

Gas companies must bear responsibility - Lasantha

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN
Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs State Minister Lasantha Alagiyawana said that companies dealing with gas should bear responsibility for the adverse consequences that happen

due to various related incidents. He said the government has urged the gas dealers to take time suspending the supply of gas to ensure that safe gas goes for home use.
The state minister was speaking

at a press conference held on Friday afternoon to explain the current situation which has affected a majority including hoteliers and caterers.
He called all political party leaders and media institutions **▶ TO PAGE 02**

CEB engineers briefly call off work-to-rule campaign

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY
The Ceylon Electricity Board Engineers' Union (CEBEU) has temporarily called off its work-to-rule campaign, union sources told the *Daily News* yesterday.

The CEBU members launched a work-to-rule campaign on November 25 over several issues including the controversial Yugadanavi power plant deal. The association demanded that the government not proceed with the deal

with US-based energy company New Fortress Energy Inc., which includes a transfer of 40% of shares of West Coast Power Private Limited (WCPL) - the owner of the Yugadanavi power plant in Kerawalapitiya. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

INDIAN LINES OF CREDIT FOR FOOD, MEDICINE AND FUEL IMPORTS

FINANCE MINISTER CONCLUDES INDIAN VISIT ON FRUITFUL NOTE

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa ended his first official visit to India on a successful note yesterday, securing an agreement for an extension of a Line of Credit to cover the import of food, medicines and other essential items from India to Sri Lanka.
The visit also resulted in an "Energy Security Package" that would include a Line of Credit to cover the import of fuel

from India, and an early modernization of Trincomalee Tank Farm. An offer of a Currency Swap to help Sri Lanka address the current balance of payment issues was also on the table.
All these decisions were arrived at following discussions with the Minister's Indian counterpart Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and

CURRENCY SWAP OFFER

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. During his two-day visit, Minister Rajapaksa also met Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and National Security Advisor of India Ajit Kumar Doval for bilateral talks.
The Sri Lankan Finance Minister's discussions with his Indian counterpart and the External Affairs Minister focused

TRINCO TANK FARM TO BE MODERNISED

on a whole gamut of issues of mutual importance pertaining to the bilateral relationship with particular attention on the economic cooperation aspect. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the evolving trajectory of the bilateral relationship. During the discussions, they identified ways and means through which the existing bilateral economic **▶ TO PAGE 02**

First local Omicron case detected, arrival from South Africa

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
Sri Lankan Health authorities yesterday confirmed the country's first case of the new Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.



Dr. Samitha Ginige

The Health Ministry said the new COVID-19 variant was identified in a Sri Lankan national who had recently returned from South Africa.

Addressing a media conference held yesterday at the Health Promotion Bureau, Health Services Deputy Director General Dr. Hemantha Herath said that the public need not panic over this, since the health authorities are dealing with the situation.

As a result of our vigilance, we have been able to identify an Omicron patient following gene sequencing lab tests," he said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

First Bond Scam case to proceed without Mahendran

DILSHAN THARAKA
The Colombo Permanent High Court Trial-at-Bar yesterday ordered the first Central Bank Bond scam case to proceed in the absence of former Central Bank Governor Arjun Mahendran and Ajahan Gardiya Punchihewa, currently hiding abroad.

The Colombo Permanent High Court Trial-at-Bar granted permission after considering the request made by Additional Solicitor General Priyantha Navana who appeared on behalf of the Attorney General seeking permission to proceed with the case without those two accused, as state diplomatic talks are underway between the two countries to bring the accused to Sri Lanka under the Extradition Act. The case was taken up before the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar bench comprising Colombo High Court Judges Champa Janaki Rajaratne, Damith Thotawatte and Namal Balalle. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa met India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in India. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda looks on.

Social security benefits for several informal sectors

IRANGIKA RANGE
Arrangements have been made to commence the social security benefit scheme for insurance agents, journalists, carpenters, masons including labourers and domestic workers in the informal sector too in the future, Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said.



"It is the responsibility of the government to form a social security benefit scheme for all segments in the country who do not have any social security or protection. The scheme will provide adequate income support for them in their old age," he added. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Rice import ban should be done only after proper study - Finance Committee



Members of the Committee on Public Finance on Wednesday recommended that if the import ban on rice, which was imposed last April, is to be lifted again, it should be done only after a proper forecast of the forthcoming Yala season.

Finance Committee Chairman Anura Priyadarshana Yapa said that under the prevailing special circumstances, the local paddy farmer has to logically analyze the situation and make predictions in order to give a fair price for his harvest as well as to enable the consumer to consume quality rice at a reasonable price. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Huge Euro 106 billion EU market for organic food - GIZ

ASELA KURULUWANSHA
The global market for organically produced foodstuffs has grown to Euro 106 billion and a formal arrangement needs to be made to integrate Sri Lankan products into this space, German Industry and Commerce Affairs in Sri Lanka Chief Representative Andreas Hergenrother said.

He said the European Union (EU) was the fastest growing organic market in the world and Sri Lanka's organic exporters needed to become strategic suppliers.

He was speaking at a summit held at the Grand Canadian Hotel in Kandy on November 29 between the German Industry and Commerce Team in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) **▶ TO PAGE 02**

SLMA recommends Pfizer Booster for Elders

The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA), along with the Inter Collegiate Committee, yesterday requested that all Sri Lankan citizens above 60 to ensure that they receive the booster doses of the Pfizer Vaccine against COVID-19 infection, made available by the Government Theelderly community who have not already completed the initial two doses of the vaccination are also kindly **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Release tamed elephants back to owners - Counsel

MAGISTRATE TO AWAIT SC, APPEAL COURT ORDERS
SHAVINI MADHARA
President's Counsel Saliya Peiris yesterday pleaded with the Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court to release the tamed elephants taken into custody by the Criminal Investigation Department, to their original owners.
These elephants were detained and placed under the care of the Department of National Zoological Gardens **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Enjoining Order against Chinese fertilizer ship further extended

DILSHAN THARAKA
The Colombo Commercial High Court yesterday extended the Enjoining Order issued against the Qingdao Seawin Biotech Chinese Company, its local agent Chelina Capital Corporation and People's Bank until December 23. The case was taken up before Colombo **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Mob kills Sri Lankan factory manager in Sialkot

PERSONALLY OVERSEEING PROBE - PM
Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday strongly condemned the 'horrific vigilante attack' calling it a day of shame for Pakistan. "The burning alive of Sri Lankan manager is a day of shame for Pakistan." Reacting to the attack on Twitter, the PM said that he was personally overseeing the investigations, ensuring that those responsible will be punished 'with the full severity of the law'. (*Khaleej Times*).

A violent mob in Sialkot killed a Sri Lankan factory manager on Friday, while a heavy contingent of police has been sent to the area to bring the situation under control.
The incident happened on Wazirabad Road in Sialkot, where reportedly the workers of private factories attacked the export manager of a factory and burnt his body after killing him. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

CEB GM suspects power outage to be a sabotage

Ceylon Electricity Board General Manager M.R. Ranatunga yesterday said that the power disruption experienced in the country yesterday is suspected to be an act of sabotage.
He added that the CEB engineers are deliberately dragging the restorations activities **▶ TO PAGE 02**



PUCSL, SLSI HAS FORMULATED A STANDARD FOR LP GAS - PUCSL
Delegate regulatory powers to PUCSL by amending Act
The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), together with Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI) has already formulated a standard for the much-talked about LP gas in September this year and is ready to regulate LP Gas and other related industries. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

'Dematagoda Ruwan' further remanded

SHAVINI MADHARA
Colombo Chief Magistrate Buddhika Ragala yesterday rejected the bail applica-

tion filed by the suspect Ruwan Chamila Prasanna alias 'Dematagoda Ruwan' and remanded him till December 17.
The suspect, a resident of Dematagoda had been charged with earning billions of rupees through the peddling **▶ TO PAGE 02**

LG bodies spending without passing their annual budgets - Committee

The Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government took to discussion the fact that although the Local Government bodies cannot spend money for the coming year without passing their budgets, the Ambalagoda Urban Council has spent money without approving the budget for 2021. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



School holidays revised, opening on January 3

Christmas holidays dates for all government and government-approved schools have been revised

The Education Ministry said that the schools will remain closed from December 24, 2021 to January 2, 2022.

Schools will be re-opened on January 3, 2022. It was previously announced by the Ministry that the third term

school holidays for Christmas would be from 23 December to 26 December. However, it has now been extended.

Gas companies must bear... From page 01

to join hands with the government to resolve the gas problem which has affected a majority of the citizens living in all parts of the country. He recalled that during the recent days the number of incidents due to gas had increased panicking the consumers who are using gas at homes.

On its part, he said the government has sought the assistance of experts from the Moratuwa University and from concerned experts who could identify the problems and resolve them once and for all." President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa has appointed an eight-member Committee under the leadership of Professor Shantha Walpolage to submit a report on the recent incidents related to gas explosion. "We are also sending a team of experts from the concerned companies to the cargo containers to check whether the consignment of gas cylinders are upto international standards for local use," he said.

Some 35 percent of the Sri Lankan households use gas daily for their cooking purposes.

Social security benefits... From page 01

The Minister said that he does not hesitate to amend the current labour laws according to the latest trends and needs in their respective sectors for the benefit of the workers. Accordingly, labor laws related to the life insurance industry will be amended according to the latest development in the industry for the their job security," he added

The Minister said this at a discussion held at the Ministry with representatives of Whole Island Life Insurance Agents' Organization recently.

Insurance agents pointed out that despite decades of discussions with various parties about the future and occupational instability faced by insurance agents, no positive steps have been taken to address this.

The Minister said the government is focusing on developing a system for the nearly 45,000 life insurance agents

working in the insurance industry in Sri Lanka to provide Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' Trust Fund (ETF) benefits. Accordingly, the legal states related to the appointments of the life insurance agents will be amended according to the present demands and needs in the industry," he added. A suitable social security programme for them has not yet been implemented.

Therefore, there is no certainty about their future security and institutional professional affiliation, the Minister said.

The insurance sector has become one of the most lucrative sectors in Sri Lanka at present, the Minister said.

Steps will be taken to provide a speedy solution to the social security arrangements of the life insurance sales agents and the preparation of the necessary legal framework for this purpose will be commenced soon.

Mob kills Sri Lankan factory... From page 01

Sialkot District Police Officer Umar Saeed Malik said the man, identified as Priyantha Kumara, was a Sri Lankan national.

However, Police have not yet been informed about the reason behind the murder.

Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar took notice of the murder, terming it as a "very tragic incident", while the spokesperson for Sialkot police said details would be shared with the media after the initial investigation.

Buzdar has summoned a report from the inspector general of police and ordered a high-level inquiry

into the matter. "Every aspect of the incident should be investigated and a report should be submitted. Action should be taken against those who take the law into their own hands," the chief minister said.

Punjab Inspector General of Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan also took notice of the incident and directed the Gujranwala regional police officer to reach the location immediately.

"The Sialkot DPO is present on the spot. All aspects of the incident should be investigated," the IGP said. (Courtesy daily.com.pk)

LG bodies spending without... From page 01

The discussion took place at Parliament on Thursday. It was disclosed that there is a possibility of dissolving the Local Government body after informing the Governor by the Local Government Commissioner as it is illegal. This situation is now happening in several other Local Government bodies as well, the Members present said.

Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon stated that special attention will be paid to this as it sets a wrong precedent. Responsible officials including Local Government Commissioners and Governors are expected to be summoned before this Committee in the future to discuss issues related to Local Government Institutions, the Minister added.

The following matters were taken into discussion at the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government held under the chairmanship of Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon and State Minister Roshan Ranasinghe on Thursday Members of Parliament pointed out the need to extend the deadline for the completion of local government projects. Furthermore, it was discussed that the project should be extended to January next year as the projects could not be completed due to the lack of cement and due to the COVID situation.

The committee members also drew attention to the improper maintenance of

properties such as stadiums under local government bodies. The Minister instructed the relevant officials to conduct a progress review at least once a month with the intervention of the line ministries to ascertain whether the Local Government Institutions are carrying out such activities properly.

The Line Ministry also pointed out the need to implement a special programme to regulate this as the Local Government Commissioners do not take action to administer the finances of the Local Government Institutions as the Provincial Councils are inactive.

It was discussed at the Committee that the revenue of the Local Government Institutions has decreased rapidly due to the prevailing COVID situation. The committee members pointed out that the revenue generated due to the reduction in the number of employees for assessment was much less than the actual revenue due to the assessment tax.

Many issues such as the shortage of public health inspectors, pharmacists and family health workers in the Municipal Councils were also discussed at this meeting. The Secretary to the Ministry said that steps will be taken to direct the newly recruited graduates to the Local Government Institutions and as these problems have been identified, steps will be taken to resolve them expeditiously.

First Bond Scam case... From page 01

ASG Navana said the Sri Lankan government had made requests to the Singaporean government for two and a half years and had not yet responded even to the last request, adding that the request was made without prejudice to the process.

It was revealed in court that information has been received that Ajahan Gardiya Punchihewa, who has been named as the 10th accused in the case, has now fled Singapore and is residing in Malaysia.

Two CID officers and a witness for the Controller of Immigration and Emigration testified before the Court that the defendants had evaded Court.

Senior State Counsel Lakmini Giriagama conducted those testimonies yesterday. Considering the circumstances, the Colombo Permanent High Court Trial-at-Bar granted permission to

proceed the case in the absence of those two accused. The case will be taken up again on January 7. The Attorney General filed an indictment against ten accused for causing a loss of over Rs. 688 million to the government through the first Central Bank bond issue on February 27, 2015 during the period of 'Yahapalana' government.

The Attorney General filed indictment against ten accused including former Central Bank Governor Arjun Mahendran, its former Deputy Governor Pattinige Samarasiri, Perpetual Treasury Directors Arjun Aloysius and Geoffrey Aloysius, Perpetual Treasuries CEO Kasun Palisena under the Public Property Act, alleging a loss of over Rs. 688 million at a Central Bank bond auction held by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on February 27, 2015.

Enjoining Order against... From page 01

High Court Judge Pradeep Hettiarachchi.

The Enjoining Order was extended by the judge after considering a case filed by the Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company.

At a previous occasion, Additional Solicitor General Susantha Balapatabandi appearing for plaintiff Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Ltd informed Court that the defendant Qingdao Seawin Biotech Group Chinese Company had got the tender to export sterilized organic fertilizer worth over Rs. 570 million and steps have been taken to export a consignment of fertilizer to Sri Lanka by activating the tender and that the fertilizer sample has been sent to the National Plant Quarantine Service for testing. Following that, testing of the sample confirmed the presence of harmful bacteria and other organisms in some of the fertilizers.

The Additional Solicitor General stated in court that the Chinese company had not fulfilled the requirements of the tender and that the company had accepted foam that there were microorganisms in the organic fertilizer even though it wanted to ship the sterilized organic fertilizer to Sri Lanka.

According to the letter of credit issued on behalf of the Chinese company, the Additional Solicitor General had requested the court to issue an enjoining order restraining the company or its local agency from making or receiving payments from the People's Bank.

Meanwhile, Colombo Commercial High Court Judge Priyantha Fernando also extended the Enjoining Order issued against the Qingdao Seawin Biotech Chinese Company and its local agent until December 23.

Both cases are to be taken up again on December 23.

PUCSL, SLSI has formulated... From page 01

Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Chairman Janaka Ratnayake said the LPG Gas Standard, developed under the supervision of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, can be implemented immediately to ensure the protection of consumers of LPG. However, the PUCSL does not have the legal powers to enforce the standard," Ratnayake said.

He said the LP Gas standard has been drafted in accordance with the procedures of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution and the final draft is being prepared considering stakeholder comments and inputs received through the public consultation process.

"The new standard includes consumer safety requirements when using LP gas cylinders, such as the maximum pressure of the gas cylinders, the maximum percentage of propane in domestic LPG, requirements to improve safety and specify markings such as net weight, test date of cylinder etc to be mentioned on the surface of the cylinder," he said.

"There was a standard that has been prepared much earlier for LP gas. Even that is not legalized or enforced yet. One of the reasons for not enforcing the standard is the lack of a regulatory body to regulate LP gas", he said.

In 2002, the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka was appointed to regulate the petroleum industry, including LP gas. However, the Commission has not been legally empowered to regulate this area to date. In 2019, we started drafting standards for petroleum products with SLSI. We have already set standards for products such as petrol and diesel. These standards must be enforced to protect the consumer when using various products of petroleum. Therefore, we see the need for an

institution with regulatory powers to enforce these."

The earlier standard of LPG (SLS 712) of 1998 provides a specification for the use of commercial propane, commercial butane, propane and butane mixture and special duty propane. However, it does not mandate any ratio of propane to butane for domestic cooking.

Ratnayake said that the regulatory powers of the LP Gas Market could be delegated to the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, by amending the Petroleum Products Special Provisions Act to expedite the protection of consumers.

"The issues we are facing now are results of not having a proper regulator for LPG. We should also regulate the entire petroleum product portfolio of petrol, diesel, aviation fuel, marine fuel, furnace oil, kerosene, Natural Gas, lubricants and grease in order to avoid such situations in future," Ratnayake added.

The industry act for PUCSL to regulate the downstream Petroleum Industry prepared by the Legal Draftsman was cleared by the Attorney General in 2012. However, it needs to be re-certified by the Attorney General after checking the accordance with the 20th Amendment to the Constitution and passed in Parliament. The PUCSL and the Ministry of Energy also launched a declaration of rights and obligations of consumers of Petroleum products and Procedure for Handling Complaints and Resolution of Disputes to resolve the grievances of consumers on December 1, 2021 to address the issues of lack of a proper mechanism to handle the complaints of consumers who uses all grades of Petrol, Kerosene and diesel and to address the issues that consumers face with regard to product and service quality.

Death of Anthony David Weerapperuma

Anthony David Weerapperuma, former Superintendent of Posts, Audit officer and training officer of the Department of Posts passed away yesterday. He was the younger brother of Edmund Weerapperuma,

former Associate Editor of the *Daily News*. His remains lie at his residence at Kiralagadeniya in Palliyawatta. Funeral will take place tomorrow at 3.30 p.m. at the Catholic Church, Palliyawatta.

CEB engineers briefly call off... From page 01

They also called on authorities to put an immediate stop to the abrupt transfers of senior management of the CEB. Later, on Wednesday (1) the members withdrew from power restoration activities with immediate effect.

The CEBU's decision to call off their work-to-rule campaign came after the major disruptions to electricity supply island-wide last morning.

Indian Lines of Credit for food... From page 01

relationship between the two countries could be further broadened and deepened. The Minister also discussed facilitating Indian investments in different sectors in Sri Lanka that would contribute to growth and expand employment. This will build on recent trends in that respect.

Finance Minister Rajapaksa briefed the Indian side of the economic situation in Sri Lanka and the Government's approach to addressing post-Covid challenges.

The Indian Ministers expressed India's solidarity with Sri Lanka at this juncture. They reiterated that India has always stood by Sri Lanka and in the current situation would be guided by its

Neighbourhood First policy.

It was agreed that modalities to realize these objectives would be finalized early, within a mutually agreed timeline. Minister Rajapaksa and Ministers Sitharaman and Jaisankar agreed to open direct lines of communication and to be in direct and regular contact with each other in order to coordinate the above initiative. The Minister and his delegation which included Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda thanked the Indian delegations for all the arrangements made to facilitate the visit, which was the Finance Minister's first official visit abroad since assuming duties in July.

Rice import ban should be... From page 01

Replying to this, Imports and Exports Controller General revealed that according to the available data, the expected Yala harvest is likely to be only 2/3 as compared to last year. MP Nalin Fernando pointed out to the Committee that by allowing the import of rice without a licence, the business community would be tempted to import more rice than it is required for consumption in Sri Lanka.

Hence, the Finance Ministry should intervene to prevent the local farmer from facing difficulties. He also pointed out to the officials of the Finance Ministry that it is important to have rice in the local market that can be bought at a lower price by the citizens of all economic levels as compared to India.

It was emphasized at the Committee on Public Finance to obtain approval for an Extraordinary Gazette Notification permitting the importation of Kekulu, Nadu, Samba and other types of rice as per the order of the Finance

Minister. Dr. Harsha de Silva stated that officials need to investigate the macro impact of such orders given without a correct and logical assessment.

In addition, the Committee approved to submit to Parliament the report of the Committee on Public Finance on the extent to which the Appropriation Bill is in line with Government policies in accordance with the Standing Orders of Parliament as soon as possible. The MPs inquired from the officials of the Finance Ministry present at the Committee meeting as to whether the 2021 Budget Forecasts could be fulfilled. According to the statistics and data submitted by the officials of the Ministry of Finance, the Committee observes that if only local funds are used to repay all debts, there will be an increase in interest rates in the near future and this will adversely affect the local private sector, Dr. Harsha de Silva said.

Release tamed elephants... From page 01

as evidence material, following cases filed in court on investigations carried out in past.

When the matter was taken up before Court, a group of lawyers including President's Counsel Saliya Peiris informed the Magistrate that the Attorney General had earlier decided not to frame criminal charges against the elephant owners.

He noted that the previous judge had made it clear that only the counsel's of defendants, the plaintiff and the aggrieved party would be able to appear in this case.

Attorney Dilumi Alwis appearing on behalf of the

Centre for Environmental and Cultural Studies informed the Magistrate that writ petitions have been filed before the Court of Appeal to repeal the order issued to release 14 tamed elephants. Counsel Dilumi Alwis further stated that the petitioners have also requested that an interim injunction be issued suspending the gazette notification. Accordingly, the Colombo Chief Magistrate Buddhika Ragala said that the order will be considered in this regard following the orders of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The Magistrate fixed further hearing for March 4.

CEB GM suspects power... From page 01

The day to day life of the people in all parts of the country was disrupted as power failure reports across the country at around 11.30 a.m. yesterday.

Ranatunga said power supply was restored to key institutions including the Colombo National Hospital within a short period.

The power supply in the Anuradhapura - Habarana, Lakshapana - Athurugiriya, Kotmale - Biyagama transmission lines has been restored within two hours and arrangements were made yesterday evening to restore the power supply to the entire country.

A team of officials were deployed to immediately attend the power failure in the main transmission system. The power supply to several parts of the Colombo city was restored within few hours yesterday.

State Minister Duminda Dissanayake also rushed to the place where fault in the main transmission line was reported.

Meanwhile National Water Supply and Drainage Board said that water supply to the Colombo city will be fully restored. Water supply to many areas in the city was disrupted due to the power failure

First local... From page 01

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Samitha Ginige said the World Health Organization declared the Omicron variant as a new variant of the virus on November 26 this year and on the same day necessary measures were taken to suspend the arrival of persons from six South African countries including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini.

He further said that that data pertaining to persons who arrived from the relevant countries within the past month were collected in the surveillance system and the health situation of such persons is being assessed and they are being subject to PCR and rapid antigen tests. But no individual of the group had returned a positive test result thus far.

He further said samples obtained from persons who returned positive results upon arrival were also sent to the Sri Jayawardhanapura University for genome sequencing and this individual who arrived from South Africa was identified as infected with the Omicron variant through one such test. All necessary steps were taken adding the relevant individual is in quarantine, and therefore will not impact the community. His family members and other contacts will also be directed to quarantine, while samples will be obtained from them to determine if they are infected. Dr. Ginige said there is no reason to create undue fear over the Omicron variant entering the country.

He added with globalization the new variant entering the country is not surprising. Dr. Ginige requested the public to strictly adhere to health guidelines and urged persons who are not vaccinated thus far to get vaccinated.

He also requested persons who have only obtained a single dose of the vaccine to obtain both vaccines and persons who have received both doses, especially those aged over 60 years and those with low immunity, to obtain the booster dose of the vaccine, in line with the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry.

Huge Euro 106... From page 01

and the German Agency for International Development Cooperation (GIZ) to educate prospective exporters and industry representatives to increase organic product export capacity to the EU.

Hergenrother said that EU retail sales had grown to 41.4 billion Euros, with Germany becoming the largest organic retailer in 2019 at 11.97 billion Euros, also mentioned that among the major Sri Lankan organic products exported to the EU are cinnamon, coconut, tea, papaya, pineapple, potatoes and leeks.

The participants were also briefed on EU regulations and European consumer requirements for the export of organic food items.

AHK Sri Lanka, Official Representative (Organic) for German Business in Sri Lanka, in conjunction with the SME Development Programme, provided insights on farming technology regulations, certifications, standards, packaging, labelling and risk management.

H. M. R. Bandara, Central Provincial Director, Department of Agriculture, Shalindri Perera, GIZ Change Representative, Ashoka Abeywickrema, former Chief Executive Officer, Central Provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Udani Mendis of Biofood (Pvt) Limited spoke on this occasion.

'Dematagoda Ruwan'... From page 01

of illegal drugs such as heroin. The prosecution told the Magistrate that they had also seized another vehicle into their custody.

The CID further informed the Court that they revealed information pertaining a locker belonging to the suspect's sister-in-law, at a bank situated in Dematagoda.

President's Counsel Jayantha Weerasinghe appearing on behalf of the suspect pleaded his client be released on bail.

Weerasinghe further highlighted that the investigation were carried out based on information received by the Inspector General of Police.

He also noted that all the properties of the suspect have already been banned by the Police.

After taking submissions into consideration, the Magistrate rejected the bail application.

SLMA recommends... From page 01

requested to complete their vaccination, the SLMA said in a release. Furthermore, the SLMA reiterates the need for all frontline healthcare workers to complete their vaccination schedule and to receive the booster dose as well. This recommendation is made, based on the higher risk of infection with gatherings during the festive and New Year Season and the possible transmission of the Omicron Variant of COVID-19.

Obituaries

DR JAYANTHA WEERASINGHE - Retired Medical Officer. Formerly of Govt. Hospital, Nivithigala, passed away on 03.12.2021. Beloved husband of Dr Santhoshini, precious father of Pujanee and Muditha, loving father-in-law of Dr Renusha Athugala. Remains lie at the **Respect Home by Jayaratne**. Cremation on 04.12.2021 at 4.30 p.m. at Borella Cemetery. 078673

High Commissioner Moragoda seeks greater Defence and Security cooperation with India

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India, Milinda Moragoda explored avenues of further augmenting Defence and Security cooperation with India, when he met Defence Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi, today (30).

Minister Singh extended a warm welcome to High Commissioner Moragoda. The Defence Minister of India and the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka discussed a range of issues, reviewing the existing excellent defence and security ties between the two countries.

High Commissioner Moragoda thanked the Defence Minister for the support that the Indian defence establishment has been extending to Sri Lanka over the years in many spheres. He thanked India for assisting in controlling the disastrous fires onboard MT New Diamond and MV Express Pearl off the coast of Sri Lanka, which would have resulted in unimaginable marine pollution in the region, had

they not been controlled in a timely and efficient manner.

The High Commissioner also thanked India for the training opportunities accorded to Sri Lankan military students. It was noted that at any given time there are around 700 Sri Lankan military students undergoing training in India. Sri Lanka is the largest single recipient of Indian training berths in the defence sector. The High Commissioner suggested that the possibility be explored for the provision of further training opportunities for Sri Lankan military students in India.

The High Commissioner particularly conveyed to Defence Minister Singh his appreciation for the assistance extended by India to Sri Lanka by sending military aircraft with medical supplies during the covid-19 pandemic, transporting much needed medical grade oxygen to Sri Lanka by INS Shakti and facilitating transportation of the same by SLNS Shakti, and for air lifting a consignment of

urgently required nano-nitrogen fertilizer by transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force recently. In this context, the offer by the Indian Navy to donate a large-scale oxygen generator to Sri Lanka was also appreciated.

The High Commissioner also recalled how the Indian defence establishment supported the repatriation of Sri Lankan military students during the initial months of the lock-down in 2020, by way of facilitating their movement by road, sea and air, and thanked the Minister for this facilitation.

The two dignitaries took note of the annual bilateral Joint Military and Naval exercises and discussed avenues through which the existing bilateral defence and security cooperation could be further strengthened. They also observed with satisfaction the immense progress achieved by the Colombo Security Conclave during the past one year.

High Commissioner Moragoda also presented a copy of his policy road map "Integrated Country Strategy for



High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India Milinda Moragoda having discussions with Defence Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh along with others.

Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions in India 2021/2023" to the Defence Minister. The High Commissioner was accompanied by the High Commissioner's Defence Advisor Commodore Thushara Karunatunga (SLN) to the meeting. A former President of the Bhartiya Janata Party, Shri Rajnath

Singh is a veteran politician with an illustrious career. Prior to being appointed as the Minister of Defence in May 2019, he held the portfolio of Home Minister in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shri Rajnath Singh had also served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in early

2000s. He is also the Deputy Leader of the House of the Lok Sabha at present.

Hearing three cases against Minister Johnston postponed

SHAVINI MADHARA

Three corruption cases filed against Highways Minister and Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando and two others were postponed yesterday for January 28 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Buddhika C. Ragala.

When the matter was taken up before Court, Attorney-at-Law Niroshan Siriwardena appearing on behalf of the Minister informed Court that the Court of Appeal had issued an interim order preventing the Magistrate's Court from hearing the cases till January 11, 2022.

The case is over allegedly causing an unlawful loss of

Rs.40 million to the Government by employing 153 employees of the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment (CWE) for election work during 2010 to 2014.

The Director General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption filed these corruption cases against three accused under section 70 of the Bribery Act.

Accordingly, the case against Road and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando, former CWE (Lak Sathosa) Chairman Eraj Fernando and the former Minister's Private Secretary Raj Mohideen Mohammad Sakeer were postponed for January 28.

Sri Lankan film 'Nela' in Riyadh

Sri Lankan film *Nela* directed by Bennett Rathnayake was screened on November 28 as a part of the "Ambassador's Choice: Film Festival" organised by the Embassy of India in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which partnered with several resident Missions including the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Riyadh.

The event was attended by several members of the diplomatic corps, Saudi nationals, members of

the Sri Lankan community and expatriates in the Kingdom.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to KSA P.M. Amza gave a short introduction on Sri Lanka's film industry. He said that the history of the Sri Lanka's Film Industry goes back to 1925, when the first Sri Lankan silent movie *Rajakeeya Vikramaya* was screened. He also highlighted the great contribution by veteran film directors such as Dr. Lester James Peries, Tissa Abeysekara,

Chandran Rutnam, Dr. Nihalsingha, Udayakantha nasooriya, H.D. Premaratne, Ashoka Handagama, Prasanna Vithanage and Vimukthi Jayasundara, who have acclaimed international recognition for their work and given new life into the cinema industry in Sri Lanka. As the film was based on the story of the tea plantation era in the early 20th century, the Ambassador said that Sri Lankan Tea is still

produced with maximum human intervention ensuring its quality.



Nela director Bennett Rathnayake along with the Organising Committee Members before the screening of the film.

Japanese Envoy calls on Foreign Minister

Newly appointed Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mizukoshi Hideaki paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris on November 30.

The Foreign Minister warmly welcomed the new Japanese Ambassador and recalled the long-standing diplomatic relations between Japan and Sri Lanka. The Foreign Minister emphasized that Japan has continuously been providing extensive assistance and training opportunities to Sri Lanka in several areas under the Colombo Plan since 1951. Following the historic speech of former President JR Jayewardene, the then Finance Minister of Sri Lanka at the San Francisco Peace Conference, the Government of Japan as well as its people have greatly assisted Sri Lanka as a gesture of solidarity. Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital is one of the significant gifts from Japan to Sri Lanka that shows enduring friendship between the two countries.

The Foreign Minister extended his gratitude for the mega development projects which were implemented in the recent past in Sri Lanka with Japanese funds, such as "the Bandaranaik International Airport Development Project, New Bridge Construction Project over the Kelani River" and "Anuradhapura Water Supply Project", "Kandy City Wastewater Management Project." Addition-



Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mizukoshi Hideaki having discussions with Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris.

ally, the Foreign Minister stated that the Digitalization of Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Project which has been implemented under Japanese assistance will be a great value.

The Government of Japan has always addressed the real needs of the people of Sri Lanka. The Foreign Minister recalled that during his tenure as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, the Japanese Government has donated resources to establish the Institute of Computer Technology for the University of Colombo which gave a valuable opportunity for the young people of Sri Lanka to

improve their IT skills. The Japanese language is one of the very popular foreign languages among the younger generation of the country and he appreciated the contribution made by the Japanese Government to improve both IT and Japanese language skills among our youth.

The Minister appreciated the contribution made by Japan's special peace Envoy to Sri Lanka Yasushi Akashi to the peace building process of Sri Lanka.

The Ambassador extended greetings from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and expressed the Japanese Govern-

ment's eagerness to enhance bilateral trade and economic relations with the Government of Sri Lanka.

Further, he said that the 70th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Sri Lanka will be celebrated in the year 2022 and the Japanese Government will organize several activities to celebrate the anniversary.

The Ambassador extended an invitation to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to visit Japan during the 70th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries.

Sri Lanka Missions abroad to accelerate Tourism Promotion

Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga and Regional Cooperation State Minister Tharaka Balasuriya addressed the Sri Lanka Heads of Mission and Post abroad on accelerating the tourism promotion activities of the Sri Lanka Missions and Posts on December 1 at the Foreign Ministry. Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimarli Fernando made a detailed presentation on the wide range of tourism attractions in Sri Lanka and the way forward to increase the number of inbound tourists.

It was decided to vigorously promote tourism openings in several sectors including health, religion, food, environment, sports, film and music through the 66 Sri Lanka Missions and Posts in different parts of the world and



Foreign Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga and Regional Cooperation State Minister Tharaka Balasuriya having discussions with Sri Lanka Heads of Mission abroad.

review the progress on a monthly basis. Senior officials of the Foreign

Ministry, Tourism Ministry and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau also participated in the

meeting while the Heads of Mission and Post of Sri Lanka joined virtually.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday
 Draw No.: 1409 Colour: Yellow
 Date: 04.12.2021
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 59,930,220/-
 Enriching Your Life
 Development Lotteries Board
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
 Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk
 Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

සංවර්ධන වාසනාව
 Development Fortune
 Date: 02-12-2021
 Draw Number: 464 | Colour: Blue
SUPER JACKPOT
Rs. 11,206,968/-
 English Letter: Q
 Winning Numbers: 04 12 10
 Fate Number: 4
 Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 2,478,880/-
 Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 11,326,920/-
 Development Lotteries Board
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2.
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47
 Fax: 0112 333 545-47
 Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
 Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

ශ්‍රී ජය
 Shri Jay
 Date: 02.12.2021
 Draw No.: 3742
 Colour: Red
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,760,980/-
 Winning Numbers: 12 | 15 | 32 | 38
 English Letter: L
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL
 Draw Number: 1581
 Colour: Green
 Draw Date: 02.12.2021
 Date: Thursday
Winning English Letter and Numbers
P 29 40 43 48
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,960,620/-
 Development Lotteries Board
 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47
 Fax: 0112 333 545-47
 Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
 Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 4 825 825

ලග්නා වාසනාව
 Lagna Vasana
 Date: 02-12-2021
 Draw Number: 3293
 Colour: Brown
Super Jackpot
Rs. 2,565,546/-
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.
Winning Numbers
16 43 48 62
PISCES
TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 9,343,380/-
 Development Lotteries Board
 No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2.
 Tel: 0112 333 546-47
 Fax: 0112 333 545-47
 Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
 Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 4 825 825

ADA KOTIPATHI
 Draw No.: 1407
 Colour: Dark Blue
Thursday
 Date: 02.12.2021
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,220,340/-
Winning Numbers
23 44 53 69
English Letter
Z
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

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Saturday, December 4, 2021

A nod to reality

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Thursday spoke some home truths which may suggest that the Government will soon have to go for hard options even at the expense of its political future in order to pull the country out of multiple crises. Speaking at the inauguration of the Asi Disi Insurance Scheme for journalists at Temple Trees the Premier said certain unpopular decisions will have to be taken that may even place at risk the Government's political future.

It would indeed have been hard for the Prime Minister to make such a dim prognostication, being a populist leader with a charisma of legendary proportions which is an indication of the predicament in which the country is placed. It is also bound to place the political futures of the rulers in jeopardy if the nature of the unpopular measures were to have a telling effect on the collective psyche of the electorate.

But moves will have to be made irrespective of their political fallout. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa himself said he would take decisions not targeting the next election but only those which are beneficial to the country.

So it looks like the people will have to brace for difficult times ahead. However, both the President's and Prime Minister's standpoint it is hoped will serve to usher in a new political culture in this country where populist measures that would make the people a happy and contented lot but take the country into economic ruin will be a thing of the past.

Many would vouch for the fact that it is populist policies adopted by all Governments to grab power that has been the bane of the country. Populist measures such as packing State institutions with political supporters in the guise of providing employment have plunged these bodies to financial hellholes today. Unwarranted subsidies offered by all Governments over the decades are also responsible for the economic mess we are in today.

It would have been prudent for successive Governments to have taken the people into their confidence by painting the true picture of the state of the economy which certainly would have yielded the desired outcome, provided the leaders set an example and made sacrifices themselves as done in more advanced countries. During WWII populations all over the world made immense sacrifices with people willing to survive on pulses and cereals to support the larger goal of peace.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the present time is also similar to a war where the country is on the verge of peril needing a firm hand to rescue it from the brink. The Premier's message which amounted to a clarion call reflected this state of affairs in ample measure and now it will be up to the people to bear with the difficulties that they may have to face for the greater good of the country in the long run.

During WWII years the people cooperated and the leaders in their turn shared in the sufferings of the people, as old timers still recall. Similarly, at present, if the people are to be persuaded, the example has to be set by the rulers. Ministers will have to forgo their luxury living and all other displays of ostentation. One cannot expect the people to lead frugal lives and endure difficulties if ministers are seen driving away in luxury vehicles with security escorts. Nor will they fall in line if they feel politicians are engaged in open corruption and living it up in grandeur.

It is the privileged lives enjoyed by the ruling elite that are driving the youth of the country from our shores in their droves as much as unemployment and non-recognition of merit. It is such a mindset among the people that the powers that be have to guard against, if the people are to comply with calls by the rulers to prepare for hard times.

Sri Lanka can no longer afford to indulge in populist measures if it is to get out of this unholy mess. The people should be warned about what is in store at election times in the manner of true gentlemanly politics. The practice of making promises that to any average mind will be untenable and then making a U-turn after coming to power should stop forthwith. It is this patronage politics that has kept our people lazy, with a dependent mentality. The Elections Commission has recently taken certain steps to control the unlimited freedom of political parties including imposing a cap on election spending. It should go further and scrutinize the election manifestos of the main political parties and inform the public about the promises contained therein which are impossible to implement.

This way the people will not only be spared the disappointment when the promises go unfulfilled but also make Governments go on the right track in implementing sound policies for the benefit of the country. A halt should be called to what is called pledge politics (*Porondu Deshapalanaya*) in this country once and for all. It is this brand of politics that has compelled the Premier to announce the unpleasant tasks ahead.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Perception is reality.
- Lee Atwater



COVID-19 booster dose rollout for over 60s. Pictures by Sulochana Gamage

JOHN FEFFER

Most Americans have gotten vaccinated because they simply want protection from COVID-19. Some small number of citizens has gotten jabbed in order to go to restaurants, attend sporting events, or qualify for lottery prizes.

You'd think that would be enough. Effective vaccine against a life-threatening disease, opportunity to regain some semblance of normalcy, a coupon for 10 percent off your next purchase at the store where you got your shot: truly a no-brainer.

And yet, there has been resistance.

Imagine an alternative ending to the film *I Am Legend* in which the two immune humans transport the anti-zombie vaccine to a compound of survivors only to be met with questions like, "How long did it take to develop this vaccine? Does it contain a microchip? Are you a shill for Big Pharma?" This is the same vaccine that Will Smith blew himself up to safeguard? For some people, every gift horse is a Trojan horse.

It would be one thing if the anti-vaxxers were a tiny minority living like hermits in the wilderness. Alas, they are very much among us, offering up their bodies on a daily basis to keep COVID-19 alive and circulating. Who'd have expected that a deadly virus would acquire such a rabid fan base?

Since carrots have gone only so far in breaking down the resistance of the hesitant, governments are now deploying sticks. In one country after another, states are using various forms of economic coercion to break down resistance. These "mandates" require workers by sector, or in some cases all sectors, to comply or risk losing their jobs.

As a result, all that anti-lockdown and anti-masking fervor is now getting funneled into opposing these government efforts to boost vaccination rates and prevent the next wave of infection from overwhelming hospitals and funeral homes.

Several hundred protesters with signs like "Mandate equals Communism" recently massed on the Golden Gate Bridge to protest the California measures. In Melbourne, anti-mandate protesters are comparing the Australian government to the Nazis. In Italy, the far-right Forza Nuova was behind a violent street demonstration against the government's vaccine mandate. This is all very troubling. What used to be common sense—let's eradicate polio, let's stamp out smallpox—has become a debatable proposition.

I'm worried about how the world will react to the inevitable Green mandates that governments will impose in the near future. After all, voluntary commitments to cut carbon emissions are just not doing the trick. The recent climate confab in Glasgow may well prove to be the high-water mark in this doomed *laissez-faire* approach.

Understanding Pushback

In Italy, the "green pass" was initially required only to eat at restaurants, go to museums, and work out in gyms. Then you had to show proof of vaccination to travel by planes, trains, and ferries.

Last month, the government required all public and private workers to show their green pass to go to work. And that's when the protests really got heated. Dockworkers went on strike in Genoa and Trieste. A rally of 10,000 in Rome on the eve of the new regulation going into effect turned violent. It's not as if Italy is a vaccine-resistant country. Around three out of four Italians have been fully vaccinated. That's not as good as Portugal (86 percent fully vaccinated), but it is way better than the United States (which remains below 60 percent).

However, really noisy people can capture headlines regardless of how representative they might be. Consider the United States where protesters have argued that mandates for hospital workers, police, and airline personnel will lead to mass resignations.

These mandates, by the way, can be remarkably effective. In San Francisco, for instance, the vaccination rate among city workers rose from

THE CASE FOR VACCINE MANDATES



Mobile Vaccine Centres at Wellawatte conducted by Army Personnel.

Pictures by Rukmal Gamage

55 percent in June to a post-mandate 94 percent in October.

The success of mandates and the relative impotence of the protests notwithstanding, it would be a mistake to dismiss anti-vaccine sentiment. First of all, the stubbornly unvaccinated will continue to determine the future course of the pandemic. Second, the reluctantly vaccinated will still cling to their views, which will inevitably be expressed at later occasions.

Let's not get distracted by the bizarre and the simply misinformed. What lies beneath is a basic mistrust of authorities, whether scientific, political, or broadly civic. The predominant sentiment among anti-vaxxers is that these authorities shouldn't be allowed to tell them what to do with their own bodies.

In some ways, the rhetoric is reminiscent of the mantra of the pro-choice movement: "keep your laws off my body." But it's a misleading resemblance. Anti-vaxxers do have a choice and it's not comparable to a back-alley abortion. They can quit their jobs. In some cases, as in Italy, they can even keep their jobs if they submit to regular testing. And such testing has the added benefit of ena-

bling the country to better track any potential outbreaks.

And let's remember: Mandates are necessary to safeguard public health. The same applies to vaccines for children in public school. In New York, health care workers must get vaccinated against measles and rubella while child-care workers in Rhode Island are required to get an annual flu shot.

Sure, I have a healthy skepticism of authority, but it doesn't trump my commitment to the public good. To be blunt, anti-vaxxers just don't care about the health of the community. That sentiment, which is also shared by plenty of people who get vaccinated for purely selfish reasons, does not bode well for efforts to address the climate crisis.

Future Green Mandates

The commitments that nations made in Paris five years ago to shrink their carbon footprints: voluntary. The promises made in Glasgow this month: voluntary. The choices that you will make this year about buying a car, heating your house, feeding your family: all voluntary.

In a perfect world, everyone cooperates voluntarily to preserve the planet. In reality, some people do so, others promise to do so and don't, and the rest have all along been looking out for number one. This mix of responses to a public policy challenge falls into the category of a "collective action problem."

Usually at some point in a collective action problem, some authority has to intervene to establish rules of the road to protect the common good. So far, the interventions to reduce carbon emissions have been largely non-coercive, except perhaps for workers in a handful of countries who have lost their jobs in fossil fuel industries.

Perhaps governments will continue to use markets to constrain individual choices. Everyone will have to buy electric cars because the old-fashioned combustion kind simply won't be available. Air travel will become prohibitively expensive except for the elite. Locally grown tomatoes will crowd out ones shipped in from other parts of the world.

But "free" markets—and both corporate actors and individual consumers—are slow to respond to existential crises, are resistant to government interventions, and prioritize prices above all else. Markets by themselves will not shift resources quickly enough from the still-profitable-but-highly-pollutant sectors to the less-profitable-except-in-the-long-term Green sectors.

So, let's imagine a future government mandate that all businesses with more than 100 employees have one year to become carbon-neutral. Or that all citizens are capped at a certain number of kilowatt hours per month in their household. Or everyone has a certain travel allowance measured in carbon emissions that covers their commute, their work trips, and their vacations.

As with the vaccination mandate, the rationale will be that individuals have to change their behaviour for the good of the whole. The green mandates will encounter similar resistance. Some people will continue to insist that Climate Change doesn't exist, that the government is over-reacting or overreaching, that liberty consists of the right to own an SUV and drive it anywhere one likes.

With Climate Change, however, the threats are not quite so immediate or palpable. People are dying from rising waters. The casualties will mount up not next week but in 20 years. And what of the use of taxpayer dollars to fund a Green transition in the Global South? It's one thing to ask people to get vaccinated to save lives in their immediate community. Will people submit to mandates to save lives in the Maldives?

Much will depend on the level of trust citizens have in their governments. The skepticism that is concentrated among anti-vaxxers is, unfortunately, more widely shared. According to Pew, only 24 percent of Americans believe that government can be trusted to do what's right. The average among all economically advanced countries is higher—45 percent trust their national governments—but still not encouraging.

And that trust will also depend on the nature of the governments themselves. Where the far right is in charge, all bets are off. The same applies to the corrupt, the authoritarian, and the simply incompetent.

All of which is to say: governments have to prove that these vaccine mandates work in controlling the pandemic. They have to ensure that these infrastructure and pandemic recovery funds make a concrete and sustainable difference in people's lives. They have to demonstrate that government is committed to that old-fashioned principle of improving the public good.

If governments fail this test, here and now, then forget about meeting the challenge of Climate Change. Without effective government measures and sufficient public support for future Green mandates, we might as well be living in houses of straw and sticks.

(John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy In Focus, where this article was published. His latest book is *Right Across the World: The Global Networking of the Far-Right and the Left Response*)

- Eurasia Review

WARNINGS OF RUSSIAN ATTACK ON UKRAINE

NATO foreign ministers on Tuesday called on Russia to de-escalate the situation via Ukraine, warning they stand in solidarity with Ukraine.

Speaking from Riga, Latvia, where NATO foreign ministers gathered for a summit, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the build-up of Russian troops and military equipment near the Ukrainian border "is unprovoked and unexplained."

"We see Russian military build-up, we see heavy armour, we see drones, and combat-ready troops... Russia needs to be transparent, and they need to reduce tensions, and de-escalate," he added.

He stressed that although Ukraine is not a NATO ally — and therefore does not fall under Article 5 for Collective Defense — it is "a highly valued partner".

"We provide support, political, practical support. Allies provide training, capacity building, equipment, and I am absolutely certain that allies will recommit and reconfirm their strong support to Ukraine also during the meeting today," he said.

'Serious consequences'

Ahead of the NATO meeting, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington is "very concerned about the movements we've seen along Ukraine's border. We know that Russia often combines those efforts with internal efforts to destabilise a country. That's part of the playbook, and we're looking at it very closely."

"Any renewed aggression would trigger serious consequences," Blinken warned ahead of talks in Riga, Latvia, with his counterparts in the 30-country military organisation NATO.

The US has shared intelligence with European allies warning of a possible invasion of Ukraine. European diplomats acknowledge the Russian troop movements, but some countries have played down the threat of any imminent invasion ordered by Moscow.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the NATO ministers will "together send an unmistakable message to the Russian government: NATO's support for Ukraine is unbroken and its independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty are not up for discussion."

"Russia would have to pay a high price for any form of aggression," Maas said. "Honest and sustainable de-escalation steps, which can only go via the route of talks, are all the more important now. I will not tire of stressing that the door to such talks is still open to Russia."

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 after the country's Moscow-friendly president was driven from power by mass protests. Weeks later, Russia threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency that broke out in Ukraine's east. Moscow says that Russians who joined the separatists were volunteers.

The conflict in the Donbas region has killed more than 14,000 people and episodic bouts of fighting continue despite a 2015 peace agreement brokered by France and Germany.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last week that his country's intelligence service had uncovered plans for a Russia-backed coup d'état. Russia denied the allegation and rejected the assertion that it is planning to invade Ukraine.

Russia's 'Red Line'

Vladimir Putin, Russia's President, on Tuesday warned NATO against deploying its troops and weapons to Ukraine, saying it represents a red line for Russia and would trigger a strong response.

Commenting on Western concerns about Russia's alleged intention to invade Ukraine, he said that Moscow is equally worried about NATO drills near its borders.

Speaking to participants of an online investment forum, the Russian president said that NATO's eastward expansion has threatened Moscow's core security interests. He expressed concern that NATO could eventually use the Ukrainian territory to deploy missiles capable of reaching Russia's command centers in just five minutes.

"The emergence of such threats represents a 'Red Line' for us," Putin said. "I hope that common sense and responsibility for their own countries and the global community will eventually prevail."

He added that Moscow has been



UN Secretary General
António Guterres



WHO Head
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



European Commission President
Ursula von der Leyen



Ukrainian President
Volodymyr Zelenskyy



US Secretary of State
Antony Blinken



German Foreign Minister
Heiko Maas

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

Iraq Polls

forced to counter the growing threats by developing new hypersonic weapons.

"What should we do?" Putin said. "We would need to develop something similar to target those who threaten us. And we can do that even now."

EU to rival China investments

The European Union has revealed a global investment plan widely seen as a rival to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The plan will set out "concrete" ideas on digital, transport, climate and energy schemes, and is seen as part of the West's efforts to counter Chinese influence in Africa and elsewhere.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented the "Global Gateway" initiative on Wednesday, which revealed details of a €300bn global investment plan, described as a "true alternative" to China's Belt and Road strategy. She said the Global Gateway scheme should become a trusted brand.

China has funded rail, roads and ports but has been accused of leaving some countries saddled with debt.

The Commission chief said countries need "trusted partners" to design projects that are sustainable. The EU is looking at how it can leverage billions of euros, drawn from member states, financial institutions and the private sector. This will largely take the form of guarantees or loans, rather than grants.

Mrs. von der Leyen said the EU wanted to show that a different, democratic approach could deliver on projects that focused on tackling Climate Change as well as global health security and sustainable development for developing countries.

Projects had to be of high quality, with a high level of transparency and good governance, and had to deliver tangible results for the countries involved, she explained.

At a briefing last month, China's ambassador to the EU, Zhang Ming, said Beijing welcomed the EU's Global Gateway strategy if it was open and could "help developing countries". But he also warned "any attempt to turn infrastructure projects into a geopolitical tool would fail the expectation of the international community and harm one's own interests".

Belt and Road has been a centerpiece of Chinese foreign policy. While it has developed trade links by ploughing money into new roads, ports, railways and bridges, it has also been criticised as a

means of providing "predatory loans" in what is labelled "debt-trap diplomacy".

Iraq's Shiite Muslim firebrand cleric Moqtada Sadr was Tuesday confirmed the biggest winner of last month's Parliamentary election that had sparked charges of voter fraud from pro-Iranian factions.

Sadr's movement won 73 out of the assembly's 329 seats, the election commission said, after a lengthy manual recount of hundreds of ballot boxes.

A distant second in the Shiite camp with 17 seats was the Fatah (Conquest) Alliance, the political arm of the pro-Iran Hashed al-Shaabi former paramilitary force, which is now integrated into Iraq's state security apparatus.

Hashed leaders had rejected the preliminary result, which was sharply down from their 48 seats in the outgoing assembly, as a "scam", and their supporters have held street protests chanting "No to fraud".

Analysts have warned that — in a country still recovering from decades of war and chaos, and where most parties have armed wings — political disputes could spark a dangerous escalation.

The formation of Iraqi governments has involved complex negotiations in the multi-confessional and multi-ethnic country ever since a US-led invasion toppled dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Posts and ministries have typically been handed out according to compromises reached by the main blocs in backroom talks, rather than to reflect the numbers of seats parties have won.

Sadr, a former leader of an anti-US militia who has often surprised observers with his political manoeuvres, has called for a "majority" government which, analysts say, could include Sunni and Kurdish parties.

Iraq, an oil-rich country of 40 million, is still recovering from years of conflict and turmoil. Major fighting has stopped since a military alliance including the Hashed defeated the Islamic State jihadist group in 2017, but sporadic violence continues.

Military bases housing US troops have been targeted with dozens of missile and drone strikes which Washington blames on pro-Iran factions.

The Afghanistan population is facing major shortages of food and there is a rising fear of starvation among large sections of the population.

On Wednesday, a United Nations report said Afghanistan and its population of roughly 40 million



UN warns of an acute Afghan food crisis.

people have suffered an "unprecedented fiscal shock" since the Taliban takeover, and the decision by the international community to withdraw billions in humanitarian aid.

The report predicts an economic contraction of around 20 percent of GDP "within a year, a decline that could reach 30 percent in following years".

"It took more than five years of war for the Syrian economy to experience a comparable contraction. This has happened in five months in Afghanistan," United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia Director Kanni Wignaraja told AFP.

For decades now Afghanistan's economy has been undermined by war and drought. But it was propped up by international aid, which represented 40 percent of Afghanistan's GDP and financed 80 percent of its budget. That was frozen when US-led international forces left the country and the Taliban took control.

"The sudden dramatic withdrawal of international aid is an unprecedented fiscal shock," Wignaraja said.

Adding to the crisis are the Western economic sanctions taken against the Taliban, including the freezing of \$9.5 billion in assets of the Afghan Central Bank, which can no longer intervene to support the economy.

The Afghan economy is slowing down and unemployment is soaring. According to the UN, 23 million Afghans, more than half the population, are threatened by famine this winter. "Afghanistan is in a humanitarian and development crisis that is becoming grave and needs to be immediately addressed to save lives," says the UNDP report, which estimates that \$2 billion in emergency aid is needed just to bring the entire population back to the poverty line.

In Doha, where the Taliban and the Americans are negotiating this week, the Taliban have again asked the Americans to release frozen funds to allow the economy to recover. Washington has not responded to these requests, and has urged the Taliban to respect human rights and to give women and girls access to employment and education.

Depriving women of paid employment could drive GDP down by up to five percent, UNDP said, calling their jobs "vital to mitigate the economic catastrophe".

In addition, there is a loss in consumption — women who no longer work no longer have a salary and can no longer buy as much as before to feed or equip their homes — which could reach \$500 million per year, according to the UNDP.

Afghanistan "cannot afford to forfeit this", Wignaraja said, adding that young Afghan women must be allowed a post-secondary education so they can work and contribute to the economy later.

Mandatory COVID Vaccine - EU

The EU must consider mandatory vaccination in response to the spread of the "highly contagious" Omicron COVID variant across Europe, the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, has said.

In a call to arms, Von der Leyen said the EU's 27 member states should rapidly deploy booster doses and a commission communication backed countries that opted to temporarily enforce pre-travel PCR tests even within the bloc's borders.

Asked whether she supported the Greek government in imposing a €100 (£85) monthly fine on those aged 60 and over who failed to get a COVID jab, Von der Leyen argued that the spread of the disease and lack of vaccine take-up in parts of the EU meant mandatory vaccina-

tion had to be on the table as a policy response.

Speaking to reporters in Brussels, Von der Leyen, who practised as a doctor before her political career, said: "If you're asking me what my personal position is, two or three years ago, I would never have thought to witness what we see right now that we have this horrible pandemic."

"We have the vaccines, the life-saving vaccines, but they are not being used adequately everywhere. And this costs ... This is an enormous health cost coming along."

"If you look at the numbers, we have now 77% of the adults in the European Union vaccinated or if you take the whole population, it's 66%. And this means one-third of the European population is not vaccinated. These are 150 million people."

"This is a lot, and not each and every one can be vaccinated — children, for example, or people with special medical conditions — but the vast majority could and therefore, I think it is understandable and appropriate to lead this discussion now."

"How we can encourage and potentially think about mandatory vaccination within the European Union, this needs discussion. This needs a common approach, but it is a discussion that I think has to be met."

There is a growing momentum behind mandatory vaccination among the EU member states. It has been reported that Germany's Chancellor-to-be, Olaf Scholz, supports the policy and neighbouring Austria is debating how to enforce obligatory jabs from February.

On Tuesday, Greece said it would make COVID vaccinations mandatory for people aged 60 in order to protect its faltering health system. About 63% of Greece's 11 million population are fully vaccinated but there are 520,000 people over the age of 60 who have failed to get a jab.

Von der Leyen said that BionTech/Pfizer and Moderna were set to deliver 360 million more doses by the end of March ensuring there was sufficient supply for booster jabs. "That is good news. So go get it," she said.

In the event of the vaccines failing to offer the current level of protection in the light of the Omicron variant, researchers believed it would require around 100 days to adjust their products, she added.

But Von der Leyen said the world was in a "race against time" and that the onus had to be on getting jabs into arms now. "Scientists tell us we have to do everything possible to make the best out of the time we have till we have certainty about the characteristics of transmissibility and severity of Omicron," she said. "Prepare for the worst, hope for the best."

Earlier concerns

Much earlier, The World Health Organisation (WHO) called for a halt on COVID-19 vaccine boosters at the end of September, WHO Head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the gap between vaccinations in wealthy and poor countries widens.

High-income countries administered around 50 doses for every 100 people in May, and that number has since doubled, according to WHO. Low-income countries have only been able to administer 1.5 doses for every 100 people, due to lack of supply.

"We need an urgent reversal from the majority of vaccines going to high-income countries to the majority going to low-income countries," Tedros said.

To counter the spread of the Delta variant, some countries have begun to use or started weighing on the need for booster doses even as scientists debate over whether or not extra shots are needed.

The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, has sharply criticised the "wildly uneven and unfair" distribution of COVID vaccines, saying 10 countries have administered 75% of all vaccinations and demanding a global effort to get all people in every country vaccinated as soon as possible.

The UN chief earlier told a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council that 130 countries had not yet received a single dose of vaccine.

"At this critical moment, vaccine equity is the biggest moral test before the global community," said.

Guterres called for an urgent global vaccination plan to bring together those with the power to ensure equitable vaccine distribution — scientists, vaccine producers and those who can fund the effort.

He called on the world's major economic powers in the Group of 20 to establish an emergency taskforce to establish a plan and coordinate its implementation and financing. He said the taskforce should have the capacity "to mobilise the pharmaceutical companies and key industry and logistics actors".

The WHO's Covax programme, a project to buy and deliver coronavirus vaccines for the world's poorest people, has already missed its own goal of beginning coronavirus vaccinations in poor countries at the same time that shots were rolled out in rich countries. WHO says Covax needs \$5bn in 2021.

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has told the council the Biden administration "will work with our partners across the globe to expand manufacturing and distribution capacity and to increase access, including to marginalised populations".

China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, criticised the growing "immunity divide" and called on the world to "come together to reject 'vaccine nationalism,' promote fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, and, in particular, make them accessible and affordable for developing countries, including those in conflict".

India's External Affairs Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, also called for a halt to "vaccine nationalism" and encouragement for internationalism. "Hoarding superfluous doses will defeat our efforts towards attaining collective health security," he warned.

India - Delhi Climate

India's capital Delhi recorded its worst November air in at least six years, according to official data.

The city recorded 11 days of "severe" pollution, up from 10 days in November 2016.

Data also showed that the residents of Delhi didn't experience even one "good" day of air quality through the month.

Experts blame the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states and the festival of Diwali for the alarming levels of pollution in November.

The numbers are the worst Delhi has seen since 2015, when the Central Pollution Control Board started recording air quality data.

A prolonged monsoon pushed the stubble burning and Diwali into November, Dr. Gufran Beig, founder of air quality forecast agency SAFAR, told local media.

"This is the major reason why November saw poorer air quality this year as compared to the last few years," he said.

Satellite data from NASA shows that there were 90,984 fires from stubble burning in three states — Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh — between October 1 and November 28. This was the highest number in five years, according to a report from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

Air quality in Delhi had also dipped to hazardous levels the day after Diwali as people defied a ban to burst firecrackers for hours.

Govt. will ensure National Security - Minister Chamal



The Government has instructed all the relevant institutions to ensure National Security not to repeat the challenges faced by the public due to the threats that were faced by national security during the tenure of the Good Governance Government, said Irrigation Minister, National Security and Disaster Management and Home Affairs State Minister Chamal Rajapaksa in Parliament yesterday.

He added that the Government upholds the peoples' trust placed in the Government that it would ensure national security. Since being elected to power in 2019, the Government has implemented a number of short term, long term and medium term mechanisms to achieve this target.

He made these observations joining the Committee Stage Debate on the Budget proposal for financial year 2022 under the finan-

cial heads of Defence Ministry, Public Security Ministry, National Security and Disaster Management State Ministry, Home Affairs State Ministry and Community Police Service State Ministry.

Minister Rajapaksa said that the Defence Ministry is reviewing the existing National Security policies and to amend them in order to address the grave National Security ISSUES.

He added that the drafted National Intelligence Act is being reviewed by an Expert Committee. He also added that discussions are in progress with the relevant institutions to implement the recommendations by the Presidential Commission on the Easter Sunday Attacks.

Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said that due to the strategic geographic location of Sri Lanka, it will have to face non-traditional

challenges and hence steps are taken to strengthen marine security, the Army and the Air Force. He added in this endeavour, the Government will purchase a 110 m security marine vessel. In addition, there are many other measures to be taken to strengthen security. The Drone Regiment introduced by the Army recently was very much fruitful in carrying out pandemic control programmes.

He added that the improved Engineering Unit in the Army would be helpful in the Nation Building Programme. He added that the new Agriculture Unit would be very beneficial to the country. A new Cyber Unit has also been set up by the Army to face Cyber Warfare.

He said further improvement of the AN-32 transport aircraft and the improvement of the Kfirs are commendable achievements by the

Air Force. He added that the Air Force plans to improve UAV technology to strengthen Cyber Security. He added that the allocations are made to purchase two Y-121Vs and four training helicopters and repair a few fighter jets during 2021-2024 period.

Minister Rajapaksa said that the Security Forces and other related institutions have seized 24,500 kilogrammes of drugs, including Heroin, Cannabis, Cocaine, Hashish etc. and arrested 135,310 people during the last two years. They are working to prevent drug smuggling to the country and for storing, distribution and trading purposes.

He added under the guidance of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, steps have been taken to address the long standing salary anomalies issues and pension anomalies of the Security Forces and Police involved to combat terrorist activities in the country.

He said in addition to many services related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Tri-Forces have vaccinated more than 5 million people.

He added that the Government is taking measures to widen the 'e-grama-niladari' project to empower the Grama Niladaris in all the 14,022 with technology to serve the people.

The Minister said that 233,198 families and 875,244 people have been affected by disasters since November 15,2021 and the Government has provided Rs.609.27 million to provide relief to them.

Good Governance Govt. ruined Cooperative Movement- Johnston



It is humorous to hear Mmbers of the Opposition, who were a part of the former Good Governance Government whose subject Minister allegedly stole Rs.10 billion and driving it to bankruptcy, shedding crocodile tears about the current state of the Cooperative Movement, said Highways and Chief Government Whip Minister Johnston Fernando yesterday.

He made this observation raising a Point of Order following the responses of Minister Bandula Gunawardena and State Minister Lasantha Alagiyawanna responding to Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) MPs Hessa Vithanage and Chaminda Wijesiri during the round of questions.

When Minister Gunawardena answered in the negative to the question whether the mobile marketing programme called "Gamata Saviya - Sathosa Badiya" commenced by the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment is operative at present, MP Hessa Vithanage said that it was a project that targeted the Election in 2014 spending Rs. 26.9 million. Responding to it Minister Bandula Gunawardena said that it was a commendable project that was initiated to serve the nation with 100 Batta lorries. However, the Good Governance Government giving vent to hate politics, brought it to an end without considering its benefits. He added that if the Good Governance Government had increased it to 1,000 lorries, the service could have been a great solace during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Minister Gunawardena said that it was the subject of State Minister Lasantha Alagiyawanna, MP Chaminda Wijesiri said that as the Cabinet Minister, it was not fair to pass the blame to the State Minister. MP Wijesiri also said that the Government was attempting to bankrupt the Sathosa and the Cooperative Movement.

State Minister Alagiyawanna said that even though there are a few flaws, the Cooperatives is a massive movement with an annual turnover of Rs.75 billion.

Minister Johnston Fernando responding to the MPs, said that during the tenure of the previous Good Governance Government the State Ministers were appointed without being assigned any work. But, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa published the State Ministers jobs in the Gazette and they have their responsibilities assigned to them. Even the Ministers do not interfere with them.

Treat Tri-Forces members with dignity - Anura

Jathika Jana Balavegaya MP Anura Kumara Disسانayake said in Parliament yesterday that it was wrong to use Army personnel to build a hotel owned by Gnana Akka in Anuradhapura.

He said that this shows the manner in which the Army personnel are degraded, appealing to the authorities to treat the soldiers and other lower ranking Tri-Forces members with dignity.



He was speaking during the Committee Stage debate of the Budget on the Expenditure Heads of several Ministries, including the Ministry of Defense.

Dissanayake requested Minister Chamal Rajapaksa to look into the matter immediately and said that he could provide information in this regard.

He added that it was wrong to use soldiers and other military personnel for personal work.

Dissanayake said that lower members of the Army are often used for the work of politicians as well as for private projects and some members of the Navy are also used for private projects in this manner.

He said that the deployment of lower ranking members of The Tri-Forces for private projects should be stopped immediately and the members of the armed forces who have done an important job for the country should be treated with dignity.

He also urged the Minister to pay attention to the food that is provided to these security force personnel.

"Police officers are also under special pressure today and there is a serious shortage of police sergeants and constables," said Anura Dissanayake.

He pointed out that there is a shortage of 17,500 police personnel.



SANDASEN MARASINGHE AND CAMELIA NATHANIEL

All Police Stations to be digitalized - Namal

All Police Stations would be digitalized next year, said Youth and Sports Minister, Development Coordination and Monitoring Minister and Digital Technology and Enterprise Development State Minister Namal Rajapaksa in Parliament yesterday.

He further said the Police Headquarters has already been digitized under the First Phase of the programme. He added that anyone could obtain a Police Report online. He also said that the digital system would be introduced without delay enabling spot payments online.

He made these observa-

tions joining the Committee Stage Debate on the budget proposal for the Financial Year 2022 under the Financial Heads of the Defence Ministry, Public Security Ministry, National Security and Disaster Management State Ministry, Home Affairs State Ministry and Community Police Service State Ministry.

Minister Namal Rajapaksa in response to a question by Samagi Jana Balavegaya Parliamentarian Ranjith Madduma Bandara regarding a Football match played at the Race Course in the presence of the spectators, said that the spectators



who were vaccinated, had their vaccination cards with them and underwent PCR tests were allowed in to the stadium to watch the match.

He added that everybody knows that the protesters who participated in Opposition rallies had not undergone PCR tests and most of them had not been vaccinated.

Sandahiru Seya constructed to honour Tri-Forces - Rohitha

The Sandahiru Seya (Dagoba) was constructed in appreciation of the yeoman service rendered by the Tri-Forces in elimination of terrorism to unite the country, said Ports and Shipping Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena in Parliament yesterday.



He recalled that terrorism that could not be eliminated by four former Executive Presidents was eliminated by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the then Secretary Defence and present President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, then Army Commander Sarath Fonseka and Tri-Forces.

The Sandahiru Seya was constructed to appreciate them and MP Sarath Fonseka spoke about it today.

He made these observations joining the Committee Stage Debate on the Budget proposal for the Financial Year 2022 under the Financial Heads of the Defence Ministry, Public Security Ministry, National Security and Disaster Management State Ministry, Home Affairs State Ministry and Community Police Service State Ministry.

Minister Abeygunawardena said that he would be the Defence Minister in the

Premadasa's Government. He added that when Fonseka asked for ammunition from the latter's father who was the then President, he had asked if there were that much of terrorists to kill. He added if Mahinda Rajapaksa was not the President in 2009, the country would have been similar to that of Afghanistan today.

The Minister said that the former Good Governance Government gave the Wild Life Ministry to the person who won the war. He said that during the Easter Sunday Attacks a number of lives were lost.

He added that the Good Governance Government could not punish the culprits. He added that although there was intelligence, the catastrophe could not be prevented.

But a father tells the Minister's son not to go to church because the bombs were planned to explode. They attempt to be innocent yet.

He added that the people thank the President for directing the Armed Forces to protect the country, to control the COVID-19 pandemic and to vaccinate the people.

Minister Sarath Weerasekera and Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka lock horns in Parliament

Minister of Public Security Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera (Rtd) and Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, locked horns again in Parliament yesterday afternoon (3) during the Debate on the Ministry of Defense Expenditure Head.

Weerasekera said that Sarath Fonseka had called him a coward adding that the whole country was aware of Fonseka's cowardice and hypocrisy.

"Don't blame the Police for being cowards, the whole country knows what a coward and hypocrite you are," Minister Weerasekera said.

He said that Sarath Fonseka, who did not call for the arrest of Tinkering Lasantha, was saddened when he was killed during a search for hidden weapons.

At this point, Sarath Fonseka was seen yelling various allegations at Sarath Weerasekera.

Weerasekera said that Fonseka was vying for the post of Defence Minister. "Even the previous Government did not give it to him because they knew who he is. We don't have the kind of corruption allegations that are against him. He should know not to throw stones while being in a glass house."

Sarath Fonseka then said that Weerasekera went with criminal Lahiya's brother to open a building. "He calls me a coward. Ask the country who the coward is, whether it is this Sarath or that Sarath."

Meanwhile, SJB Parliamentarian Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka during his



speech charged, the Government does not have a stringent plan to ensure National Security, when looking at the allocations for the Defence Ministry within next year's budget.

Speaking during the Committee Stage Debate on the Expenditure Heads for the

Defence Ministry, he said the defence expenditure should not be reduced despite the war having ended.

He stressed that the country must be ready to face foreign threats, even if there is peace internally.

Citing Singapore's defence budget, he pointed out that it is among the highest defence budgets in the Asian region despite there being no war.

He also noted that by the end of the war there was an excess of funds which had been used to purchase tanks to boost the military's capacity. However, he added that some jealous persons had sneaked to the country's leadership that he was preparing to take over the country. Fonseka noted that he had no such intention.

NIE Director General, best Korean language teachers felicitated

National Institute of Education (NIE) Director General Dr. Sunil Nawarathna has been awarded the prestigious Citation Award from the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea Yoo Eun-Hae. This award has been conferred in recognition of the outstanding contribution to the promotion of Korean language, development of future talent and advancement of the stature of Korean language based on his strong sense of duty.

Sunil Nawarathna has played an active role in strengthening bilateral relations between Korea and Sri Lanka by adopting the Korean language as a foreign language in the advanced level curriculum of Sri Lanka from this year onwards.

Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin Jeong presented the award to Dr. Sunil Nawarathna and to the best Korean language teachers at a special luncheon ceremony held on December 2,2021.

Ambassador Santhush said: "I highly value the significant achievement and contribution of Dr. Sunil Nawarathna to successfully promote Korean Studies in Sri Lanka. Also I deeply appreciate all the

teachers who have faithfully attended the online capacity building programme of Korean language and shown great achievement! You have set a great example by successfully completing this programme and have become precious assets to Korea-Sri Lanka relations. Subappethum!!

Education is the best investment available to ensure a bright future for a nation. Today we celebrate these wonderful achievements thanks to your efforts to promote Korean language education in Sri Lanka. Your valuable support and cooperation have brought our two countries closer together. I am thankful to all of you for your contribution and I hope we continue this academic cooperation to foster stronger bilateral relations between Korea and Sri Lanka."

Addressing the Luncheon gathering, Dr. Sunil Nawarathna extended his thankfulness to Ambassador Santhush and the Korean government for the honorable recognition. He further mentioned that without the support of NIE and the Education Ministry this initiative would not be made possible within a short time. He commended Korea's great economic mira-

cle and stated that there are many lessons Sri Lanka can learn from Korea. He stated, "We must focus on building more invisible bridges through cultural and language programmes."

At the ceremony, the best Korean language teachers were awarded certificates of achievement for their outstanding performances during the online capacity building programme which was recently completed. The Ambassador handed over the certificates to the following teachers, T.H.V. Shyamali Jayarathna, P.D. Ayesha Dilanji, W.A. Shanika Priyadarshani, E.M.A.T.K. Ekanayake and M.G. Krishani Sudeshika, as tokens of appreciation for their invaluable service and felicitated their efforts that contribute to deepen the cultural ties between the two countries.

Sectional Head of the National Institute of Education, Ven. Theripaha Medhalankara Thera, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Premathilake, Deputy Director General of the National Institute of Education Dr. Dharshana Samaraweera, Second Secretary and Third Secretary of the Korean Embassy Lim Soyeon and Jinjoo Sung also attended the ceremony.



Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin Jeong presenting the prestigious Citation Award to National Institute of Education (NIE) Director General Dr. Sunil Nawarathna.

WHO South-East Asia Region confirms first Omicron cases

As India confirmed two cases of Omicron, the World Health Organization today said countries in South-East Asia Region should further strengthen COVID-19 response measures to curtail the spread of the virus and its variants.

"Strengthening surveillance to rapidly detect importation of any new variant and transmission of existing virus and its variants; implementing calibrated public health and social measures and scaling up vaccination coverage, should continue to be our focus," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region.

Within a week of announcement of Omicron as a new variant of concern, India yesterday confirmed the variant in two persons

detected with COVID-19, the first few cases in WHO South-East Asia Region.

Studies are underway to evaluate Omicron's transmissibility, severity, reinfection risk, immune escape potential, clinical presentation, response to other available countermeasures etc. Preliminary evidence suggest higher transmissibility and potential immune escape that could lead to surge in cases. Regardless of change in severity, increase in cases alone may pose overwhelming demand on health care systems and may lead to increased morbidity and mortality.

The Regional Director said as part of enhanced surveillance, countries need to ensure they have early warning systems in place composed of multiple

indicators such as rapid increase in cases and test positivity rates. It is also important to monitor indicators related to disease severity and pressure on health care systems - such as bed occupancy in wards and intensive care units.

Event based surveillance must be enhanced such as - rapid spread of outbreaks in healthcare facilities or communities which may be triggered by a variant that spreads more easily from person to person. Or increase in cases among populations expected to have a high level of immunity with prior infections or high vaccination coverage, which may indicate the presence of a variant able to evade the immune response.

Even as studies are ongoing to understand effective-

ness of vaccines and therapeutics in view of the multiple mutations in Omicron, it is reasonable to assume that currently available vaccines offer protection against severe disease and death, the Regional Director said, adding that efforts should be intensified to accelerate COVID 19 vaccination coverage in all eligible populations but with priority for populations at high risk for serious disease who remain unvaccinated or not yet fully vaccinated. These include older adults, health care workers and those with underlying conditions which puts them at risk of severe disease and death.

National authorities should apply a multi-layered risk mitigation approach to potentially delay export or import of

the new variant. Blanket travel bans will not prevent the international spread, instead they place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods. In addition, such bans can adversely impact global health efforts during a pandemic by disincentivizing countries to report and share epidemiological and sequencing data, Dr Khetrapal Singh said.

The use of masks, physical distancing, ventilation of indoor space, crowd avoidance, and hand hygiene remain key to reducing transmission of COVID-19, even in the context of emerging variants, she said.

These measures may need to be enhanced, to further limit interpersonal contact, to control transmission with a more transmissible variant. Countries

should be ready to escalate public health and social measures in a timely manner to avoid overwhelming demands on health care services.

On the option of imposing lockdown to curtail virus transmission, the Regional Director said, though effective, these measures are very costly and should be used as a last resort.

"We cannot and should not let the virus and its variants spread and mutate further and continue to challenge us. We need to do everything we can to curtail their spread.

We know what to do. The pandemic has lasted just too long and is draining our precious human and other resources. We need to stop this," the Regional Director said.

Fifteen years' RI for molesting girl

M. NELSON PIYARATNE,
Kataragama Group Corr.

An accused was sentenced on November 24 to 15-year Rigorous Imprisonment, a Rs.50,000 fine and a Rs.50,000 compensation by Hambantota High Court Judge Rathantha Godawela for molesting a girl.

The accused was a father of two children. He was staying at his sister's house in Mambadala, Ambalantota on April 1, 2014 and when there was nobody at home, he had abused the girl.

The girl had told a teacher about the incident and the teacher had made her parents aware of it, and the parents had

lodged a complaint with the Ambalantota Police in this regard, Court was told.

After preliminary enquiries at the Hambantota Magistrate's Court, the Attorney General filed an indictment against the suspect.

The verdict was declared by the Judge after prosecution proved the indictment against the suspect.

The Judge also ordered 12-month imprisonment in default of Rs.50,000 fine and 24-month imprisonment in default of the compensation.

Government Senior Counsel Gevindu Seneviratne led the prosecution on behalf of the Attorney General.

Journalists protest in Kinniya



M. S. ABDUL HALEEM,
Mullipothana group corr

A protest was held in Kinniya on November 23 against the attack on journalists who went to cover the Kurinjakkenni raft incident.

The protest by the Trincomalee District Journalists' Association, took place on Wednesday (1) in front of the Kinniya main bus stand.

The journalists who went

to cover the news in Kinniya on November 23 were attacked and they protested at the Kinniya Police Station that day despite a complaint that a mobile phone had been stolen.

'Colombo Conclave 2021' Second National Confab held

The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), the premier think-tank on national security, established under the Defence Ministry, conducted its Second National Conference 'Colombo Conclave 2021', under the theme, 'International Dimensions on National Security' last week at the Water's Edge, Battaramulla. The event comprised three main sessions, bringing 12 senior experts around the country to share their perspectives on three thematic areas.



Defence Secretary General (retired) Kamal Gunaratne along with Professor Rohan Gunaratne.

After displaying a short documentary about the institution, the welcome address was delivered by INSS Director General Prof. Rohan Gunaratna followed by a speech by Chief Guest General Kamal Gunaratna (Retd.).

The First Session was titled, "Human Rights: Implications and Interpretations", which was moderated by Ambassador Bernard Goonethilleke, Chairman, Pathfinder Foundation. He highlighted that it was the Government's responsibility to ensure that there is a proper mechanism to deal with human rights regulations. The first speaker was Dr. Prathiba Mahanahewa, Attorney at Law, Arbitrator, Sri Lanka and Jamaica, Rector, Sri Palee Campus,

University of Colombo. He said that the international community is more concerned about Sri Lanka's human rights violations rather than human rights protection. Dr. Thesara Jayawardene, Head, Department of Industrial Management, University of Moratuwa, presented an illustrious presentation on "Human Rights Violations and Double Standards". She appraised the audience stating that there is no hierarchy in human rights and there should be no discrimination.

Malinda Seneviratne, Senior Political Analyst,

was the third speaker of the first session. He spoke on, "Politicization of Human Rights".

The Second Session was titled, "Political Division of North and South on Issues of Human Rights", which was moderated by Ambassador H.M.G.S. Palihakkara, Former Foreign Secretary. He said that human rights cannot be separated from politics. Additional Solicitor General Nerin Pulle, President's Counsel Attorney General's Department, said that, "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter", which generated a significant

amount of discussion in the second session. Dr. Maneesha S. Wanasinghe Pasqual, Head of the Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, conducted her discussion on the topic "Use of Human Rights in Subjugating Developing States".

She said that as a developing nation, Sri Lanka's voice on human rights, is silent in front of developed nations. The final speaker of the second session, Ambassador A.M.J. Sadiq, Additional Secretary, Bilateral Affairs (West), Foreign Ministry, further

extended his thoughts on threat of targeted sanctions.

The Final Session was on "Achieving Sustainable Peace and Stability", which was a thought provoking session, and was moderated by Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage, Secretary, Foreign Ministry. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General of Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka, General Daya Rathnayake Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Jeevanthie Senanayake Senior Assistant Secretary to the President were the three speakers of the final session.

The session covered the areas of detrimental effects of forced reconciliation, emergence of sustainable reconciliation within the society and the role of military in safeguarding sustainable peace respectively.

Each session was followed by an insightful Q and A session, which generated a great interaction between the panelists and the audience. The INSS awarded tokens of appreciation paying its gratitude to the panelists, for their immense contribution to the conference.

The final remarks of the conference were delivered by Pro. Rohan Gunaratna.

AIDS awareness programme in Kegalle



Receiving an award.

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

An awareness programme on AIDS for the people of Kegalle District was held on Wednesday (01) to coincide with the World AIDS Day under the patronage of Sabaragamuwa Governor Tikiri Kobekaduwa.

The World AIDS Day falls on December 1 each year. This time the theme was, "Let's Eliminate Inequality and End AIDS".

Awareness programmes for the AIDS Day are being carried out around the world every year on December 1 since 1988. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics, AIDS has killed 36 million people worldwide

and there are already 38 million people living with AIDS worldwide.

In Sri Lanka, 439 AIDS cases have been identified in 2019 and 363 cases in 2020, delivering a special lecture on AIDS Dr. Shyama Somawardena said.

The winners of the AIDS Eradication Essay Competition, which organised by the Kegalle District STD Prevention Institute among school-children in the District were also presented with certificates of merit and financial assistance.

Devmini Rajakaruna of the Swarna Jayanthi National School, Kegalle won the first place in the Junior Category, Hasindi

Karunasinghe of the same college won the Second and Samindita Jayawardena of the St. Joseph's College, Kegalle won the third place. Hasini Kaviraksha of the St. Joseph's College won the First Place in the Senior Category, Sansala Dissanayake of the same college won the Second Place and Vishmika Jayasuriya of Walgama Maha Vidyalaya won the Third Place.

Dr. Asela Perera, Director of Health Services, Kegalle, Dr. Mihiri Priyangani, Medical Superintendent of the Kegalle District General Hospital and Dr. Nilanga Jayasinghe, Head of the Kegalle District STD Control Institute were also present at the occasion.

German investors meet EP Governor

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN,
Batticaloa Special Corr.

Two hundred fifty investors will invest in regional development and promoting exports in Sri Lanka, Ambassador for Germany in Sri Lanka Holger Seuert said.

The Ambassador met the Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath at the latter's office in Trincomalee and had bilateral talks yesterday (2).

The Ambassador said at the meeting with the Governor, Eastern Province Chief Secretary Thushitha P.Vanisinghe and Secretary to the Governor L.P.Mathanayeke that Germany will provide all assistance for Agricultural and Tourism Sectors in the Eastern Province. German Traders' Establishments President was present. The Ambassador and the Governor also exchanged mementoes.



Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath exchanging a memento with Ambassador for Germany in Sri Lanka Holger Seuert. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Corr

Importance of maintaining Media Freedom highlighted

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Former Media Minister and Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarian Imthiyas Baker Markar highlighted the importance of maintaining the media freedom by democratic governments and said according to the 'Freedom House' annual study, Sri Lanka is in the 56th position among 100 countries that are not properly maintaining its media freedom.

Quoting statistics of the 'Freedom House' annual

study of political rights and civil liberties worldwide, Baker Markar said that Sri Lanka's freedom rights for media cannot be accepted when considering several violations being reported against media personnel.

The former Minister also said that even several organisations affiliated to the United Nations Organization (UNO) and also to worldwide democratic parliaments are always focusing on the obstacles related to the media freedom in Sri

Lanka and the violation of human rights in the country.

He said there were incidents that threats were carried out against media personnel in Sri Lanka when they were going to report incidents.

Former Minister Baker Markar also highlighted a few other incidents that badly affected media personnel in Sri Lanka and requested authorities to refrain from destroying the country's media freedom in future.

Suspect held with illicit cigarettes



A part of the stock of cigarettes.

A.P. DAYACHANDRA,
Urubokka Special Corr.

A suspect has been arrested by the STF along with a stock of illegally imported cigarettes.

The Kokmaduwa STF Camp personnel arrested a 48-year-old resident of Welipitaya, Weligama in a raid on Monday (1) along

with a stock of illegally imported cigarettes. About 2,480 cigarettes were taken into custody and the value of these cigarettes is about Rs. 200,000. This raid was carried out on a tip-off to Weligama Police. The suspect will be produced before the Matara Magistrate's Court.

School Heads urged to get NICs for Students sitting O/L in May

S.M.WIJAYARATNE,
Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Commissioner General of Registration of Persons Viyani Gunathilake in a special circular to all heads of government schools has informed school heads that the National Identity Cards (NICs) for the school candidates who are to sit for the O/L Exam 2020 next year in May have to take steps to obtain those soon.

The school heads have been instructed to apply for the NICs for the students on or before December 15, 2021.

A majority of students have not applied for NICs yet and it will be mandatory for them to have NICs to sit for the O/L Exa as the Department of Examinations has decided to do so to prevent possible frauds at the Exam.

Kurunegala District senior Director of Education W.M.Balasoorya said yesterday that about 281 cases of frauds were reported to the Examinations Department last year from both private and government school students who sat for the O/L Exam 2019 Balasoorya added.

Omicron may soon cause over half of Europe's COVID infections: EU



- WHO team in South Africa to tackle variant
- Omicron variant found in multiple US states
- Iceland's first Omicron case reported in man who had not travelled
- Germany cracks down on unjabbed

BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, GER MANY, ICELAND: The European Union's public health agency said on Thursday that the Omicron variant could be responsible for more than half of all COVID-19 infections in Europe within a few months.

The estimate could lend weight to preliminary information about the very high transmissibility of the Omicron variant, above that of the Delta variant, which before Omicron was considered the most contagious of the main coronavirus strains. "Based on mathematical modelling conducted by ECDC, there are indications that Omicron could cause over half of all SARS-CoV-2 infections in the EU/EEA within the next few months," the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said in a statement.

There is no conclusive evidence about Omicron's transmissibility so far but the World Health Organization's lead person on COVID-19,

Maria van Kerkhove, said on Wednesday the agency expected to have data on this within days.

Europe has so far recorded a few dozens of infections with the Omicron variant, which was first detected in southern Africa last month.

The European Union and European Economic Area (EEA) include the 27 EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Meanwhile, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has deployed a team of officials to South Africa's Gauteng province for ramping up surveillance measures and contact tracing efforts as the country grapples with rising infections, an official said on Thursday.

Omicron, which was first identified in South Africa exactly a week ago, now has been detected in at least 24 countries around the world, according to the WHO. The Gauteng Province, which is the economic hub of

South Africa, has accounted for almost 80 per cent of the infections over the past week.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) said at the same briefing that around 75 per cent of samples tested positive for the new variant.

For the month of November, we had 249 sequences and of those, 183 have been considered to be Omicron, said NICD clinical microbiologist professor Anne von Gottberg.

Meanwhile, Germany on Thursday unveiled strict curbs on public life for the unvaccinated as alarm fanned worldwide over the Omicron variant, and Joe Biden announced America's winter battle plans against COVID-19.

US President Joe Biden urged political opponents to put aside their differences and back his winter plan, with new testing requirements for travellers and a surge in vaccination efforts.

"It's a plan that I think should unite us," Biden said.

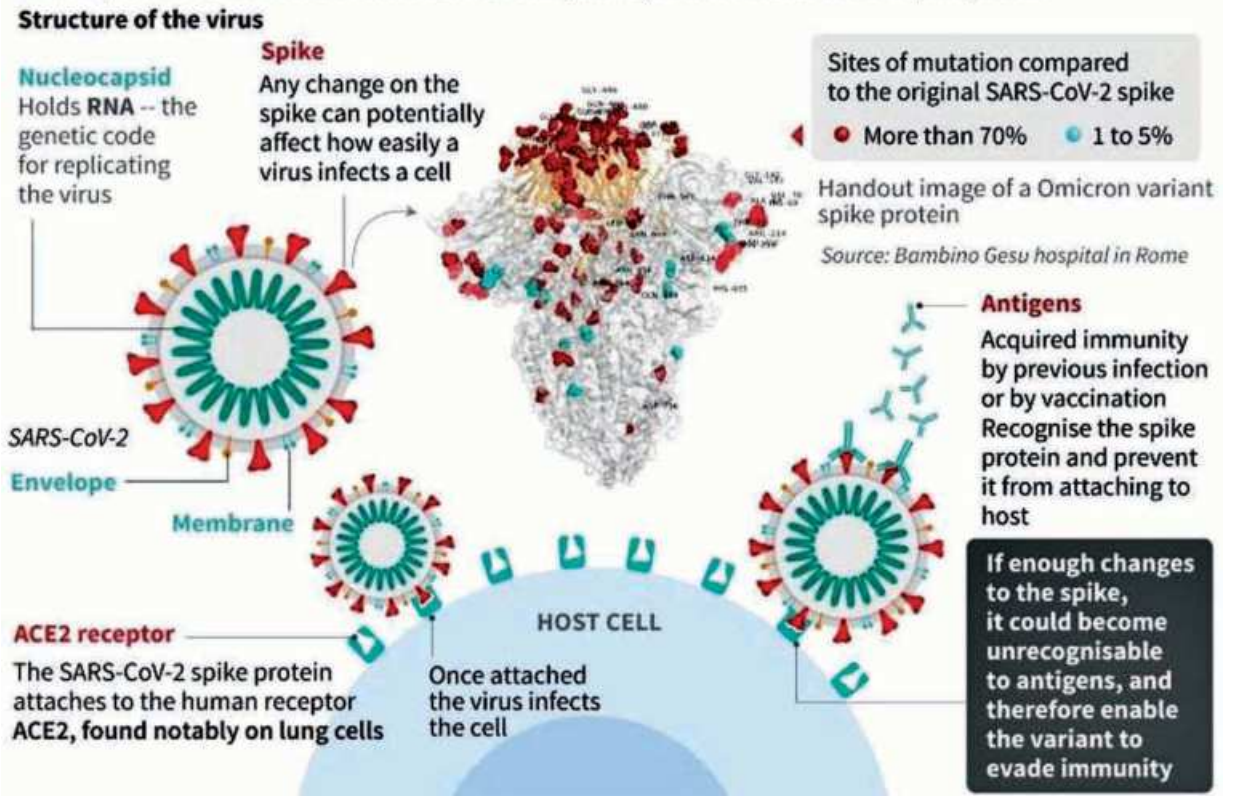
Meanwhile, Iceland's health authorities have confirmed the country's first known case of the new Omicron coronavirus variant, newspaper Morgunbladid reported.

The adult man who was infected was fully vaccinated and had received a booster shot, chief physician Mar Kristjansson at The National University Hospital of Iceland told the newspaper. The person, who is in isolation at the hospital but not critically ill, had not been travelling abroad, he said.

Meanwhile, the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which had been undetected in the US before the middle of this week, had been discovered in at least five states by the end of Thursday, showing yet again how mutations of the virus can circumnavigate the globe with speed and ease. - THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THE MALAY MAIL, THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Watching Omicron: why the spike matters

As with previous SARS-CoV-2 mutations of concern, the key area of interest is the "spike protein"



Man with loaded gun arrested outside of UN headquarters in Manhattan

UN: The United Nations headquarters in New York City was locked down for several hours Thursday after a man was seen pacing outside one of its main gates with what police said appeared to be a shotgun. The man, who appeared to be in his 60s, was taken into custody without incident at around 1:30 pm, about three hours after police said he was first spotted outside a security checkpoint on Manhattan's First Avenue.



New York City Police Department officers and Emergency Service Unit members arrest a man who was holding a shotgun to his head in front of UN Headquarters in New York City on Thursday.

During the standoff, the man held an object pointed at his own throat, possibly a firearm. The gates on the fence that rings the UN complex were closed, and the man didn't appear to be trying to breach the security perimeter. Police said there was no

danger to the public. People inside UN headquarters were initially told to shelter in place, but were later allowed to move about the complex and come and go from other entrances.

The UN General Assembly and Security Council

were both in session Thursday. UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said there was "zero indication" the man was a current or former UN employee. Details including criminal charges weren't immediately available. - INDIA TODAY

China accelerating research into vaccines targeting Omicron

CHINA: China is accelerating research and development of COVID-19 vaccines targeting the Omicron variant, a health official said on Thursday, amid concerns among global scientists that it may spread more quickly than other strains.

Mainland China has not detected any Omicron case yet.

"We are rapidly pushing forward the research and development of Omicron-specific vaccines based on different technologies," Zheng Zhongwei, who heads a group tasked with COVID-19 vaccine development in China, told state broadcaster CCTV.

The potential vaccines against Omicron, dubbed a "variant of concern" by the World Health Organization, might not eventu-

ally be used but it was necessary for China to make such preparation, Zheng said.

There is no firm evidence yet whether Omicron will evade the vaccine-induced immunity, but most existing shots are still expected to help reduce severe disease and death, he added.

Chinese vaccine maker Sinovac Biotech said it was evaluating whether its vaccines work against Omicron or whether the company needs to develop new ones.

Shenzhen Kangtai Biological Products (BioKangtai) was seeking to cooperate with other institutions on vaccine research related to Omicron.

BioNTech SE expects more data on the Omicron variant within two weeks to help determine



China has been relying on domestic vaccines.

whether its vaccine produced with partner Pfizer Inc would have to be reworked, its chief executive said on Tuesday. China has yet to approve COVID-19 vaccines developed overseas and

uses several home-grown shots for its inoculation programme. - THE MALAY MAIL

Meghan Markle urges tabloid shake-up after second privacy win

US: Meghan Markle on Thursday called for a reform of tabloid newspaper culture after winning a second court victory against a British newspaper group for breaching her privacy.

But Associated Newspapers indicated her high-profile win may not be the end of the matter, as it said it may now take the case to the country's highest court. Three judges at the Court of Appeal in London threw out the news group's challenge to a February ruling in the High Court over the publication in 2019 in the Mail on Sunday of a letter she wrote to her estranged father.

The Duchess of Sussex, who is married to Queen Elizabeth II's grandson,

Prince Harry, said she hoped the ruling would embolden others to hold tabloids to account.

"This is a victory not just for me, but for anyone who has ever felt scared to stand up for what's right," she said in a statement.

"While this win is precedent setting, what matters most is that we are now collectively brave enough to reshape a tabloid industry that conditions people to be cruel and profits from the lies and pain that they create."

Associated, which also publishes the Daily Mail and MailOnline, appealed the lower court ruling, arguing the judge should have only made his judgment after a full trial hearing.



Meghan Markle

The publisher had been ordered to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds in interim legal costs and to print a front-page statement acknowledging her legal victory. But that was put on hold while the appeal was heard.

- JAPAN TODAY

WHO pleads for rational Omicron response

SWITZERLAND: The WHO on Tuesday urged countries to remain calm and take "rational" measures against the fast-spreading Omicron coronavirus variant, warning that blanket travel bans being rolled out globally will not prevent its spread.

Omicron, first reported to the World Health Organization in South Africa less than a week ago, has already appeared in many countries, with borders shutting and dozens of governments imposing travel restrictions in defiance of WHO advice.

While so much is still unknown - no deaths have been reported from Omicron and it could take weeks to know how vac-



Borders are being closed and dozens of countries impose travel.

cine-resistant it could prove - the new strain highlights that the global fight against COVID-19 is far from over.

Germany's incoming

Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday voiced support for compulsory vaccinations and the UK ramped up booster jabs as even nations with high vaccina-

tion rates scramble to contain spiraling infections and prevent health services from being overwhelmed.

"We call on all member

states to take rational, proportional risk-reduction measures," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a briefing to countries. "The global response must be calm, coordinated and coherent."

Tedros said it was understandable that countries wanted to protect their citizens "against a variant we don't yet fully understand", yet the UN health agency fears blocking travel could be unfair and dissuade surveillance.

Governments, particularly in western Europe, have reintroduced mandatory mask-wearing, social-distancing measures, curfews or lockdowns - leaving businesses fearing another grim Christmas.

- INDIA TODAY

Taliban's Supreme Leader: Dead or Alive?

AFGHANISTAN: When the Taliban overran Kabul in mid-August, seizing power for the second time, the years-old mystery over the whereabouts of the movement's Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada deepened further.

Whether the elderly cleric is alive or dead is something many Afghans are uncertain about, and even the most dedicated analysts have doubts about who is really leading the group.

On October 30 - two months after a Taliban spokesman insisted Akhun-



Taliban Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada

zada was alive and well in Kandahar - rumours swirled in the southern city that the "emir" had delivered a speech at a Koranic school,

or madrassa. Taliban officials gave their stamp of authenticity to his appearance at the Hakimia madrassa, releasing a crackling audio recording lasting more than 10 minutes.

According to snippets from his official biography, his rise was meteoric after the Taliban took power in Kabul in 1996.

After running the local madrassa, he became a judge at Kandahar provincial court, then head of the military court in Nangarhar in eastern Afghanistan until 2000. - NDTV

'You couldn't be more welcome,' Prince William tells Afghan refugees



Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge (2nd L) watches young children playing during a visit to a hotel in Leeds, northern England on November 30, 2021 which is being used to accommodate refugees evacuated from Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN: Prince William has told Afghan refugees who recently arrived in Britain that they were welcome in the country and praised their bravery after risking their lives working alongside British forces in Afghanistan.

The Prince visited families housed in a hotel for refugees evacuated from Kabul this year.

He told families who had been forced to leave behind everything they knew and loved at short notice: "The most important thing is that you are safe now. You have a bright future. You couldn't be more welcome. Thank

you for all you have done for us."

The hotel, which is unnamed for security reasons, hosts around 175 refugees who are waiting on the government to find them long-term accommodation. The Prince was met with applause by the refugees on his arrival.

One Afghan, Hussain Saeedi Samangan, told the Daily Mail that he and his family's escape from Kabul had been difficult, as were their initial experiences in their UK quarantine hotel, but said they felt very welcome in Yorkshire and were optimistic of a "bright, exciting future" in Britain.

Asked by the Prince whether he thought this generation of the Taliban would be different, he replied: "No. We know what the Taliban wants, we know they have not changed and that we couldn't trust them."

Britain evacuated around 7,000 people from Afghanistan when the country fell to the Taliban in August and September this year.

The Government has pledged to continue to bring those who worked alongside British or NATO forces during the 20-year occupation into the UK from Afghanistan. - ARAB NEWS

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DATE 02.12.2021 THURSDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA

DRAW NUMBER : 4604
Prizes won in this draw
Rs. 10,051,530.00

The super prize of next draw
Rs. 21,412,380.00

WINNING LETTER **G** WINNING NUMBERS **7 1 5 2 8 6**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER : 2899

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 6,411,200.00

WINNING LETTER **G** WINNING NUMBERS **11 26 31 59**

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 75,776,011.36

Mega POWER 10 DRAW NUMBER **952**

TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 4,512,020.00

NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE
Rs. 156,883,970.00

NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE
Rs. 10,000,000.00

NEXT GRAND SUPER
Rs. 10,000,000.00

ENGLISH LETTER **I** WINNING NUMBERS **15 52 57 73 78**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER : 634

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 2,885,060.00

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 86,085,743.60

ENGLISH LETTER **M** WINNING NUMBERS **01 25 51 78**

JATHIKA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 1175

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 2,194,540.00

WINNING ZODIAC **SCORPIO** WINNING NUMBERS **8 3 3 0 0 6**

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 10,685,055.60

Now Jathika Sampatha brings you luck not only on Wednesdays and Saturdays but also on Mondays and Thursdays.

02.12.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 583,452

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs. 26,054,350.00

Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 **Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02**
Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 03

- All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes
- Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes
- All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date

Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324
Fax: 011-4669416

National Lotteries Board
32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.

COLOMBO NORTH TEACHING HOSPITAL RAGAMA

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Attending to Building Repair Work

Quotations will be received by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital, from qualified contractors to effect the building repair works stated below at the Ragama Rehabilitation Hospital which is an affiliated institution of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital.

No.	Bid Invitation No.	Institution	Item	CIDA Registered Grade
01	AC/T/12/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Preparation and effecting repairs to Electrical System at Neuro Clinic	C9 or above and EM5 or above
02	AC/T/15/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Reconstruction of partition at Nurses Rest Room at Ward No. 23	C9 or Higher Grade
03	AC/T/20/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Reconstruction of ENT Surgeon's Duty Room	C9 or Higher Grade
04	AC/T/21/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Preparation of the CSSD Section for installation of Washing Machine and Dryer Machine	C9 or Higher Grade and EM5 or higher grade
05	AC/T/22/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Construction of wall for the upkeep of the Fibroscan Room	C9 or Higher Grade
06	AC/T/23/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Partitioning of Medical Intensive Care Unit	C9 or Higher Grade
07	AC/RRH/T/03/2021	Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama	Repairs to the Drugs Stores	C8 or Higher Grade


2. These contractors will be appointed through the National Competitive Bidding procedure.
3. Relevant bid documents can be obtained from the Finance Section of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital from 04.12.2021 up to 24.12.2021 on weekly working days, between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. on submission of the following, by any bidder, agent or nominated person who is qualified and interested.
 - Submission of a written application made to the Director of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital.
 - Payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,500.00 made to the Shroff of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital
 - Submission of a certified copy of the Business Registration Certificate.
4. For bids valued at above Rupees 5 Million, the Registration Certificate issued by the Department of Registrar of Companies under the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 should be submitted.
5. Sealed bids could either be sent by registered post addressed to Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital or placed in the bid box kept at the Office of the Chief Accountant of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital to be received at or before 2.30 p.m. on 24.12.2021. Bids received late will be rejected. Bidders or one of their authorized representatives can be present at the bid opening.
6. All bids should be in two copies as the 'original' and 'duplicate' and stated accordingly. The cover containing the bid should be marked the name of the repair work and the opening date clearly at the left side top corner.
(Tel. No. 011-2959261/2 Ext. 139, Fax - 011-2959714)

**Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Colombo North Teaching Hospital,
Ragama.**

Marriage Proposals

in the
Sunday Observer

Is the best way to fulfil
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PEOPLE'S MERCHANT FINANCE PLC

PEOPLE'S MERCHANT FINANCE PLC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the six months ended 30th September 2021

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS	Company		Group	
	2021 Rs. '000 Unaudited	2020 Rs. '000 Unaudited	2021 Rs. '000 Unaudited	2020 Rs. '000 Unaudited
For the six months ended 30 th September				
Interest income	298,946	207,797	298,946	207,797
Less: Interest expense	107,719	116,741	107,719	116,741
Net interest income	191,227	91,056	191,227	91,056
Fee and commission income	6,203	4,424	6,203	4,424
Other operating income	77,641	55,945	77,641	55,945
Total operating income	275,071	151,425	275,071	151,425
Less: Impairment charges for loans and receivables and other losses	14,297	6,430	14,297	6,430
Net operating income	260,774	144,995	260,774	144,995
Less:				
Personnel expenses	129,162	71,702	129,162	71,702
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	2,807	1,971	2,807	1,971
Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets	237	793	237	793
Other operating expenses	105,863	66,853	105,863	66,853
Total operating expenses	238,069	141,319	238,069	141,319
Operating Profit/(Loss) before tax on financial services	22,705	3,676	22,705	3,676
Less: Tax on financial services	19,707	9,526	19,707	9,526
Profit/(Loss) before tax	2,998	(5,850)	2,998	(5,850)
Less: Income tax expense	-	-	-	-
Profit/(Loss) for the period	2,998	(5,850)	2,998	(5,850)
Basic earnings/(loss) per ordinary share (Rs.)	0.01	(0.03)	0.01	(0.03)

Figures in brackets indicate deductions.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Company		Group	
	2021 Rs. '000 Unaudited	2020 Rs. '000 Unaudited	2021 Rs. '000 Unaudited	2020 Rs. '000 Unaudited
As at 30 th September 2021				
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	321,289	326,139	321,536	326,389
Balances with banks & financial institutions	5,255	615,593	5,255	615,593
Financial assets measured at fair value	468,509	751,978	468,509	751,978
Financial assets measured at amortised cost - Loans and advances	4,273,739	2,056,442	4,273,739	2,056,442
Investment Property and Real Estate	3,018	37,879	3,018	37,879
Property, Plant and Equipment	39,659	14,550	39,659	14,550
Intangible assets	8,681	3,144	8,681	3,144
Other Assets	508,229	111,454	508,229	111,454
Total assets	5,628,379	3,917,179	5,628,626	3,917,429
Liabilities				
Due to Banks	595,833	16,232	595,833	16,232
Financial liabilities at amortised cost - due to depositors	2,413,623	2,166,005	2,413,623	2,166,005
Debt securities issued	16,900	16,300	16,900	16,300
Other Liabilities	467,824	171,991	468,257	172,350
Total liabilities	3,494,180	2,370,528	3,494,613	2,370,887
Equity				
Stated Capital	3,252,159	2,440,290	3,252,159	2,440,290
Advance Against Stated Capital	-	300,000	-	300,000
Statutory Reserve Fund	10,649	7,259	10,649	7,259
Retained Earnings	(1,128,609)	(1,200,898)	(1,128,795)	(1,201,007)
Other Reserves	-	-	-	-
Total Equity	2,134,199	1,546,651	2,134,013	1,546,542
Total Liabilities and Equity	5,628,379	3,917,179	5,628,626	3,917,429
Net assets value per ordinary share	6.53	7.33	6.53	7.33

Figures in brackets indicate deductions.

Incorporated on 26th January 1983. Licensed by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under the Finance Business Act No. 42 of 2011. Company No. PQ200. No. 361, R.A. de. Mel Mawatha, Colombo-03. Tel : 011 7666333 / 011 2300191 Fax 011 2300190 www.pmb.lk
Credit rating : SL(B) Stable.

SELECTED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	Company			
	30 - 09 - 2021		30 - 09 - 2020	
	Required	Actual	Required	Actual
Regulatory Capital Adequacy (%)				
Tier 1 Capital Adequacy Ratio	7.00%	33.26%	6.50%	32.10%
Total Capital Adequacy Ratio	11.00%	33.23%	10.50%	32.08%
Capital Funds to Deposit Liabilities Ratio	10.00%	88.30%	10.00%	55.95%
Quality of Loan Portfolio (%)				
Gross Non- Performing Loan Ratio		10.63%		20.73%
Net Non- Performing Loan Ratio		1.50%		2.65%
Net Non- Performing Loan to Core Capital Ratio		3.13%		5.36%
Provision Coverage Ratio		86.66%		87.00%
Profitability (%)				
Net Interest Margin		8.23%		4.80%
Return on Assets		0.12%		-0.30%
Return on Equity		0.28%		-0.76%
Cost to Income Ratio		86.55%		93.33%
Liquidity (%)				
Available Liquid Assets to Required Liquid Assets (Minimum 100%)		123%		835%
Liquid Assets to External Funds		12%		45%
Memorandum information				
Number of branches	11 Branches and 01 Gold loan center		11 Branches and 01 Gold loan center	
External Credit Rating	[SL] B Stable		"(SL) B Under rating watch with developing implications"	
Regulatory Penalties Imposed Last 6 Months				
Amount (Mn)	1		N/A	
Regulatory Deposit Restrictions				
Cap on total Deposits (Rs. Mn)	3,500		2,500	
Downsizing of Deposits-per month/quarter/year (Rs. Mn)	N/A		N/A	
Freezing of Deposits	N/A		N/A	
Regulatory Borrowing Restrictions				
Cap on total Borrowings (Rs. Mn)	N/A		39	
Downsizing of Borrowings-per month/quarter/year (Rs. Mn)	N/A		N/A	
Freezing of Borrowings (Rs. Mn)	N/A		N/A	
Regulatory Borrowing Restrictions				
Cap on total Lending Portfolio (Rs. Mn)	N/A		N/A	
Downsizing of Lending Portfolio-per month/quarter/year (Rs. Mn)	N/A		N/A	
Restrictions on granting new credit facilities and/or extending the terms of existing credit facilities (Rs. Mn)	N/A		N/A	

CERTIFICATION :

We, the undersigned, being the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Manager - Finance and the Compliance Officer of People's Merchant Finance PLC certified jointly that:

- a) the above statements have been prepared in compliance with the format and definitions prescribed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL);
- b) the information contained in these statements have been extracted from the unaudited financial statements of People's Merchant Finance PLC.

(Signed)
Nalin Wijekoon
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 10th November 2021

(Signed)
Darshana Wijayanayaka
Chief Manager-Finance
Date: 10th November 2021

(Signed)
Shyamali Pamarathna
Compliance Officer
Date: 10th November 2021



SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

CONVOCATION 2019

The third phase of the Twenty Second General Convocation of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will be held at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 07th January 2022.

Those graduands who have passed final examinations conducted by the following Faculties of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in 2020/2021 and the final results have been released by the Examination branch, are eligible for the conferment of degrees at this convocation.

- Faculty of Management Studies
- Faculty of Applied Sciences
- Faculty of Geomatics
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages
- Faculty of Graduate Studies

Supplication for the Convocation

For more details and prescribed form can be obtained from www.sab.ac.lk. The payments can be made to any branch of Bank of Ceylon to the credit of "Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka", Current A/C No. 0002246976 at the Balangoda Branch, using the a pay-in slip. You should pay the registration fee and the payment slip should be attached to the application.

Submission of Supplications & Issuing of Cloaks

The eligible graduands of the above faculties are requested to be present at the Examination Branch of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 11th and 12th December 2021. More details can be obtained from www.sab.ac.lk.

Fees should be paid

1. Registration fee Rs. 2,000.00
2. Registration fee payable by the graduands who wish the degree to be conferred in absentia Rs. 1,000.00

Supplications received late will not be accepted under any circumstances and the degrees will be awarded in absentia.

For more details contact Senior Assistant Registrar/Examinations - 045-2280033 or log on to university web site www.sab.ac.lk

Registrar
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BUILDING COMPLEX FOR THE FACULTY OF HEALTHCARE SCIENCES, EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA PROJECT



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MEDICAL & TEACHING EQUIPMENT FOR THE BUILDING COMPLEX FOR FACULTY OF HEALTHCARE SCIENCES, EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA (PACKAGE 03)

PROCUREMENT NO.: FHCS/AD/24

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the Building Complex for the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka Project now invites sealed bids from interested eligible and qualified bidders for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MEDICAL & TEACHING EQUIPMENT FOR THE BUILDING COMPLEX FOR FACULTY OF HEALTHCARE SCIENCES, EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA (PACKAGE 03)

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method for the following items;

Bid Number	Name of the Bidding Document	Non- Refundable Fee (Rs.)
FHCS/AD/24 - 1	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Air Conditioner	Rs. 10,000/-
FHCS/AD/24 - 2	Supply of Chemicals, Glassware & Disposable Items	Rs. 5,000/-
FHCS/AD/24 - 3	Supply of Clinical Articles	Rs. 1,000/-
FFICSP/AD/24 - 4	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of RFID Security System & Library Accessories	Rs. 5,000/-

Note: Bidders are requested to visit the site before bidding and quote the price for the supply, installation and commissioning of the above items.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director and inspect the bidding documents up to 27th December, 2021 from 09.00 hours to 15.00 hours on working days at the Office of the Project Director, 18, Ward Place, Colombo 07. Tel: 0112697665
- Qualifications & Requirements.
 1. CIDA Registration for EM any grade (Only for the Bid No. FHCS/AD/24-1)
 2. Business Registration and Memorandum of Articles
 3. Manufacturer's Authorized letter for appointing as a Dealer or Agent for the Quoted Brand
 4. Last three years experience in the similar field.
 5. ISO or Equivalent Certificate for Quoted Brand.
 6. Audited Financial Statements for the last three years.
 7. Average Turnover for the last three years should be equal to or more than three times of quoted price. (Audited financial statements should be submitted along with the bid.)
 8. Bidder should possess the bid price by Bank credit facility, supplier credit facility and net Liquid Assets or cash/cash equivalent.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Project Director, Building Complex for the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka Project, 18, Ward Place, Colombo 07 on submission of a written application along with the receipt for the payment as mentioned in above table for each Bidding Document made to the Project Accountant, 18, Ward Place, Colombo 07 up to 27th December 2021 during office hours from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
- Bids in two copies indicating as Original & Duplicate must be delivered to the address given below at or before 11.00 hours on 05th January 2022. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at the address given below soon after closing the time and the date of the bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- A Pre Bid Meeting with bidders who collect the bidding document will be held on 20th December, 2021 at 11.00 am at the Boardroom, Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, EUSL, 50, New Road, Batticaloa.
- Bids shall be valid up to 119 calendar days from the date of closing of bids. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated below, obtained from any Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Bid Security shall be valid for 147 days from the date of Bid Security.
- Amount of Bid Security (LKR) - 1% of the total quoted amount of the bid concerned.

Project Director
Building Complex for the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University,
Sri Lanka Project
Ministry of Education
18, Ward Place
Colombo 07
04.12.2021

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the following works.

Project Name / Contract No.	Contract Period	Eligibility / Qualifications	Bid Security (Rs.) / Valid up to	Issuing Bidding Document / Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Pre-bid Meeting	Date / Time / Venue of Submission of Bid (Closing of Bid)
General upkeep & maintenance of Street Lamps at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone Contract No.: BOI/SEPZ/ES/MZ/2021/08	2 Years	CIDA Registration - Grade EM 4 & above Specialty - Electrical & Mechanical Services	Rs. 40,000.00 26 April 2022	From 06 December 2021 To 27 December 2021 Rs. 1,500.00 + VAT	Date 15 December 2021 Time 0930 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ	Date 28 December 2021 Time 0930 Hours Venue Zone Office SEPZ
Disposal of solid waste Generated by the Enterprises at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone Contract No.: BOI/SEPZ/ZM/2021-04	2 Years	i) Operation and maintenance of sanitary land - Fill site by way of disposing of Industrial solid waste. ii) Successful operation of an incineration facility or equivalent	Rs. 600,000.00 26 April 2022	From 06 December 2021 To 27 December 2021 Rs. 2,500.00 + VAT	Date 15 December 2021 Time 1030 Hours Venue Zone Office - SEPZ	Date 28 December 2021 Time 1030 Hours Venue Zone Office SEPZ
Supply & delivery of spare parts for raw water pumps (550m ³ /h 55 kW) Submersible Pumps at Intake Well at Water Treatment Plant at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone Contract No.: BOI/SEPZ/ES/2021/08-WB	90 days	Bidder shall be a manufacturer of spare parts or their accredited agents	Rs. 15,000.00 26 April 2022	From 06 December 2021 To 27 December 2021 Rs. 1,000.00 + VAT	N/A	Date 28 December 2021 Time 1400 Hours Venue Zone Office SEPZ

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for the contract award include: Experience as a main contractor for at least one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella on Telephone No. 036-2231082 or Fax 036-2231083 and inspect the bidding Documents from the same address between 0900 hrs and 1600 hrs during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidder on submission of a written application to the Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone (SEPZ), Avissawella between 0900 hrs & 1600 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to "The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Director, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avissawella before closing time. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Chairman,
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

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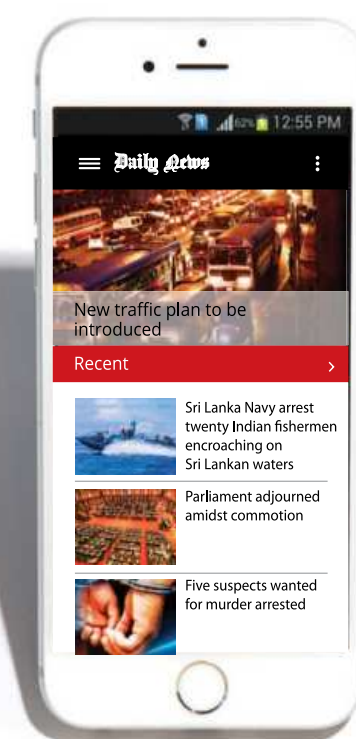
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Sunday Good Market at Jetwing Beach Araliya car park from December 5

Starting Sunday, December 5, the Good Market will be expanding to the Jetwing Beach Araliya car park, Negombo.

The new Sunday Good Market will feature 30 stalls with certified organic produce, natural food and snacks, eco-friendly household products, handmade crafts, live music, kids programs and other special events. It will be open each week from 9 AM to 5 PM in the Jetwing Beach Araliya car park, Negombo.

As a second destination after Colombo, the Good Market has decided to come to Negombo as there are many requests from a number of entrepreneurs and conscious consumers who want Good Market to be in their city. The Good Market believes that opening in Negombo will create better opportunities for responsible entrepreneurs in Negombo trying to do "good for people and good for the planet".

Like the Saturday Good Market at the Nuga Tree car park at Racecourse Colombo 07, the Sunday Good Market will continue to highlight the Negombo enterprises, and new businesses that are socially and environmentally responsible.

Jetwing a Good Market approved vendor will provide the venue for the Sunday Good Market. Jetwing is a pioneer of sustainable tourism in Sri Lanka. Their sustainability strategy focuses on six key categories: Energy & Carbon, Water & Waste, Biodiversity, Community & Culture, Sourcing & Production and Family. Jetwing prior-



itizes in-house production and sources directly from local farmers, fishers, artisans and businesses with shared values.

They are working towards carbon neutrality by improving energy efficiency and transitioning to renewable energy. Jetwing Hotels is a patron member of Biodiversity Sri Lanka, a member of CSR Sri Lanka and a signatory to the UNWTO Code of Ethics for Tourism.

The Good Market highlights products that are "good for the people and good for the planet." Sri Lanka has many organic farmers, social enterprises and responsible businesses that are creating products and services that are eco-friendly, socially responsible and healthy. It also has many well-educated consumers that want to feed their families natural and organic food and choose products that match their values. The Good Market was started as a place for these two groups to come together.

The Good Market is a curated event, which means all vendors go through an application and review process to ensure they meet Good Market standards. The market started as a small volunteer-driven initiative in

December 2012 with 32 approved vendors. There are now more than 2000 approved vendors across Sri Lanka and the globe.

Good Market events are structured to cover costs so that the market is sustainable, but not profit-making. Stall fees are kept as low as possible to reduce the entry barrier for rural producers, small enterprises and new businesses that are socially and environmentally responsible. The Good Market is registered as a Guarantee Limited Company and operates as a mission-driven social enterprise.

The Good Market is also open every Saturday from 9AM to 5PM at the Nuga Tree car park.

The Good Market invites the public to come and enjoy ethical and sustainably sourced products and share their valuable ideas with the vendors on Sunday December 5.

Every Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM Nuga Tree Car Park Colombo Racecourse Colombo 7

Every Sunday 9 AM to 5 PM Araliya Car Park Jetwing Beach Negombo

'Mabima Api' does wonders for its village

'Mabima Api' - a Whatsapp group initiated by Sriyani de Saram, is doing a great service to its village.

Mabima is a scenic village in the Biyagama electorate, bordering Kelani River where about 3,700 families of all walks of life live in harmony. Most of the villagers work in Biyagama Free trade Zone companies.

During the third wave of Covid-19, de Saram, a former deputy director of the EDB, had the idea to create a Whatsapp group to assist the villagers. She spoke to the village prelate and found similar thinking personalities viz. General Manager of Open Arc (Pvt) Ltd., Mahesh Happpitiya, who is now the Co-chairman of the group, Senior Manager of Ancel Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., Dharshana Abayaweera, as Treasurer, Principal of the village preschool Suppi Ariyapala as Secretary and an Executive Committee consisting scholars and leading businessmen of the village, to advise and monitor the work of the group.

PROTECT THE VILLAGE FROM C-19

Persons who really wanted to do something for their village joined the group increasing the numbers to 130 including those living abroad. To protect the village from COVID 19 and make the villagers aware of prevention methods to curb the pandemic they started a poster campaign in the village.

Posters were exhibited at all places people gather and leaflets were distributed among the villagers. These advised them how to protect themselves from C-19, including the important contact numbers of Health Authorities and Govt. Officers to contact immediately in case of emergency.

The funds received from the members and well-wishers of the village, helped them supply a package of essential food items to the affected. Masks, Detergents and vitamins were provided. Ideal Promotions donated masks while Lakwa (Pvt) Ltd situated in the village provided detergents to clean the affected houses. Kasun Cool House, another company situated in the village, provided fruit for the infected people.

We are fully aware that when someone is infected by Covid, they become mentally imbalanced and tensed. The specialty of the service of this group is not only to assist the affected people with food, but also to give them a morale boost, which the group members did, by talking to and monitoring the patients, daily.

The group created a network that included the Public



Health Inspector (PHI), the Grama Niladaris and Development Officers, to assist the villagers. To support the PHI who was overloaded with work at that time, the group took the task of informing the PHI about infected people and putting quarantine notices on their houses. Further they supported the organizing of vaccination programs in the village.

Prof. Thamara Gunasekara of the University of Kelaniya, a member of the Executive Committee, looked after the education aspects of the village children, by providing information on avenues for higher education, apart from entering universities.

As movement was restricted during the pandemic and people were unable to go to work outside the village, the group created the 'Game weda Gamatama' program where they developed a database of all technical and skilled workers of the village. The needy got the opportunity to use this information to get their work done.

LET US CLEAN OUR VILLAGE

With the Dengue epidemic spreading following the C-19 pandemic in the village, the group organized the project 'Let us clean our village' where they organized the centres in and around the village to collect plastic and glass waste. De Saram said, "I participated in a waste management program in Germany, which helped immensely in organizing this programme".

Lorry loads of glass bottles, broken glass, Pet bottles, and yogurt cups were removed from the village and handed over to recycling companies. The group appreciates the companies of the BOI Biyagama zone - SD Chemical, Ancel Lanka and Industrial Gas Company for providing storage tanks to collect the waste. Lakwa Pvt Ltd assisted in collecting the plastic waste and Ceylon Glass Company assisted via an agent in collecting the glass waste

UPCOMING PROJECTS

The group's upcoming projects will be 'Ape Gama Lassana Karamu', where housewives will have the responsibility to clean their portion of the road or path in front of their houses and trim the bushes in fences bordering the road. The group will do a program in the village school to educate the parents of the project via their children. Mahesh Happpitiya, Co Chairman of the Group appreciating the support of the villagers said, "All other organizations of the village like Praja Police Service joined hands with 'Mabima Api' in executing their projects.

'Mage Gewatta' is a project where the villagers are invited to plant vegetables for their own consumption reducing their cost of living at this hour and also to plant herbal plants such as Pawatta, Nika, Yakinaran and Kohomba which are essential for preparation of herbal steam for Covid 19 patients.

As most of the youngsters do not engage in any social welfare activities of the village, the group hopes to have a series of programs to change their mindset to take leadership in activities of the village.

IHB creates industry wide impact in Pakistan

The Institute of Hairdressers and Beauticians (IHB), a premier hair and beauty education brand across the South Asian region, continued to

make great strides in the hair and beauty industry in Pakistan in 2021, upon their formal entry into the country with the landmark partner-

ship between IHB Education (global) and renowned Pakistan-based beauty school Munaizah Bhakat Academy.

In a recent month-long visit to the new IHB academy in Hyderabad, Pakistan, IHB Founder and Chairperson Nayana Karunaratne offered training and assisted over three batches in revising their skills and technical knowledge (virtually) while preparing them for their exams and graduation.

The highly successful graduation ceremony was held

at the Marriott Hotel, Hyderabad, Pakistan and was graced by the Minister of Women's Affairs and a host of other distinguished guests plus industry professionals, while also drawing the attention of top industry names including Wella Pakistan as education partners for hair colour and OPI for nail care.

IHB Founder Nayana Karunaratne stated, 'Hair and Beauty as a profession is ideally suited to empower women in terms of employment and economic stability, as it allows women to stay at home and look after their families while also working flexibly or part-time, and so it suits the Pakistani woman.

On their entry to Pakistan, Karunaratne expressed her gratitude to the Trade Attaché of The High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka for her assistance in formalizing all necessary ties throughout.

Speaking on the relationship with local partner Munaizah Bhakat Academy, she stated, "We are extremely pleased with our continued success in Pakistan with hundreds of students receiving a truly international education in hair and beauty, and honoured by the cordial and professional relationship surrounding our continued partnership with Munaizah Bhakat Academy." She also expressed that IHB hopes to

take their brand of education all across Pakistan in improving the standard of the hair and beauty industry country-

wide, particularly in collaboration with the government-supported program for empowering women.



IHB diploma holders

Raja Jewellers marks 93rd anniversary on Dec. 4 with spectacular celebrations, offers

Raja Jewellers, is marking a legacy of 93 glorious years on December 4, having organized spectacular celebrations.

To commemorate this special occasion and remarkable milestone, the 'Novantatre Collection' of timeless jewellery, is to be introduced. As a special gesture coinciding with the anniversary celebrations, all customers who visit the Raja Jewellers showroom and purchase jewellery on

December 4, will be presented an extremely valuable gift. Moreover, Raja Jewellers is also gifting customer's exceptional offers on this special day: all jewellery purchased using credit cards are applicable to receive 60 months of easy payment plans.

The antecedents of



Raja Jewellers top management - Eliyapura Family

Raja Jewellers dates back to 1928 when E. A. Fernando established E. A. Fernando Jewellers in Chatham Street, Pettah. Following a successful journey, his son, Raja Fernando renamed the business as Raja Jewellers in 1962.

The third generation of the family, Ashoka Eliyapura and Athula Eliyapura registered the

company as a Limited Liability Company. The Third and the Fourth generation of the family are now in the business.

Raja Jewellers has been adorned with a train of awards throughout for their high-quality standards.

The latest additions to their award collection were the four Presidential Gold Awards award-

ed by the national gem and jewellery authority of Sri Lanka which were presented for the Best Jewellery Manufacturer, the Jewellery Organization with the Highest Quality Standards, Best Gold Jewellery item and the Most Experienced Gem Cutter, reaffirming Raja Jewellers as the monarch of the gold world.

Wellawatta Nithyakalyani Jewellery, Rotary Colombo East honours Healthcare Heroes

The 'Deepavali Upahara' ceremony organized by Wellawatta Nithyakalyani Jewellery, together with the Rotary Colombo East was held on Deepavali day at the Nithyakalyani premises adhering to COVID19 health guidelines.

The ceremony was held to pay tribute to some of the heroes who bolstered the wellbeing of the country during this pandemic period. Accordingly, healthcare heroes such as the Medical Officer of Health - Wellawatta Dr. Shree Prathapan and his team, Former OIC at Wellawatta Police Kapila Priyanka Wijemanne and many hygiene related workers who ensure that the city is clean were honoured at this ceremony.

Among the attendees were CEO of Wellawatta Nithyakalyani Jewellery and the current President of

Rotary Colombo East A. P. Jayarajah, Managing Partners P Sivakumar and Dhivakar Balasubramaniam, Rotarian and Former MD/CEO of Hatton National Bank and Car-gills Bank Rajendra Theagarajah, Secretary of Rotary Colombo East Saifu Adamally, Clean Tech team responsible for Wellawatta area, OIC of Community Police Unit of Wellawatta Police Sub Inspector Y. N. Heshan accompanied by other police officers and the

team from Wellawatta Nithyakalyani Jewellery.

A. P. Jayarajah stated the importance of all those heroes who have served tirelessly during the pandemic period and reiterated that Wellawatta Nithyakalyani Jewellery annually engages in several social welfare activities such as blood donation, beach cleaning, tree maintenance, development of schools and places of worship and that he hopes to carry out a number of similar social service projects in the future in associa-

tion with the Rotary Colombo East. "Your service is more valuable than gold" stated P Sivakumar as part of his closing remarks during the vote of thanks.



Healthcare heroes honoured at the 'Deepavali Upahara'

Ramesh and Lasith bowl Sri Lanka to an easy win

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Spinners Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya finished with five wickets each as Sri Lanka crushed West Indies by 164 runs in the second Test with a session to spare on the final day yesterday at the Galle International cricket stadium.

Chasing an improbable 29 runs target, the tourists were bowled out for 132 in 56.1 overs, five minutes before tea, losing eight wickets between lunch and tea, with Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya displaying superb bowling skills to skittle out the visitors and receive the Sobers-Tissera Trophy from former Sri Lanka skipper and prominent cricket administrator Michael Tissera.

Earlier in the day, Sri Lanka added 17 runs in 2.4 overs—with No. 10 batsman Embuldeniya doing much of the attacking. When Embuldeniya was bowled by Jason Holder, captain Dimuth Karunaratne declared the innings, (345 for 9) with Sri Lanka taking a lead of 297.

Dhananjaya added two to his overnight score and finished on 155 not out and they were able to add a record 124 runs for the ninth wicket.

West Indies needed to bat out 93 overs to save the second test. However, openers Kraigg Brathwaite and Jermaine Blackwood were unable to make a good start and off spinner Ramesh Mendis made an early breakthrough to put pressure during the first session. Kraigg Brathwaite was dismissed towards the end of the first hour of play, when Ramesh Mendis trapped him lbw with an arm ball.

Jermaine Blackwood and Nkrumah Bonner then produced some resistance, batting out 23 overs together. Then, with three balls to go for lunch, Lasith Embuldeniya lured Blackwood into a drive with a loopy delivery outside off stump and was caught at slip by Dhananjaya de Silva. Blackwood had batted out 92 balls for



Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne receiving the Sobers-Tissera trophy from former Sri Lanka skipper Michael Tissera. (Pix courtesy SLC)

his 36. Bonner, at the other end, was on 22 off 71 balls and West Indies were 65 for 2 wickets at lunch.

However, a fine effort from the two spinners Mendis and Embuldeniya paved the way to a Sri Lankan victory during the second

session. The turning point of the game was the 44th over of the innings, which was bowled by Ramesh Mendis. Mendis once again missed the hat trick, but managed to get three wickets within the space of his six balls of the 19th over, and West Indies were in deep trouble.

Shai Hope had sparked that collapse. He tried to pull back, but hit the ball directly to square leg fielder Suranga Lakmal, who took a good catch. With the very next ball, Mendis had Roston Chase caught brilliantly by short leg fielder Oshada Fernando for a duck. Kyle Mayers averted the hat



Ramesh Mendis (R) and Lasith Embuldeniya (first from left) each took their 5-wicket haul to finish the game right before the Tea break.

trick, but three balls later, Mayers gave a catch to Dhananjaya de Silva at slip and West Indies were 92 for 5 at that stage.

West Indies' low order collapsed with the last wicket of Jomel Warrican, giving a simple catch to slip Dhananjaya de Silva, and Sri Lanka sealed the game with a 164 run win.

Ramesh Mendis, who took 6 for 70 in the first innings, bagged 5 for 66 to finish with a match bag of eleven wickets. He was adjudged man of the series as he finished with 18 wickets in this series, with good support from leggie Embuldeniya, who finished with 5 for 35 and 13 wickets in the series. Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne was the highest run-scorer with 278 runs, followed by Dhananjaya de Silva, both of whom were able to make centuries. Dhananjaya de Silva was named man of the match for his fighting knock

of 155 not out. The two test victories also helped Sri Lanka to collect 24 points at the ICC test championship, and Sri Lanka are now on top with this series' 2-0 victory in the test Championship points table.

SCORECARD

SRI LANKA 1ST INNINGS 204	WEST INDIES 1ST INNINGS 253
SRI LANKA 2ND INNINGS (Overnight 328/8)	WEST INDIES 2ND INNINGS
Dhananjaya de Silva not out 155	Jason Holder b Holder 39
Lasith Embuldeniya b Holder 39	Extras: (b 4, lb 4, nb 2, w 1) 11
Extras: (b 4, lb 4, nb 2, w 1) 11	Total: (9 wickets/dec; 121.4 overs) 345
Total: (9 wickets/dec; 121.4 overs) 345	Did not bat: Praveen Jayawickrama
Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Karunaratne), 2-39 (Fernando), 3-73 (Asalanka), 4-151 (Nissanka), 5-157 (Chandimal), 6-208 (Mendis), 7-219 (Lakmal), 8-221 (Mathews), 9-345 (Embuldeniya)	Fall of wickets: 1-15 (Brathwaite), 2-65 (Blackwood), 3-92 (Hope), 4-92 (Chase), 5-92 (Mayers), 6-103 (Holder), 7-108 (Bonner), 8-128 (Roach), 9-129 (Permaul), 10-132 (Warrican)
Bowling: Permaul 40-4-106-3, Chase 27-2-82-2, Warrican 29-5-76-0, Roach 8-0-27-0, Holder 9.4-1-26-1, Brathwaite 5-0-11-1, Bonner 3-1-9-0	Bowling: Embuldeniya 20.1-6-35-5, Mendis 25-6-66-5, Jayawickrama 10-3-23-0, Asalanka 1-0-2-0
WEST INDIES 2ND INNINGS	Kraigg Brathwaite lbw b Mendis 6

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Nominee
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Divisions for Boy : Division I Division II Division III

All Island Girl :

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Sender's Name :

Address :

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CONDITIONS:

Children of Lake House & SLT-Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.

DATE **2021-12-04** NO. **09**

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Mickey Arthur is like a father to me, says Skipper Karunaratne

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

"Mickey Arthur, our head coach, is like a father to me; he was always there for me and the team, and I'm happy to hold a good farewell for him," said Sri Lanka Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne after a memorable West Indies series win at Galle yesterday.

"We are worried that our coach is leaving after this test series, but I wish him good luck for the future," added Karunaratne, who was leading from the front to claim the series win. This was a real team effort; bowlers, batsmen, and fielders did a good job to seal this win.

"The boys knew what to do in the conditions, especially Ramesh, Pathum, and Dhananjaya de Silva. Pathum was very confident and was rotating the strike as an opener, which is what I expected from him. Hopefully, he can convert his fifties into big scores. Oshada did a very hard job on the field. He was not scared. I want to lead from the front, and now I am looking forward to the next series against India," added Karunaratne. "I am personally happy with my batting performance, which I always expected for the team's success."

"I also want to give special thanks to the Galle ground staff. They did a tremendous duty during this match series and worked hard to prepare the ground as soon as possible; that is appreciated. Meanwhile, I will never forget our spectators and fans. After a long time, they came to encourage us during this hard period, and they made a good atmosphere to strengthen our team. Some were out of the boundary line, and some crowds were at the Galle Fort and made a much-needed atmosphere to the game," added skipper Karunaratne.

Meanwhile, the man of the match Dhananjaya de Silva said, "I was very keen to bat under pressure to build up the innings. A batsman can score when under pressure, and I enjoy it. I am working hard for these hundreds, and my father's blessings are on me. It was tough; the ball was turning when their spinners were bowling on good lines and lengths. We had to be safe, so we had to bat long. That was the plan. I want to men-

tion coaches Mickey Arthur and Grant Flower for being with us especially during this hard period," said De Silva.

West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite said, "It was not an easy start today on this pitch, so it was important to bat as well as possible. As batters, we needed to do it for longer periods. If we can do that, the team can be in a better position. We were able to restrict the Sri Lankan first innings to below 250. But their ninth wicket stand, between Dhananjaya de Silva and Lasith Embuldeniya in the second innings, put on a 124 runs stand and we let ourselves down. It was not an easy start on this pitch, especially in the fourth innings," said Brathwaite.

Pawan and Wanuja guide Sri Lanka U19 to win over England

Pawan Pathiraja made a fine knock of 113, while leg spinner Wanuja Sahana had a 5 for 21 as Sri Lanka under 19 recorded a 148-run victory over England under 19 in their second ODI of the five-match series played at SSC grounds yesterday.

The Sri Lanka under 19s chose to bat first, making 251 for 4 wickets in their 50 overs, while the England under 19s were all out for 103 in 31.4 overs with wicketkeeper James Rew top-scored with fifty runs off 58 deliveries, as Wanuja Sahana was leading the way to pick up five wickets while pacer Yasiru Rodrigo and Matheesha Pathirana took two wickets each.

Earlier, Sri Lanka were 18 for 2 after 4.3 overs, but left-hander Pawan Pathiraja, number four batter, made a superb knock of 113 in 131 balls, struck 13 fours, and added 115

runs for the fourth wicket with Ranuda Somaratne, who hit 58 in 79 balls, struck two fours and a six. This was Somaratne's second consecutive half-century of the series. Skipper Dunith Wellalage also made a useful 38 in 22 balls, with three fours and two sixes.

Two teams already have a 1-1 win after two matches and are expected to play their third game tomorrow (5) at the same venue.

Chief scores

Sri Lanka under 19: 251/4 in 50 overs (Shevon Daniel 18, Pawan Pathiraja 113, Ranuda Somaratne 58, Dunith Wellalage 38, Joshua Boyden 2/42)

England under 19: 103 in 31.4 overs (James Rew 50, Yasiru Rodrigo 2/ 19, Wanuja Sahana 5/21, Matheesha Pathirana 2/20.

(D.R.)

LANKA PREMIER LEAGUE 2020

The Lanka Premier League 2021/22 will be held from 5th December, 2021 at the R. Premadasa Stadium. The Schedule is given below.

DATE	NO	TIME	TEAM	VENUE
Dec 5	01	7.30 pm	Galle Gladiators vs Jaffna Kings	R. Premadasa
Dec 6	02	3.00 pm	Dambulla Giants vs Kandy Warriors	R. Premadasa
Dec 6	03	7.30 pm	Colombo Stars vs Galle Gladiators	R. Premadasa
Dec 7	04	3.00 pm	Jaffna Kings vs Dambulla Giants	R. Premadasa
Dec 7	05	7.30 pm	Kandy Warriors vs Galle Gladiators	R. Premadasa
Dec 8	06	3.00 pm	Colombo Stars vs Dambulla Giants	R. Premadasa
Dec 8	07	7.30 pm	Kandy Warriors vs Jaffna Kings	R. Premadasa
Dec 10	08	3.00 pm	Dambulla Giants vs Galle Gladiators	R. Premadasa
Dec 10	09	7.30 pm	Jaffna Kings vs Colombo Stars	R. Premadasa
Dec 11	10	3.00 pm	Galle Gladiators vs Kandy Warriors	R. Premadasa
Dec 11	11	7.30 pm	Colombo Stars vs Dambulla Giants	R. Premadasa
Dec 12	12	3.00 pm	Jaffna Kings vs Kandy Warriors	R. Premadasa
Dec 12	13	7.30 pm	Galle Gladiators vs Colombo Stars	R. Premadasa
Dec 13	14	7.30 pm	Galle Gladiators vs Dambulla Giants	R. Premadasa
Dec 14	15	3.00 pm	Kandy Warriors vs Colombo Stars	R. Premadasa
Dec 14	16	7.30 pm	Dambulla Giants vs Jaffna Kings	R. Premadasa
Dec 16	17	3.00 pm	Colombo Stars vs Jaffna Kings	R. Premadasa
Dec 16	18	7.30 pm	Kandy Warriors vs Dambulla Giants	R. Premadasa
Dec 17	19	3.00 pm	Jaffna Kings vs Galle Gladiators	R. Premadasa
Dec 17	20	7.30 pm	Colombo Stars vs Kandy Warriors	R. Premadasa
Dec 20	21	3.00 pm	Eliminator	MRICS
Dec 20	22	7.30 pm	Qualifier	MRICS
Dec 21	23	7.30 pm	Qualifier 2	MRICS
Dec 23	24	7.30 pm	Final	MRICS

RadhaDAILY@NEWSGraphic



VACANCIES

Here's an excellent opportunity for you to be a part of Sri Lanka Cricket

- **Head Coach - National Team**
- **Head Coach - A Team**
- **Asst. Coach for the Emerging Squad**
- **Batting Coach - National Team**
- **Bowling Coach - National Team**
- **Fielding Coach - National Team**

Minimum Qualification:

Level 3 Coach Accreditation Certificate

Knowledge & Experience:

(The below mentioned Criteria would be given due consideration during the shortlisting of candidates)

- **Proven Coaching Track Record**
- **Attended Specialized Cricket Coaching Programs**
- **1st Class Cricket Playing Experience**
- **Representing National Teams at different levels would be ideal**
- **Experience in coaching international teams would be an added advantage**

MANAGER - NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM/ 'A' TEAM

Responsibilities

To attend to the following administrative responsibilities in order to comply with the SLC requirements.

- Explain and educate players of code of conduct / ethics and related matters.
- Overall responsibility of maintaining discipline of the entire squad
- Accurately complete and submit tour reports as per the guidelines.
- Accurately complete and submit payment schedules / player appearance charts of the players after two days completion of the tour to Finance.
- Maintaining of records pertaining to the distribution of equipment, clothing and provide same on time to the players prior to a tour.
- Follow up on visa / ticketing formalities with travel agent / relevant authorities
- Conduct Management meetings & to convene the Selection committee meetings on tour which would be Headed by the Team Manager
- Seek prior advice from the security consultant and on tour to take corrective actions to ensure the safety of the tour party. If there are persistent short falls report to Security Consultant or CEO to take necessary action

Skills

- A strong interest in sports and an awareness of the issues affecting sports
- A high degree of self-motivation and drive for change and improvement
- The ability to build and maintain effective relationships and communicate well with the squad members
- Effective planning, organizing and time management skills.
- The ability to work well in a team, in a dynamic and result orientated environment
- Strong team building capabilities and problem-solving skills

Qualifications and Experience

- Qualification in sports management or related discipline.
- 05 years working experience in a Managerial position OR in Sports Management
- Cricket playing experience in domestic / international level and/ or experience in sports administration will be an added advantage

HEAD OF PERFORMANCE ANALYTICS - BRAIN CENTRE

Purpose

The Head of Performance Analytics will be responsible for the overall development of technical, analytical and video support throughout Sri Lanka Cricket.

The Head of Performance Analytics will lead a team that will capture, manage, analyse and present game intelligence derived from data analysis to all related parties within Sri Lanka Cricket.

Principle Responsibilities

- To manage a team of analysts that will compile and maintain a database of cricket activity across all formats
- Provide in-depth written, statistical and video analysis of opposition & other relevant data
- Maintain & continue to develop data archive for future use
- Liaise with other stakeholders as required with regard to the requirements of analysis for Sri Lanka Cricket
- Provide relevant feedback as required by coaches regarding performance analysis
- To develop analysis methods to help injury and workload management
- Develop pre & post game review methodology as required for use by Sri Lanka Cricket
- Develop educational sessions for analysts, players and coaches to help understand and use performance analysis to improve performance

Knowledge & Experience

- Prior experience as a High-Performance Analyst/Analyst within a professional sports environment would be an added advantage
- A Bachelor's degree in related subject would be an advantage
- Ability to understand and analyse statistical data and be able to present the results in a clear, concise and understandable format
- Exceptional planning, coordination and organisational skills
- Experience in managing Staff
- High level of interpersonal, written and verbal communication and influencing skills

If you are a player with the drive and initiative to perform with minimum work in a team oriented environment, you could be the person we are looking for.

Attractive and negotiable remuneration packages with other fringe await the selected candidates.

Interested applicants are invited to forward the CV to the below mentioned email on or before 14th December 2021.

(Any form of canvassing would be a disqualification)

Email: vacancies@srilankacricket.lk

LOLC General Insurance Limited

The Initial Public Offering of 120,000,000 shares of LOLC General Insurance Limited through an Offer for Sale of existing Ordinary Voting Shares at LKR 7.90 per share, is available for subscription from 2nd December 2021. The opening date of the Offer is 16th December 2021.

As stated in the Prospectus, the public is informed that the soft copies of the Prospectus and the Application Forms for shares may be downloaded from www.cse.lk and www.lolcgeneral.com

Hard copies of the Application may be collected from the Members and Trading Members of the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Managers and Registrars to the Offer – P W Corporate Secretarial (Pvt) Ltd at 3/17, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08.

The Prospectus and Application Form may also be downloaded from the website of the joint Managers – Capital Trust Partners (Pvt) Ltd at www.ipo.capitaltrust.lk

P W Corporate Secretarial (Pvt) Ltd
Registrars to the Offer

I, **ARUNA WETTASINGHA** of 693/2E, Kulasevana Road, Kottawa, holder of NIC No. (810460431V) do hereby inform the General Public that the Power of Attorney dated 09.01.2011 bearing No. 136 attested by Chandani Nadeeshani Bogahawatta, Notary Public, granted by me to Susila Mallika Jayalath, holder of NIC No. (505210026V) of the aforesaid address, is revoked and cancelled with effect from 01.12.2021.

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Better Offers**

I, **SACHINI VIDUSHIKA KEEL** of 693/2E, Kulasevana Road, Kottawa, holder of NIC No. (915623310V) do hereby inform the General Public that the Power of Attorney dated 25.02.2014 bearing No. 406 attested by Chandani Nadeeshani Bogahawatta, Notary Public, granted by me to Susila Mallika Jayalath, holder of NIC No. (505210026V) of the aforesaid address is revoked and cancelled with effect from 01.12.2021.

**Best way
to fulfil
your
Future Dreams**

*Marriage
Proposals*

**in the
Sunday Observer**

Final Notice for Calling the Reapplication for Businessmen of New market of Eravur Urban Council

As per the advertisement of new market published in trilingual mentioned in Part IV (B) by the Gazette Notification of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 2253 dated 2021.11.05, those who have rental leasing permit in this regard are hereby requested to submit the documents with regard to the rental agreement and verify the relevant documents to the Secretary of our urban council on office hours. If you are willing to resume the business in future at the same market who had the leasing permit for doing the business before 2021.12.31.

It is informed you when you fail to submit and verify the same that you will be deemed as non-holder of permit at the same market.

**M.S. Naleem,
Chairman,
Eravur Urban Council.**

DISTRICT SECRETARIAT, JAFFNA

TENDER NOTICE

SALE OF USED VEHICLES

IFB - 09

1) The District Secretary, Jaffna invites sealed bids from interested bidders for the sale of under mentioned vehicles that were used by the District Secretariat, Jaffna and Divisional Secretariats in the Jaffna District.

S. No.	Vehicle Number	Make / Class	Bid ID	Bid Security Amount Rs.	Validity period of Bid Security
Four Wheels Vehicles					
1	251-0899	TOYOTA - LN166R - PRMDS Dual Purpose Vehicle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/09/39/2021	10% of Quoted Price	14.04.2022
Motor Cycle					
2	NP WN -4547	TVS - Star - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/01/01/2021	3,000.00	
3	156 -1639	HERO HONDA - CD 100 Deluxe - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/01/02/2021	3,000.00	
4	NP MW - 3444	TVS - Scooty Pep - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/01/03/2021	3,000.00	
5	NP MV - 9798	BAJAJ - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/02/04/2021	3,000.00	
6	NP WN - 4532	TVS - Star - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/02/05/2021	3,000.00	
7	NP MA - 7002	TVS - Scooty Pep - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/02/06/2021	3,000.00	
8	NP TN - 5716	TVS - Star - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/02/07/2021	3,000.00	
9	NP MI - 6171	LML - Freedom KS - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/02/08/2021	3,000.00	
10	NP TN - 5732	TVS - Star - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/03/09/2021	3,000.00	
11	152 - 0859	HONDA - CO125 (Japanese) - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/03/10/2021	3,000.00	
12	NP MI - 6181	LML - Freedom KS - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/03/11/2021	3,000.00	
13	NP HG - 2489	YAMAHA - LIBERO - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/04/12/2021	3,000.00	
14	152 - 0865	HONDA - CO125 (Japanese) - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/04/13/2021	3,000.00	
15	NP VO - 4066	BAJAJ - Platina - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/04/14/2021	3,000.00	
16	NP US - 9838	BAJAJ - CT 100 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/05/15/2021	3,000.00	
17	160 - 7035	BAJAJ - Bajaj 4S Champion - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/05/16/2021	3,000.00	
18	NP MI - 6088	LML - Freedom KS - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/05/17/2021	3,000.00	
19	NP UD - 2374	HERO HONDA - CD 100 Deluxe - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/05/18/2021	3,000.00	
20	152 - 0868	Honda - CO 125 (Japanese) - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/05/19/2021	3,000.00	
21	NP TA - 4812	TVS - Scooty Pep + - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/06/20/2021	3,000.00	
22	NP VO - 6181	TVS - Scooty Pep + - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/06/21/2021	3,000.00	
23	NP TA 4809	TVS - Scooty Pep + - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/06/22/2021	3,000.00	
24	NP UD - 2360	HERO HONDA - CD 100 Deluxe - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/07/23/2021	3,000.00	
25	NP VO - 4015	BAJAJ - Platina - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/07/24/2021	3,000.00	
26	NP UD - 4941	TVS - Scooty Pep + - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/07/25/2021	3,000.00	
27	NP MF - 6481	BAJAJ - CT100 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/08/26/2021	3,000.00	
28	NP MF - 6480	BAJAJ - CT100 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/08/27/2021	3,000.00	
29	160 - 7032	BAJAJ - Bajaj 4S Champion - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/08/28/2021	3,000.00	
30	NP MB - 0684	KINETIC - BOSSV2 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/09/29/2021	3,000.00	
31	137 - 8380	BAJAJ - Super Fe - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/09/30/2021	3,000.00	
32	NP MB - 0658	KINETIC - BOSSV2 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/09/31/2021	3,000.00	
33	NP MB - 0386	KINETIC - BOSSV2 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/09/32/2021	3,000.00	
34	500 - 8891	HONDA - C50 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/11/33/2021	3,000.00	
35	NP MB - 0392	KINETIC - BOSSV2 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/11/34/2021	3,000.00	
36	NP MB - 0681	KINETIC - BOSSV2 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/11/35/2021	3,000.00	
37	NP MB - 0680	KINETIC - BOSSV2 - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/12/36/2021	3,000.00	
38	NP MA - 6987	TVS - Scooty Pep - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/12/37/2021	3,000.00	
39	NP UD - 4632	TVS - Scooty Pep + - Motor Cycle	JK/PROC/Veh.Au/12/38/2021	3,000.00	

2) Interested bidders shall obtain the prescribed each bidding documents on payment of a non-refundable deposit of a sum of Rs.250/= along with a written request to the "District Secretary, District Secretariat, Jaffna" between the office hours of 9.00a.m - 2.30p.m from 03.12.2021 to 16.12.2021.

3) The bidders shall view the said vehicles between 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 03.12.2021 to 16.12.2021 on working days at the in Store of the District Secretariat, A9 Road Navatkuly, Jaffna

4) A bidder can submit bids in respect of one or more vehicles, but for each vehicle separate bidding documents should be used.

5) For vehicles denoted by serial number 01 (four wheels vehicles) bidders shall furnish 10 % of the quoted bid price as Bid Security from any Commercial Bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka using the standard format given with the bidding document. Bid security shall be valid up to 14.04.2022 and for Motor Cycles and scrap denoted by serial number 02 - 39 (Motor Cycle) Bidders have to pay a refundable deposit as bid security, by cash at the District Secretariat, Jaffna. As mentioned in the above table.

6) The sealed bid which should be addressed to the Chairman, Dept. Procurement Committee, District Secretariat, A9 Road, Jaffna to reach on or before 17.12.2021, 10.30 a.m., with the word "Bid to purchase used vehicle - Vehicle No" on the left hand top corner of the envelope. The bids would be opened immediately after the time of closure of the said bids. Either bidder or their authorized representatives would be permitted to be present at opening of bids.

7) The Chairman of the procurement committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
District Secretariat,
Jaffna.**

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BADULLA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF COUNCIL PROPERTY FOR THE YEAR 2022

National Competitive Bidding is called for the lease of the property of Badulla Municipal Council mentioned in the following schedule as follows.

	Name of the Council Property	Minimum Procurement Bid amount (Rs. Cts.)	Procurement deposit amount		Lease period
			Refundable Deposit (Rs.)	Non refundable bid form fee (Rs.)	
1	Public Toilet at Bus stand premises.	7,125,000.00	142,500.00	1500.00	From 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022
2	Public Toilet at Southern lane	2,365,500.00	47,500.00	1500.00	
3	Lease of 05 Nos, Trade Stalls Subway near Badulla bus stand Stall Nos. 01, 02, 03, 09 & 10.	Minimum Bid amount to be paid as a lumpsum:- 1,900,000.00 Monthly rental Rs. 8000/=	SLRs 50,000.00 in cash or a bank guarantee of Rs. 100,000.00 subject to 120 days obtained from a reputed bank	5000.00	For 25 years
4	Stall No. 22 at Bus stand premises.	Minimum bid amount to be paid as lump sum: Rs. 600,000.00 Monthly rental Rs. 2500.00	12,000.00	1500.00	

Issuance of Bid documents : from 03.12.2021 to 23.12.2021 during office days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 pm. at the Office of Badulla M.C.

Closing date of receiving Bids : 24.12.2021 at 9.45 a.m.

Opening of Bids : 10.00 a.m. on 24.12.2021 at Office of the Badulla Municipal Council.

Further details could be obtained from the Municipal Accountant / Revenue Division from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
(Telephone Nos. 055-2224277 / 055-4934521 / 055-4934500)

Bidders or their authorized representatives could participate at the time of opening Bids.

Please note:

- Applicants should be Sri Lankans over 18 years of age.
- Persons who have been penalized in a Court in any type of legal actions or those who are parties of any pending legal action over properties of the Sabha are not eligible to apply.
- Any persons or institutes who have to pay due rents to the Council over its property or who have breached procurement rules and regulations prior to this also cannot apply. If the Council finds and establish that such parties have submitted procurment bids, the Badulla M.C. will take action then and there itself to cancel the bid and forfeite the sums deposited or paid and to take over the Council's property and also to blacklist the said bidders.
- The Procurement Board reserves the right to accept or reject procurement bids.
- Procurement documents could be inspected free of charge since they are displayed at this office.
- Bids with amounts less than the minimum bid as per the schedule above will be rejected and their bid form fee and bid deposits will be forfeited.
- Bidders should submit bids in duplicate in two separate covers marked as the original and the duplicate and both enclosed in a single envelope to reach the Chairman, Procurement Board, Municipal Council, Badulla on the scheduled date and time by registered post or deposit in the tender box kept at the office room of the Municipal Accountant.

**Municipal Commissioner,
Municipal Council,
Badulla.**

02.12.2021

Daily News Classifieds, the Housewives' companion



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB 08)

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

District Secretariat, Jaffna

Procurement of Goods

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the District Secretary, Jaffna invites sealed bids for the procurements mentioned in the tables below from eligible and qualified bidders possessing a minimum laid down experience.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna (Room No.42)** and inspect the Bidding Documents for free of charge at the same address on any working day from **9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m from 03.12.2021 or on Jaffna District Secretariat's web site - jaffna.dist.gov.lk (only for reference and not for printed document)**. Contact numbers are : phone - 021 2214633 or 021 2222233, 021 2222234 (Ext. - 140), Facsimile : 021 2214633, Email- jkprocurementunit@gmail.com
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language shall be obtained by interested bidders from the **Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna only**, on any working days from **03.12.2021 up to 17.12.2021 between 9.00 am to 2.00 pm** on submission of a written request with a certified copy of Business Registration Certificate and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as described in the table below.
- Bids should be submitted **only on the documents obtainable from the Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna** and Securely Sealed bids shall be sent by registered post addressed to **The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, District Secretariat, Jaffna** or **deposited in the Tender Box available at the Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna on or before 20.12.2021, 2.30 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. Original and duplicate bids should be enveloped separately and the both envelopes (Original & Duplicate) should be sealed in one envelope. Bidders should write the **Goods description and bid No.** on the top left hand corner of this envelope. Bids will be opened at **2.30 p.m on the same day** in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre bid meetings will be held at District Secretariat, Jaffna on 10.12.2021 at 10.30am.
- Procurement Committee will keep the right to make final decision in regard to accept or reject Bids.

TABLE

Bid ID	Description of Goods	Estimate Cost (Rs)	Bid Security Amount (in Rs.)	Bid Security Valid Period until	Non Refundable Fee (in Rs.)
JK/PROC/Fish.Net/02/15 /2021	Fishing Net	Rs. 49 million	Rs. 490,000.00	17.04.2022	Rs. 12,250.00

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee (DPC),
District Secretariat,
Jaffna

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF SRI LANKA (NHSL) - COLOMBO 10
(Ministry of Health)

PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

- Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) now entertains sealed Bids up to 10.00 a.m. on 22.12.2021 for the Supply of undermentioned medical equipment to the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10.

Item No.	Item Description	Ref. No.	Quantity of Items	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
01.	Difficult Airway Trolley	SA/07/2021	15	} 3000.00
02.	Drug Trolley	SA/07/2021	30	
03.	Patient Transport Trolley	SGII/25/2021/01	10	3200.00

- Only the authorized Representatives / Agents or nominees of the Manufacturers who manufacture and supply these medical equipment to the Sri Lanka market are eligible and qualified to participate in this Bidding Invitation.
- Bidding documents could be obtained by interested Bidders from 9.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on working days of the week from **04.12.2021 to 21.12.2021** on submission of the receipt for the payment of the above non-refundable fee to the Deputy Director General of National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) (Telephone No. 0112-691111, Ext : 2722).
- Sealed Bids should either be sent by Registered Post to the following address or if hand delivered, deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Office of the Chief Accountant of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10, to receive at or before **10.00 a.m. on 22.12.2021** and Bids thus received will be opened immediately after closing of Bids.
- If required, further details could be obtained from the Chief Accountant of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10. (Telephone No. 011-2694595).

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
National Hospital of Sri Lanka,
Colombo 10.

page 15 DN

Classifieds

Real Estate

612

Building Construction / Materials

Waterproofing product swimming pools roof bathroom chemical epoxy exterior interior paints Reg. R14121 CIDA SP0132. 0717955307, 0777673528. 074482

616

House & Property

COLOMBO
District
For sale

03 roomed house for sale 58 lakhs (Rs. 5,800,000/=) Piliyandala 10 perches, 7 perches lands for sale. 5 lakhs per perch. Piliyandala 06 perches land for sale. Kotagedera 06 perches and house 38 lakhs (Rs. 3,800,000). Inquire : 0711346577, 0751477099. 077761

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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

REGISTRATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CONTRACTORS FOR THE YEAR - 2022/2023

Applications are hereby invited from reputed Service providers and Contractors who wish to register themselves with the University of Colombo including Sri Palee Campus - Horana, Faculty of Technology - Pitipana and Faculty of Nursing - Sri Jayawardanepura for the supply and provision of undermentioned services and contracts for year 2022 / 2023.

The applicants may apply for one or more categories by paying the registration fees specified in the specimen and clearly mark (✓) in the relevant cage and the application should be accompanied by a bank deposit slip obtained by paying a non-refundable registration fee to the **University of Colombo Main Collection Account of the People's Bank at Thimbirigasyaya Branch by using the reference number 505170600013 from any branch of the Peoples Bank.** Please note that money orders or cheques will not be accepted.

The applications will be accepted only from those who have previous experience of over 2 years in the supply of services and more than five years of professional experience in the repair and service of motor vehicles. A photocopy of business registration certificate, VAT Registration certificate, ICTAD certificate (should be recently certified by the Commissioner General Inland Revenue) and other documentary evidence in proof of past performance should be submitted along with the application. The Government Departments, Boards, Corporations or Semi Government Institutions which apply for registration need not submit the above documents. The registration fee of ineligible applicants will not be refunded.

The supplier who fails to submit quotations when called for, or who fails to provide services on time, or not in conformity with the stipulated specifications, supply of inferior quality goods etc. will be struck off from the register without prior notice. Although quotations will normally be called from registered suppliers/contractors, the University reserves the right to call for quotations from other suppliers/contractors as well.

Applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Bursar/Supplies, University of Colombo, on or before **15th December 2021** and the words "**Registration of Service Providers and Contractors - 2022 / 2023**" should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Should be used prescribed specimen downloaded application via the University web site (www.cmb.ac.lk)

SPECIMEN FORM

Application for Registration as Service Providers and Contractors for the year 2022 / 2023

1. Name of the Business Institution/Company/Firm/Individuals :			
2. Business Address of the Applicant :			
3. Telephone No. :	4. Fax No.:	5. Name and Designation of Contact Person:	6. Email:
7. No. and Date of Business Registration (Please attach a Photocopy of the Certificate) :			
8. ICTAD Registration No (for works): Grade (if applicable) :		9. Field of Registration & Expiry Date (Please attach Photocopy of relevant pages)	
10. Number of years of Experience in the relevant trade:		12. Whether agreeable to give 30 days credit facility: Yes / No / If any:	
14. Names of Bankers:			
15. VAT number, if any : (Should submit documentary proof that the supplier is an active VAT payer in the relevant year issued by Commissioner General of Inland Revenue)			
17. Details of the non refundable registration fee paid (Please attach a Photocopy of the bank deposit slip) I). Amount Paid (Rs): II). Date of Payment: III). Branch :			
I / We hereby agree to the conditions stipulated by the University of Colombo and submit my /our application for registration.			
Date:		Signature of Applicant / Seal (Affix Seal) :	

Service Providers

No.	Items	Registration Fee (Rs.)	Tick if Applied	No.	Items	Registration Fee (Rs.)	Tick if Applied
01	Service and Maintain Computers, Printers, Network Cabling and Communication Equipment	1000.00		02	Professional Consultancy Services (Legal, Finance, Engineering etc.)	1000.00	
03	Cutting & Removing of hazardous tree branches	1000.00		04	Electrical Wiring	1000.00	
05	Flower Arrangements (Supply of Flora, Plants etc.)	1000.00		06	Services of Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Repairs (Petrol & Diesel)	1000.00	
07	Labour Supply (Skill / Unskilled services such as Masonry, Carpentry, Painting, Welding and Blacksmith's work)	1000.00		08	Repairing and Maintenance of Air Conditioners (Building), Electronic Equipment and Laboratory Equipment	1000.00	
09	Pest Control Services	1000.00		10	Upholstering and Rattaning	1000.00	
11	Water Dispensers with water filling	1000.00		12	Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services	1000.00	
13	Photographers	1000.00		14	Courier Services	1000.00	
15	Surveying and levelling	1000.00		16	Printing Services	1000.00	
17	Building Maintenance Services including construction equipment and machinery	1000.00		18	Hiring of passenger Vehicles and Transport Services	1000.00	
19	Repairs to Fiberglass Chairs, Tables, Water Tank, Wooden Items etc.	1000.000		20	Garden Services (Soil, coir dust, turf, plants, posts ect.)	1000.00	
21	Repair of Gas lines and Appliances	1000.00					

Works

Civil Construction (All Types) - (Building Construction / Repair / Improvements, Road Works / Bituminous Laying / Repair / Maintenance, Water supply, Plumbing, Roof Drain, Electrical Works / Repair / Maintenance, Mechanical Works / Repair / Maintenance, Aluminium Works / Aluminium Cladding, Wood Work and Timber Work, Interior Decorative Works, Drainage / Sewerage / Repair / Maintenance)			
BOQ Limits	ICTAD Registration	Registration Fee (Rs.)	Tick if Applied
01. Works up to 20 million	C9/C8/C7/C6/C5	2000.00	

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee - 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mw. Colombo 03.
Tel Nos. : 011-2055498/2158053/2158054 Fax No. : 011-2503394

DIVULAPITIYA PRADESHIYA SABHA

TENDER NOTICE FOR THE LEASING OF ASSETS FOR THE YEAR 2022

Tenders are hereby accepted by me for the leasing of the trading rights of the meat stalls and fish stalls mentioned in the schedule below belonging to the Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha from 01.01.2022 up to 31.12.2022.

- Issuance of Tender forms** - from 08.12.2021 up to 14.12.2021 (9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.)
Acceptance of Tender forms - up to 9.30 a.m. on 15.12.2021
Opening of Tenders - at 9.30 a.m. on 15.12.2021
- As mentioned in the schedule below on payment of the non-refundable tender form fee and the refundable tender deposit to the Head Office of the Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, applications can be obtained.
- Tenders submitted below the minimum amount mentioned in the schedule below will be rejected. Tender deposits of such Tenderers and the deposits of applicants who obtain the tender applications and do not submit tenders will be forfeited in the Sabha.
- Perfected sealed tenders will be accepted by me up to 3.00 p.m. on 14.12.2021. Prescribed application forms can be obtained up to 3.00 p.m. on 14.12.2021 on payment of tender form fee and tender deposit to the Head Office of the Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha at Divulapitiya.
- When obtaining tender forms, applicants should produce the National Identity Card to establish their identity and applications will not be issued to lessees who have leased out the yield of the properties of the Pradeshiya Sabha and breached the agreement.
- Tenders applications perfected separately and the 'original' and 'duplicate' enclosed in two covers separately and the reverse of the two covers marked as the 'original' and 'duplicate' and the said two covers enclosed in a cover and sealed and the name of the tender marked on the top left hand corner of the cover addressed to "Secretary, Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, Divulapitiya" either can be sent by registered post to be received before **9.30 a.m. on 15.12.2021** at the Head Office of the Pradeshiya Sabha or may be deposited in the Tender Box placed at the office.
- Tender will be opened at **9.30 a.m. on 15.12.2021** at the Head Office of the Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha and the tenderer or one of his representatives with the written approval of the tenderer can be present at this occasion.
- Acceptance or the rejection of the tenders will be decided by the tender committee and the decision of the sabha will be the final.
- On intimation of the acceptance of the tender submitted by you, full amount mentioned in the said letter should be paid within 07 days.
- If you need further clarification you can obtain same over this following telephone numbers of the Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha.

T.T. Indika Jayasingha Telephone No. - 031-2246275
Chairman Fax No. - 031-2243865
Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha,
Divulapitiya.
05.12.2021

Serial No.	Nature of the Property	Minimum Bid Amount for the Year 2022	Tender Deposit (Refundable) Rs.	Form Fee (Non-refundable) Rs.
01	Divulapitiya Beef Stall	411,909.30	41,190.93	500.00
02	Kotadeniyawa Fish Stand No. 1	189,000.00	18,900.00	500.00
03	Badalgama Fish Stall No. 3	19,350.00	1,935.00	500.00
04	Beef stall at Galkanda weekly fair land	50,000.00	5,000.00	500.00

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Provincial General Hospital
Badulla

Sealed bids are hereby invited from eligible and qualified contractors for the undermentioned works at the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Provincial General Hospital, Badulla up to 2.30 p.m. on 24.12.2021. Bids will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 24.12.2021.

Sealed bids should either be sent by registered post, addressed to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Provincial General Hospital, Badulla or if hand delivered, deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the Accountant of the Hospital to receive on or before the closing time mentioned above. **The Name of the relevant work (Contract) and the Opening date of the bids** should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope enclosing bids.

Serial No.	Works	Bid Security (Rs.)
01	Supply and Installation of 09 Lead Doors for operation Theatre A and Operation Theatre C	80,000.00
02	Supply and Installation of 04 Nos. Container Boxes, of the sizes of 40' in length, 9.5' feet in height and 8' in width (40' x 9.5' x 8') for storage facilities.	70,000.00

- To obtain bidding documents, interested bidders should have to submit the original copy of the receipt for the payment of a non refundable bid fee of Rs. 2,500.00, made to the Shroff of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla, along with a certified copy of the Business Registration Certificate, and the said documents could be had from the Administrative Division of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on normal working days, **from 06.12.2021 to 23.12.2021**. When an authorized agent / representative, calls over to obtain bidding documents, the authorization letter from the bidder and the identity card of the agent, should have to be produced.
- Bidding documents could be inspected free of charge, at the administrative division of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla prior to obtaining the said documents and bids should be submitted after the site visit.
- All bids should be accompanied by a **Bid Security**, valid for 119 days period from the opening date of the bids.
- Bids should be submitted as per the conditions, terms and specifications, mentioned in the bidding documents.
- Pre bid meeting with regard to the works of serial No. 01 and 02 will be held on a coming date, after the obtaining of the bids, which will be notified and informed the bidders. The site visit will be arranged after the meeting and for which presence / participation of the bidders will be essential and mandatory requirement.
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of Bids, at **2.30 p.m. on 24.12.2021**, at the office of the **Director, Provincial General Hospital, Badulla** in the presence of the bidders or one of his authorized agents / representatives, who choose to attend. In case, a representative attend the authorization either from the bidder and the identity card of the agent / representatives should be produced to verify his identity.
- Please note that, PCA-03 certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts is mandatory and compulsory, for bids worth exceeds 05 million.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Bidders should agree that the decision of the Regional Procurement Committee of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla is final and binding.

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Provincial General Hospital,
Badulla.
Telephone : 055-2222261
Fax : 055-2231205
Email : info@badullapgh.org
Website : www.badullapgh.org

Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation
No:100, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PREPARATION OF CORPORATE PLAN

NOTICE OF EXTENSION

The closing date of the advertisement published in Daily News on 05th December 2021, calling application for the above have been extended until 10th of December.

TEL : 011 2384603 / 011 2422341 / 2440880
FAX : 011 2447970
E-MAIL : lankagen@stnet.lk
WEB : www.stc.lk

Chairman,
Sri Lanka State Trading
(General) Corporation Ltd,
No. 100, Nawam Mawatha,
Colombo 02.

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

PEOPLE'S BANK - DEHIWALA BRANCH

Sale under Section 29D of the People's Bank Act, No. 29 of 1961 as amended by the Act, No. 32 of 1986

VERY VALUABLE PROPERTIES SUITABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSE.

1. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 7 depicted in Plan No. 1501 dated 11th January 1997 made by M.A. Jayarathne Licensed Surveyor of the land called "BILIBANAKANATTAWATTA" situated at Ihala Bomiriya within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Kaduwela and the Divisional Secretariat of Kaduwela, in the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 472B, Ihala Bomiriya, in Palle Pattu of Hewagama Korale in the District of Colombo, Western Province and which said Lot 7 containing in extent TEN DECIMAL EIGHT SEVEN PERCHES (A0. R0. P10.87) according to the said Plan No. 1501, together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered under Volume/Folio B 58/105, 106 and 107 at the Land Registry of Homagama.

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot R (Reservation for Road 15 ft. wide) depicted in Plan No. 1501 dated 11.01.1997 made by M.A. Jayarathne, Licensed Surveyor of the land called "BILIBANAKANATTAWATTA" situated in Ihala Bomiriya aforesaid and which said Lot R containing in extent TWENTY FOUR DECIMAL NAUGHT FIVE PERCHES (A0.R0.P24.05) according to the said Plan No. 1501, together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon.

The aforesaid Lot 7 in said Plan No. 1501 was resurveyed by the said M.A. Jayarathne, Licensed Surveyor on 05.03.2004 and separated 05 feet portion for extended to Right of Way (partition of the said Lot 7 of 05 feet width to be reserved to along Lot R aforesaid to widen the road up to 20 ft) marked in Lot 7A depicted in the said Plan No. 1501 morefully described as follows.

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 7 depicted in Plan No. 1501 dated 11.01.1997 made by M.A. Jayarathne, Licensed Surveyor of the land called "BILIBANAKANATTAWATTA" situated at Ihala Bomiriya aforesaid and which said Lot 7 containing in extent TEN DECIMAL NOUGHT FOUR PERCHES (A0.R0.P10.04) according to the said Plan No. 1501, together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered under Volume / Folio B 58/106 at the Land Registry of Homagama.

2. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 64 depicted in Plan No. 11027 dated 20.12.1992 made by P.L.B. Nanayakkara, Licensed Surveyor of the land called "ETAHERALIYAGAHALANDA and NAWAGAMUWE WATTA now called IUSTANAN ESTATE" situated at Pahala Bomiriya aforesaid and which said Lot 64 containing in extent TEN PERCHES (A0.R0.P10) according to the said Plan No. 11027, together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered under Volume/Folio B 58/107 at the Land Registry of Homagama.

3. All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot 65 depicted in Plan No. 11027 dated 20.12.1992 made by P.L.B. Nanayakkara, Licensed Surveyor of the land called "ETHAHERALIYAGAHALANDA and NAWAGAMUWE WATTA now called IUSTANAN ESTATE" situated at Pahala Bomiriya aforesaid and which said Lot 65 containing in extent TEN PERCHES (A0.R0.P10) according to the said Plan No. 11027, together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered under Volume/Folio B 58/108 at the Land Registry of Homagama.

4. All that divided and defined allotment of land called "WALAINOTOTA" marked as Lot A depicted in Plan No. 3311 dated 06.05.2007 made by Lakshman Goonesekera, Licensed Surveyor, situated at Pahala Bomiriya Village within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Kaduwela and the Divisional Secretariat of Kaduwela, in the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 472 - Pahala Bomiriya, in Palle Pattu of Hewagama Korale in the District of Colombo, Western Province and which said Lot A containing in extent TWO ACRES and TWENTY ONE DECIMAL ONE NINE PERCHES (2A-0R-21.19P) according to the said Plan No. 3311, together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered under Volume/Folio B 376/82 at the Land Registry of Homagama.

The other right of way to the above land is twelve feet wide road (12 ft.)

Under the authority granted to me by People's Bank,
I shall sell by Public Auction on
19th December 2021 at 10.30 at the People's Bank,
Dehiwala Branch premises.

The Auction will be conducted in according with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol.

Access to the Property -

- Proceed from Battaramulla Junction along Pannipitiya Road about 950 meters towards Thalawathugoda, turn left on to Randiya Uyana Road and travel about 100 metres the subject property on to the left.
- Proceed from Kaduwela Town Center along Avissawella Road about 3.7 Kilometres up to Ihala Bomiriya Junction, turn right to Vaikkiyawatta Road to travel about 800 metres, turn left to Morawakawatta Play Ground Road to travel about 250 metres the subject property on to the right.
- As mentioned above in No. 2.
- Proceed from Kaduwela Junction along Avissawella Road about 1.1 km up to bridge just after passing the bridge turn right on to gravel road about 125 metres to the subject property on to the right.

For further details please refer the auction resolution published on Government Gazette of 29th October 2021 and "Dinamina", "Daily News" and "Thinakaran" of 29th October 2021.

Mode of Payment : The successful Purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the hammer :

- 10% of the purchased price,
- 01% Local Authority Tax payable to the Local Authority.
- Auctioneer's commission of 2 1/2% (Two and a half percent) on the sale price,
- Clerk's and Crier's fee of Rs. 2000/= .
- Cost of sale and any other charges if any,
- Stamp duty for the certificate of sale, Balance 90% (Ninety percent) of the purchase price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale at the following address.

Regional Manager, People's Bank, Regional Head Office (Colombo Outer), No. 177A, High Level Road, Nugegoda. Telephone Nos. 011-2768018, 011-2812260, 011-4305863 Fax No. 011-2817737.

The Title Deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the aforesaid address. If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit 10% of the purchase price already paid and resell the property. People's Bank reserves right to stop or cancel the sale without prior notice.

IRVIN PERERA
Justice of Peace, Auctioneer,
Court Commissioner for Commercial High Court and District Court,
Sworn Translator.

No. 282/3, Level 5/2,
Kings View Residencies,
Kotte Road, Nugegoda.
Telephone No. : 071-8021206

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

Promotional Rates for Classified Advertisements (Only 15 Words)

Any Single Newspaper	Two Newspapers	Three Newspapers
රු. 300/- (Except Thinakaran Varamanjari)	රු. 500/- (Except Thinakaran Varamanjari)	රු. 650/-

- ISLANDWIDE -

SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

- KEGALLE.** 035-5677210, 035-2222427
M.M. Salgado & Sons, Salgado Bakery & Hotel
- KEGALLE.** 035-4926489, 035-2231716
Red Rose Book Shop, Royal Shopping Complex, Main St,
- RATNAPURA.** 045-2223883, 0777-221939
Lake House Advertising Centre, No. 88, Main Street,
- RATNAPURA.** 045-2230730
G.G. Karunaratne, No. 16, Church Road

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

- AMBALANGODA.** 091-2255744 / 4382034
H.D. Mendis, 96 B 1/1, Galle Road,
- AMBALANGODA.** 091-2258483, 0779639214
"Royal Book Shop", No. 152, Main Street,
- BADDEGAMA.** 091 2292263, 091 3926084
Gamage Book Shop,
- BENTOTA** 034-2270090, 034 2270572
Sumudu News Papers, No. 117, Galle Rd,
- ELPITIYA.** 091-2290746, 077-2609456
Chandima Groceries,
- GALLE.** 091-2232733, 091-5627646
New Aradhana Traders, 81, Maha Veediya,
- GALLE.** 0914-385548/0914-924261
Paranagama Traders, No. 28, P & J City, Gamini Mw,
- HAMBANTOTA.** 047-2220808, 0716-370337
Misiriya Stores, No. 37, Mahajana Pola,
- HIKKADUWA.** 091-2277792, 091-2277285
Gallage News Agencies, No. 270A, Galle Rd,
- MATARA.** 041-2222185, 0414921530
Nilmini Stores, 69, Dharmapala Mawatha,
- TANGALLE** 047-2240402
No. 158, Matara Road,
- WALAHANDUWA** 091-2222915
Madola Velendaseela, Ihalgoda

UVA PROVINCE

- BADULLA** 055 2225616, 0777-444678
Lake House Advertising Office, No. 14, Opp. Muthiyangana Clock Tower,
- BANDARAWELA.** 057-2232145, 071 8269555
Nayana Book Shop, No. 34B.,
- MONARAGALA.** 055-2276397, 055-2276108
No. 19, Siri Ramya Stores,

CENTRAL PROVINCE

- KANDY** 081-4476362, 081-2222780
Jayakody Agencies, No. 229/A, Peradeniya Road,
- GAMPOLA** 081-2352379, 081-4485628
No. 24, Nuwara Eliya Road,
- GAMPOLA** 081-2352346, 081-2354547
Dawasa Centre, No. 14, Station Road,
- MATALE** 066-2222126
Malaka Traders (Pvt) Ltd. 55-57, Main Street
- RATTOTA** 066-2255292
S.J. Enterprises, No. 6, TD, Jayarathne Mw,
- UKUWELA** 066-2244225
Coronation Hotel & Bakery, No. 09, Kalpitiya Rd,

EASTERN PROVINCE

- TRINCOMALEE.** 026-2225558
Trincomalee Lake House, 447, Dockyard Road,
- TRINCOMALEE.** 026-2222962, 071-8175933
A.S. Abdul Hameed, No. 333, Kandy Rd, Andamkulam.
- BATTICALOA** 065-2226034
Priya Stores, No. 01, Market Road,
- KATHANKUDY** 065-2246983, 0777-435566
A.L.M. Uwais, Old Post Office Building

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

- ANURADHAPURA**
Swarna Stores, No. 6, Kadapanaha, Anuradhapura.
- KURUNDANKULAMA** 025-2221411
Matala Junction, Mihintale Road,
- POLONNARUWA** 027-2222145, 077 1067968
Galle City Stores, Kaduruwela,

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

- KURUNEGALA.** 0372222133, 037-2223790
Sampath Advertising Office, No. 15/16, Mihindu Mw,
- CHILAW.** 032-2221400, 077 3539397
Sathara Book Shop, Aluthwatta Road,
- WAIKKALA.** 0714-878252
Kithsirri Stores, Waluwa Junction,

classified@lakehouse.lk
011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343
Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380