



President directs **Booster vaccine** to be completed in two weeks

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday instructed the members of the Special Committee on COVID-19 Control to complete administering booster doses within the next two weeks to control the spread of COVID-19 during the upcoming season. The President made these remarks during the meeting of the Special Committee on COVID-19 Control held at the Presidential Secretariat, yesterday (10). All those who have completed three months after receiving the second dose are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine as the booster dose. **TO PAGE 02**

PM condoles death of **India's Chief of Defence Staff, others**

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Thursday said that Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces General Bipin Rawat was an exceptional friend who contributed immensely to the enhancement of Sri Lanka-India defence co-operation. Prime Minister Rajapaksa in a condolence message to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on the death of General Bipin Rawat said Gen. Rawat will be long remembered by Sri Lanka as an exceptional friend who contributed immensely to the enhancement of Sri Lanka-India defence co-operation. "It is with profound sorrow that I convey my deepest condolences to the Government and the people of India on the loss of a distinguished son of the nation," **TO PAGE 02**



ALL FOREIGN DEBT WILL BE PAID IN 2022 - FINANCE MINISTER

US\$ 500 MN IN JANUARY, US\$ 1000 MN IN JULY 2022
PLAN TO GRADUALLY LESSEN PRESSURE, TIDE OVER CRISIS
GOVT WORKING TOWARDS FOREX STABILITY

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa assured that the government will meet all foreign debt due in 2022. Delivering the reply speech in the debate on Appropriation Bill 2022, Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa said that the President and the Prime Minister have also assured their fullest support in this task. Minister Rajapaksa said that the government is expected to service US\$ 500 mn as foreign debt in January 2022 and US\$ 1000 mn in July 2022. He noted that the government has a suitable plan to service these debts. "We will pay every dollar that is due and we give that assurance with greatest responsibility," he said. Minister Rajapaksa also said that the country is presently going through a major crisis in foreign exchange reserves.

BUDGET 2022 PASSED WITH THUMPING MAJORITY

157 VOTE IN FAVOUR WHILE ONLY 64 VOTE AGAINST

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI
The Third Reading of Budget 2022 was passed by a majority of 93 votes in Parliament yesterday. The Opposition called for a vote and 157 votes were cast in favour of the Budget while only 64 votes were cast against it. The 2022 Budget was presented to Parliament by Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa on November 12. This is the 76th Budget of Sri Lanka. It is also the second Budget of the incumbent Government and the first to be presented by Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa after his appointment in July this year. The Second Reading debate of the Appropriation Bill continued for seven days from Saturday, November 13 to 22. The Second Reading of the budget was passed with a majority of 93 votes - 153 were cast in favour of it and 60 were cast against it. Presenting his maiden Budget in Parliament on November 12, Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa proposed new schemes in an attempt to attract local and foreign investments, noting that the rules and regulations in relation to foreign investments will also be relaxed. In a bid to reduce the expenditure of MPs Minister Basil Rajapaksa said that the fuel allowance of state officials has been reduced by 5 litres a month, electricity bills by 10 per cent and telephone by 25 per cent a month. Further, Parliamentarians will be given pensions after 10 years instead of the current five years, said Minister Rajapaksa. In this year's Budget, the Government has also allocated additional funds for families of the missing. Minister Basil Rajapaksa said while funds have been allocated over the years to assist the families of the missing. **TO PAGE 02**

Welikada Prison Riot deaths: Verdict on Jan.6

DILSHAN THARAKA

The case filed against Moses Rangajeewa attached to the Police Narcotics Bureau and Magazine Prison Superintendent Lamaheewa Emil Ranjan over the killing of eight inmates during the Welikada Prison Riots that took place on November 9, 2012, was fixed for judgement on January 6 by the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar. The case was taken up before the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar bench comprising High Court judges Gihan Kulathunga (President), Pradeep Hettiarachchi and Manjula Thilakarathna. **TO PAGE 02**

Priyantha Kumara case: Special prosecution team from Lahore to visit Sialkot

A special prosecution team from Lahore will meet officials of the Sialkot police in the high-profile case of Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara who was lynched by a mob. The team will visit Rajco Industries and inspect the factory site. The police will provide the prosecution with 12-hour CCTV footage of the incident obtained from over 100 cameras. **TO PAGE 02**

Yugadanavi deal signed with another company, not NFH

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) revealed in Parliament yesterday that the Kerawalapitiya LNG agreement was signed not with New Fortress but with another company. JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake stated this and tabled the relevant agreement. **TO PAGE 02**



The Sri Lanka Army's Medical Corps began rolling out the Pfizer booster shots for those above 30 years and completed their second COVID vaccine three months back at the Viharamahadevi Park yesterday. *Picture by Wimal Karunathilake.*

Over 1.1 mn get COVID booster jab

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Health Ministry said that 1,115,666 Sri Lankans have received the booster shot against COVID-19 as of Friday (10). Sri Lanka commenced rolling out the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as the booster dose to the frontline workers including the health workers who are dealing with Covid patients from November 1 and then started the administering of booster dose to the people aged 60 years and above from November 17. **TO PAGE 02**

Railway Station Masters to strike on Monday

IRANGIKA RANGE

Sri Lanka Railways Station Masters' Union (SLRSMU) has planned a countrywide strike starting Monday night (December 13) based

on several demands including the inefficient administration in the Sri Lanka Railways. SLRSMU President Suredha Somarathne said that mismanagement and inefficiency in the Department have affected train operations. Commuters are stranded for hours most of the time as a result of train cancellations and delays without prior notice. **TO PAGE 02**

Probe into liquid fertilizer bottle blasts in Anuradhapura

AMILA PRABATH WANASINGHE

The Fertilizer Secretariat will investigate the alleged explosion of several bottles of liquid organic fertilizer distributed among farmers in the Anuradhapura district. Fertilizer Secretariat Anuradhapura District Assistant Director

Bandula Kumara said activation of micro-organisms may have led to the explosion of some bottles. Liquid fertilizers are usually packed in bottles of one to ten liters in the market. He said that five out of fifty bottles stored at the Padaviya Agrarian Services Centre had exploded. Three out of thirty bottles kept at a house in Padaviya have also exploded. The local company producing liquid fertilizer has been informed to recall all bottles and replace with liquid fertilizer which meet the relevant standards. **TO PAGE 02**

Parliament to meet again for 2022 on January 11

THE PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA

Parliament Secretary General Dhammika Dasanayake said the Committee on Parliamentary Business decided to commence Sittings for 2022 on January 11. The Committee on Parliamentary Business was held on Thursday (9) under the chairmanship of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena. Parliament Sittings will begin for 2022 on January 11 at 10.00 a.m. The Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund (Amendment) Bill (Second Reading) will be taken up for debate from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm. **TO PAGE 02**

Opposition Leader criticises CBSL decision on remittances

SANDASEN MARASINGHE and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday (10) criticised the government for taking action to encourage migrant workers to remit funds using formal channels. Premadasa requested the Prime Minister to reverse the said decision which will only discourage migrant workers and those involved in export businesses. **TO PAGE 02**

Why Armed Forces for everything queries Sajith

The Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday (10) criticized the government in Parliament on handing over the management of government programmes to the Armed Forces. Joining the Committee Stage debate on the Appropriation Bill 2022, Premadasa questioned as to why the Army Commander was given the task of managing **TO PAGE 02**

Gas issue petition: Naga undertakes to deliver notices

DILSHAN THARAKA

Civil activist Nagananda Kodithuwakku yesterday undertook before the Court of Appeal to deliver the notices to seven respondents out of 10 in the Writ petition filed by him. He is seeking an order to take legal action under criminal law against the gas companies and those responsible for importing and distributing unsafe domestic gas cylinders. **TO PAGE 02**



No further power cuts - CEB

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) said it will not impose power cuts as the Norochcholai power plant is fully functional now.

Following the countrywide power outage which took place on December 3, several areas experienced scheduled power cuts over the past few days between 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. until December 9. **TO PAGE 02**

Probe Minister Ranatunga's assertions: Fr tells CID

Archdiocesan Director for Social Communications, Rev.Fr.Jude Chrysantha Fernando handed over a petition to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

yesterday requesting it to conduct an investigation into a statement made by Minister Prasanna Ranatunga on the 2019 Easter Sunday Attack recently. **TO PAGE 02**



Army Commander and Chief of Defence Staff General Shavendra Silva yesterday paid his last respects to the Chief of Defence Staff of Indian Armed Forces General Bipin Rawat who died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday.

Travel ban on African countries lifted

Sri Lanka yesterday lifted the travel ban on foreigners who had been to six countries in the African continent.

According to a Civil Aviation Authority official, foreign arrivals with a travel history to South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe,

Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini (Swaziland) will now be allowed entry to the country. Sri Lanka moved to ban the arrival of foreign travellers who had been to the several African countries following the emergence of Omicron in several countries.

Budget 2022...

An additional Rs. 300 million has been allocated in the 2022 Budget to assist these families.

Minister Basil Rajapaksa also noted that he will ensure the payment of the US\$ 500 million loan installment due in January next year and the US\$ 1,000 million loan installment due in June will be made and assured that there is no need to worry about it.

Noting that although the foreign reserves have dwindled, he said measures are however being taken to repay the loan installments.

He said that the current reserves are not the country's earnings, but loans given by other countries. However, he assured that by 2027 he would ensure that the country has its own stable foreign reserves.

He said many imports will be curtailed in the meantime to save foreign exchange.

Vehicle imports will not be allowed next year as well and there will be no recruitment to the public service.

President directs Booster...

Accordingly, eligible persons have the opportunity to receive the Pfizer vaccine from tomorrow at any vaccine centre.

Observations have revealed that the vast majority of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported these days are from among those who have not been vaccinated and most of them are youngsters, Health officials said.

Vaccination is mandatory to minimize the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care as well as to reduce mortality rate.

The President gave instructions to educate the youth in this regard and then to take steps to provide the vaccine as soon as possible.

Legal advice has been sought with regard to preventing those who have not obtained the vaccine from entering public places in order to prevent

the spread of Covid-19. Taking this into consideration, the Special Committee on COVID-19 Control today decided to make the vaccination card mandatory when entering public places in the future.

The approval has been received to administer the second dose for children between the ages of 16 and 19 and the first dose for all children between the ages of 12 and 15. Accordingly, the President instructed to devise plans in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to immediately provide the vaccine.

The arrival of foreign tourists has increased. The Airlines have increased the number of flights.

The President also instructed to further relax the restrictions imposed on tourism, taking into account the development of the tourism sector.

Parliament to meet...

The Sri Shakyarama Viharastha Karyasadhaka Sanvidanaya (Incorporation) Bill will be moved to the Legislative Standing Committee post Second Reading, the Secretary General said. Presenting the vote of condolence on behalf of the late former Minister Mangala Samaraweera on January 13.

PM condoles death...

General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces, his spouse Madhulika Rawat and 11 staff members in a tragic aircraft crash yesterday," Prime Minister Rajapaksa said.

"The Government and the people of Sri Lanka join me in conveying our profound sympathy to the bereaved families on their irreparable loss," the Prime Minister's message said.

Yugadanavi deal signed...

Presenting the agreement, he said that it was the agreement that the government was hiding without presenting it to Parliament. Dissanayake was speaking during the Budget Committee stage debate on the Finance Ministry's Expenditure Head.

The MP questioned the government on what basis it had signed an agreement with another company disregarding the permission given by the Cabinet.

"Based on a Cabinet Paper presented on September 6 signed by Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, authority was granted to the Treasury Secretary to sign the agreement with New Fortress Energy Company. But, as far as I know

this agreement has not been submitted to Cabinet or Parliament. However, I am in possession of this agreement and I am tabling it. The question is about who gets approval to sign the agreement with whom? Approval has been given to sign the agreement with New Fortress, but whom have they signed the agreement with? It has been signed with NFF Sri Lanka Power Holding LLC," he added. He noted that this agreement had been signed on September 21, adding that the agreement contained a clause stating that the contents should not be disclosed to the public or the country without the consent of both parties for the first two years.

Film director Sunil Soma Peiris passes away

Veteran film director Sunil Soma Peiris passed away at his residence at 72. He was a prolific Director who directed the most number of films in Sri Lankan cinema with forty five commercial films in various genres to his name.

Peiris was also credited as a screenplay writer, actor and editor.

In 1985, he made his debut cinema direction with *Obata Diuvura Kiyannam*. Then within 25 years, he made forty-five films.

Out of the forty five films made by him, eight were co-directed with his son Sudesh Wasantha. In 1986 he co-directed the film



Dinuma with Ananda Wickramasinghe.

Sunil Soma was also responsible for introducing a number of actors and actresses to the Sri Lankan film industry, who are now veterans of the field themselves. In 1997, he entered active politics where he became a Member of the Maharagama Urban Council. (RL)

Over 1.1 mn get COVID...

Meanwhile, the health authorities have also taken measures to administer the booster dose to individuals above the age of 30 within Colombo Municipality limits from yesterday (10) onwards.

Regional Epidemiologist of the Colombo Municipal Council Dr. Dinuka Guruge said that the eligibility for the booster dose will be informed via SMS to each

person and she urged the public not to panic and avoid unnecessary public gatherings to get the vaccine. She said the booster shot will be administered to individuals who have completed three months after receiving the second COVID-19 jab. The vaccine doses will also be administered through the MOH offices in the Colombo Municipality.

No further power...

CEB General Manager M.R.Ranatunga said due to the failure of a transmission line from Kotmale to Biyagama, two generators at the Norochcholai power plant were hampered causing interruptions to the power supply.

Welikada Prison Riot...

The Attorney General had filed indictment comprising 33 charges against Moses Ranga-jeeva attached to the Police Narcotics Bureau and of Magazine Prison Superintendent Lamahewage Emil Ranjan and Prison officer Indika Sampath over the killing of eight inmates during the Welikada Prison Riots that took place on November 9, 2012.

The eight prison inmates who were killed in the incident are Kankanamalage Malinda Nilendra Pelpola, Attapattu Sangakkara Nirmala Atapattu, Mohammed Wijaya Rohana Chinthamani Mohottige Thushara Chandana, Asarappulige Jothipala Harshan Sri Manakeerthi Perera, Raigamage Susantha Perera and Devamul-lage Malith Sameera Perera.

Priyantha Kumara case:...

Furthermore, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has directed the team to ensure that the trial of the suspects is completed as soon as possible and file the case challan in court within 14 days. The police have, so far, arrested 139 people of which 34 are main suspects.

Earlier, Gujranwala's anti-terrorism court remanded the men into police custody for 15 days.

On Thursday, the prime suspects were brought to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency for the photogrammetric test.

The forensic examination was conducted of the suspects' faces from the videos obtained from the attack.

The authorities said that records will be available within a few days and will be used in investigations and challan (police investigation report).

(Daily Times)

Probe Minister Ranatunga's...

The petition claims that Minister Ranatunga had around November 26 stated to the media that former President Maithripala Sirisena should be held responsible for the Easter Sunday carnage and therefore, legal action should be taken against him.

In his petition, Fr. Fernando said that he strongly believed Ranatunga, who is a powerful Cabinet Minister of the present government and an experienced politician should have made such a statement with responsibility.

He said Minister Ranatunga must be accusing Maithripala Sirisena in public, who is a former president of the country, a present parliamentarian and a

Party leader representing the government as he possesses firm evidence to prove allegations made by him.

Fr. Chrysantha Fernando also said Minister Ranatunga is levelling such allegations against former President Sirisena at a time where a criminal case is being heard only against then IGP Pujith Jayasundara and then Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

Therefore, Fr. Fernando requested the CID to conduct an impartial investigation into Minister Ranatunga's statement and take legal action against the former President regardless of his position if he is proven guilty for the allegations against him.

1st Year Remembrance

Merle E. Dalpethado
Attorney At Law (Chilaw)
& Orchidist
Born 23.06.1927 Died 11.12.2020

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was."
— Hebrew Proverb

Missed greatly by
Gihan, Damilla, Thirane
& Grandchildren

Obituaries

DE SILVA - ELMO IVAN, Former Deputy Director General of Sri Lanka Customs, dearly beloved husband of late Naomi De Silva (nee Senewirathna), loving father of Suleka and Sonali, much loved father-in-law of Dr Parakrama Herath and Dr Suresh Jayasundara, loving grandfather of Arshana, Archana and Praveena, loving brother of late Mervyn, late Sheila and of Esther and Vera (Bay), loving brother-in-law of Clara, late Earled and of Eshton and Conrad, was called to rest on 10th December 2021. Funeral arrangements will be notified later. 081067

PANDITA - GUNAWARDENA - (DR DAYA), passed away in his sleep on 17 November in England, where he had lived and worked for 55 years. He was the son of Justice V T and Mrs Irene Pandita Gunawardena, dearly beloved husband of Dr Ranjani, caring father of Shalini, Samantha and Suren, dotting grandfather of twins Ethan and Ella and of Roisin, father-in-law of Jamie Last and of Brendan O'Malley, brother of Achala De Alwis and a tremendous help to his home-help Rupa. He was a well-respected Consultant Physician since 1975. A Cremation Ceremony will take place in **Croydon** and the ashes will later be interred at the family burial plot in Ratmalana. 080280

Prof. PREETHIKA ANGUNAWELA (Former Professor of Pathology, Medical Faculty of Colombo), beloved wife of Brian, loving mother of Ranil and Manoj, much loved mother-in-law of Diluka and Shehara, adoring grandmother of Aheli, Ethan and Ahain, expired. Remains lie at **29/7, 7th Lane, Kandawatte Road, Battaramulla**. Cortege leaves residence at 4 p.m. on 11th December 2021 for Cremation at General Cemetery, Borella at 5 p.m. 080889

SILVA - BRIAN DUNSTAN EDELWALD, Safe in the Arms of Jesus. Husband of late Mrs Chandrakanthi Kulasekera, father of Mayanthi and Gihan, father-in-law of Johann and Rochelle, precious grandfather of Damian, Danella, Rachelle, Davina and Emilia, brother of Dayalini, Dushantha, Prasanna and Indramali, brother-in-law of Chandra, Nalini, Shama and Phillip. Remains lie at **A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour, Borella**. Burial on Saturday, 11th December. Time to be notified. Contact number 0777681015. 080885

FUNERAL NOTICE

Lion Ranjana Gunasekara
Justice of Peace (Whole Island)

Dearly beloved son of late Mr. William Gunasekara and late. Mrs. Helan Senivirathne.

Our beloved father left for his heavenly abode, peacefully on 02nd December 2021.

His remains lie at "Ranjana", Jamburaliya, Madapatha from 10th December, 2021 and religious rites will be performed at 2.30 p.m., thereafter possession will take place at 4.30pm at Batuwandara Cemetery on 11th December, 2021.

Beloved wife Lion Suneetha Gunasekara.
Nayomi & Garrett Field (Daughter & Son in law)
Venura & Sithara Gunasekara (Son & Daughter in law)
Late Mahinda, Seetha & Manel Gunasekara (Siblings)
Sophia, Daliya & Senuwara (Grand children)

Opposition Leader...

Joining the last day of the Committee Stage debate on the Appropriation Bill 2022, Premadasa pointed out that such a decision is totally unfair by the migrant workers who played an important role in making the present government victorious in the last Presidential and general election.

Premadasa said the Opposition is ready to support the government to launch a viable plan to rescue the country from the present economic crisis it is going through. "None of us want the country to go down like this. We don't need a destabilized country. This is our beloved country. If the government wants to discuss with the international financial organizations, the Opposition is also ready to support the government. When the country is faced by a serious foreign exchange issue, we are not so sick as to enjoy the situation.

Why Armed Forces for...

the fertilizer distribution programme by the government. "Is the government going to hand over the problem of solving the Forex issue also to the Defence Forces, the same way?" Premadasa questioned.

Probe into liquid...

The farmer organizations had purchased 51,000 litres of liquid fertilizer earlier. Officials said that there is issue with regard to 7,000 litres of liquid fertilizer purchased by them.

Officials also believe that that standards of the bottles may sometimes have led to the explosion. "Activation of microorganism inside the bottles may have also caused the explosion", the officials said.

Gas issue petition:...

When the petition was taken up before the bench comprising Court of Appeal Justices Ruwan Fernando and Sampath Abeekoon, Senior Additional Solicitor General Farzana Jameel appearing on behalf of the Attorney General informed the court that the file regarding the petition had been received by the Attorney General's Department without the case number.

She stated that the other respondents could not be consulted as they had not been given notice and that sufficient time was needed to assist the court in making proper representations on the grounds on which the petition was based.

Attorney Suren de Silva, appearing for Laugfs Holdings, said his company had also not received notice. The petitioner stated that this incident was taking place due to the negligence of the respondents and that the intervention of the court was required for this. Therefore, the petitioner requested that this petition be considered expeditiously. Accordingly, he undertook to deliver the notices to the seven respondents in the petition.

Railway Station Masters...

Commuters face severe inconvenience due to these reasons in spite of the pandemic situation," he added.

"Because of the lack of effective resolution of the concerns, we were forced to take relevant union action. The issues include implementing a safe train signal system, failure to implement a programme to protect the lives of passengers in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and problems, issues related to transfers, recruitment and promotion of station masters," he noted.

If these issues are not properly resolved, station masters and railway employees of railway stations will engage in a strike after December 26," he added.

High Ranking UN Official here on Monday for five-day visit

United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary General (ASG), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Administrator and UNDP Regional Bureau Director for Asia and the Pacific Kanni Wignaraja will arrive on

Monday, (13) for a 5-day official visit to Sri Lanka. ASG Kanni Wignaraja is visiting Sri Lanka to understand the country's priorities and explore new avenues of support from UNDP to Sri Lanka, particularly

focusing on follow up to the recently concluded UN Climate Change Conference COP26, post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery in the region, and leveraging more development financing to the country.

The official visit will focus on the human development agenda, the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and COVID-19 socio-economic impacts, while celebrating the human develop-

ment achievements of Sri Lanka. ASG Wignaraja will meet High-level Government Officials and other partners, and have a first-hand look at some of UNDP supported work on the ground.

Lack of Organic, Chemical Fertilizer irks farmers

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Farmer Organisations complain that they cannot continue paddy cultivations since they lack both organic and chemical fertilizer.

The Elahara Farmer Association in Polonnaruwa urged agriculture authorities at their monthly meeting to intervene in this matter and provide them with adequate organic and chemical fertilizer. They said

that otherwise, over 100,000 hectares of paddy could ruin and it will badly affect the country's rice production during March and April next year.

Elahara Farmer Association President Sirisoma Ranaweera said that Parliamentarians and Agriculture Department Officials should visit their cultivations to witness the situation.

He said that during the first 14 to 21 days after cultivating seed paddy, they need high quality organic and chemical fertilizer but as there was no fertilizer during this period, the plants are yellowing.

He also said that although farmers cultivated paddy with local organic fertilizer according to the request by Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage, relevant authorities

do not make any comment on the proposed compensation for damage to their cultivations.

Some vegetable cultivators in Kumburaketiya, Ambalangoda, Polonnaruwa, Ampara, Hambantota, and Nuwara Eliya said that they cannot get a good harvest from a variety of vegetable cultivations by using only organic fertilizer and therefore, they requested the

authorities to provide them with chemical fertilizer as well.

According to them, only the Private Sector has been allowed to import chemical fertilizer for paddy, vegetables and other cultivations. They said that importing fertilizer should be done under the supervision of the Government and agricultural scientists or 600,000 farmers in the country would be affected.

Tragic death of Indian Chief of Defence Staff

Sri Lankan Armed Forces convey condolences



Chief of Defence Staff of Indian Armed Forces General Bipin Rawat.

Defence Secretary General Kamal Gunaratne, staff of the Defence Ministry and Members of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces conveyed their heartfelt condolences on the tragic death of Chief of Defence Staff of Indian Armed Forces General Bipin Rawat and Madhulika Rawat.

They also send their deepest sympathies to the bereaved families of those who lost their lives in the incident in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu on Wednesday.

SLCS Annual X'mas Sale on December 17

ANANDA KANNANGARA

The Sri Lanka Cancer Society (SLCS) will hold its annual X'mas sale at the SLCS Head Quarters in Bullers Lane, Colombo 7 on December 17 (Friday) from 10.00 am to 2.30 pm.

It will collect funds to provide cancer patients in the country with free medication and health facilities.

SLCS Public Education Committee member Indrani Nanayakara said that customers can buy brand new readymade garments, clothes, ornaments, crockery items, jewellery, bags, foot wear, home appliances, educational equipment and various miscellaneous items at affordable prices

from the Sale. The items have been donated by people and the proceeds will be used to conduct regular cancer awareness programmes at Government, Private and International Schools, and Public and Private Sector Institutions to educate people about the importance of early detection of cancers

"We also educate people the importance of refraining from smoking, betel and unhealthy foods, which are the main causes for cancers," she said.

She said the SLCS also conducts a polyclinic every second Sunday of the month to screen for breast, cervical and oral cancers.



Winner of Junior Model International Akesk Kulasekara, flanked by 1st Runner-up Kristofer of Hungary and 2nd Runner-up Nair of India. Kulasekera is a student of S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.

Naval War Heroes commemorated

A solemn ceremony to commemorate Navy War Heroes who made the supreme sacrifice for the freedom of the nation was held at Naval War Hero Monument in Welisara on December 9 in parallel with the 71st Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy.

Under the directives of Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, the commemoration was held presided by Senior Advisor (Health & Nutrition) Surgeon Rear Admiral GSR Jayawardena. During the ceremony floral tributes were made to the Naval War Hero Monument and two minutes silence was observed, recalling Naval War Veterans who made the Supreme Sacrifice for freedom and territorial integrity of the Motherland.

Deputy Area Commander Rear Admiral Suresh De Silva, Senior Officers and Sailors were present.

SDD empowered 220,000 families this year - State Minister Semasinghe

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Corr.

The Samurdhi Development Department (SDD) has strengthened 220,000 self-employment beneficiary family units in the country during this year, Samurdhi Home Economy, Micro finance Self-employment and Business Development State Minister Shehan Semasinghe said.

The State Minister said that this was made possible by the Samudhi Development Department and the Saubhagya Development Bureau.

"We have launched a programme to open business service centres with the assistance of the European Commission and already such centres are functioning in Matale, Moneragala, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya and Kilinochchiya. The budding businesspersons can register with them and become eligible for receiving a range of facilities and services to be entrepreneurs, State Minister Semasinghe said.

State Minister Semasinghe said that without any discrimination, the finance monitor has allocated Rs. 85 billion to be distributed at district level through Government Agents by 2022. The major portion of these funds will be invested in empowering livelihoods.

Annual Get-Together

The Annual Get-Together of the '90 Batch of the St. Aloysius' College, Galle will be held tomorrow at 5 pm at Amari Hotel, Galle. All past pupils of the 1990 A/L Batch have been invited.

Emerchemie NB
helping add life to years

OBITUARY

Professor (Mrs) Preethika Angunawela

It is with profound sadness that we extend our Deepest Condolences to the Members of the family of Prof. (Mrs) Preethika Angunawela, upon her sudden demise.

Prof. (Mrs) Angunawela, who was a Senior Director of the Board of our Company since its inception, will be missed by our Staff who acknowledged her expertise and kindness at all times.

She was always considered as the epitome of professionalism and finesse.

May her journey through this Samsāric Cycle be short and swift.

Chairman, the Board of Directors and the Staff

Emerchemie NB (Ceylon) Limited
60, Maligawatte Road, Colombo 10.

Date : 09-12-2021
Draw Number : 3300
Colour : Brown

Super Jackpot

Rs. 2,594,915/-

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Winning Numbers

13

17

41

47

PISCES

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 9,533,760/-

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotlines: 0114 824 824
Result Hotlines: 0112 333 778
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

Date : 09-12-2021
Draw Number : 1588
Colour : Green

SUPER BALL

Date : 09.12.2021
Date : Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers

G

37

39

48

53

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,130,260/-

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,933,520/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,560,764/-

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotlines: 0114 824 824
Result Hotlines: 0112 333 778
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

Date : 09-12-2021
Draw Number : 466
Colour : Blue

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Development Fortune

SUPER JACKPOT

Rs. 11,438,924/-

P

50

56

32

7

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,933,520/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,560,764/-

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotlines: 0114 824 824
Result Hotlines: 0112 333 778
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

Thursday
Date: 09.12.2021
Draw No.: 3749
Colour: Red

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Shanida

Total Value of Prizes

Rs. 3,701,580/-

Winning Numbers

25

50

60

61

English Letter
Q

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotlines: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

Thursday
Date: 09.12.2021
Draw No.: 1414
Colour: Dark Blue

ADA KOTIPATHI

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Total Value of Prizes

Rs. 5,534,600/-

Winning Numbers

25

27

33

50

English Letter
B

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotlines: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
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Saturday, December 11, 2021

Coming to terms with reality

Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa speaking at an event on Thursday drew a grim picture of the country's economy with special emphasis on the balance of payment crisis hinting that sacrifices would have to be made if the country is to pull through the current impasse. He said that imports would have to be curbed drastically if the country's remaining foreign reserves are to be utilized to import essentials including fuel and medicines. To begin with, the current import ban on motor vehicles is to continue next year as well while the Government is mulling the possibility of banning the import of milk foods and converting to liquid milk. He said Sri Lanka had been spending more on imports than its foreign exchange inflows via export proceeds, remittances and revenue from tourism adding that the situation was exacerbated by the pandemic.

We have realized, too late, the wisdom of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike who during her 70-77 regime imposed a blanket ban on imports in order to encourage local production. Had this policy been pursued by successive Governments we would not have been facing a foreign exchange crisis today. Sri Lankans are not known for their patience. They always want quick fix solutions. Any type of inconvenience, hardship or sacrifice is anathema to them. True, at the time the import ban brought in its wake shortages, rationing and queues which were resented by the people. If only the difficulties were borne with stoic resolve and equanimity, the sacrifices would certainly have been rewarded in the long run with the country not having to go through the present phase.

The people voted to send 'Methini' home and install JRJ who overnight reversed the policy of a home-grown economy, opening the doors for a flood of imports that ruined nascent local industries while starting the drain of valuable foreign exchange - the policy being continued under all successive Governments since then leading to where the country is placed today. From all appearances, the people are still of the same mindset. We see President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's agriculture policy to go organic and salvage foreign exchange which otherwise has to be spent on the import of chemical fertilizer, while sparing the rural population from the dreaded kidney disease, being fiercely resisted by farmers, reminiscent of the same impatience displayed by the populace in the past with drastic consequences.

In the same way it would certainly be difficult to reverse many habits and entrenched ways of life of the people during the past four decades and the Government is bound to become unpopular if it tries to upset the balance which indeed is unfortunate. The people have to change their ways with the leaders showing the way in this regard, by cutting down on waste and ostentation. In this respect the stand taken by Minister Rajapaksa not to assign additional vehicles to Government institutions nor permit the recruitment of additional staff is to be commended. Speaking at the same event he revealed how certain Divisional Secretariats he had visited did not have seating room for staff. No doubt, this would be the same story elsewhere with the situation bound to be even worse, what with the Yahapalanaya Government which had both main parties ruling in harness packing state institutions with supporters of both parties. Minister Rajapaksa had told officials to make do with the same vehicles now in their possession. Of course the officials can find inspiration in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who had done away with all additional vehicles and is coping with the minimum staff and resources.

Waste should be eliminated in other areas as well. For instance, it is a criminal waste to spend Rs. 5 million on a single day's sittings of Parliament if Ministers keep away from proceedings and Opposition MPs stage boycotts. State ceremonies that gobble up massive financial resources too should be halted or pruned down. The other day it was reported that nearly 70 per cent of MPs, both Government and Opposition, employ their kith and kin as their personal staff for which the State forks out a whopping Rs. 54 million a month. Minister Rajapaksa who is looking for ways to eliminate waste should strive to curtail this expense too. Our erstwhile MPs hardly ever give value for money and themselves are unworthy of being supported by the public purse let alone footing the bill of their staff. At a time when dollars are a scarce commodity it would also be advisable for all Ministers and MPs to give up foreign travel. In any event, we have our envoys who can do the needful. Besides, world leaders engage with each other via satellite video links with the advent of COVID-19.

It is time that the public is made aware of the true nature of the difficulties faced by the Nation if the Government is to elicit their cooperation. This is also the time for all concerned to put aside all petty differences and unite to face the challenges ahead. In this respect the Opposition too has a considerable role to play.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We live in a world of illusion.
The great task in life is to find reality.
- Iris Murdoch



Pakistani officials with a portrait of Priyantha Diyawadana Kumara

APPALLING COST OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

ZAHID HUSSAIN

The attackers were all young. Many of those who watched the gruesome spectacle were teenagers. No one showed any sense of shock at the bestiality that was taking place. Several were busy filming the ghastly scene rather approvingly. There was not even a feeble voice of protest when the attackers set on fire the body of the dead Sri Lankan factory manager in Pakistan's Sialkot.

What happened in Sialkot last week demonstrates the radicalisation of a society that condones violence in the name of faith. The crowd that had gathered seemed immune to the grisly nature of the crime. The fury of the attackers was frightening. Some of them might be punished but it is the impunity for rising religiously-inspired violent extremism that will keep producing tragedies like Sialkot.

It may have been a most horrific incident but Pakistan has been increasingly witnessing killings in the name of faith. The issue of blasphemy comes in handy for zealots and criminals. The state's policy of appeasement and in some cases using religion out of political expediency has contributed hugely to the rise of violent extremism.

WEAPONISATION OF FAITH

It is the weaponisation of faith that has been the main reason for the spread of such brutality in society. The attackers and the mob in Sialkot were not driven by their youthfulness and emotions, as Pakistan's Defence Minister wants everyone to believe. Perverz Khattak's appalling remarks show the mindset that dominates Pakistan's political culture. He may have sounded extremely crude but that is how many in the government and outside rationalise criminality in the name of faith.

Pakistan's youth has been growing up watching murderers like Mumtaz Qadri being hailed as a great Muslim hero. His larger-than-life portraits are seen in marketplaces. Lawyers and even a retired high court judge were among those supporting him during his trial. Hundreds of thousands of people attended his funeral and his grave in Islamabad's suburbs has been turned into a shrine.

How can one forget a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Provincial Minister visiting Qadri's grave? The video of him paying homage to the man who killed Pakistan's Punjab Province's Governor went viral on social media. There appears to have been no questioning of this act by the party leadership. The defence minister's comments represent the same mindset. There may be many others in the ruling party ranks with the same views on such violent incidents.

A few years ago, the country had witnessed the



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan

gruesome murder of a young university student by his classmates on campus. Falsely accused of blasphemy, Mashal Khan was beaten and shot to death because of his views. Even some university administration members were accused of inciting the students.

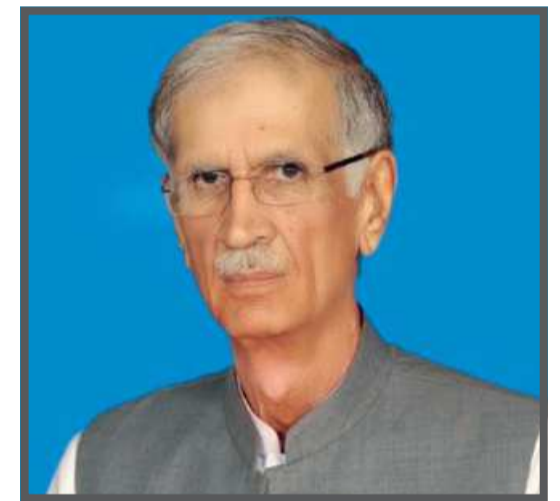
The courts freed many of the suspects. Their release was celebrated. The shock over the grisly incident soon vanished. Meanwhile, there is hardly any talk about how a Christian couple was thrown alive into a furnace on baseless charges of blasphemy.

CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

This year, a temple was vandalised after allegations of a seminary being desecrated by a Hindu child. Just a few days before the Sialkot lynching, a mob set on fire a police station in Charsadda for sheltering a mentally disturbed man suspected of committing blasphemy. The mob wanted to burn him alive. Many other cases of violence against the Ahmadi community go unreported.

This culture of violence and rising religious intolerance cannot be attributed to emotions running high among young people. Religious extremism is entrenched so deeply that it threatens to rip apart the entire social fabric. Downplaying the seriousness of this societal disease will lead to greater disaster.

The Sialkot incident took place soon after the Government surrendered to an extremist group that justifies violence in the name of faith. The capitulation happened after the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan destroyed public property and allegedly killed policemen. Shockingly, a senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader went to greet the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan leader after his release from detention. This shows the



Pakistan's Defence Minister Pervez Khattak

confusion within the ranks of the ruling party over the issue of how to deal with extremist groups. Such a weak-kneed approach by the Government towards extremism allows incidents like the Sialkot tragedy to happen. Apparently, some among the attackers were inspired by the extremist group. Reportedly, there were also chants of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan slogans after the lynching. It is a frightening situation indeed.

Now with the mainstreaming of the group, the danger of youth, particularly those less educated and coming from marginalised ranks, turning to extremism is growing. A weak state, unable to stop the spread of a retrogressive mindset has turned the country into a breeding ground for violent extremism. What happened in Sialkot was just a trailer of the horror that awaits Pakistan.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

Notwithstanding its pledge to punish the perpetrators of the crime, the Government does not seem willing to address the main issue of radicalisation that results in incidents like the Sialkot tragedy. While he tweeted his condemnation of the incident the prime minister has not said much about the threat of religious extremism. One expected Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and other senior government leaders to take the issue more seriously.

The Prime Minister claimed to lead the global campaign against Islamophobia in the West. But he has failed to learn from the response of the Prime Ministers of Canada and New Zealand to the attacks on Muslims in their countries. Many more Muslims and non-Muslims become victims to retrogressive interpretations of faith that give rise to intolerance in this country. It would be better if the Prime Minister focused on fighting extremism at home rather than taking the cause outside. PM Imran Khan who is so fond of addressing the nation on every issue is not very vocal on the most serious threat to national cohesion and security. His own increasing emphasis on religiosity is disturbing. It has added to the problem. There is an urgent need to build a national narrative on fighting this menace before it is too late. The country will have to pay a huge cost for more Sialkot-type violence.

(This article first appeared in the Dawn, Pakistan)



Priyantha Diyawadana's violent death has sparked protests across Pakistan



A protest demanding justice for university student Mashal Khan

BIDEN WARNS PUTIN AGAINST MOVES ON UKRAINE

US President Joe Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday of a "strong" Western economic response to any attack on Ukraine, while Putin demanded guarantees that the NATO military alliance will not push closer to Russia.

The two leaders met by video link in a tense, two-hour summit seen as a vital chance for defusing the growing tension on the Russian-Ukrainian frontier, with fears growing of war in Europe.

"President Biden voiced the deep concerns of the United States and our European allies about Russia's escalation of forces surrounding Ukraine and made clear that the US and our allies would respond with strong economic and other measures in the event of military escalation," the White House said in a statement soon after the video conference.

Biden stressed "support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for de-escalation and a return to diplomacy", the statement said.

According to the White House, Biden and Putin agreed that their respective teams would "follow up" on the summit, underlining that the next US move would be "in close coordination with allies and partners".

Giving President Putin's position, the Kremlin said Putin denounced the Western NATO alliance's "military potential" near Russia.

"Russia is seriously interested in obtaining reliable legal guarantees that will exclude NATO's eastward expansion, and the deployment of offensive strike weapons in countries adjacent to Russia," the Kremlin said.

Russia denies planning to invade Ukraine, but satellite pictures showing as many as 100,000 troops gathered on the border have set Western nations on edge.

The United States says it doesn't know for sure what Russia intends to do in Ukraine, but is alarmed at the deployment of some 100,000 battle-ready Russian troops to the border. Russia already supports a powerful separatist rebellion across swaths of eastern Ukraine, and annexed the Crimean peninsula from Kyiv in 2014.

Moscow calls talk of an invasion "hysteria". Putin intended to tell Biden he sees Ukraine's growing alliance with Western nations as a threat to Russian security - and that any move by Ukraine to join NATO or to host NATO missiles would be unacceptable.

Even though Ukraine is nowhere near being able to join US-led NATO, Putin wants a "legal" guarantee that it will never happen.

The United States and NATO say Russia cannot be given a veto over Ukraine's ambitions.

Biden talked with the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Italy on Monday to coordinate his message ahead of the summit, and the White House said he would speak again to the four countries after he was finished with Putin.

"The leaders agreed to stay in close touch on a coordinated and comprehensive approach in response to Russia's military build-up on Ukraine's borders," the White House said.

A Ukraine official said after the talks Kyiv was grateful to Biden for his "unwavering support". A US Congress defense bill released after the talks included \$300 million for Ukraine's military.

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

The possibilities for economic measures are extensive, from both the US and the European Union, if Russian military action is taken against Ukraine.

The Bond market: In April, the US issued a ban on US financial institutions buying new issues of Russian government bonds, which had negligible effect. Washington could go much further and sanction the secondary market in Russian bonds, where they are resold and packaged with other investments.

Nord Stream 2: The gas pipeline from Russia to northern Europe has been completed, but it has not been certified for use by the German energy regulator. Members of the new German government coalition have expressed skepticism about the project, and it is possible it would be cancelled altogether in the event of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Sanctions on Russian corporations and banks: The Biden administration could impose full-blocking sanctions on large Russian banks, energy companies, or defense firms... or impose sweeping prohibitions on investment and provision of services to conventional Russian oil projects," Fishman said. Two possible financial targets are the huge VTB Bank, and Gazprombank.

Sanctions on oligarchs and their families: The US treasury has been hesitant to impose sanctions on Russian oligarchs, after measures taken against Oleg Deripaska had an impact on the activities of his aluminum company, Rusal, in Ireland, causing a major rift with Dublin. In the wake of an invasion, Congress is likely to add more Putin-friendly oligarchs to a blacklist to be appended to the defense budget. Family members of Putin's circle could also be more extensively targeted.

Swift: The strongest move by the US and EU is the threat to have Russia excluded from the global electronic payment system, Swift, based in Bel-

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE



European Commission President
Ursula von der Leyen



Indian Prime Minister
Narendra Modi



Myanmar's Junta Chief
Min Aung Hlaing



Aung San Suu Kyi



US President Joe Biden holds virtual talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin from the Situation Room of the White House in Washington on Tuesday.

gium. It was one of the most crippling measures used against Iran, and would make Russia a pariah in international finance.

CHINA ANGERED BY OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

China has reacted angrily to the US government's diplomatic boycott of next year's Winter Olympics, as more countries said they would consider joining the protest over Beijing's human rights record. Australia and New Zealand have announced they would not send representatives to the Games.

Chinese officials dismissed Washington's boycott as a "posturing and political manipulation" and tried to discredit the decision by claiming that US diplomats had not even been invited to Beijing in the first place.

The White House confirmed on Monday that it would not send any official or diplomatic representatives to the Winter Games and Paralympics in February, "given the PRC's [People's Republic of China's] ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human rights abuses".

"The athletes on Team USA have our full support," said White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki. "We will be behind them 100% as we cheer them on from home. We will not be contributing to the fanfare of the Games."

On Tuesday, New Zealand's deputy Prime Minister, Grant Robertson, confirmed the country would not send diplomatic representatives at a ministerial level. Robertson cited COVID-19 as the primary reason "but we've made clear to China on numerous occasions our concerns about human rights issues", he said.

The UK and Canada have also agreed to support the US move. Last week, Lithuania, which is facing trade and diplomatic hostilities from China over its growing relationship with Taiwan, announced neither its president nor ministers would attend the Games.

Chinese officials responded to the US announcement with outrage and also pre-emptive dismissal. Liu Xiaoming, the former Chinese ambassador to the UK, said the Olympics were "not a stage for political posturing and manipulation".

"It is a grave travesty of the spirit of the Olympic Charter, a blatant political provocation and a serious affront to the 1.4 billion Chinese people. It will only make the Chinese people and the world see clearly US politicians' anti-China nature and hypocrisy."

Earlier on Monday, China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, accused Washington of "hyping a 'diplomatic boycott' without even being invited to the Games", and threatened Boycott calls have intensified in recent months, as dozens of world governments mull how to respond to Beijing's continued crackdown on ethnic minorities in China, its intervention on Hong Kong, and other human rights issues. Demands have further escalated over the case of Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai, who was not seen for almost three weeks after posting to social media an accusation of sexual assault against Chinese former vice-premier. She was later shown on state media to be in Beijing, but there remain widespread concerns about her well-being and level of freedom.

The last time the US staged an Olympics boycott was the 1980 Moscow games, alongside 64 other countries and territories in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the previous year.

NEW LEADER OF GERMANY

Social Democrat Olaf Scholz was on Wednesday sworn in as Germany's ninth post-World War II chancellor, ending 16 years of conservative rule under Angela Merkel, and paving the way for a pro-European coalition government, which has vowed to boost green investment.

"It will be a new beginning for our country. In any case I will do everything to work towards that," the 63-year-old Scholz said, as he took his oath of office in an official handover ceremony in the Berlin Parliament.

Scholz was elected chancellor after a secret ballot in which he won 395 out of 707 German lawmaker's votes. Scholz will lead Germany's first federal "traffic light" coalition, made up of the SPD, the ecologist Greens and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and named for the parties' colours.

As Germany's new chancellor, Scholz will lead Europe's largest economy which is currently facing a brutal fourth wave of coronavirus infections.

The SPD-Greens-FDP coalition sealed a pact, titled "Dare for More Progress" last month that pledged "a new beginning for Germany". The alliance aims to slash carbon emissions, overhaul decrepit digital infrastructure, modernize citizenship laws, lift the minimum wage and have Germany join a handful of countries worldwide in legalizing marijuana.

"I know you are starting work highly motivated," Angela Merkel told Scholz at her chancellery in Berlin, adding: "Take this office and work in the best interest of our country - that is my wish."

Welcoming Scholz's election, French President Emmanuel Macron congratulated the new chancellor and promised to work with his German counterpart. "We will write the next chapter together. For the French, for the Germans, for the Europeans," said Macron in a tweet in French and German. He also thanked Merkel for "never forgetting the lessons of history, for doing so much for us, with us, to move Europe forwards".

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated Scholz and said she looked forward to working with him for a stronger EU... "Congratulations, dear Olaf Scholz on your election and appointment as federal chancellor. I wish you a good start and look forward to further trusting cooperation for a strong Europe," she tweeted in her native German.

The EU chief is a member of Merkel's centre-right Christian Democrat party and served in her Cabinet before moving to Brussels.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also reacted to the appointment, calling for "constructive" ties with Scholz. "We are counting on continuity, on the fact that constructive relations will develop between the president and the new chancellor, that the German side will continue to proceed from the understanding that there is no alternative to dialogue to resolve the most difficult differences," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Germany's incoming Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, has pledged a tougher line with authoritarian states such as Russia and China after the business-driven pragmatism of the Merkel years. Baerbock, the Greens co-leader, is one of eight women in Germany's first gender-balanced Cabinet.

"That corresponds to the society we live in - half of the power belongs to women," Scholz, who describes himself as a "feminist", said this week.

Scholz and his team promise stability just as France braces for a bitterly fought Presidential Election next year and Europe grapples with the enduring aftershocks of Brexit.

Merkel, 67, Germany's first woman chancellor, is retiring from politics after four consecutive terms, the first post-war leader to step aside of her own accord.

Meanwhile Greens supporters are banking on billions flowing toward climate protection and renewable energy, even as the government pledges to return to a no-new-debt rule by 2023.

MYANMAR - SUU KYI JAILED

Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been found guilty of inciting dissent and breaking COVID rules, in the first of a series of verdicts that could see her jailed for life.

Her sentence by the court for four years was reduced to two years by the ruling junta Chief Min Aung Hlaing.

Ms. Suu Kyi faces 11 charges in total and denies them all. They have been widely condemned as unjust. She has been in detention since a military coup in February toppled her elected civilian government.

Co-defendant Win Myint, the former President and Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party ally, was also jailed on Monday for four years under the same charges.

UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet condemned the "sham trial" and said it would only "deepen rejection of the coup".

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, meanwhile, called on Myanmar to release all political prisoners and allow a return to democracy... "The arbitrary detention of elected politicians only risks further unrest," she said.

The rights group Amnesty International called the charges "bogus", saying it was the "latest example of the military's determination to eliminate all opposition and suffocate freedoms in Myanmar".

Ms. Suu Kyi is next due in court on December 14, when she will face charges of possessing illegal walkie-talkies.

The 76-year-old has been slapped with an array of charges, including several counts of corruption and violating the official secrets act.

A spokesman for the newly formed National Unity Government, a group made up of pro-democracy figures and opponents of the coup, had earlier told the BBC Ms. Suu Kyi was struggling... "She is not OK... military generals are preparing for 104 years of sentences

for her in prison. They want her to die in prison," Dr. Sasa said.

The military had seized power alleging voter fraud in general elections held last year in which the NLD won by a landslide.

However, independent election observers have said the elections were largely free and fair.

The coup triggered widespread demonstrations and Myanmar's military has cracked down on pro-democracy protesters, activists and journalists.

Ms. Suu Kyi is one of more than 10,600 people to have been arrested by the junta since February, and at least 1,303 others killed in the demonstrations, according to the monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Aung San Suu Kyi spent nearly 15 years in detention at the hands of the military between 1989 and 2010, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to bring democracy to Myanmar.

Her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory in 2015, but she was prevented from becoming president herself by rules excluding those with foreign national children from holding that office. She was widely regarded as the de facto ruler of the country.

However her reputation abroad was severely damaged by the way she handled the Rohingya crisis, which started in 2017.

In 2019 Ms. Suu Kyi appeared at the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) to defend her country against accusations of genocide.

INDIA - RUSSIA TRADE AND ARMS

Russia and India signed a flurry of trade and arms deals during President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, including one that will see India produce more than 600,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Putin travelled to India with Russia's defence and foreign ministers in a visit that saw the two countries reinforce their ties with a military and technical cooperation pact until 2031, and a pledge to boost annual trade to \$30 billion by 2025.

The Russian President visited India amid increasingly strained relations between Russia and the United States, also a key Indian ally, which has expressed reservations about the growing military cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi.

A joint statement after the talks said Russia and India had "reiterated their intention to strengthen defence cooperation, including in the joint development of production of military equipment."

In addition to the deal for India to produce AK-203 assault rifles, Russia said it was interested in continuing to provide S-400 air defence missile systems.

India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the two countries had signed 28 investment pacts, including deals on steel, shipbuilding, coal and energy. He added that a 2018 contract for the S-400 missile systems was currently being implemented. "Supplies have begun this month, and will continue to happen," he said, referring to the S-400.

The deal with Moscow puts India at risk of sanctions from the United States under a 2017 U.S. law aimed at deterring countries from buying Russian military hardware.

Russian oil company Rosneft said it signed a contract with Indian Oil to supply up to 2 million tons of oil to India by the end of 2022. The countries also signed a memorandum of understanding for Russia to send an uninterrupted supply of coal to India to support its steel production, among other deals. Putin and Modi also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, voicing their commitment to ensure that the country will never become a safe haven for international terrorism.

"SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY"

U.S. President Joe Biden gathered 111 world leaders in a virtual meeting dubbed the Summit for Democracy, in what Washington hopes will be a boost for global democracy threatened by an increase in authoritarian rulers.

The conference is a test of Biden's assertion, announced in his first foreign policy address in February, that he would return the United States to global leadership to face down authoritarian forces led by China and Russia.

Both countries were not invited to this week's event, which coincides with questions about the strength of America's democracy. It also included Taiwan, stoking anger from China, which considers the democratically governed island part of its territory.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said the invitation of Taiwan showed the United States was only using democracy as "cover and a tool for it to advance its geopolitical objectives, oppress other countries, divide the world and serve its own interests."

Washington has used the run-up to the summit to announce sanctions against officials in Iran, Syria and Uganda it accuses of oppressing their populations, and against people it accused of being tied to corruption and criminal gangs in Kosovo and Central America.

U.S. officials hope to win support during the meetings for global initiatives such as use of technology to enhance privacy or circumvent censorship and for countries to make specific public commitments to improve their democracies before an in-person summit planned for late 2022.



Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel holds flowers as she hands over the chancellery to her successor, newly appointed German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on December 8, 2021.

Government expects post COVID-19 economic revival - PM

The Government expects that the COVID-19 pandemic situation would be eliminated from the country enabling it to revive the economy properly, said Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Parliament yesterday. He said that although the country too is facing difficulties due to this global pandemic situation, the Government has taken measures to control the situation effectively and the National Planning Department is making long term, medium term and short term plans to achieve gradual and sustainable economic revival in collaboration with all institutions.



fullest contribution. The Prime Minister made these observations joining the Committee Stage Debate on the Budget proposals for Financial Year 2022 under the financial heads of Economic Poli-

cies and Plan Implementation Ministry, Finance Ministry, Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Ministry and Samurthi Household, Micro Finance, Self Employment and Business Development State Ministry.

The Prime Minister further said that the economic policies should be formulated in a manner to face the challenges. He added that it was his belief that these policies should be formulated based on the economic, social and environmental aspects enabling us to face the current as well as the future challenges.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa also said that hence the Economic Policies and Plan Implementation Ministry has taken measures to

formulate sustainable policies to achieve economic revival in collaboration with the public and the private sector. He added that he intends to get the fullest cooperation from the Police Education Institute, the Sustainable Development Council and the Public Utilities Commission.

The Prime Minister said further that the policies should be formulated based on the accurate data and hence an immense responsibility is placed in this area. The population and Housing Census 2021 is planned to be held in 2022 and 2023. He added that the vacancies in the Valuation Department would be filled soon in order to implement the valuations to acquire the lands needed for infrastructure development.



SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

PSC on Electoral Law Reforms: House approves extension of term of office



A motion moved by the Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena to extend the term of office of the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on Electoral Law Reforms was approved by Parliament yesterday (10). The House was also

informed that the report of the Select Committee is being prepared at present. The term of office of this Committee was scheduled to end on January 16 next year. This Parliamentary Select Committee was appointed by the Speaker on a resolution passed in Parliament on April 5, 2021. Chairman of the Committee Minister Dinesh Gunawardena stated that representatives of political parties, the Election Commission, the Delimitation Commission, the Attorney General's Department, election monitoring organisations, other relevant agencies and organisations as relevant stakeholders, have been summoned before this Select Committee during the last few months seeking views and suggestions for the reform of electoral laws.

Opposition undergoing a system change - Dilan

The system change envisioned by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has already commenced, said Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Badulla District MP Dilan Perera in Parliament yesterday.



Temple Trees and formulated an illegal FCID and decided as to who should be brought before the Court. This is also a system change.

He further said that anyone can speak of the Rule of Law in the country but those who brought the Attorney General's officials to Temple Trees while they were in power established an illegal FCID Police Unit and filed cases against selected members of the then Opposition.

He made these observations joining the Committee Stage Debate on the Budget proposal for Financial Year 2022 under the Financial Heads of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation Ministry, Finance Ministry, Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Ministry and Samurthi Household, Micro Finance, Self Employment and Business Development State Ministry.

MP Perera further said that the Opposition members who don't look after their own children are speaking about looking after the children of the nation which is a clear indication of a system change. He said that members of the Opposition who speak about the Rule of Law by now forget their past.

When they (the present Opposition) was in power, they summoned the Attorney General's Department officials to

photograph of a powerful politician was confiscated and the camera destroyed. This is also a system change.

He also said that those who did nothing when they were in power during times when there was no COVID-19 pandemic and the price of fuel in the world market had dropped unprecedentedly are now shedding crocodile tears about development and the economy.

He added that it is a system change. He said that he always promoted the view of getting together for the sake of the country. The politicians should act in a responsible manner or else the people would reject them both in the Government and Opposition.

He added that it was humorous to see Anura Kumara Dissanayake criticising Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena's speech. He added it was ludicrous to see Vijitha Herath and Sumanthiran running faster than Usain Bolt to protect the former Good Governance Government when the former President and Former Prime Minister were divided over issues. "It was OK to join the Prime Minister and President when they split but it was not fair when a Minister criticises the Government."

He also said that the Opposition members should be careful when they call the Government side members 'mad' as their behaviour would seem mad to those outside Parliament.

Creating a safe and secure country, my aim - Minister Weerasekera

Minister Sarath Weerasekera responding to a statement made by Parliamentarian Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka regarding him in Parliament the previous day, told Parliament yesterday that his aim was to create a country that was safe for everyone to live in and travel around without fear and he would accomplish that goal in any which way possible. Minister Weerasekera said MP Fonseka claimed Hewalunwilage Lasantha alias 'Tinker Lasantha' was killed due to his involvement in the murder of Amila Prasanna alias 'Sunshine Sudda'.

"This is a blatant lie and anyone can check the Hansard. Tinker Lasantha died in a shootout with the Police who had fired in self-defence. Currently the matter is being heard in Court and until the Court proceedings are completed, even I cannot interfere. My intention is to create a society where

anyone can go anywhere at any time freely without fear and I will ensure that is done either by good means or bad."

Minister Weerasekera also brought up another allegation made by MP Fonseka that he had declared open a gym that has ties to the underworld.

"A group of young men had obtained a loan and started this gym. I was invited to declare open this gym by the Kaduwela Deputy Mayor. I lit the oil lamp at the opening and wished these youth the best of luck. But, if Fonseka is still suspicious that this gym is connected to the underworld, then he can go to the CID and lodge a complaint



and they would be able to investigate the matter and determine if there is any connection to the underworld," he added.

He said that Fonseka is jealous of him as he had tried to obtain the post of Public Security Minister during the previous regime but had not received it.

Hence, he said that Fonseka's jealousy had now turned to animosity against him. Meanwhile, Speaker of House Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said that the Secretary to the Parliament has been directed to expunge the unwanted parts of the speeches made both yesterday and the day before from the Hansard.

No viable solution to economic crisis - MP Manusha

The Government is trying to use controversial content to divert public attention on the unsatisfactory Budget proposals, Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Manusha Nanayakkara said in Parliament yesterday (10).

Joining the Committee Stage Debate on the Appropriation Bill 2022, MP Nanayakkara observed that the Budget proposals have failed to provide any viable solution to the economic

crisis faced by the country. Thus, the Government is trying to use sensitive topics such as racial, religious animosities to cover up these shortcomings, Nanayakkara further said.

MP Nanayakkara said that the Government cannot use democracy the way it pleases. It should be practised fairly and not according to its whims and fancies, he added. If a Parliamentarian's democratic rights are violated,

what is there left to talk about regarding the public, Nanayakkara questioned.

"When incidents like these take place, people focus on them. So they forget what happened with insulting a female MP in Parliament. People forgot the important issues such as food security, economic crisis raised by that MP. At this point, a conversation between two Buddhist Monks is making the rounds



on Social Media. Public attention is drawn to it. Some others talk about fantasy worlds of a certain prince. All these are done to divert public attention," Nanayakkara said.

Country will not face food shortage next year - Minister Aluthgamage

The country will not face a food shortage next year, while 1.3 million hectares have been cultivated in 2021, assured Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage. He said that the Opposition had tried throughout the Budget Debate to create a notion that people were leaving the country in fear of an impending food shortage.



at -5.5 according to the Opposition's claims. In January we need to pay another US\$ 500 million.

Hence, remember, don't determine our capacity going by the reserves. I must tell the Opposition that this Government will not only pay the US\$ 6 billion,

but we will also manage the economy well next year."

He said that during the war the country's reserves were much lower than what it is today, but the Government not only won the war, but they also managed the country's economy efficiently.

"Hence, you don't need to teach the Rajapaksa how to manage the country's economy. We have the capacity and the capability and we will manage the country's economy without any issue," he said.

The Agriculture Minister noted that despite the challenges the Government had to face they had granted 65,000 job opportunities for the unemployed graduates subsequent to assuming office. He challenged the Opposition to reveal if they had been able to grant a single job to these unemployed graduates.

SJB boycotted two days of Budget Debate - State Minister Anuruddha

One Thousand three hundred were recruited to the Hambantota District Housing Development Authority office during the Good Governance Government tenure to fill 100 vacancies, said Rural Housing, Construction and Building Material Industries State Minister Indika Anuruddha in Parliament yesterday.



He added that Rs.2,634 million had been granted to them as salaries only in 2019. He added that during that tenure under then Minister Sajith Premadasa's Ministry, a sum of Rs.1,000 million had been misused.

He made these observations joining the Committee Stage Debate on the Budget proposal for financial year 2022 under the Financial Heads of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation Ministry, Finance Ministry, Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Ministry and Samurthi Household, Micro Finance, Self Employment and Business Development State Ministry. He said further that the Budget Debate is a Opposition's debate, but the Opposition boycotted two days of the Debate.

The members representing the North and East in the Opposition participated in the Debate.

The Government continued the debate although the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) did not participate in the debate. He added that the SJB boycotted the debate as they

could not speak and listen about the malpractices which occurred during the tenure of the former Government.

He said that Sajith Premadasa had wasted more than Rs.300 million on the Engineering Equipment Corporation.

He added that the same members of the Sajith's faction requested us to sue Sajith Premadasa for alleged misappropriation and corruption.

State Minister Anuruddha added that Sajith Premadasa had allegedly misused Rs.23 million in flood related funds in Katuwana, Hambantota.

The State Minister alleged that although Sajith claims to have spent so much for the construction of Dagobas, had he constructed such a number of Dagobas, we should see them every where we go.

Italian Defence Attache calls in SLAF Commander



The Defence Attaché of Embassy of Italy in New Delhi, India and accredited to Sri Lanka, Captain Fabrizio Falzi called on Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana at the Air Force Headquarters yesterday. The Commander and Captain Falzi held a cordial discussion on matters of mutual interest. The Commander and the visiting Attaché exchanged mementos on the occasion.

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At AMW Yard, 170, Wellampitiya Road, Sedawatta.
(Between 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.)

- Conditions of Sale**
- Entrance on the day of auction: Valid proof of identity & proof of COVID 19 Vaccination & **non-refundable** Ticket of Rs. 2,000.00 & a **refundable** deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 per person. The gates will be opened at 8.30 am and the buyers will be taken on a first come first serve basis & limited as per the Health Ministry guidelines.
 - Payment :** **Non – refundable** initial deposit of 25% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 75% & Removal latest by 3:00 pm on **Friday 17th December 2021 .**
 - The Management has the right to withdraw any vehicle (s) from the Auction without prior notice.
 - The decision of the Auctioneer will be final.

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Virgin of Guadalupe's
Feast Day falls tomorrow

Castilian ROSES

that inspired the Catholic Church

DISHAN JOSEPH

The world has been impacted by the Covid pandemic. People across the world have faced numerous challenges. In this backdrop many are wondering if Almighty God has distanced himself from mankind. People are seeking divine justice. There was a period like this in history about 500 years ago, when the people of Mexico were afflicted and discriminated because of their skin colour. This narrative is about divine intervention and hope, which is relevant today.

Catholic oral tradition says that Blessed Mary appeared four times to Juan Diego and once more to his uncle, Juan Bernardino. The first apparition occurred on the morning of Saturday, December 9, 1531 (Julian calendar, which is December 19) when it is said that an indigenous Mexican peasant named Juan Diego experienced a vision of a young woman at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac, which later became part of Villa de Guadalupe. According to the accounts, the woman, speaking to Juan Diego in his native Nahuatl language (the language of the Aztecs), identified herself as the Virgin Mary. She was said to have asked for a church to be erected at that site in her honour. Responding to her instructions, Juan Diego then sought the Archbishop of Mexico City, Juan de Zumárraga, to tell him what had happened. The Archbishop did not believe Diego. Later the same day, Juan Diego again saw the young woman (the second apparition), and she asked him to continue insisting.

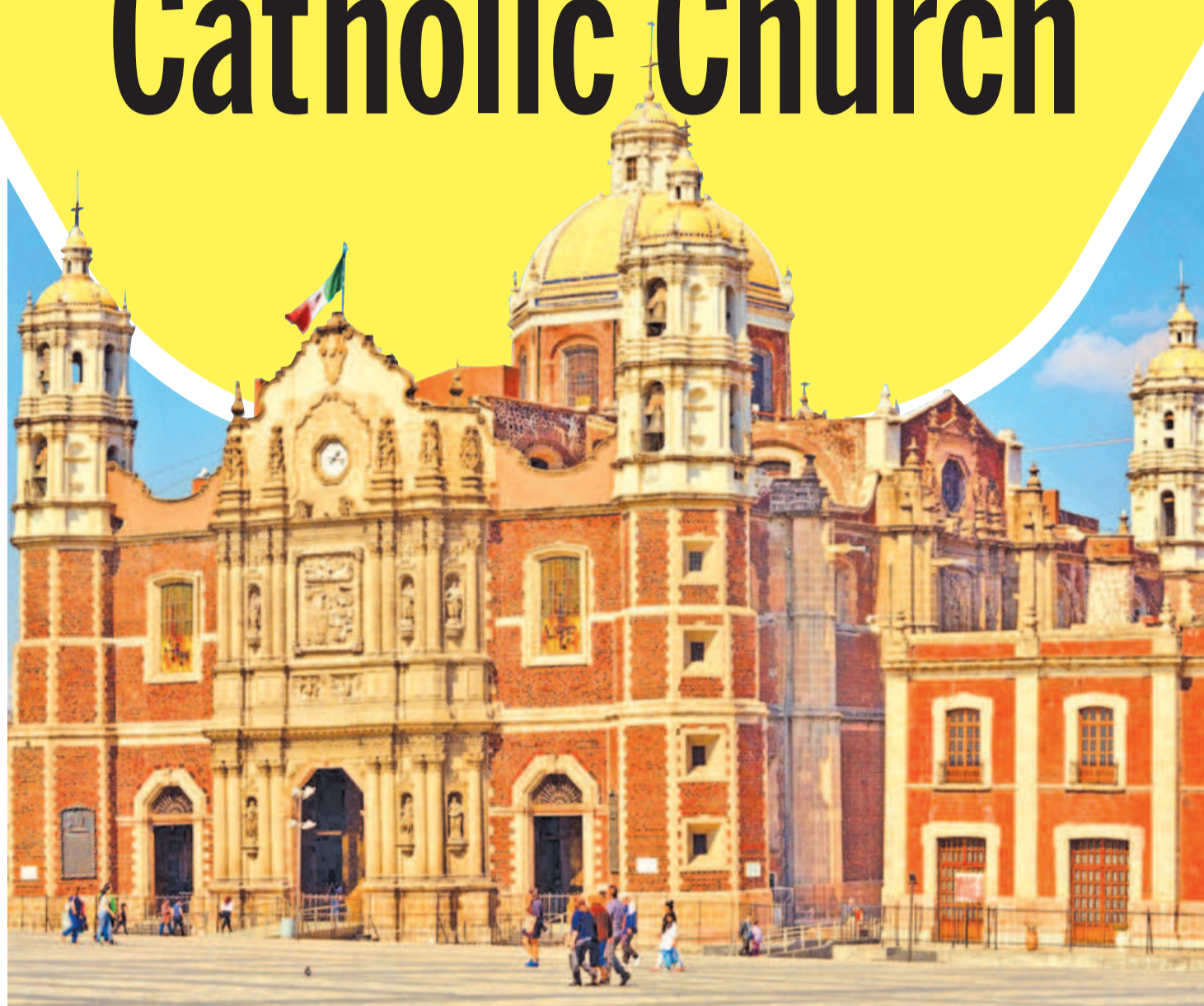
The next day, Sunday, December 10 (Julian calendar), Juan Diego spoke to the Archbishop the second time. The priest instructed him to return to Tepeyac Hill and to ask the woman for a truly acceptable sign to prove her identity. Later that day, the third apparition occurred when Juan Diego returned to Tepeyac; encountering the same woman, he reported to her the Archbishop's request for a sign, which she promised to provide on the next. By Monday, December 11 (Julian calendar), however, Juan Diego's uncle, Juan Bernardino, became ill, which obligated Juan Diego to attend to him. In the very early hours of Tuesday, December 12 (Julian calendar), Juan Bernardino's condition having deteriorated overnight, Juan Diego journeyed to Tlatelolco to get a Catholic priest to hear Juan Bernardino's confession and help minister to him on his deathbed.

To avoid being delayed by the Virgin Mary and ashamed at having failed to meet her as agreed, Juan Diego chose another route around Tepeyac Hill. To his surprise, the Blessed Virgin intercepted him and asked where he was going (fourth apparition). The stunned Juan Diego explained what had happened and the Blessed Virgin gently chided him for not having made recourse to her. The famous phrase of the Guadalupe apparitions are inscribed above the main entrance to the Basilica of Guadalupe, she asked "No estoy yo aquí que soy tu madre?" ("Am I not here, I who am your mother?").

She assured him that Juan Bernardino had now recovered and told him to gather some flowers from the summit of Tepeyac Hill, which was barren in the cold of December. Juan Diego obeyed her instruction and he found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico. The Blessed Virgin arranged the flowers in Juan Diego's *tilma*, (cloak). Later Juan Diego opened his cloak that day before Archbishop Zumárraga, the Castilian roses fell to the floor, revealing on the fabric the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. All present were awed at this manifestation.

The deeper beauty within this story is that the Blessed Virgin chose to appear to her people in their skin colour, as one of them. It was the most pragmatic way to relate to a hurting and discriminated community in 1531. This is how God chooses to befriend us, not from magical silver clouds but in gentle ways that we can understand, God desires to comfort us. Prior to this incident, rooted in their Aztec heritage, these people made blood sacrifices, by even offering children to the sun. After the apparition of the Blessed Mary, they began to accept change. They realised that our Lord Jesus Christ is the only pathway to eternal life.

There was no need for blood sacrifices; Jesus the Lamb of God had paid the price in full on the cross of Calvary. Our Lady of Guadalupe had given her oppressed people a right to dignity and freedom. The Lady of Guadalupe became a core element of Mexican identity. The Blessed Mother continues



Old Basilica of Guadalupe



The new Basilica at sunset



The Mexican flag inside the new Basilica



Candles lit by pilgrims

Our Lady of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title of Blessed Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions and a venerated image on a cloak enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The Basilica is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site.

to inspire her children. During a period of political unrest in November 1921, a man had placed dynamite concealed in flowers at the altar where the cloak of Our Lady of Guadalupe is enshrined. The aim was to destroy this image.

The bomb exploded violently damaging the marble. However, the sacred image was not damaged. This is proof of its miraculous protection.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title of Blessed Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions and a venerated image on a cloak enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The Basilica is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site. Pope Leo XIII granted the image a decree of a Canonical Coronation

on February 8, 1887 and was pontifically crowned on October 12, 1895.

It is one of the few black skinned Madonnas in the world. In 1660, the first chapel to the Virgin of Guadalupe was built on the higher reaches of the Tepeyac hill. This small chapel, which can still be visited today, is known as the Capilla Del Cerrito, and marked the miracle until the first basilica was built in the Blessed Virgin's honour in 1695. This second structure remained the home of Juan Diego's famous *tilma* (cloak) until the 1970s when after centuries of remodelling, and extensive damage caused by the sinking ground beneath the basilica, a new basilica was built to one side of the same plaza.

The New Basilica, as it is called, was built from 1974 till 1976 by Pedro Ramírez Vázquez. The building has seven entryways



The unique Castilian roses



Each year it is believed that 20 million people visit the basilica, and nine million of those come for the Virgin of Guadalupe's feast day on December 12.

that represent the seven gates of Celestial Jerusalem referred to in the Holy Bible. On the grounds surrounding this Church are also the remaining buildings of the ex-convent of the Capuchin nuns, as well as a museum about the basilica and various other small chapels. The entire complex is referred to as La Villa Basilica. Today religious imagery of Our Lady of Guadalupe appears in Roman Catholic parishes, especially those with Latin American heritage. Her blue-green mantle colours are rooted in Mexican culture. Throughout the Mexican national history of the 19th and 20th centuries, the Guadalupe name and image have been unifying national symbols.

Each year it is believed that 20 million people visit the Basilica, and nine million of those come for the Virgin of Guadalupe's feast day on December 12. Up to 30 masses a day can be held at the basilica, and pilgrims stand in long lines to join the procession of three moving sidewalks that pass in front of Juan Diego's *tilma*, now protected by bulletproof glass. This moving story of a humble farmer and his divine encounter has unified and enhanced the unity and faith of the global Catholic Church. We can also take a lesson from the beautiful Castilian roses.

As a prudent priest once told me you can keep roses at a wedding or funeral. They will gently release the same beautiful fragrance. Likewise in every situation we face, we must strive to see a positive outcome. We are about to celebrate Christmas and enter into 2022. In whichever country you live, may we as followers of Jesus Christ, trust God for his divine providence and work to build up our nations. May the Blessed Holy Spirit inspire us to be like the Castilian roses, releasing the fragrance of hope and faith to our local community.

WHO warns against hoarding vaccines

PFIZER BOOSTER STUDY LIFTS MOOD OVER OMICRON VARIANT

MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS WANT COVID BOOSTER VAX

NEW DELTA SURGE IN SYDNEY BLAMED ON CHRISTMAS PARTIES, PUBS



SWITZERLAND, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY: Wealthy countries may start to hoard Covid-19 vaccines again, threatening global supplies as they seek to shore up stocks to fight the new Omicron variant of the virus, a senior World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Thursday.

The warning by the head of WHO's department of immunisation, vaccines and biologicals, Dr Kate O'Brien, comes as supplies to the Covax dose-sharing programme run by the WHO and vaccine charity GAVI have increased in the past few months due to donations from wealthy countries and after India eased limits on exports of vaccines.

"What is going to shut down disease is for everybody who is especially at risk of disease to become vaccinated," said Dr O'Brien. "We seem to be taking our eye off that ball in countries."

Meanwhile, three doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine appear effective against the Omicron variant, a lab test indicated — encouraging news, even as Denmark and Britain announced new restrictions to stem surging caseloads.

In preliminary results published on Wednesday, the US and German companies behind one of the world's foremost shots to combat COVID-19 said a booster generated around the same level of potent antibodies against omicron as is seen after a second dose with the initial strain. The announcement, which has not yet been peer reviewed, was called reassuring by experts, and came as the first independent data from labs around the world emerged, indicating the new mutations are better at evading immunity from infections and vaccines than those before them. Meanwhile, more than 70 per cent of Australians say they want a coronavirus booster vaccine, a new survey published on Thursday revealed.

Researchers from Australian National University (ANU) published the latest findings from their ongoing



survey of more than 3,400 people during the pandemic, reports Xinhua news agency.

It found that 71.9 per cent of the respondents said they will get a booster vaccine when available.

However, it did reveal portions of the population that are hesitant about boosters.

Booster vaccines are currently available to Australians aged 18 and over six months after their second shot.

Till date, 93.1 per cent of Australians aged 16 and over had received one vaccine dose and 88.7 per cent were fully inoculated, according to the Department of Health.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 transmission at bars and end-of-year parties is contributing to a steep increase in cases in New South Wales including outbreaks in three venues across Sydney, NSW Health said.

There were 516 new COVID-19 cases reported in the Australian state on Friday, the highest daily number since 580 cases were reported on October 9 — the weekend before Sydney's months-long lockdown lifted.

NSW Health's Dr Jeremy McAuliffe said the department was concerned about increased transmission in venues such as pubs, clubs and party settings.

- THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, IANS, THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, ARAB NEWS

Russia says Ukraine could turn into re-run of Cuban missile crisis

RUSSIA: Russia said on Thursday that escalating tensions over Ukraine could lead to a repeat of the Cuban missile crisis, when the world stood on the brink of nuclear war.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov made the comment when asked by a reporter if the current situation could turn into something resembling the 1962 Cold War standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"You know, it really could come to that," Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

"If things continue as they are, it is entirely possible by the logic of events to suddenly wake up and see yourself in something similar."

The Cuban crisis was triggered by the stationing of Soviet nuclear missiles on the Caribbean island and prompted the United States to impose a naval blockade to prevent Moscow shipping in more.

Moscow's stated fear in Ukraine, which seeks to join NATO, is that the alliance will deploy missiles there and target them against Russia. NATO says it is a defensive alliance and such concerns are unwarranted.

Ukraine says it fears an invasion by tens of thousands of Russian troops gathered near its borders,



US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin at odds over Ukraine.

while Moscow says its posture is purely defensive.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden discussed the crisis in a two-hour video call on Tuesday and Biden has said he plans to organize a meeting between Russia and NATO countries to discuss Moscow's concerns and ways of "bringing down the temperature on the eastern front."

The Cuban missile crisis was defused when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to dismantle and remove the nuclear weapons in return for a pledge by US President John F. Kennedy not to invade the Communist island.

Washington also secretly agreed to remove its nuclear missiles from Turkey, in a part of the deal that was not revealed until decades later. - THE JERUSALEM POST

New Zealand plans lifetime cigarette ban for youth



NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand on Thursday said it will ban young people from buying cigarettes for life, one of the toughest approaches in the world to curbing smoking deaths as part of a wider plan that focuses on the disproportionate impact on its indigenous Maori population.

New Zealand is already one of 17 countries where plain cigarette packaging is compulsory. It also bans sales to anyone under 18, but it says those measures are not enough to reach its goal of a national adult smoking rate of less than 5% by 2025.

New Zealand plans to make it illegal to sell cigarettes to anyone aged 14 and under from 2027. The ban will remain in place for the rest of the person's

life. That means a person aged 60 in 2073 will be banned from buying cigarettes, while a person aged 61 would be allowed to do so.

New Zealand health authorities say smokers typically take up the habit during youth, with four in five New Zealanders who smoke beginning by age 18 and 96% by age 25. By stopping a generation from taking up smoking, they hope to avoid about 5,000 preventable deaths a year.

The New Zealand authorities have not said how they plan to police the ban, nor which retailers would be barred from selling tobacco products. More detail is expected to be provided when legislation is brought before parliament next year.

- NEW ZEALAND HERALD

Climate Change aggravates conflict and terrorism - UN Chief



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

UN: Climate Change is an aggravating factor for instability, conflict and terrorism, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday.

The UN Chief said the regions that are most vulnerable to climate change also suffer from insecurity, poverty, weak governance and the scourge of terrorism.

Guterres told a U.N. Security Council meeting on the link between climate change, conflict and terrorism that when climate disruptions hinder the ability of government institutions to provide public services, it fuels grievances and mistrust towards authorities.

And when the impact of climate change leads to people losing livelihoods, the promises of protection, income and justice — behind which terrorists sometimes hide their true designs — become more attractive, he said.

In Africa's Lake Chad basin region, Guterres said, the extremist group Boko Haram has been able to gain new recruits, particularly from local communities disillusioned by a lack of economic opportunities and access to essential resources.

In central Mali, terrorist groups have exploited the growing tensions between herders and farmers to recruit new members from pastoralist communities, who often feel excluded and stigmatized, the secretary-general said.

In Iraq and Syria, Islamic State extremists have exploited water shortages and taken control of water infrastructure to impose its will on communities he said, while in Somalia charcoal production has been a source of income for the al-Shabab extremist group.

Guterres said that climate impacts compound conflicts and exacerbate fragility, adding that U.N. peacekeeping or political missions are in eight of the 15 countries most exposed to climate risks. He did not name the countries.

The U.N. chief urged collective action to address the root causes of insecurity, stressing that conflicts and terrorism do not take place in a vacuum.

- BUSINESS STANDARD

53 migrants killed in MEXICO truck crash

MEXICO: A cargo truck jammed with people who appeared to be Central American migrants rolled over and crashed into a pedestrian bridge over on a highway in southern Mexico on Thursday, killing at least 53 people and injuring nearly five dozen others, authorities reported.

Luis Manuel Moreno, the head of the Chiapas state civil defense office, said a preliminary estimate listed 49 dead and 58 injured. He said about 40 injured had serious wounds and were taken to local hospitals. The crash occurred on a highway leading toward the Chiapas state capital. Photos from the scene showed victims strewn across the pavement and



A truck that was transporting migrants is seen rolled over after a traffic accident that killed migrants from Central America in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico on Thursday.

inside the truck's freight compartment.

The victims appeared to be immigrants from Central America, though their nationalities had not yet been confirmed. Moreno reported that some of the survivors said they were from the neighbouring country of Guatemala. Moreno said that it appeared the sheer weight of the

truck's human cargo may have caused it to tip over, and that as the vehicle toppled over it hit the base of a steel pedestrian bridge. That meant at least 107 people were crowded into the vehicle. It is not unusual for freight trucks in Mexico to be carrying so many people in migrant-smuggling operations in southern Mexico.

- THE INDIAN EXPRESS

US Capitol goes under brief lockdown after staffer caught with gun in bag

US: US Capitol Police arrested a congressional staffer on Thursday after he walked into a legislative building with a gun in his bag, leading to a brief lockdown in a Capitol Hill complex still on edge nearly a year after a deadly insurrection.

Police said that Jeffrey Allsbrooks (57) was taken into custody about four minutes after he entered the Longworth House Office Building. Capitol Police said that officers who were stationed at a security screening checkpoint at one of the building's doors "spotted an image of a handgun in a bag on the X-ray screen".

The lockdown was lifted about nine

minutes later. Allsbrooks was arrested on a charge of carrying a pistol without a license. It wasn't immediately clear whether he had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

The arrest comes as Capitol Police track an unprecedented number of threats against lawmakers, thousands more than just a few years ago.

In an interview with The Associated Press in September, Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger predicted authorities would respond to close to 9,000 threats against members of Congress in 2021 — more than 4,100 had been reported from January to March.

- THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



US Capitol Police on duty.

US court rejects Trump bid to keep Capitol riot documents secret



Supporters then US President Donald Trump gather at the west entrance of the Capitol during a 'Stop the Steal' protest outside of the Capitol building in Washington DC January 6, 2021.

US: A US federal appeals court on Thursday rejected former president Donald Trump's bid to prevent the release of White House records relating to the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

The appeals court agreed with a lower court ruling that President Joe Biden could waive executive privilege on the records, so that they could be handed over to a Congressional panel investigating the violence by Trump supporters. Trump, who has been accused of fomenting the attack on the US Congress, sought to exercise his privilege as a former

President to keep the documents and phone records that might relate to the attack a secret.

But the court said Biden's judgment carried more weight in the case. "The right of a former President certainly enjoys no greater weight than that of the incumbent," the Appeals Court said in its ruling. "In this case, President Biden, as the head of the Executive Branch, has specifically found that Congress has demonstrated a compelling need for these very documents and that disclosure is in the best interests of the nation," the court said. - THE MALAY MAIL

Programme afoot to develop Mahaweli Zones - State Minister Gamalath

A programme to develop Mahaweli Farms has been launched, said Mahaweli Zone Canals and Settlement Common Infrastructure Development State Minister Siripala Gamalath.

The State Minister said that seven farms out of 17 belonging to 10 Mahaweli Zones have been developed to profit-making ones within a year.

State Minister Gamalath was participating in an event to distribute monetary aid and equipment among settlers of the Ridimaliyadda Division of the Mahaweli Rambaken Oya Zone. These people are engaged in different sectors including sanitation, drinking water, apparel and agriculture.

The State Minister

inspected the ongoing development activities at Rambaken Oya and the Galwala Yaya Mahaweli Farm Development.

The Mahaweli Development State Ministry has taken measures to implement several programmes in 2022. All these programmes will be implemented to give direct and indirect benefits for the livelihood development of the people in the area.

"Importing 16 crops has been restricted and 13 of them have already been grown in the Mahaweli Zones. Meanwhile, producing seed paddy and seeds of other crops, manufacturing organic fertilizer, contributing to meet the demand for liquid milk, producing eggs,

development of freshwater fish, Mahaweli Town development, home garden development, finding solutions for drinking water problem, providing monetary assistance for self-employed persons, developing infrastructure at schools in the difficult areas, and rehabilitating irrigation tanks in the Mahaweli Zone under the *Wari Saubahgya* programme are some of the ongoing development programmes," the State Minister said.

Mahaweli Establishment Development Division Director Mahendra Abeywardana, Rambaken Oya Zone Residential Enterprise Manager Osmond de Silva and several others were present.



During the inspection tour.

Do not pollute Sri Pada environment - Environment Minister

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera requested pilgrims visiting Sri Pada during the season to refrain from carrying polythene bags, plastic containers or similar items.

This year's Sri Pada season will begin from the Unduvap Full Moon Poya day (18).

Minister Amaraweera said that during the last few weeks, the area was cleaned with the assistance of environmentalists from Social Service Organisations and workers from Local Government Institutions.

The Minister also said that many pilgrims throw discarded items to the environment and these items flow into nearby water ways during the

rainy season and end up in streams and tributaries of main rivers.

The Minister also said that such a situation will harm living beings in rivers and fauna and flora.

Minister Amaraweera, therefore, requested the pilgrims to take the discarded items back home to keep the environment of Sri Pada clean.

Sri Pada Viharadaipathi Ven. Bengamuwe Damadissi Nayaka Thera, meanwhile, in a meeting in the Nallatanniya Gramaseva Division announced the date of the beginning of the Sri Pada season 2022 and requested pilgrims to refrain from littering the environment.

The Nayaka Thera said that all arrangements have been made to provide security to the pilgrims.

Applications called for Diploma in Communication and Media Studies at Colombo Uni

Applications are called for the academic year 2022 of the diploma programme in Communication and Media Studies by the Journalist Unit of the University of Colombo.

The Diploma Programme is equivalent to the level 5 of the National Vocational Training Qualification (NVQ Level 5) and it is also upgraded to the level 3 of the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF Level 3).

Journalists, who are working in media related

fields and also with the relevant prior experience are eligible to apply for the diploma programme. Freelance journalists, writers and artists in the Media Industry are also qualified to apply for the Programme. A limited number of applicants who are aspiring to be journalists and now engaged in media related activities will be selected for the Programme. Therefore, they can also submit applications.

The Programme will be conducted in Sinhala, Tamil

and English and the participants will be selected from an interview.

The applications for the Diploma Programme in Communication and Media Studies can be obtained from the Academic Publication Division of the University of Colombo and the university website, www.cmb.ac.lk. Further details can be available by calling on 0716843267 or 077327733.

The deadline for the applications is December 31, 2021.

USAID-Converted Career Bus returns after successful journey

USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman symbolically handed over the keys of a Career Bus today to Vocational Training Authority's (VTA's) Chairman Eranga Basnayake.

On its inaugural, islandwide journey, the VTA's Career Bus, converted with support from the US Government's Agency for International Development (USAID), reached more than 2,600 youth from 21 villages in six Districts to provide professional career testing and guidance to them, from Dondra at the southern tip to Point Pedro in the North.

"Our aim is to see Sri Lanka's rural youth receive career guidance that leads to employment," USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman said. "We look forward to continuing our work with

VTA to help every Sri Lankan youth find their dream job and learn the right skills for that job," he said.

The VTA supplied the bus and worked closely with the USAID's Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Project, YouLead, to convert it into a mobile career guidance unit. The USAID provided mobile broadband, tablets for online career assessments, and a COVID-safe sanitation chamber on the bus. Together, the VTA and the USAID's YouLead Project trained Career Guidance Practitioners on the latest career guidance approaches and testing. Pizza Hut, Jetwing, John Keells, Nestlé, CareerMe, and Save the Children provided additional funding and support to help youth find jobs.

"This is a great new concept," VTA Chairman Eranga Basnayake said. "The response from both youth and parents has been fantastic. It is clearly filling a need. It is also encouraging to see the private sector supporting the bus. We intend to keep this bus on the road for many years and we could not have done it without help from the USAID," he said.

The VTA will also use the bus to raise awareness among parents about the changing nature of work and the types of careers available for young people with the right skills.

For A. H Madhavae Kethumali, a young woman from Dondra, it was a transformational experience. "I was skeptical of getting into a bus initially, wondering what I could ever learn from it.

Going inside, I was amazed at how they had used technology to help us choose our own career paths. The counsellors were very supportive and showed us the importance of setting goals and targets for our careers. I hope every youth in Sri Lanka will have an opportunity to board the career bus and receive this same experience."

The USAID's YouLead Project is an \$18 million, 7-year Programme implemented by the IESC to improve technical and vocational education and training, create a more skilled workforce, and link youth to more productive careers. This is one component of the long-standing partnership between the American and Sri Lankan people to support self-reliance and promote a healthy, educated, and employed population.

KOICA provides DGA with US\$ 4 million grant

The Korea International Cooperation Agency, (KOICA) provides a grant worth US\$ four million to the Department of Government Analyst (DGA) through the Justice Ministry. The Record of Discussion for the Project was signed on December 8 at the Ministry.

Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC was present on the occasion. KOICA Sri Lanka Office Country Director Kang Youn Hwa, and Justice Ministry Secretary M.M.P.K Mayadunne, and Government Analyst Gowri Ramanahwera were also present at the signing ceremony.

The Project will enhance the capabilities of the Department of Government Analyst in the analysis of Narcotic Drugs to provide timely and reliable reports requested by law enforcement authorities in Sri Lanka. It will be implemented by the Justice Ministry and will be completed in 2024.

The Project outcome includes enhancing laboratory equipment in the Narcotic Drug and Forensic Toxicology Lab, fully training the personnel in narcotic drug and forensic toxicology lab and digitalising analysis and evidence management in the Criminal Justice System in Sri Lanka.

The Project will also provide laboratory equipment and reference standards in narcotic drug and forensic toxicology lab, conduct invitational training for prosecutors and investigators handling narcotics related crimes, dispatch experts on narcotic drug and forensic toxicology and develop LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System).

KOICA has supported the Forensic Science Sector in Sri Lanka previously under the successful project 'Modernization of Forensic Science in Sri Lanka' (2013-2017) by providing technical assistance to establish a digital forensic laboratory in the Gov-

ernment Analyst's Department, upgrading the facilities of the DNA laboratory in the Government Analyst's Department and also by establishing a digital training centre at the CID.

This development has led to the rise of digital forensics, the uncovering and examination of evidence located on all electronic things with digital storage, including computers, cell phones, CCTV cameras, ATM machines and networks. DNA analysis plays a major role in crime investigation and it has been also developed under this Project enabling it to handle all most all the forensic DNA analysis.

The technical support and training facilities for the Government Analyst's Department Officers for the previous project was provided by National Forensic Service, Korea, which is widely renowned for being a leading forensic institute in the Asian

region with highly advance technologies in the forensic science.

KOICA is also conducting capacity building programme (2020-2023) for the Department of Government Analyst for more advanced and practical analysis techniques. The Korean Government has furthered its grant aid by US\$ 4 million towards strengthening capacity building of Forensic Drug Analysis in the Criminal Justice System in Sri Lanka.

The KOICA Country Director said that KOICA has had a long-standing partnership with Sri Lankan Government. "We are always looking forward to supporting our partner countries to make sustainable Development. Through this Project, the Republic of Korea, expects to support Sri Lanka in strengthening the partnership and cooperation with Sri Lanka to combat against the narcotics related crimes," the Country Director said.

Officials of Justice Ministry and the



Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC during the Project Signing Ceremony.

Department of Government Analyst extended their gratitude towards the Government of the Republic of Korea for the constant cooperation. They assured the fullest cooperation and support by the Government counterparts to ensure that the Project is successfully implemented.

Outgoing British Defence Advisor calls on Air Force Commander

Outgoing Defence Advisor at the British High Commission in Colombo Colonel David Ashman called on the Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana on December 8 at the Air Force Headquarters. Colonel Ashman was accompanied by Colonel Paul Clayton, who will be taking over duties as the new Defence Advisor for Sri Lanka and Maldives at the British High Commission in Colombo.

The outgoing and incoming advi-

sors had a cordial discussion with the Commander where he conveyed his gratitude to Colonel Ashman for the friendly relationship enjoyed by the SLAF during his tenure. The Commander also extended his best wishes to Colonel Ashman for his future endeavours. The Commander also extended his best wishes to Colonel Clayton on his appointment.

The Commander and the visiting Defence Advisors exchanged mementos.



Exchanging mementos.

Presidential Election won thanks to SLFP support - Former Minister

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr,

During the last Presidential Election, several top persons now in the Government visited Duminda Dissanayaka's residence in Anuradhapura and requested in our presence to support him at the election campaign. Duminda said that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) would work at its maximum for making the Gotabaya Rajapaksa victorious, former Minister Tissa Karaliyadda said.

He was speaking at a recent SLFP meeting in the Kahatagasdigiliya Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) Auditorium.

Former Minister Karaliyadda also said that those who came to power with the support of the SLFP seemed to have kicked the ladder preventing others from climbing to the top. "Those who now treat us scornfully and maliciously are on top positions of the Government thanks to the SLFP, which they have forgotten. The SLFP was highly instrumental in winning the election," the former Minister said.

Former Minister Weerakumara Dissanayake said that the people were questioning whether the Government would break down



Former Minister Tissa Karaliyadda speaking at the meeting.

shortly. "Some powerful persons in the Government living in an Utopia and think that the country is self-sufficient."

Rana Daruwo launched marking National Cadet Corps' 140th Anniversary

Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne presided over the public launching of the book, *Rana Daruwo* authored by Captain M.N. Dharmarathna at the Royal College, Colombo on December 8. Captain M.N. Dharmarathna, who was in charge of the Royal College Cadet Platoon as Officer Commander and went on to serve the College as its Deputy Principal, launched this publication to coincide with the 140th Anniversary of National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Royal College Cadetting.

As history shows, cadetting in Sri Lanka first began in 1881 at Royal College under the patronage of then Principal of the College J.B. Cull for promoting Students' discipline.

Captain M.N. Dharmarathna has served at Royal College, Colombo for 25 years. Being the Officer Commander of Cadet Contingent he led the College Cadet Platoon to clinch the Hermann Loos Trophy in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1984 bringing much credit to Royal College.

The cadets he trained have later been able to reach higher echelons in the Armed Forces. The incumbent Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne and the former Chief of Defense Staff and former Navy Commander, Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne have also been groomed by Captain Dharmar-



Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne receiving a copy of 'Rana Daruwo' from Author Captain M.N. Dharmarathna.

athna. Captain M.N. Dharmarathna has penned this publication based on his experience of the National Cadet Corps and Royal College Cadetting, being a towering figure who rendered a noble service to both movements.

The Navy Commander, who himself was a Cadet of the Royal College, heaped praise on Captain Dharmarathna, one of the most prestigious brands in the history of the National Cadet Corps and the Royal College Cadetting, for his valuable mentorship. "The training and discipline

received as a member of the Royal College Cadet Platoon was the foundation, which paved the way for me to be the 24th Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy," he said.

Chief of Staff of the Navy, Vice Admiral YN Jayaratne, former Commanders of the Navy, Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe and Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne, Commanding Officer NCC, Colonel Gamini Abeyasinghe, Principal of the Royal College, MVS Gunathilake, staff members and a group of Old Royalists serving in Tri-Services and the Police were present.

Daily News

Classifieds

Automotive

111
Honda Cars
For sale

Employment

311
Positions Vacant
Information Technology

CP-CAC-8736 Honda - DAA-RUS-Vezel motor car, 2014 for highest offer. CBC Finance Ltd. 187, Katugastota Rd., Kandy. T.P. - 0812-200272. 080340

Wanted urgently IT Savvy with zoom and Microsoft packages, short time assignment for email administration. Male preferred. AL and undergraduates in IT good. 0773047769. 080822

119
Buses & Lorries
For sale

Real Estate

EP-GF-3171 Mazda Bongo Brawny motor lorry - 1995, white for highest offer. CBC Finance Ltd. 187, Katugastota Rd., Kandy. T.P. - 0812-200272. 080344

601
Luxury Apartments/Houses / Condominiums
For sale

Apartment for rent. Full seaview 1BR, 2BR, 3BR apartment for rent. Short term & long term, complete furnished kitchen access. Washing machine, fridge, hot water, private car park, security available. 3BR, apartment available for short term rental. Euro Homes Shiva. Contact: 077 143 43 43. 080182



Apartment for sale @ Marine Drive - Opposite Baricuda Restaurant, Dehiwala, with beautiful sea view, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 lifts, gym with completed customised household accessories. Situated at 6th Floor for a quick sale. Contact - (Shegar) 0771434343 Price. 19.5 Million. 080181

612
Building Construction / Materials

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



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD THERMAL COMPLEX PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Bid No: BMPP/CE/SLUDGE/2022

BID FOR SELLING OF 600,000 LITERS OF OIL SLUDGE FOR PERIOD OF ONE YEAR (2022-2023) AT BARGE MOUNTED POWER PLANT

Chairman, Thermal Complex Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board, invites sealed bids from the potential suppliers, for "selling of 600,000 liters of oil sludge for period of one year (2022-2023) at barge mounted power plant" under the above referred Bid. Bidding method shall be National competitive bidding. Bids shall be submitted only on bidding Documents purchased from the CEB.

The fee for a set of bidding documents - LKR1,000.00 (Payment must be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB) Information copies are also available on <http://www.ceb.lk> free of charge.

Bidding Documents, can be purchased by any prospective bidder or their accredited agents, on submission of a written request to Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa, upon payment of the fee indicated above, between 0900 h and 1500 h on any working day till two days prior to the bid closing date. Payment shall be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions/ Trade Commissions may obtain information copies of the Bidding Documents, free of charge on written request. The Bidding Documents may be inspected at the Deputy General Manager's office (Thermal Complex), Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa, free of charge. Bids shall be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at the Deputy General Manager's office (Thermal Complex), Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa, at or before 1000 h on 29.12.2021. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time of the bidding, in the presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives at the same location. Late Bids will be rejected.

All clarifications shall be sought in writing one week before the date of closing of bidding, from the Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa.

Tel. 0112423897 Fax: 0112433525

Chairman, Thermal Complex Procurement Committee, Ceylon Electricity Board



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DATE 09.12.2021 THURSDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk
MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
DRAW NUMBER : 4611
Prizes won in this draw
Rs. 10,539,440.00
The super prize of next draw
Rs. 26,893,151.00

Govisetha
DRAW NUMBER : 2906
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 6,241,440.00
WINNING LETTER **K** WINNING NUMBERS **01 03 66 79** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 77,873,144.96

Mega POWER 10
DRAW NUMBER **959**
TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 3,406,120.00
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE
Rs. 158,679,026.80
NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE
Rs. 10,000,000.00
NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE
Rs. 10,000,000.00

Dhana Nidhanaya
DRAW NUMBER : 641
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 2,655,860.00
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 87,286,541.60

JATHIKA SAMPATHA
DRAW NUMBER : 1179
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 2,240,520.00
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 10,852,314.40
Now Jathika Sampatha brings you luck not only on Wednesdays and Saturdays but also on Mondays and Thursdays.

09.12.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD **604,013**
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs. 25,083,380.00**
Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES **07** Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES **07**
Rs. 100,000 PRIZES **24**

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

NOTICE



This is to inform the General Public that Mr. Nipuna Srikantha Peries (Shree) holder of NIC No. 912440133V is no longer in the employment of our company as a Sales Manager. He is not authorized to represent the company in any matters whatsoever. Any person or a firm dealing with him shall do so at their own risk and company will not take any responsibility in such dealings.

Management of Asia Broadcasting Corporation (Pvt) Limited.

Employment Opportunities

SRI LANKA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Director News (Contract)

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who possess required qualifications for the vacancy of Director News (Contract) in the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.

Post : Director News (Contract)

- Required Qualifications**
- Five years' experience as a News Manager at recognized media institution with experience in news editing, reporting, translating & handling news room with a Bachelor's Degree from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission.(UGC)
- Additional Qualifications**
 - Knowledge in Information Technology.
 - Knowledge in current Affairs.
 - Ability to translate News Sinhala into English /English into Sinhala or Tamil.
 - Ability to work in Trilingual.
- Age limit : 25 - 40
- Salary : Negotiable

Duly completed application along with copies of certificates of the applicant should be sent by registered post to reach the Director General, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Colombo 07. On or before 20.12.2021. The post - "Director News" applied for should be indicated on the left corner of the envelope. Applications from employees in Government Departments / State Corporations should be forwarded through the Heads of Departments / Corporations.
Email - dg@slbc.lk

**Director General,
Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation
Colombo 07.**



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SCHOOL OF COMPUTING (UCSC)

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS/ NOMINATIONS

POST OF DIRECTOR

The Board of Management of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) in pursuance of section 24A (I) of the University Act No.16 of 1978 and its subsequent amendments and the UCSC Ordinance No.01 of 2002 of 01.09.2002 and the provisions of University Grants Commission Circular No. 07/2020 dated 11th September 2020, invites applications/ nominations for the Post of Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC).

The applicants/ nominees should be citizens of Sri Lanka and shall be less than 63 years of age and qualified and experienced to manage and lead the new appointment which will be effective from 01st June 2022.

The Director is a full-time officer of the School. In terms of the UCSC Ordinance No.01 of 2002 of 01.09.2002, the Director is the Principal Executive Officer, Principal Academic Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer of the School. He/ She is an ex-officio member and the Chairman of its Board of Management, Academic Syndicate and all the Board of Study of the School.

In terms of the UCSC Ordinance No.01 of 2002 of 01.09.2002, the Director shall, unless he/she vacates office earlier or is removed from office as provided for in sub-paragraph (3) hold office for a period of three (03) years reckoned from the date of his/her appointment or until he/she completes his/her 65th year, whichever is earlier.

The Director will be responsible for providing academic leadership, formulating, and implementing management policies and executing the decisions of the Board of Management. He/ She will be responsible for the general administration of the School and should therefore uphold the principles of academic excellence, transparency, accountability, democratic management and effective non-partisan leadership.

The following documents should accompany applications/ nominations.

- Complete Curriculum Vitae (with supporting documents) of Applicant/Nominee including the date of birth (a certified copy of the Birth Certificate must be attached) and contact details.
- A personal statement of vision for the development of the Institute.
- A brief account of what the applicant /nominee proposes to achieve, if appointed to the post of Director.
- A Letter of Consent from the nominee in case of a nomination.
- A letter from the employer indicating whether the applicant/ nominee could be released in the event of his/ her appointment to the post, in case of an applicant/ nominee serving in the Public Sector, Corporations, Statutory Bodies and Higher Educational Institutions other than the University of Colombo School of Computing.

The selection process will be made in terms of instructions given in the UGC Commission Circular No. 07/2020 dated 11th September 2020.

The circular can be downloaded from www.ugc.lk (the link: https://www.ugc.ac.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2221%3Acommission-circular-no-072020-appointment-to-the-post-of-director-of-an-institute-&catid=176%3Acirculares-published-in-2020-012020-and-above&Itemid=20&lang=en)

Applications/ Nominations should be in a sealed cover/ envelope and addressed to the **Secretary to the Board of Management, Establishments & Administration Division, University of Colombo School of Computing, No: 35, Reid Avenue, Colombo 07** and sent under registered post to reach the above office at or before 3.00 p.m. on 28th December 2021. Applicants/ Nominees are advised to indicate on the top left-hand corner of the envelope "Application for the Post of Director".

Applications/ Nominations received after the closing date or do not comply with the above instructions will be rejected.

**Secretary to the Board of Management
Establishments & Administration Division
University of Colombo School of Computing
35, Reid Avenue, Colombo 07.
10.12.2021**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**Sale of used empty Vessels / Containers****National Hospital Sri Lanka (NHSL)**

Invitation of Quotations for the sale of Discarded Empty Plastic Cans / used X-Ray Films / Empty Saline Bottles / Cardboard / Newspapers / Coconut Shells / Damaged Redundant Plastic Bins / Vessels (Year 2021) - (Removed after use at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka)

Quotations are hereby invited for the sale of abovementioned items, gathered at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10 for a period of one year from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022 up to 10.00 a.m. on 29.12.2021.

Tender Forms and other details including conditions of tender could be had from the Supplies Division of the Hospital before that date (29.12.2021) on weekdays from 9.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00 made to the Shroff's Division of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10. (Further details and information in this regard could be obtained from Mr Akalanka over Telephone No. 011-2691111 - Ext. 2722).

Dr W.K. Wickramasinghe
Deputy Director General,
National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE**National Hospital of Sri Lanka,
Colombo 10****New Out Patients Department (OPD)****Supply of Equipment**

Bids are hereby invited for the purchase of following items for the requirements of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10.

Description	Ref. No.
1. Office equipment	SI/16/2021
2. Other equipment	SI/16/2021

For the above Supplies only the eligible and qualified Institutions, the Manufacturers who manufacture and supply abovementioned equipment to the Sri Lanka market and their nominated agents or authorized representatives are capable to participate in this bidding/tender. Tender documents could be obtained by the interested bidders (Along with the Tender/Bidding conditions) from the Supplies Division of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on weekdays from **13.12.2021 to 19.12.2021** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500.00 in respect of (1) Office equipment and a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500.00 in respect of (2) Other equipment paid to the Shroff's Division of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

Quotations will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 20.12.2021 at the Office of the Chief Accountant of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

Dr. W.K. Wickramasinghe
Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

**SOUTH EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Pre-Fabricated Sewerage Treatment Plant for SEUSL**

(SEU/SS /NCB/2021/01)

01. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major) of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Pre-Fabricated Sewerage Treatment Plant for the use of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

Item No.	Category	Bid Bond (Rs.)
01	Pre-Fabricated Sewerage Treatment Plant	450,000.00

02. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding**.

03. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Deputy Bursar (Telephone No: 067 22 55 178), South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University Park, Oluvil # 32360 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 pm up to **05.01.2022**. (Week days only).

04. A completed set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application by Bidder himself or by bidders' representatives to the address above (In Item 5) and upon payment of non refundable fee of LKR 5,000/= per procurement document, from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm up to **05.01.2022**. The mode of payment shall be either in cash or bank draft in favour of "Bursar, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka". The Bidders can also download the Bidding documents from the University Website i.e. www.seu.ac.lk. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from the University Website should submit the completed documents along with a Bank Draft drawn in favour of the "Bursar, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka" for Rs. 5000/- as non-refundable fee or to the shroff. The documents can be purchased up to **05.01.2022**.

05. The interested bidder shall participate for the **mandatory pre bid meeting** scheduled to be held at 10.00 a.m. on **30th December 2021** at the Boardroom, First Floor, Administrative Building, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University Park, Oluvil #32360.

06. Sealed Bids should be marked "Tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Pre-Fabricated Sewerage Treatment Plant for SEUSL" on the left hand corner of the envelope and delivered to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University Park, Oluvil # 32360 or place in the tender box kept in the office of the Supplies Division, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, at or before **2.30 p.m. on 06.01.2022**. All bids must be accompanied by **bid security as stated in paragraph 01 above**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **2.30 p.m. on 06.01.2022**, at the Board Room - 1, First Floor, Administrative Building, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University Park, Oluvil # 32360. Late bids will be rejected.

Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka,
University Park,
Oluvil #32360.

11.12.2021

**Repeat
Your
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**MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION****IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT****UMA OYA MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
DOWNSTREAM DEVELOPMENT****INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Chairman of procurement committee, invites sealed bids from eligible & qualified suppliers of items listed in table below.

Works No	Works Title	Quantity (Nos)	Non Refundable Fee/Rs.	Bid Security Fee Rs.
UODP/P/2021/35	Galvanized Iron pipe (32 mm diameter/Heavyduty) (Pakistan/Indian/Lanwa or similar)	1000	3,000.00	80,000.00
UODP/P/2021/36	Adjustable Jack (Adjustable Height 3.9m or above)	500	2,000.00	30,000.00
UODP/P/2021/37	Scaffolding Set	200	2,000.00	30,000.00
UODP/P/2021/38	Scaffolding plate(cat walk plate) (1829 mm x 500 mm)	50	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/39	Shutter boards	200	1,500.00	30,000.00
UODP/P/2021/40	Tamping rammer	05	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/41	Water pump	Inches 2 - 02 Inches 4 - 02	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/42	Electric poker vibrator (1 1/2 □)	10	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/43	Generator (5kVA) (Diesel)	03	1,500.00	10,000.00
UODP/P/2021/44	Safety Helmet (white & yellow)	White - 50 Yellow - 800	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/45	Safety Jacket (green & orange)	Green - 200 Orange - 800	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/46	Safety Shoes - Black	100	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/47	Safety Boots - Black	500	1,500.00	-
UODP/P/2021/48	Safety Belt	100	1,500.00	-

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Successful bidders for awarding of contract should not have been blacklisted or rejected due to quality, any other reason from any Government organization.
- Specifications and evaluation criteria will be issued with bidding documents and evaluation will be done by technical evaluation committee based on that criteria.
- Bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Project Director's office and the bid documents can be inspected in the office during normal working hours from 11th December 2021 to 04th January 2022. (T.P. 071 - 3504820, Irrigation Engineer).
- Bid documents can be obtained by paying non-refundable tender fee at Deputy Project Director's office at Thanamalvila or by bank deposit. The non-refundable tender deposit No. to account **0007042884**, Bank of Ceylon Thanamalvila and e-mailing the receipt to creumaoya@gmail.com (bid will be issued through the e-mail).
- Bid security can be a cash deposit to this office or bid bond issued by accepted bank for this purpose. Bid bond shall be valid for 77 days starting from 04th January 2022. If bid security bond paid by cash, the amount will be released after 77 days of bid bond. All relevant documents, shall be submitted with bid to prove the eligibility of bidders.
- Duly perfected bidding documents must be submitted with duplicate, marked as "Original" and "Duplicate" relevantly in two sealed envelopes and enclosed both in one sealed envelope marked above work number & title on top left corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post to the following address, courier service or deposited in the tender box kept at Deputy Project Director's office of Uma Oya Downstream Development, at or before 2.15 p.m. on 04th January 2022. Late bids will not be accepted.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the bid closing date specified above, the bid closing date will be the immediate next working day and will be opened at the same time and venue.
- The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of bids, and the procurement committee shall not be responsible or liable for such costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- The decision of the Deputy Project Director Procurement Committee is the final and conclusive. The Deputy Project Director Procurement Committee is empowered to reject single, any or all bids at his own discretion.

Deputy Director's office, Chairman,
Uma Oya Downstream Development,
Kithulkote, Thanamalvila (Postal Code - 91300)

Procurement Committee.
Tel. Nos. 071-9567353/071-3504820
11.12.2021

State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry**REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS - 2022**

Applications are invited from manufacturers, contractors and suppliers who wish to be registered under the State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry for the Supply of the undermentioned goods, services and works for the year - 2022.

Duly prepared applications as per the specimen form appearing below should be marked with the words, "Registration of Suppliers - 2022" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the application and hand delivered to the Tender Box kept in the Accounts Section of the Ministry to receive before 2.00 p.m. on 31.12.2021 or should be sent by registered post addressed to the Secretary, State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry, No. 01, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10. Applications which are not duly prepared and the applications for which the application fees have not been paid will be rejected.

Separate applications should be submitted for each of the items under the main category. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/= will be charged for each of the item under the main category. This amount could be deposited at the Bank of Ceylon in favour of the Secretary, State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry to the Credit of A/c No. 7042656 or submitted by a cheque or make payments by calling over at the Ministry.

A copy of the relevant Business Registration Certificate and a photocopy of the Construction Industry Development Authority Registration Certificate for registration of items under Category No. 5 should be submitted along with the application for registration purposes. The duly completed application should be signed by an authorized officer of the institution and rubber stamped and submitted.

1. SUPPLY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT	4. SUPPLY OF OFFICIAL SERVICES
1.1 Office furniture (timber, wooden, iron, plastic)	4.1 Printing work, Notice boards, and name boards
1.2 Photocopy machines, fax machines, printers	4.2 Cleaning service (linen, carpets, cushions)
1.3 Computers and Accessories	4.3 Repairing office equipment
1.4 Varieties of cameras, projectors and televisions	4.4 Repairing electrical equipment
1.5 Electrical equipment, air conditioners	4.5 Repairing and servicing of computers and accessories
	4.6 Repairing and servicing of air conditioners
2. SUPPLY OF CONSUMABLES	5. BUILDING MATERIALS, SUPPLY OF LABOUR AND BUILDING REPAIR WORK
2.1 All types of Stationery	5.1 Supply of all types of building material
2.2 Toners, Cartridges, Ribbons and CDs	5.2 Supply of variety of paints
2.3 All types of sanitary material	5.3 Office partitioning work
2.4 Rubber Stamps and date stamps	5.4 Supply of all skilled and unskilled labour
2.5 Cushion covers, table cloths and curtains	5.5 Building repairs and maintenance work.
3. SUPPLY OF VEHICLE REPAIRS, SERVICING AND SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS	
3.1 Repairing Vehicles	
3.2 Servicing of Vehicles	
3.3 Vehicle air conditioning, electrical technical services and fixing cameras	
3.4 Cushion work and making seats	

Application for Registration of Suppliers - Year 2022

- Name of Business Institution :-
- Address :-
- Business Registration No. :-
- Nature of Business :- Manufacture / Local Agent / Distributor / Sales Agent.
- Contact Person :-
- Telephone No. : Fax : Email :
- Main category, item and No. and details applying for:

I hereby certify that the information appearing above is true and accurate and the Registration Certificate is attached and the Cheque / Receipt is submitted herewith.

Date:

Signature,
Official Stamp

Secretary

State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry.

No. 01,
D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Enquiries : Tel No. (Accounts Section) 0112690479.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR RESPIRATORY DISEASES WELISARA

Bids are invited by the Regional Tender Committee of the National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases, Welisara from eligible bidders for obtaining the services mentioned below.

No.	Supply	Refundable Bid Guarantee (Rs.)	Eligibility	Tender form No.	Bid Document fees (Rs.) (Non-refundable)
01	Painting the Interior of the Theatre	39,000.00	C8 or above	WL/18/2021	2500.00

01. Bid documents for this purpose could be obtained during working days of the week from 11.12.2021 up to 24.12.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. upon payment of the non refundable fee as mentioned above to the Shroff's Section of the Hospital.

02. Duly completed sealed bids prepared in two copies should be appropriately marked with the Tender No. and original and sent by registered post addressed to National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases to receive at or before 10.00 a.m. on 24.12.2021 or may be hand delivered to the Director's Office. Bids will be opened at 10.00 am. on 24.12.2021 and the bidder or a nominated representative with approval could be present on this occasion. Bids received late will be rejected and you are further notified that the Procurement Committee of the National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases retains the right of the final decision regarding bids.

**Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases - Welisara**
Telephone No. - 0112958271 (112)
Fax No. - 0112958272

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES KALUTARA

Repairing of Buildings – 2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara for the following repair works.

Ser. No.	Description of Contract	Minimum ICTAD Grade	Basic Cost Rs. in Millions	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Contract Period Days	Non Refundable Bid Document Fee
01	Renovation of NTS Lecture Hall No. 06	C 7 or Above	5.7	114,000.00	84	3,300.00
02	Improvements to the Lecture Hall No. 03	C 8 or Above	3.9	77,000.00	35	2,800.00
03	Improvements to the Toilet for Lecture Hall No. 03	C 8 or Above	2.5	50,000.00	49	2,800.00
04	Proposed Toilet Block	C 7 or Above	9.8	196,800.00	84	3,300.00

All details regarding the above works may be obtained with the bid documents.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Office of the National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara during office hours (between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.) from 10.12.2021 until 23.12.2021. Bids will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 24.12.2021.

Telephone Nos. 034-2222264 / 034-2222001 – Extension of Administration Division 237 / 333.

**Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee
National Institute of Health Sciences
Kalutara**



Ministry of Environment

AIR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & NATIONAL OZONE UNIT NOTICE

Registration for obtaining quota to import hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFCs) in 2022

Sri Lanka is a party to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer since 1989. The Air Resource Management & National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environment is functioning as the National Focal Point for Sri Lanka in implementing policy decisions of the Montreal Protocol.

All the member states of the Montreal Protocol have agreed to reduce the production and consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) systematically and gradually in stages as per the decision No. XIX/6 of the 19th meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Accordingly, the maximum allowable limits of HCFCs for annual consumption have been determined by each member country. In accordance with the Montreal Protocol regulations, 35% reduction of HCFC, consumption from the baseline (13.9 ODP) was commenced from 1st January 2020 until 31st December 2024. The amount of import quota for this period was determined based on this reduction target. The Ministry of Environment distributes this annual HCFCs quota among eligible business entities at the beginning of every year, following a methodology that was formulated by an Official Committee.

Accordingly, the business entities that are engaged in importing of refrigerants for the last 05 years (2017-2021) or more or institutions that can substantiate their engagement in activities related to servicing & maintenance, installation, assembling of air-conditioners, will also be eligible to receive quotas for the year 2022. Interested business entities who wish to obtain HCFC quotas for the year 2022, are hereby invited to submit an application to the Ministry of Environment under one of the following categories:

- Business Entities providing servicing & maintenance, installation, assembling by using HCFCs refrigerants in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector during the past five years (2017-2021).
- Business Entities engaged only in the importation of HCFCs refrigerants during the past five years (2017-2021).

Applicants are informed that providing of undermentioned information is compulsory when submitting applications for the registration:

- Name of the institution:
- Name of the owner:
- Address of the institute:
- Personal address of the owner:
- Telephone Number & official email address:
- Business Registration Number and date:
- Nature of Business:
- Income Tax No. (If applicable):
- TIN Number (If applicable):
- VAT No (If applicable):
- Records on experience in importation of HCFCs or servicing & maintenance, installation and assembling by using HCFCs refrigerants. (HCFCs refrigerant type and quantities of importations / used for servicing & maintenance, installation and assembling service provided during the past five (5) years (2017-2021))
- Type and quantity (Kgs) of HCFCs refrigerants intended to import during year 2022:

Certified copies of supportive documents to verify above information should be submitted along with the applications. **The applications submitted without valid supporting documents will be rejected.** An interview will be conducted (if necessary) by the official Committee to ascertain the authenticity of the documents provided and to recommend the allocation of quota to each eligible applicant. The decision of the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment in respect of this process shall be the final.

Applications for registration along with the certified copies of documents should be sent either by registered post addressed to **Director, Air Resource Management & National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Environment, "Sobadam Piyasa", 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Battaramulla** or by email to **noulanka@gmail.com** to reach on or before **December, 27, 2021 at 4.00 p.m.** Further details in this regard could be obtained over the telephone through 0112034221, 0112034218 or by sending an email to **noulanka@gmail.com**.

**Secretary
Ministry of Environment
Battaramulla**

State Ministry of Wildlife Protection, Protective Measures including Construction of Elephant Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resources Development

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS - 2022

- Applications are invited from Government Departments, Government owned business undertakings, Public corporations, Reputed suppliers, Local agents, Manufacturers, Dealers, Business Organizations and Contractors who wish to register themselves with the Department of National Zoological Gardens for the supply of undermentioned goods, services & works for National Zoo, Dehiwala, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala Zoo and Safari Park, Hambantota for the year 2022.
- If registration is sought to be for more than one category of goods or services separate application should be submitted for each category and all applications may be forwarded in one envelope marked "Registration of Suppliers - 2022" on top left hand corner.
- A non-refundable fee of Rs. 500/= will be charged for each and every category. Payment shall be made in cash. Cash receipt obtained from the Shroff Counter of any of the following locations should be sent along with the application.
- Documents to be furnished together with the application.
 - Certified copy of business registration in the relevant field
 - Certified copy of VAT registration (if registered)
 - Manufacturer's authorization in the case of Local accredited agent.
 - Certified copy of CIDA (ICTAD) Registration certificate (for Works)
 - Certificates of Registration of buses available (Applicable for category No. 16)
- Suppliers registered for the 2022 should agree to offer credit facilities for a period of at least 30 days. Any applicant who does not offer credit facilities for at least 30 days or any applications received without the cash receipt and copies of certificates mentioned above will be rejected without any notice.
- The supplier should not be previously blacklisted in the Department.
- Application forms and further information may be obtained from the following addresses and all suppliers, service providers and contractors especially near the following locations are encouraged to apply for registration.
 - Deputy Director, Dehiwala National Zoo, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Dehiwala
T.P. 0112712751
 - Deputy Director, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala, Rambukkana
T.P. 0352266116
 - Deputy Director, Pinnawala Zoo, Pinnawala, Rambukkana
T.P. 0352266641
 - Deputy Director, Ridiyagama Safari Park, Ruhunu Ridiyagama, Ambalanthota
T.P. 0473620410
- All applications should be handed over or sent under registered post to the Director General, Office of the Department of National Zoological Gardens, Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Dehiwala to reach on or before 31st December, 2021.

**Director General
Department of National Zoological Gardens
Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha
Dehiwala**

1. GOODS

No	Category	Description	Required Locations
01	Building Materials	Sand, Bricks, Gravel, Tiles, Metal, Rubble, Roofing sheets, Equipment, Tools, Gum & Glue, Timber, Paints, Safety Gears & Wears, Hose, Wheel barrows, Buckets, Mamoty, Shovel, Screw drivers Hammers, Saw, Iron Bar, GI Pipe, GI sheets, Iron rods and welding rods, Nails, Hinges, Nut & Bolt, Padlocks, PVC pipes, sockets, brassware and all hardware items.	Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Zoo Complex, Safari Park
02	Medical Supplies	Pharmaceuticals, Drugs, First Aid supplies, instruments, Glassware, Chemicals and other tools etc.	- as above -
03	Stationery	Photocopy Paper, Duplicate paper, typing sheet, Cardboard files, CR books, note books, pins, clips, stapler, stapler pins, pen, pencil, ink pad, pad ink, white board markers, permanent marker, gum, Glue, calculator, puncher, Cello tape, Rulers, Binding Threads, all stationary items.	Head Office, Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Zoo Complex, Safari Park
04	Toners	Photocopier Toner, Cartridge for Printers and Fax Machines, stencils, Printer ribbons, Ink for Duplo Machine	- as above -
05	Printing	Letterheads, Tickets, Books, leaflets and Banners, Stickers and name boards etc.	- as above -
06	Textile, Garments and Shoes.	Clothing material, T-shirts, Shoes, boots etc.	Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Zoo Complex, Safari Park
07	Soap & Detergents	Soap, T-Pole, Dettol, Hand wash Sanitizer, gloves etc.	- as above -
08	Cleaning Equipment	Brooms, Ekel Brooms & Vipers etc.	- as above -

2. SERVICES AND REPAIRS

09	Hiring of Machineries & Vehicles	Backhoe Loader, Excavator, Lorry, Boom Truck, Tractors, Vibrators, Compressors, High pressures, Water Pumps, Welding plants with welders, concrete mixture, JCB etc.	Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Zoo Complex, Safari Park
10	Vehicle Service, Spare Parts and Repairs	Motor spare parts, Batteries, Tires, Tubes, Repair of motor vehicles, service and interior cleaning etc.	Head Office, Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Zoo Complex, Safari Park
11	Other Vehicle Services	Vehicle canopy, Cushion work, covers and carpeting, tinkering and painting etc.	- as above -
12	General Repairs and Services	Machinery, Air conditioners, communication equipment, Electric Goods, Photocopy machine, Fax machine, Computers and related items etc.	- as above -
13	Cutting of Trees and Tree Branches	Cutting of unnecessary tree branches.	Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala Zoo, Safari Park
14	Disposal of Garbage and Sewerage	Removal of Garbage, Zoo waste, Parts of Trees and Logs and Sewerage	- as above -
15	Disposal of Construction Debris	Iron, Solid, Building Material, Plastic etc.	- as above -
16	Electrical fittings	CFLbulb, LEDbulb, normal bulb, holders, wire plug, plug base, switch, tripswitch, conduit, insulation tape	- as above -
17	Landscaping and plants	Landscaping and supplying flower and other plants	Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala Zoo, Safari Park
18	Providing skilled and unskilled laborers	Welders, Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters and unskilled laborers	Dehiwala Zoo, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala Zoo, Safari Park
19	Hiring of coaches	Air Conditioned coaches with seating capacity of 20-36 on hire basis	Safari Park, Hambantota

3. WORKS

20	Constructions	Minor construction works & Renovation Works	Dehiwala Zoo & Gonapala Farm, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Zoo Complex, Safari Park
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District Secretariat - Polonnaruwa**Extension of the Registration time period for Suppliers and Service Providers Year 2022**

The time period for accepting of applications for Registration of Suppliers for the year 2022 for obtaining Supplies and Services to the District Secretariat, Polonnaruwa and to the Divisional Secretariats in Polonnaruwa has been extended up to 27.12.2021.

The terms and conditions relevant to the advertisements published in Dinamina, Daily News and Thinakaran Newspapers dated 21.10.2021 remain unchanged.

W.A. Dharmasiri
District Secretary / Government Agent
Polonnaruwa

NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that **A. Sachintha Rukmal Silva of Sri Rathnajothe Mawatha, Kuda Waskaduwa, Waskaduwa**, bearing **NIC No. 882691446V** is no longer in the service of Amana Takaful PLC. He has no authority whatsoever to transact any business or to receive any money or to act in any way for and on behalf of the company.

The Company shall/will not in any way be responsible for his actions henceforth or for any transactions entered into with him.

Amana Takaful PLC (PQ23),
660-1/1, Galle Road, Colombo - 03.

NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Advertising, Promotional Activities, Event Handling, Web Maintenance, Social Media Management, SMS, Email and Digital Campaign Services of the National Savings Bank

Reference No: NSB/PT/2022/01

The Chairman, Marketing Committee, National Savings Bank, 255, Galle Road, Colombo 3, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible Agencies for the Advertising, Promotional activities, Event Handling, Web Maintenance, Social Media related services, SMS, Email and other Digital Media Channel Campaign Services of the Bank.

All requests for the documentation pertaining to the Expression of Interest should be forwarded to the email address given hereunder on or before 17/12/2021 by 14:30 hours Sri Lanka Standard Time. Requests for documentation received after this date will strictly not be entertained.

The EOI proposals should be submitted to the email address given hereunder on or before 31/12/2021 by 14:30 hours Sri Lanka Standard Time. Proposals received after 14:30 hours on 31/12/2021 will strictly not be entertained.

The document for the Expression of Interest is not transferable. Only the party who requested and was granted the document is entitled to submit the Expression of Interest.

Entities which have received confirmation of registration from NSB for the above services via previous EOI's in 2020 and 2021 are exempt from the above requirement and are not required to respond to this request.

Any further clarification can be sought from:

Deputy General Manager (Marketing)
National Savings Bank
255, Galle Road.
Colombo 3

Telephone : +94112573516

Fax : +94112372367

E-mail : dgm.marketing@nsb.lk

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NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Installation of Outdoor LED Screen at the National Savings Bank Head Office Premises

Reference No: NSB/TD/Mkt/01/2021

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, National Savings Bank, 255, Galle Road, Colombo 3, invites Bids from eligible entities for the Installation of an Outdoor LED Screen at the National Savings Bank Head Office Premises located at No. 255, Galle, Road, Colombo-03.

The specifications of the LED Screen are:

Type: P8 or P10

Dimensions: 16 - 20 feet x 9 - 10 feet

All requests for the Bid Documentation pertaining to the above tender should be forwarded to the email address given hereunder on or before 17/12/2021 by 14:30 hours Sri Lanka Standard Time. Requests for documentation received after this date will strictly not be entertained.

The completed bids should be submitted to the email address given hereunder on or before 24/12/2021 by 14:30 hours Sri Lanka Standard Time. Proposals received after 14:30 hours on 31/12/2021 will strictly not be entertained.

The documentation for the bid is not transferable. Only the party who requested and was granted the documentation is entitled to submit the bid.

Any further clarification can be sought from:

Deputy General Manager (Marketing)
National Savings Bank
255, Galle Road.
Colombo 3

Telephone : +94112573516

Fax : +94112372367

E-mail : dgm.marketing@nsb.lk

**UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA****INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Provision of a Private Security Service for the University of Jaffna - 2022/2023

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of University of Jaffna invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Provision of a Private Security Service for the University of Jaffna.
- Period of contract shall be a calendar year, days subject to a performance evaluation period of 90 days from the start date.
- Companies/ Firms which satisfy the following conditions are eligible to submit Bids. Documentary evidences should be provided with Bids.
 - To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess the valid registration in the Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law and Order, Business registration and a copy of the valid registration certificate in Sri Lanka under the Companies Acts or Business Name Registration Ordinance should be attached with the Bid.
 - Average of annual volume of security service contracts performed in the last 3 years should be at least Rs. 75 Million
 - Must have satisfactorily carried out at least one Security Service contract to a Government Department/ Corporation/University during the last 3 years for not less than Rs. 25.0 Million.
- The Company/ Firm must have satisfactorily carried out at least two security service contracts which included a minimum workforce of **300 security staff** in each contract for any Government Department/ Corporation/ University or Institutions over the last three years. Certified copies of letters issued by such clients should be attached with the Bid.
- Interested Bidders may inspect the Bidding documents and obtain further information from the Deputy Registrar, General Administration, University of Jaffna, Thirunelveli from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on any working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language could be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Deputy Registrar, General Administration, University of Jaffna, Thirunelveli from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on any working day up to 30th December 2021 upon the submission of receipt for the payment of non-refundable Tender Fee of **Rs. 2500.00**. The payment should be made in cash to the Shroff, University of Jaffna or the payment shall be deposited in favour of Bursar, University of Jaffna at the **University of Jaffna Branch People's Bank Account Number 970000060000276** at any Branch of People's Bank.
- Duly completed sealed Bids shall be sent either by registered post to Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, University of Jaffna or deposited in the Tender Box maintained at Registrar's office at or before 2.00 p.m. on 03rd January 2022. Late Bids or incomplete Bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (Unconditional Guarantee) of Rupees Two hundred and fifty thousand only (**Rs. 250,000.00**).
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.00 am on 28th December 2021 in the Boardroom of the University of Jaffna, Thirunelveli.

Chairman/ Department Procurement Committee
University of Jaffna,
Thirunelveli,
Jaffna,
11.12.2021



Ministry of Irrigation
Irrigation Management Division

Procurement Notices

Purchase of Multi Chopper Machines, Grass Cutters and Polysack Sewing Machines and Organic Fertilizer Manufacturing Equipment.

Productivity Promotion and Irrigation Systems
Efficiency Improvement Project (PEISEIP)

Chairman of the Procurement Committee invites sealed bids from the qualified suppliers for effective and efficient implementation of Organic Fertilizer Manufacturing Programmes conducted by Farmer Organizations of Large-Scale Irrigation Projects managed by the Irrigation Management Division with the aim of cultivating food crops only with organic inputs in order to create a sustainable green socio economy as indicated in the Vistas of Prosperity policy statement of the government.

Bid No 01 - IMD/ GOSL/ NCB/ 2021/05

Bid No 02 - IMD/ GOSL/ NCB/ 2021/06

Bid No	Lot No	Description	Quantity	Value of the Security valid for 30 days from 08.12.2021	Non refundable Bidding Fee
05	01	Multi chopper machine	14	Rs 55,000.00	Rs 1,500.00
	02	Grass cutter	12		
	03	Polysack Sewing Machines	14		
06	01	Mamotties (9 x 9)	12	Rs 10,000.00	Rs 500.00
	02	Mamoty Forks	28		
	03	Shovel	04		
	04	Wheel Barrows	06		
	05	Watering Cans (Plastic)	21		
	06	Balances (50 kg)	14		
	07	Plastic Pans	24		
	08	Rubber Hoses (100 ft)	10		
	09	Normal Sand Casting Net	14		
	10	Polythene (700gage)	320 Kg		
	11	Tarpoline (20 x 20)	21		
	12	polysack bags (25Kg)	12700		

Bid documents can be obtained till **2.00 p.m. 21/12/2021** upon a payment of a **non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500.00** for Bid No. 05 and a **non-refundable fee of Rs. 500 / -** Bid No ... to the **Accounts Division of the Irrigation Management Division located on the ground floor of the Irrigation Department.**

Further, at the time of bidding, a bid security valid for a period of **30 days** with the above value should be submitted in accordance with each bid.

Completed bid documents can be sent via registered post to **Chairman, Divisional Procurement Committee, Irrigation Management Division, Ground Floor (Room No 22), Department of Irrigation Building, No 230, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07** or deposited in the tender box kept at the Irrigation Management Division before **2.30 p.m. 21/12/2021**. Bid Number should be clearly indicated on the top corner of the envelope.

If the total number of units in the above procurement cannot be provided, it is possible to bid only for the quantity that can be supplied.

These equipment should be transported and delivered to the towns where our regional offices are located (Wahalkada / Mahakanadarawa / Galenbindunuwewa / Ambalantota and Siyambalanduwa).

The bid will be opened immediately after the closing and the bidder or his authorized representative may attend the event complying to health guidelines.

The Chairman
Divisional Procurement Committee
Irrigation Management Division,
Ground Floor (Room No 22)
Department of Irrigation Building
No. 230, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.
Telephone No 011-2504517/2504518

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England U-19's Tom Prest in action.

Tom Prest seals final game win as SL wins ODI series 3-2

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Skipper Tom Prest had excellent figures of 6 for 41 as the England Under 19's notched up a 48-run victory over Sri Lanka in their fifth and final ODI played at the SSC grounds yesterday.

However, Sri Lanka won the series 3-2; England only managed to win the first and last games. The Sri Lankan Youth team came to this final game with a new side and rested six of their players from the previous game, including skipper Dunieth Wellalage, Yasiru Rodrigo, Chamindu Wickramasinghem, and Pawan Pathiraja. Raveen de Silva led the side in yesterday's match. Their strategy was clear to give all other players match practice before the Asian Cup and World Cup tournaments.

Sri Lanka's youth team, chasing a target of 214 runs, were bowled out for 166 in 35.1 overs. Tom Prest, who opened the attack, bowled a superb ten-over spell to claim 6 wickets for 41, while medium paceman Thomas Aspinwall captured 2 for 22.

Sri Lankan number four batsman Sadisha Rajapaksa played a fighting innings to score 66 in 77 balls. He struck seven fours before falling for an LBW to Aspinwall in the 36th over.

Earlier, England were 95 for six wickets after 26 overs, but Opener William Luxton made a superb innings hitting 84 in 119 balls, with 4 fours and a six, having been retired hurt; while Alex Horton made 36 in 62 balls with a four, and they well-recovered to make 214 for 8 wickets in their 50 overs.

Vinuja Ranpula the medium paceman was the pick of the bowlers and finished with 4 for 45 in his 9-over spell, while leg spinner Sadisha Rajapaksa made a good supporting role with 2 for 17 in his 6-over spell.

Chief scores

England under 19: 214/8 in 50 overs (George Thomas 17, William Luxton 84 (retired hurt),

Rehan Ahmed 14, Alex Horton 36, Thomas Aspinwall 20*, Vinuja Ranpula 4/45, Sadisha Rajapaksa 2/17)

Sri Lanka under 19: 166 all out in 35.1 overs (Abhishek Liyanarachchi 24, Sadisha Rajapaksa 66, Sakuna Liyanage 20, Raveen de Silva 13, Tom Prest 6/41, Thomas Aspinwall 2/22)

Sri Lanka's under 19 all-rounder Sadisha Rajapaksa, who scored a fighting knock of 66 runs, plays a shot.



Skipper Dunieth Wellalage (L), who was named the 'Man of the Series', receives the champion trophy from match referee Priyantha Udayaratne. (Pic courtesy SLC)

74th Senior National Table Tennis Championship

Anandian, Naval officer clinch Men's and Women's titles

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Senura Silva of Ananda College, Colombo, and Muthumali Priyadarshani of the Sri Lanka Navy won the Men's National and the Women's National titles, respectively, at the 74th Senior National Table Tennis Championship held at the Bandaragama Indoor Stadium on December 4 and 5.

Senura Silva beat Krishan Wickramaratna of Vidyarthi, Kandy, OBA for 4/3; while Muthumali Priyadarshani beat Hansani Piyimila of the Sri Lanka Navy for 4/0.

The Table Tennis Association of Sri Lanka conducted its 74th Senior National Championships during this weekend on December 4 and 5 at the Bandaragama Indoor Stadium.

Senura Silva and Muthumali Priyadarshani were also crowned as the Best Men's player and the Best Women's player of the championship, respectively.

en's player of the championship, respectively.

A total number of 192 players comprising 128 Men and 64 Women competed to be crowned the Senior National Championship organised by the Table Tennis Association of Sri Lanka (TTASL).

State Minister of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement Thenuka Vidanagamage participated in the awards ceremony as the Chief Guest, along with President of TTASL and President of South Asian Region TT Federation, State Minister Kanaka Herath.

Cash prizes were awarded to the Winners, Runners-up, and Semi Finalists as donations from former national players Veediya Bandara, Thilina Piyadasa, Chamara Fernando, Sajith Priyadarshana, and Ganan Herath, all of who are residing overseas.

Galle Gladiators-Dambulla Giants match ends in no result

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The LPL match between Galle Gladiators and Dambulla Giants ended in a no-result at the R. Premadasa Stadium yesterday. Both teams were given one point each to share five points each after four matches, but Gladiators are still on top of the points table with the highest run rate of 0.762.

Dambulla Giants chose to bat first scoring 159 runs for seven wickets in 20 overs when rain halted the game. Galle Gladiators was 18 in 1.2 overs. Openers Kusal Mendis (15) and Dhanushka Gunatilleke (3) were at the wicket. The game was officially called off at 6.30 pm.

Earlier, Dambulla Giants openers Niroshan Dikwella and Phil Salt made a quick start by adding 21 runs stand in just 2.1 overs, while Salt, with two half-centuries already under his belt, once again, started with an aggressive mood scoring 20 in 12 balls with 4 boundaries, while the first breakthrough was made by paceman Nuwan Thushara and Kusal Mendis, took the catch at point to dismiss Salt, which was early the prize wicket for Galle Gladiators.

At one stage, Dambulla Giants were 79 for 5 wickets in 11.2

overs, but skipper Dasun Shanaka (37 in 32 balls with 3 fours and six) and Ramesh Mendis repaired the innings by adding a 45-run sixth-wicket stand. Shanaka was dismissed by Dhananjaya Lakshan in the 18th over, while Mendis made an unbeaten 33 in 23 balls striking 3 fours and a six to get their total 159 for seven wickets in their allotted 20 overs.

Chief scores

Dambulla Giants: 159/7 in 20 overs (Niroshan Dikwella 30, Phil Salt 20, Dilshan Munaweera 12, Dasun Shanaka 37, Ramesh Mendis 33*, Chamika Karunaratne 13, Nuwan Thushara 2/24, Noor Ahmad 2/24)

Galle Gladiators: 18/0 in 1.2 overs (Kusal Mendis 15*, Dhanushka Gunatilleke 3*)



Dambulla Giants skipper Dasun Shanaka plays a shot against Galle Gladiators. (Pic by Kamal Jayamanna)



Dawid Malan and Joe Root put on an unbroken 159 for the third wicket.

Joe Root & Dawid Malan give England hope at the Gabba

Joe Root and Dawid Malan breathed life into the first Ashes Test against Australia with a defiant partnership of 159 on day three at the Gabba.

In a complete turnaround from England's first-innings 147 all out, the third-wicket pair took the tourists to 220-2, 58 behind in Brisbane.

Captain Root moved to 86 not out, closing in on his first century in Australia and breaking the record for the number of runs scored by an England batter in a calendar year.

Malan is unbeaten on 80, on the verge of repeating the hundred he made in Perth on England's last tour down under.

They came together after Rory Burns, who only avoided a pair by overturning being given lbw on nought, fell for 13 and Haseeb Hameed was out for 27.

Australia earlier moved their overnight 343-7 to

425 all out, Travis Head the last man dismissed for 152, reaching 150 from 143 balls - the third-fastest in Ashes history.

Ben Stokes was able to bowl for England having been declared fit from the jarred knee that restricted

his involvement on day two.

Australia will have the second new ball available early on day four, providing England with their next obstacle to setting a competitive fourth-innings target. (BBC)

SCORECARD

ENGLAND 1ST INNINGS 147 (Overnight 343/7)		AUSTRALIA 1ST INNINGS 425	
T. Head	b Wood 152	H. Hameed	c Carey b Starc 27
M. Starc	c Burns b Woakes 35	R. Burns	c Carey b Cummins 13
N. Lyon	c Robinson b Wood 15	D. Malan	not out 80
J. Hazlewood	not out 0	J. Root	not out 86
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 4, w 2) 16	Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 5) 14
Total (all out; 104.3 overs)	425	Total (2 wickets; 70 overs)	220
Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Harris), 2-166 (Labuschagne), 3-189 (Smith), 4-195 (Warner), 5-195 (Green), 6-236 (Carey), 7-306 (Cummins), 8-391 (Starc), 9-420 (Lyon), 10-425 (Head)		Yet to bat: B. Stokes, O. Pope, J. Buttler, C. Woakes, O. Robinson, M. Wood, J. Leach	
Bowling: Woakes 25-8-76-2, Robinson 23-8-58-3, Wood 25-3-		Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Burns), 2-61 (Hameed)	

Sri Lanka Super League Championship Renown clinch 1-0 win against Blue Eagles

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Renown secured a hard-earned 1-0 win over Blue Eagles in their inter club soccer match played for the 'Super League' championship at the Race Course Stadium, yesterday.

Renown skipper Dilip Suraj Pieris successfully sneaked through the rival defence in the 74th minute to score the match winning goal.

The match turned out to be a dull affair from the start whistle, as the performance of both sides was well below expectations. They played in patches and executed no proper plan.

Renown, one of the leading teams in the football arena, missed out on more than a dozen chances, some of them sitters. They surged ahead several times, beating the rival defence, but failed to

put the all-important finishing touches. At lemons, it was a barren scorecard as neither side was able to make an impact on the score line.

After the turnaround, much was anticipated from both teams, but once again, it ended with the same result, with both teams failing to capitalize on the available chances.

Subsequently, in the 73rd minute, a Blue Eagles goal was disallowed as one of their players was flagged offside by the linesman; and on-field referee P. Kumara awarded a free kick to Renown. In the next minute, substitute player Jude Suban made a well-directed cross pass from the right flank to his skipper Dilip Suraj, who put the finishing touches. Meanwhile, the second match between Up Country Lions and Blue Star was called off due heavy rain and soggy ground condition.



Renown skipper Dilip Suraj Peiris controls ball ahead while challenged by a Blue Eagles player.