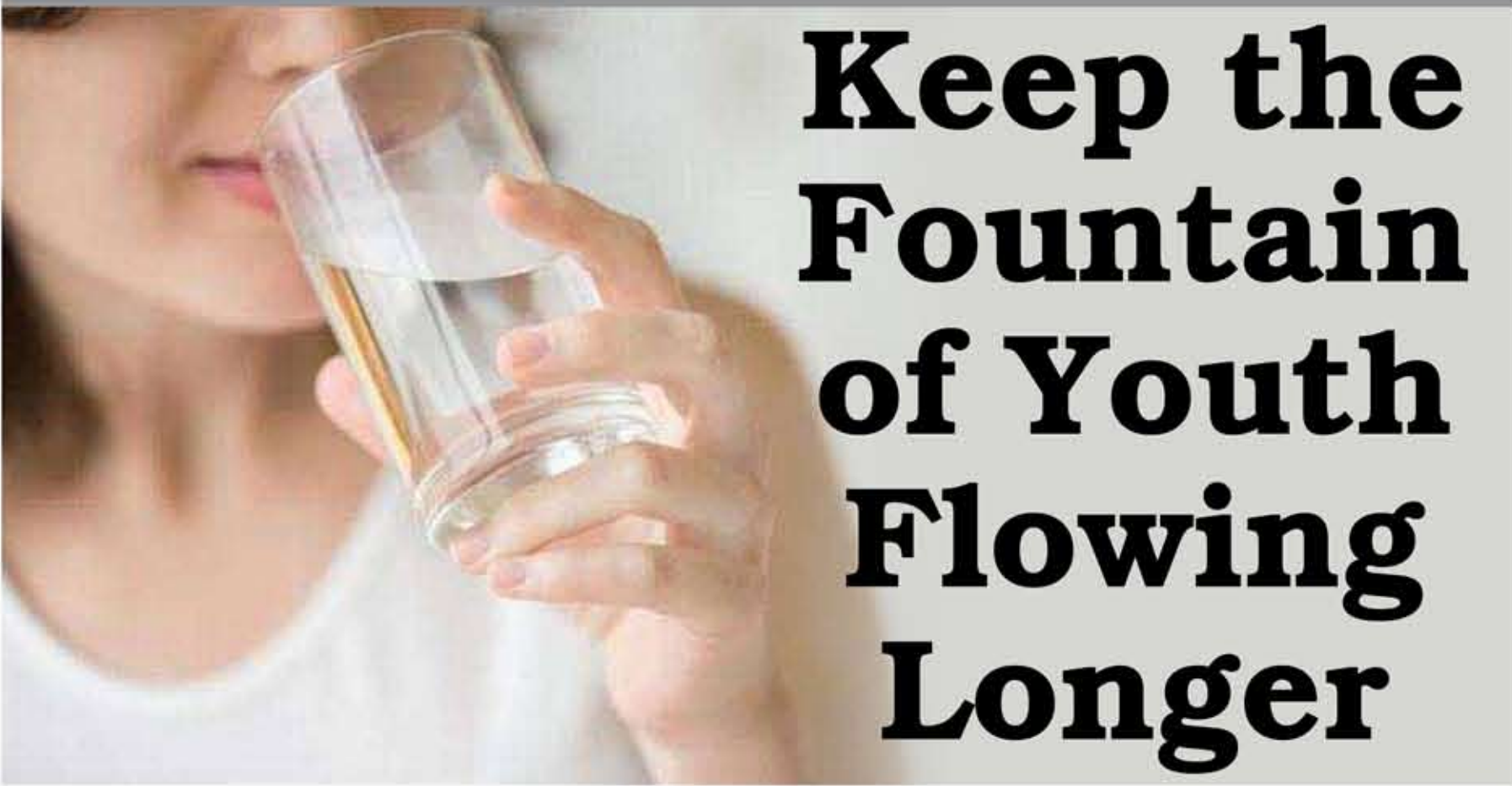
HNB has played a prominent role in driving a cashless QR-code based payments revolution that aims to make mobile phones and digital payments the standard for day-to-day transactions islandwide.



CBSL Assistant Governor, Dharmasiri Kumarathunga completing a transaction with Dynamic QR at Keells Supermarket in Tangalle, as HNB Digital Pay Products Executive, Ishan Karannagoda and HNB Tangalle Customer Centre Manager, Pramod Uhanovitage look on

LOOK

www.ceylontoday.lk



Keep the Fountain of Youth Flowing Longer



KHALIDA NAUSHAD
CEYLON TODAY FEATURES

Time can dim your glow, as aging is inevitable, someone said. But I withstand this idea because a recent incident left me wondering if time and age always has to dim your glow? Or if we can work on keeping ourselves youthful. Recently, I happened to visit a friend of my mother who is in her late 50s. Although that age, I was surprised by her youthful and beautiful look. I have come across many people like her but the perfect example I would say is this specific aunt I met. In fact, this is what almost everyone wishes for. A forever-glowing skin and youthful look.

Premature aging may happen as a result of lifestyle factors and behaviour which means it can actually be corrected and altered. Staying young at any age is a real possibility. This article is to let you know that although preventing natural aging is quite impossible, taking certain measures proactively, can lead to prevention of premature aging and preservation of your skin. If remaining youthful is magic, we could be magicians.

Drink plenty of water

Drinking plenty of water is great for your skin because water is considered as the wonder moisturiser, which also reduces the appearances of fine lines on the skin, and in addition helps one to look younger and slimmer. It is believed that not drinking enough pure water makes your skin puffy and can even lead to bloating.

Like how your body needs enough water to function properly, so does your skin. This is in fact the fastest and easiest way to look constantly young. Lack of water in your skin shows up as dry patches. Bring a glow to the skin by drinking around 10 glasses of water daily.



Like how your body needs enough water to function properly, so does your skin. This is in fact the fastest and easiest way to look constantly young. Lack of water in your skin shows

Give your eyes some love

Persistently rubbing your eyes can cause dark circles and fine lines. Since under eye-bags are anyway a part of the natural aging process, it cannot be prevented. It occurs when muscles around the eyes weaken. For most people, rubbing the eyes is not a problem

and will not cause any permanent side effects. The skin around your eyes is a delicate area; hence, it is more prone to wrinkles and darkening. This is why special care and love must be given to it.

It is much better if you understand what causes your dark circles or eye bags. There is a high chance for unprotected sun exposure to leave your skin wrinkled.

Squinting, either under the heat of the sun or while working in front of your computer, can eventually form wrinkles at the outer portion of the eyes. These can even form as early as your late 20s. Another problem in this area are dark circles under the eyes. For some individuals, this can be hereditary, but for others this is caused by rubbing or scratching your eyes.

Get enough sleep

Not getting enough sleep can age your skin and makes it look less youthful. It is recommended to have seven to eight hours of sleep. You also develop dark circles due to sleep deprivation which eventually removes the glow on your face. However, more and more evidence is starting to shed light on the relationship between sleep and our skin's ageing processes. In 2013, a study commissioned by Estée Lauder actually found that sleep deprivation could be playing an

active role in prematurely ageing your skin.

According to A.Vogel, these results would appear to support the idea that, if you're not getting enough sleep, your skin may start to age more rapidly. This idea is also supported by another study (this time conducted by UCLA researchers) which found that just a single night of poor sleep was all it took to encourage cellular ageing in older adults.

Not washing your face before bed

Going to bed without taking your makeup off and skipping your daily cleanse step can contribute to clogged pores as well as dullness of the skin. Failure to wash your face before going to sleep can potentially cause infections, dryness, breakouts and even premature aging. Continually sleeping in your makeup can lead to long-term skin damage – and it's completely avoidable, notes Reviva Labs.

Smoking

There is no need to remind you of how smoking is injurious to health. The health reasons alone should be enough to avoid smoking. In terms of premature aging, smoking is definitely not one to preserve our youth. For many reasons, including keeping your skin looking young, it is important to stop smoking.

Stress

A study of the American Psychological Association suggests that untreated stress can speed-up the aging process. Todd B. Koch further explains how chronic stress makes your skin age faster and how it can affect your appearance. When cells age and break down, they reduce the quality of your skin's texture, tone, strength, and vibrancy. Aging cells can also lead to lower production of collagen and elastin. Collagen and elastin are vital elements in our body responsible for skin elasticity, strength, and thickness. Therefore, lower levels can create the appearance of loose and sagging skin. Stress causes changes to the proteins in your skin and reduces its elasticity. This loss of elasticity can contribute to wrinkle formation.

Slowing your skin's aging process

- Wear sunscreen everyday
- Follow a daily skincare routine
- Avoid tanning, both indoors and outdoors
- Wear sunglasses, hat, visors, and sun-protective clothing
- Avoid smoking and alcohol
- Get good sleep
- Maintain a healthy diet
- Moisturise
- Exercise regularly



Too Cute

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas walk the carpet at the 2021 Fashion Awards



Sporty Spice

Halsey hit the Staples Centre in Los Angeles for the Lakers game



Back At It

Porsha Williams steps out in NYC to promote her new show, *Porsha's Family Matters*



Making an Entrance!

Billy Porter poses in a houndstooth outfit as dancers in floral one-pieces surround him

SLIS Elects Kishore Reddy as President

Kishore Reddy will head the Sri Lanka India Society (SLIS) following the Annual General Meeting of SLIS which was held recently at Hotel Taj Samudra. Kishore Reddy has been unanimously elected as the President of the society, which is held in high esteem in both countries and takes over the leadership from Rohan Tudawe whose term ended.

Sri Lanka India Society (SLIS) which was established in 1949, is one of the oldest and the largest friendship Societies in Sri Lanka, formed for the development and promotion of social and cultural relations between the people of Sri Lanka and India, and thereby build-up friendship between the two countries.

SLIS focuses on cordial bonds between the two countries through increased collaboration in social and cultural fields. SLIS celebrates regular annual events in particular the Republic Day of India and Independence of both India and Sri Lanka. Another annual event is the Mahatma Gandhi oration on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti apart from various other cultural events and lectures.

The SLIS is committed to its mission of strengthening the relations between the two countries - this commitment is further fortified by the activities and events the Society holds that foster bi-lateral relations. The objective of SLIS is to promote cordial bonds between the two countries by organising social and cultural gatherings among its members and other well-wishers of Sri Lanka and India. It also involves in organising and assisting in exchange of students, artists, lecturers and literature between the two countries, in addition to co-operating with other organisations and individuals as may be appropriate to further the relationship between the two countries. SLIS celebrates many events to recognise and strengthen bonds and friendship with the long historical ties between the two countries which grow deeper than mere friendship and also share religious and cultural practices, that are important to both democracies.

The Indian High Commissioner, Gopal Baglay who is also the patron of the society was present at the AGM and delivered an address that traced the roots of the Society and examined its unique role.

Baglay mentioned that the activities of the society strengthen the already cordial relations between the two countries as both countries will be celebrating the 75 years of Independence close to each other. The independence is not just from colonial rule but also from suppression and ignorance.



Gopal Baglay also mentioned that though the present COVID situation restricted activities, the period of COVID witnessed active cooperation between the two Governments in dealing with the pandemic and also engaged in knowledge sharing and exchange of good practices through video-conferencing involving the officials in both countries at the forefront of fighting the pandemic.

The two Governments supported each other and the smooth coordination between the two sides despite many odds testifies to the mutual trust and support in times of crisis.

Gopal Baglay commended the activities undertaken by the Society under the able leadership of Rohan Tudawe and expressed his desire to see further consolidation in celebrating the warm and close ties between two neighbouring countries that share such a common heritage under the leadership of Kishore Reddy.

Rohan Tudawe the outgoing president in his speech highlighted the activities done by the society and the increased interest that was seen by the increased number of members. Rohan Tudawe also mentioned how the members of the

my best and with everyone's support I am sure the society can develop on the existing strong foundation.

"I have been calling this beautiful Island, the pearl of the Indian ocean home for more than two and a half decades. It is my pleasure that I have been given the opportunity to promote and develop mutually beneficial relationships between my Janna Bhoomi (the country of my birth - INDIA) and my Karma Bhoomi (the land that I am destined to live in - Sri Lanka) through the Sri Lanka India Society" he said.

Kishore Reddy elaborated on the plan to form sub committees to support the objectives of the society and to involve the general membership in such committees to assist the executive committee and reiterated his commitment in further developing and enhancing the friendship bonds between the two countries.

Kishore Reddy also indicated that Today, there exists a clear consensus on both sides on tourist exchanges that would be mutually beneficial but in the current COVID situation, the health advice should be given high importance and work being conscious of this fact. Tourism and the broader economic engagement have to operate within this new framework. Members can look into developing the Shivite trail which will enhance more tourists to come to Sri Lanka. The first ever international flight into the new International Airport at Kushinagar was from Sri Lanka and such a step served as a mark of acknowledgement of the close Buddhist heritage shared by the two countries and the Society could work on various Buddhist trails in India for the benefit of Sri Lankans travelling on pilgrimage.

SLIS has more than 800 life members, consisting of both Sri Lankan and Indian Nationals. The Society has been working closely with the Office of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka.

The presidents of the society in the recent past include Deshabandu Tilak De soya, Deshamanya Ken Balendra, Chandra shafter, Dr. Uvais Ahamed, Col Harindran, Manik Pereira, Kandaiah Neelakandan, Kumar Nadesan, T.S. Prakash, Rohan Tudawe.

The office bearers of the society for the year 2021/22 are President Kishore Reddy, Vice presidents Renganathan, Dr A Kandasamy, Deshabandu Jaykumar, Secretary Kailasapillai, Assistant Secretary Chaturri Ranasinghe, Treasurer Saravanan Neelakandan, Assistant Treasurer S. Shameer, Editor Sumit Law. In addition, another 14 Sri Lankan and 10 Indian members serve in the executive committee.



society apart from developing the cultural and social relationship also contributed to the IDH during COVID to provide essential and urgent equipment that was required at the time of need. Rohan Tudawe wished all the best to Kishore Reddy and mentioned that he would provide all the guidance and required assistance to the incoming president.

Kishore Reddy addressing the gathering in his inaugural speech he said, "I am humbled and honoured by the trust and confidence bestowed on me. It is indeed a moment of pride for me to be chosen as the President of one of the oldest friendship societies - Sri Lanka India Society.

"Each one of the past presidents were stalwarts in the society and did a great job in developing and continuing the high standards of the society, filling the shoes of the past presidents is not easy but I will try

Dreamron Cosmetics Gets Recognised



Chief Marketing Officer at Dreamron Bangladesh Olga Alam handing over a Dreamron gift pack to a participant during the convention

Sri Lanka's largest hair-care cosmetic manufacturer and exporter Dreamron Cosmetics together with its country partners participated at the Beauty Service Owners Association of Bangladesh (BSOAB) convention held at Dhaka. BSOAB is Bangladesh's largest network of Beauty Service Owners, established in 2016 and has

been working for the development of the beauty industry in the country and take it to international standards in which the government of Bangladesh has recognised the beauty industry to be a major contributor to the country's economy. Dreamron and Esquire Professional Cosmetics were the

main sponsors of this year's convention in which leading professionals in the beauty industry participated. Dreamron has been recognised by the BOSAB for its continuous support. Bangladesh Government Minister of Industries Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun visited Dreamron Booth at the



Dreamron Bangladesh Staff with Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun

convention and commended the activities carried out by Dreamron in Bangladesh to uplift the beauty industry. Dreamron Cosmetics has been available in the Bangladesh market since 2017 in both retail outlets and beauty salons. Dreamron is partnered by Esquire Professional Cosmetics (Pvt) Ltd a leading

business organisation in the country, being a major player in the professional segment and supporting the Bangladesh beauty industry to meet its objectives. Dreamron is presently available in the major cities of Bangladesh and plans are being drawn to expand its business to a country wide operation.

LPL Right Holders IPG Cheat Indian Company - TWSA

Telugu Warriors Sporting Adventure (TWSA) Pvt. Ltd., the former owner of Dambulla Viking franchise during the inaugural Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2020 season, came out publicly against the company who runs it, Innovative Production Group (IPG), for wrongfully terminating their contract, misleading and 'cheating'.

Chairman of TWSA, Sachin Joshi stated that IPG was the most unprofessional company he worked with, and explained every aspect which went through the process of terminating their ownership, though their earlier contract was signed for the period 2020-2025.

Owners of LPL 2020 winning team Jaffna Stallions, too, stated the same earlier against IPG for wrongfully terminating their contract. In both cases they claimed IPG had acted in the same manner without clear communication and offered them other franchises of LPL from time to time.

Full Press release by TWSA as follows.

Telugu Warriors Sporting Adventure Pvt. Ltd. (TWSA) is one of the official Franchisee holders of 'Dambulla Viking' in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) for the term of 2020 - 2025.

TWSA has been a pioneer in the Sports sector and the owner of TWSA, Sachin Joshi, is an avid lover of cricket and has been actively involved in cricketing communities both at grass root and professional levels. He is committed to support the next generation of cricketers. The Innovative Production Group (IPG) FZE, the official right holders of LPL, approached Sachin Joshi and offered to be a franchisee of one of the teams of LPL at the tail end of the season.

However, due to his sheer passion and love for Cricket,

Sachiin Joshi came forward and rescued IPG and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) from public embarrassment by investing more than USD 900,000 of his personal funds within a very short time span, thereby ensuring the success of the first season of LPL.

The Innovative Production Group (IPG) FZE had illegally terminated the Franchisee Agreement with TWSA without providing TWSA a fair chance to rectify the breach of Agreement, which resulted in heavy financial and reputation damages for TWSA. (IPG) FZE cunningly published the termination of Franchisee Agreement in newspapers even prior to sending the official notice for alleged breach and termination of Agreement with TWSA.

It should be stressed that TWSA has time and again proved their bona fide, loyalty and commitment to LPL, and IPG's intentional actions took place in spite of such commitments demonstrated by TWSA. A clear proof of TWSA's loyalty and commitment to LPL was that during the first season of LPL, under the leadership of Sachin Joshi, TWSA succeeded in raising the valuation of Dambulla Viking to USD 3.54 million.

Despite the abovementioned efforts by TWSA, IPG has attempted to discredit TWSA by falsely claiming TWSA has breached various clauses of their Franchisee Agreement.

This unwarranted Press Release which was cunningly published without providing TWSA an opportunity to reply to their allegations, and our stand for holding the payment of last instalment, or at least make an inquiry on the alleged notice of the termination, was knowingly and intentionally committed by IPG to ensure that their defaults and irregularities stay hidden



and to intentionally deviate from the proper practice thus abetting IPG's violation further. IPG had also violated fulfilling of vital obligations under the said Franchisee Agreement including but not limited to the provision of a detailed report on utilization of funds paid by TWSA, details on TWSA's share in the central revenue pool and the time limit for its release, physical copy of signed Franchisee Agreements and the Players' Agreements. IPG has clearly abused its position of power to arbitrarily decide the terms of the Franchisee Agreement which were one-sided, onerous, arbitrary and unfair to TWSA as the Franchisee holder. Furthermore, IPG also refrained from sharing the executed Franchisee Agreement till the

end of first season, resulting in another violation of an accepted practice.

Post such continuous grave irregularities committed by them, IPG had approached TWSA requesting TWSA to confirm their position to participate in the second season of LPL and within 15 days of seeking confirmation on participation from TWSA, IPG arbitrarily took the sudden and unwarranted step to terminate the Agreement with TWSA.

Despite the illegal and unwanted termination of its Franchisee Agreement, TWSA, due to its unwavering passion and love for cricket, had decided to avail another opportunity to LPL by continuing their association with LPL and without relinquishing the link.

IPG thereafter once again initiated communication with TWSA for investing in LPL season 2. However, after all the communications, IPG suddenly retracted its offer and did not even have the courtesy of informing TWSA that the Dambulla Franchisee was awarded to Q. Khan. TWSA only became aware of the same through newspaper articles. Post publication of such news and articles in the newspapers, IPG abruptly terminated all their ongoing communications with TWSA, with no explanations or prior notice.

Despite the discontinuation, which is the second violation, IPG offered TWSA the Colombo Franchisee in anticipation and fear of TWSA's legal action against them. TWSA accepted

their offer to take over the Colombo Franchisee and were in talks with Anil Mohan of IPG to finalize the commercials of their association. Both IPG and SLC intentionally and continuously presented to TWSA that they were taking the necessary action to include TWSA in the second season of LPL. Thereafter, IPG once again stopped all their ongoing communications with TWSA in an autocratic and arbitrary manner. While TWSA (based on the understanding gained from IPG and SLC about inclusion of TWSA in the second season of LPL) was engaged with the following up with IPG and SLC on finalization of steps to be undertaken for the new association, TWSA learnt with a rude shock that the Colombo Franchisee was awarded to a new third party who was the CEO & President of 27th Investments. Anil Daman and not to TWSA. Later on, IPG offered TWSA the Kandy Tuskers Franchisee and played the same game.

TWSA alleges that IPG have been intentionally misleading TWSA during the entirety of the time period while keeping TWSA as a mere safety net that could be unilaterally discarded at their convenience. The series of intentional actions by IPG clearly insinuates its sole motive to not to allot any share from the central pool revenue of LPL Season One to TWSA, while simultaneously hinder and obstruct any possible litigation by TWSA against LPL's own illegal termination and non-fulfillment of obligations as per the Franchisee Agreement.

One could only speculate the consequences which SLC and IPG would face, if IPG and SLC fail to resolve and address its issue with TWSA. Though being held against insurmountable odds, TWSA is confident that justice shall prevail.

100th RCGC Championship 2021 Pre-quarter finals lined up for today

By SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

8 pre-quarter final encounters have been lined up for today (2 December) at the 100th Royal Colombo Golf Club (RCGC) Championship, which will be worked off at the RCGC course. First tee off between Yannik and Gehan will be 12 noon.

4 quarter-finals will be worked off on December 3, while 4 December will see the 2 semi finals being worked off, with the grand final on 5 December.

Yannik is the defending Men's champion, while Kayla Perera will defend her title in the Ladies event.

Pre quarter finals:
Yannik Kumara vs Gehan Sribaddana
Levon Niyarepola vs Chanaka Perera
Husni Uwise vs Mahela Jayawardena
Kushal Johnpillai vs Rajeeve Rajapakse
Sachin de Silva vs Chanadana Gunasekera
Ravindra S. Wijeguneratne vs Sudath Kumara
Nirekh Tejwani vs Reshan Algama
Rusi Captain vs Manjula Chandrasoma

Bangalore retain Kohli, Dhoni stays with Chennai in IPL

Indian Premier League (IPL) side Royal Challengers Bangalore retained the services of Indian batsman Virat Kohli for the 2022 season, while current champions Chennai Super Kings kept faith with MS Dhoni as the window closed on Tuesday.

Kohli was retained for a fee of 150 million Indian rupees (\$2 million), while his team also signed on Mohammed Siraj and Australia's Glenn Maxwell ahead of Tuesday's deadline, leaving them with 570 million Indian rupees to spend in the auction.

Each team will have a total salary cap of 900 million Indian rupees to spend at the auction, minus a retention deduction.

Among other big names remaining with their teams ahead of the next edition of the Twenty20 tournament were Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians), Rishabh Pant (Delhi Capitals), Jos Buttler (Rajasthan Royals) and Kane Williamson (Sunrisers Hyderabad).

Each of the eight franchises were allowed to retain up to four players with a maximum of three Indians, two overseas players and two uncapped Indian players.

Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai opted to retain four players each while Rajasthan, Bangalore and Hyderabad retained three.

Punjab Kings held on to two players - Mayank Agarwal and Arshdeep Singh - leaving them with the highest salary purse of 720 million Indian rupees to spend at the auction ahead of the 2022 season.

Delhi have the least at 475 million Indian rupees.

The next edition will have two new teams - Lucknow and Ahmedabad - with the competition featuring 74 matches where each side plays seven home and seven away games.

Retained players
Chennai: Ravindra Jadeja, MS Dhoni, Moeen Ali, Ruturaj Gaikwad
Delhi: Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, Prithvi Shaw, Anrich Nortje
Kolkata: Andre Russell, Varun Chakaravathy, Venkatesh Iyer, Sunil Narine
Mumbai: Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav, Kieron Pollard
Punjab Kings: Mayank Agarwal, Arshdeep Singh
Rajasthan: Sanju Samson, Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal
Bangalore: Virat Kohli, Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Siraj
Hyderabad: Kane Williamson, Abdul Samad, Umran Malik.



(Reuters) MS Dhoni

Late Raphinha penalty gives Leeds win over Palace

A stoppage-time penalty from Brazilian winger Raphinha earned Leeds United a 1-0 home win over Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Tuesday, as they moved five points clear of the relegation zone.

The result left Palace 12th in the standings on 16 points from 14 games, while Leeds moved two places up to 15th on 15 points after they ground out their third league win of the season.

Leeds dominated possession but lacked any edge up front as the best chances fell to the visitors before Marc Guehi handled a corner and Raphinha made no mistake with the spot

kick, awarded after a VAR check.

Palace Manager Patrick Vieira was disappointed.

"I'm frustrated because we were the better team and when you don't put away your chances, you know you can get punished," the former France midfielder told the BBC.

"We just have to accept the result. Some of the games have gone in our favour, tonight it didn't.

We don't have time to feel sorry for ourselves."

After a dull first half devoid of any chances, Leeds' Rodrigo dragged a Daniel James cross from the left well wide of the near post

in the 53rd, as he failed to turn and get a shot on target.

Christian Benteke then missed a pair of sitters for Palace, heading wide at the far post before home keeper Illan Meslier scrambled to smother the striker's feeble close-range shot on the line.

Those misses proved costly for the visitors after the ball hit Guehi's raised arm deep into stoppage time, with Raphinha stroking the penalty past visiting keeper Vicente Guaita to delight the home fans at Elland Road.

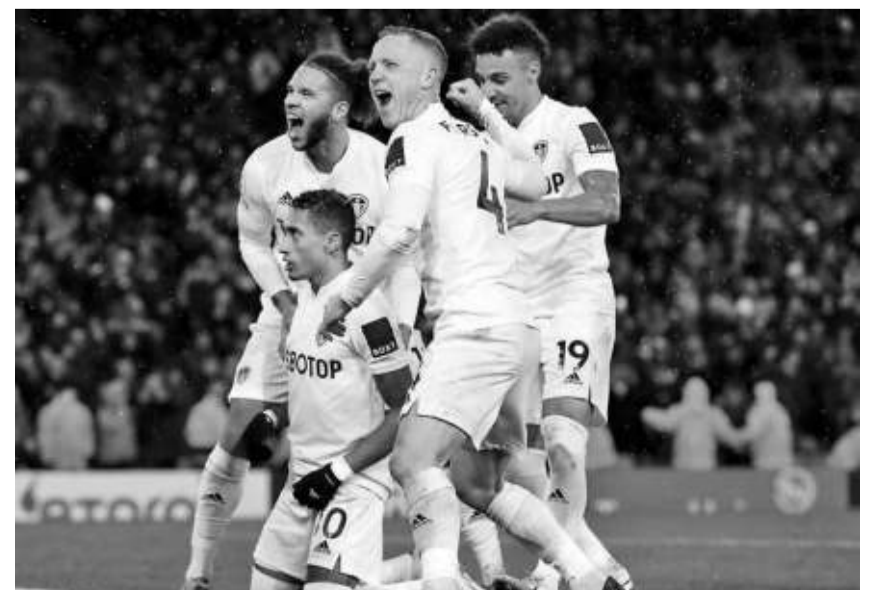
Leeds midfielder Kalvin Phillips was relieved after they ground out the win and dismissed reports that he

had fallen out with Manager Marcelo Bielsa.

"It is a massive win for us, we are very happy and have to try and go on a run of games now - we have a tough run of games before Christmas," said the England enforcer.

"I will play any position the manager asks me - if he wants me to play centre back I will play centre back, if he wants me to play goalkeeper I'll play goalkeeper.

"I saw a lot of things on social media and TV that me and the manager had fallen out. It's never been the case and I wanted to put that to bed." (Reuters)



Raphinha celebrates scoring their first goal with teammates

Mendis magic helps Sri Lanka fight back

SCORE

Sri Lanka 1st Innings 204 (all out)

West Indies 1st Innings

Kraigg Brathwaite b Embuldeniye	72
J. Blackwood lbw b Jayawickrama	44
Nkrumar Bonner lbw b Mendis	35
Shai Hope lbw b Mendis	22
Roston Chase c Asalanka b Mendis	10
Kyle Mayers not out	36
Jason Holder lbw b Mendis	04
Joshua Da Silva b Mendis	00
Kemar Roach c de Silva b Jayawickrama	08
Veerasammy Permaul b Embuldeniye	15
J. Warrican c sub (C. Karunaratne) b Mendis	01
Extras: (nb 6)	06
Total: (all out in 104 overs)	253

Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Jermaine Blackwood, 27.4 ov), 2-137 (Nkrumah Bonner, 58.1 ov), 3-166 (Kraigg Brathwaite, 71.5 ov), 4-180 (Roston Chase, 80.5 ov), 5-191 (Shai Hope, 84.3 ov), 6-197 (Jason Holder, 86.5 ov), 7-197 (Joshua Da Silva, 86.6 ov), 8-208 (Kemar Roach, 89.2 ov), 9-246 (Veerasammy Permaul, 101.1 ov), 10-253 (Jomel Warrican, 104.2 ov)

Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 9-3-22-0, Lasith Embuldeniye 35-13-94-2, Ramesh Mendis 34.2-8-70-6, Praveen Jayawickrama 25-4-59-2, Dhananjaya de Silva 1-0-8-0

Sri Lanka 2nd Innings

Dimuth Karunaratne run out (Mayers)	06
Pathum Nissanka not out	21
O. Fernando run out (Blackwood/Da Silva)	14
Charith Asalanka not out	04
Extras: (lb1)	01
Total: (For 2 wickets in 21 overs)	46

Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Dimuth Karunaratne, 1.5 ov), 2-39 (Oshada Fernando, 14.3 ov)

Bowling: Veerasammy Permaul 9-2-20-0, Roston Chase 5-1-8-0, Jomel Warrican 7-1-17-0

Ramesh Mendis' brilliant bowling figures of 6/70 helped Sri Lanka restrict West Indies to 253 before the hosts ended day three on 46/2, trailing by 3 runs.

West Indies started the day looking to further chalk off the Sri Lankan lead and continue the excellent display which they had come up with on day two. Skipper Kraigg Brathwaite and Nkrumah Bonner started brilliantly in their effort to accomplish this task. Batting sensibly, it looked like the pair would take the visitors past the lead. Brathwaite brought up his half-century while Bonner was starting to look more and more settled at the crease.

But Ramesh Mendis, as he has done so often in this series, proved to be the man with the golden arm. Bowling from round the wicket, he got one delivery to fizz off the pitch to trap Bonner lbw, bringing an end to his knock of 35.

The wicket would spring Brathwaite into action as he unleashed a few cracking shots against the spinners before Lasith Embuldeniye came up with a peach of a delivery to end his stay at the crease. Beaten by the flight and

trajectory, Brathwaite was bowled after an excellent knock of 72 on his birthday. The wicket would then open the floodgates.

Mendis then dismissed Roston Chase with the new ball doing the trick. The delivery was on the short side but Chase ended up clipping it straight to leg gully with Nissanka taking a sharp catch. Mendis would then trap Shai Hope on 22 as West Indies found themselves in all sorts of trouble.

Another lbw would follow soon for the wily off-spinner; this time the wicket of Holder for 4. The next delivery would yield the scalp of Joshua da Silva on a duck as Mendis celebrated another five-wicket haul while being on a hat-trick.

West Indies would manage to build up a small lead of 31 runs, but had a terrible session overall, as they threw away their advantage losing six wickets heading into tea.

It didn't take long for the Lankans to wrap things up in the final session with Mendis capping things off with the wicket of Jomel Warrican for 1, ending with exceptional figures of 6/70.

Sri Lanka had to then negotiate through a tricky phase in the final session with the lights fading and the West Indies bowlers ready to make a serious dent. They had to endure a major setback, as they lost skipper Karunaratne to a brilliant piece of fielding from Kyle Mayers. He picked the ball brilliantly and shot a rocket of a direct hit as the Lankan captain was left languishing short of his crease. He would be gone for 6.

Pathum Nissanka and Oshada Fernando looked relatively comfortable at the crease and it seemed that they would get Lanka through to the rest of the day without any further hiccups. But a calamitous miscommunication led to another run-out. Fernando dabbled the ball straight to backward point and embarked on a run but Nissanka sent him back. It was too late as he fell short of the crease by quite a big margin to walk back to the pavilion for 14.

There would be no further damage for the hosts as they ended the day on 46/2, trailing by 3 runs with Nissanka and Charith Asalanka at the crease.



Ramesh Mendis

Arjuna blames officials for sorry plight of cricket



Arjuna Ranatunga

Former national captain Arjuna Ranatunga has blamed corruption in cricket administration for the sorry plight of the game in Sri Lanka.

Corrupt cricket officials continue to hold office and play their old game, while the country has even been made to qualify for the next T20 World Cup, he said.

Ranatunga, whose birthday fell on 1 December, was speaking to the media after paying homage at Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy. A majority of the corrupt officials in cricket are either relations or close friends of the successive Sports Ministers, he charged.

Cricket has now become a money-minded game, with only the Lanka Premier League being organized while halting other major national sporting events, Ranatunga pointed out.

He added that his call to the incumbent Sports Minister to conduct a proper audit into the LPL was yet to be heeded.

106th Colombo Championship Tennis Tournament 2021

Thehan clinches opens men's title in thriller



Gehansa Methnadi

Thehan Wijemanne of Royal College edged out Chathurya Nilaweera in a thrilling three setter (6/4, 4/6, 10/7) to clinch the Men's open title at the 106th Colombo Championship Tennis Tournament 2021 yesterday.

Thehan found his best level when it mattered most in the first set. The youngster landed multiple aces, ripped a forehand winner from outside the tramline and forced his opponent into backhand errors to dominate proceedings and take a one-set lead.



Thehan Wijemanne

Despite the excellent rallies and deft touches from both competitors in the second set, it was Chathurya who bounced back to come away with the points and register a win in the second set.

Heading into the third set, Thehan once again found his momentum and played aggressively to claim the third set and the match after a thrilling contest.

Meanwhile, Gehansa Methnadi of Musaeus College defeated Movindi Fernando 4/1, 4/1 in the U-12 girls semi final fixture.

Mathews may be ruled out from LPL



Angelo Mathews

Former Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews is likely to be ruled out of the upcoming Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2021 cricket tournament due to the thigh strain he sustained in the ongoing 2nd Test against the West Indies.

Mathews sustained the injury during the first innings of Sri Lanka and did not return to the field when the West Indies commenced their innings, even though he was set to bowl a few overs.

Head of the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Medical Committee Professor Arjuna de Silva said Mathews has suffered a grade-2 hamstring tear.

He further said the cricketer will most probably be ruled out of the LPL tournament since this type of injury requires 4-6 weeks of rehabilitation work.

Mathews had taken time off cricket for several months due to personal reasons and had returned to the field with the West Indies Series.

However, his hopes of returning to the Sri Lanka limited-overs side has taken a major blow due to this injury, with his participation in the LPL likely to be ruled out.

Mathews will bat in the 2nd innings if necessary.

Under-19 Inter Schools Division Three Tier 'B' Cricket Tournament

Maris Stella, Sri Sumangala advance to semi-final

Maris Stella College Thimbirigaskatuwa and Sri Sumangala MV Kelaniya advanced to the semi final of the Under-19 Inter Schools Division Three Tier 'B' Cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) with sponsorship of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

In the quarter-final, Maris Stella beat Wickramabahu National

School Gampola by 3 wickets at Wickramashila National School ground on Monday, while Sri Sumangala beat Ananda National School Puttalam by 4 wickets at the same venue on Tuesday.

In Giriulla (Sri Sumangala won by 4 wickets)

Ananda NS Puttalam: 128 (36.4) (D.M.M.N. Nethsara 27, Tharindu Sanjeeva 27, Chalana Avishka 5/28, Tharusha Denuwan 2/11,

Nuwan Nandika 2/12)

Sri Sumangala: 134/6 (36.1) (Thasika Shenel 61 n.o., Tharusha Deshan 26, Tharindu Sanjeeva 2/20)

In Giriulla (Maris Stella won by 3 wickets)

Wickramabahu NS Gampola: 81 (37.3) (Nimnada Soysa 15, Mithila Herath 14, Savindu Perera 4/15, Eshan Fernando 3/13)

Maris Stella: 82/7 (15.5)

(Savindu Perera 17, Kasun Rodrigo 17, Senuka Dinwara 15, Geeth Samaranyaka 4/18, Yohan Ranameramulla 3/33)

Pre-Quarter-Final Results

Hindu College Matala beat Sri Sumangala College Hikkaduwa, St. Michael's College Batticaloa beat Chettikulam MMV, D.S. Senanayake National School Ampara beat Theraputta National School Ambalantota and Pannala

National School beat Ananda National School Puttalam to advance to the quarter-finals.

In the first quarter-final on 2 December Hindu College will meet St. Michael's at Royal College ground Polonnaruwa, and in the second quarter-final on 3 December D.S. Senanayake N.S. will meet Pannala NS at the same venue.

(IR)