

Yugadanavi deal to be discussed at Cabinet

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

The meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers scheduled to be held today (13) will focus more attention on the foreign exchange reserves crisis.

Finance Ministry Secretary Sajith Attygalle and Central Bank

Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal will also be summoned to the Cabinet meeting today, Government sources said.

This is the first meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers since the Government's Budget for 2022 was passed in Parliament on

Friday. Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena confirmed to the *Daily News* that the agreement on the Yugadanavi power plant is also expected to be taken up for discussion today.

The Finance Ministry will brief the Cabinet. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Get booster vaccine soon - State Minister



LAHIRU FERNANDO

State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana called on the public to receive their third dose or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before travelling during the upcoming festive season.

The Production, Supply and Regu-

lation of Pharmaceuticals State Minister warned that if people proceed to engage in various gatherings and such without obtaining the booster dose, it could lead to a massive spike in COVID-19 cases once again.

"There is a renewed interest among the people to get the booster

vaccine. If you're going to enjoy without getting the booster vaccine, you'll have to prepare for a COVID tsunami by the last week of December," he said. Over 1.2 million individuals had been vaccinated with the booster dose by yesterday, it was reported.

UGC TOLD TO ACT ON DONS DROPPING OUT OF STUDIES AT STATE EXPENSE

SHOCKING REVELATIONS BY COPE

MILLIONS OF RUPEES UNUTILIZED

ACTION TO RECOVER THE FUNDS THROUGH EPF, LEGAL MEANS

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

It was revealed at the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) recently that although 13 university lecturers had been given Rs. 25 million as beneficiaries for their Postgraduate Studies from 2009 to 2017, they had dropped out of their respective degree courses.

It was also revealed that in 2017, 12 lecturers from eight universities had got approval for funds amounting to Rs. 34.3 million for research but these funds had not been utilized.

It was also disclosed that 15 post-doctoral students have dropped out of universities in the recent past and COPE Chair-

person Prof. Charitha Herath has pointed out the importance of taking legal action against all of them.

These facts were revealed at the COPE meeting held recently under the chairmanship of Prof. Herath to inquire into the report of the Auditor General (AG) on the University Grants Commis-

sion (UGC) and the current performance for Year 2019.

Meanwhile, UGC Vice President Senior Professor Chandana P. Udawatte said the UGC has already planned legal action against university lecturers who have not completed their doctoral degrees after obtaining Govern-

ment funding. He said that work was still being done in this regard and that the monies lost can be recovered from the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) of the respective lecturers.

More than 400 lecturers have already applied for this funding and more than 200 of them are still in the process of applying. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Navy seizes foreign fishing vessel with over 250kg of narcotics



The vessel is being brought ashore by the Navy. Picture by Navy Media.

A special operation mounted by the Navy in international waters led to arrest a foreign fishing vessel carrying around 250kg of narcotics, with six suspects aboard on Saturday.

After several days of continuous surveillance in the international waters about 900 nautical miles (about 1,665km) south of Sri Lanka, this operation was carried out by the Sri Lanka Navy with the assistance of the Police Narcotics Bureau, based on information received, the Navy media unit said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



WORLD'S LARGEST 'BLUE SAPPHIRE' FOUND FROM RATNAPURA

The largest single natural corundum as a single crystal (Blue Sapphire) in the world has been found in Sri Lanka. With a weight of around

310 kilograms (1,550,000 carats), it has been named as the "Queen of Asia". The National Gem and Jewellery Authority says that the gem-

stone had been discovered in the Batagedara area and that it belongs to the Gemological Institute and Research Private Limited. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

US inflation, COL at 40-year high

The Cost of Living climbed again in November and drove the rate of U.S. inflation to a nearly 40-year of 6.8%, putting more pressure on households as they confront rising prices of gas, food, cars and rents.

The consumer price index increased 0.8% last month, the government said yesterday. Economists polled by The Wall Street Journal had forecast a 0.7% advance.

The pace of inflation over the past year escalated to 6.8% from 6.2% in the prior month. That's more than triple the Federal Reserve's 2% target and is the highest rate since July 1982. A string of higher-than-expected inflation readings since the summer is likely to push the Fed to speed up plans to phase out stimulus for the economy by the early spring, several months earlier than it had planned. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

US\$ 55 mn cable car project from Nanu-Oya to Nuwara-Eliya

The Government has signed an agreement to initiate the country's first-ever cable car project in Nuwara Eliya with an investment of around US\$ 55 million.

This cable car project will cover a distance of 4 km from Nanu-Oya to Nuwara-Eliya in two phases.

The main objective of the project is to provide an opportunity to experience the beauty of the environment and to view the surrounding area from different angles from the sky above. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Slash benefits of MPs, Ministers as austerity measure - JVP



SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

The government is not seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans not because it fears measures unpopular with the people but because it fears the IMF will propose cutting down benefits given to politicians, JVP member Sunil Handunnetti said.

He said he was personally pleased that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was needed to overcome the current crisis and stressed that politicians should cut back on unlimited benefits. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Over 8,000 chickens killed in farm fire

M.P.KUMARA - Kotadeniyawa group corr.

Around 8,200 chickens were killed at a poultry farm in Waradala, Kotadeniyawa following a fire which broke out on Saturday. The owner of the farm is said to have suffered losses amounting to over five million rupees due to the fire.

A large amount of eggs too had been destroyed due to the fire. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Police propose synchronised traffic lights in City, suburbs to ease congestion

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Police have proposed several changes to the existing traffic light system at main junctions in order to ease the traffic congestion within Colombo City, said the OIC of the Colombo City

Traffic Division, Chief Inspector A.W. Bandara. He told the *Daily News*, that there are about 67 main junctions with traffic lights in Colombo and suburbs and they are all functioning on a time-based method. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Yugadanavi deal has betrayed country - Sajith Premadasa



ANANDA KANNANGARA

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday expressed serious concern over the vesting of 40 per cent Keralapitiya Yugadanavi power

station shares to an American company, New Fortress Energy (NFE) by signing a late night agreement even without the consent of certain key Cabinet ministers. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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Obituary Notice

Dr P S Perera



1925

2021

Dr P S Perera, retired Obstetrician and Gynecologist, beloved husband of late Doris, loving father of Anil and Priyal, father-in-law of Chitranganie and Shiranthini, loving brother of late Sumithra, late Sita and Ananda, beloved Seeya of Ayanthi, Anushka, Aruni, Sucheta, Shayara and Shevanti, passed away peacefully on the 9th of December 2021.

Funeral arrangements: Monday, 13th December 2021, from 9am at A. F Raymond. Cremation at 4pm at Borella General Cemetery.

Lanka Sathosa to sell commodities below market prices

ANURA PREMALAL

Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena says that around 50 essential food items will be provided to consumers below the market prices for the festive season from Lanka Sathosa.

Addressing the media yesterday he said the prices of food products have gone up as the manufacturing and distribution network has faced a number of crises during the global recession

and the pandemic. He said however President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa are prioritizing the reduction of prices of essential commodities to provide relief to the public.

The Minister said Nadu rice will be sold lower than the current market price of Rs.99.50 per kilo, Rs.130 per kilo of Supiri Samba rice and Rs. 125 per kilo of sugar. The reduction of prices

in other commodities will soon be announced. He said the issuance of product quantities such as rice had been restricted in order to enable every consumer to purchase goods in such a way that there is no shortage of goods at the concessionary prices offered through Lanka Sathosa. The minister said it has been decided to relax these restrictions to some extent during the festive season.

Kneeling issue: Former Uva CM, Principal settle case

SORANATHOTA GROUP CORR.

The case involving former Uva Chief Minister and now Member of Parliament Chamara Sampath Dasanayake who was accused of forcing the principal of the Badulla Tamil Girls' College, Bhavani Raghunathan, to kneel down ended yesterday with both sides agreeing on an amicable settlement.

The two sides reached an amicable settlement at the Badulla Mediation Board on Saturday.

According to a complaint lodged by the

School principal with the Badulla Police, the Badulla Police had filed a case in the Badulla Magistrate's Court against the former chief minister.

However, on the advice of the Attorney General, the Magistrate had later directed that the case be referred to the Mediation Board.

Accordingly, both parties had been summoned to the board meeting held at the Sarvodaya Center in Badulla where both sides stated that they are willing to drop charges and go for an amicable settlement.

Man arrested after nine years for forging ID

Ahangama Police arrested a suspect who had been using a forged identity card of another person for the last nine years at Goviyapana in Ahangama on Saturday.

The suspect had used this identity card

issued in the name of a resident of Getahetta since 2012 and he had also worked in Malaysia and Jordan for five years using an illegal passport issued on this illegal identity card, it has been revealed.

The 38-year-old suspect is a Navy deserter and a resident of Diyabeduma, Polonnaruwa.

Police said the suspect had obtained this identity card using the birth certificate of the other person. He had stolen the birth certifi-

cate from the original owner with the support of a relative.

The suspect was produced before the Galle Magistrate's Courts yesterday. Ahangama Police are investigating.

In Remembrance of Mr. P. D. M. Ariyananda (Mano)

02.03.1967- 13.12.2020



MANONEETHA (MANO) was a kind, generous and a wonderful human being. All those who knew him described him as a warm-hearted person who was always willing to lend a helping hand.

It has been a year since you left us. Not a day passes that we don't think of you. We miss you deeply and terribly. You are forever in our hearts and memories. May you attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana

Deeply and fondly remembered by Wife Yoshitha, Daughter Dhanuri, Son Devin, Brother Lahuru, Aunt Chithira and Aunt Jayalatha.

Bana is on the 12th December (Sunday) and Daane (Alms giving) is on the 13th December (Monday).

Navy seizes foreign... From page 01

The vessel along with six foreign suspects aboard were escorted ashore by a Sri Lanka Navy ship.

It is believed that the 225 packets of narcotics, contained in nine

sacks, weigh over 250kg. In recent anti-drug operations conducted by Sri Lanka Navy on high seas a local multiday fishing vessel with 290kg of heroin was seized on August 30,

2021. Similarly, the Navy intercepted two more foreign fishing vessels carrying over 336kg and 170kg stocks of heroin in two separate operations in on September 4 and

10 respectively. In addition to the stock of drug substance seized during the recent operation, the Navy has been able to nab narcotics worth over Rs.13.16 billion, this

year alone. The vessel with the foreign nationals aboard will be handed over to the Police Narcotics Bureau for investigations and legal action.

Observer SLT Mobitel Schools Cricketer... From page 01

to its most cherished moment in cricket, "Captain Cool" Arjuna Ranatunga. It was under his leadership that Sri Lanka beat Australia by seven wickets in the 1996 World Cup final played in

Lahore, Pakistan on March 17, 1996.

Ranatunga is only the second winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year-in 1980 after Ranjan Madugalle and he is also the first-ever

schoolboy to win the grand title twice.

As a tribute to Ranatunga and his world beating team, the highlights of the 1996 Cricket World Cup Final will be shown on a super giant

screen to an audience of nearly 450 persons at the BMICH on Tuesday where the Mega Show will be conducted in accordance with strict Covid health guidelines, with only 25 per cent of the capacity.

UGC TOLD TO ACT ON DONS DROPPING... From page 01

He also said that the Government has spent hundreds of thousands of rupees to fund doctoral degrees but some university lecturers have left the universities without completing their studies.

He said that action was being taken to deduct the monies allocated by the Government for the doctoral degree from the EPF at

the time of retirement of such university lecturers and to recover any balance through legal processes.

It is reported that there are around 5,500 to 6,000 lecturers working in the 12 State universities in the country, not counting semi-Government and private entities that award degrees. There is also the problem of

university lecturers who go abroad for doctoral studies staying back and becoming permanent residents or citizens of those countries, which deprives Sri Lanka of their services. The Government was compelled to publish a list of their names and last known local addresses in local newspapers a few years ago to expose them.

Over 8,000 chicken... From page 01

Police suspect that an electricity shortage had caused the fire. The fire had been doused by the Negombo Fire Brigade. No injuries were caused to workers.

Further investigations are being carried out by the police.

World's largest... From page 01

The "Queen of Asia" is currently located in Horana and was displayed to the media for the first time yesterday (12). It is reported that a Saudi Arabian Company has presented a bid of USD one million for the 'Queen of Asia'.

The National Gem and Jewellery Authority has inspected the gemstone and a certificate has also been issued.

Yugadanavi deal to be discussed at... From page 01

of Ministers on the issue concerning the Yugadanavi Power Plant in Kerawalapitiya. According to reports, the Cabinet is to be briefed on the agreement signed with New Fortress Energy to transfer shares in West Coast Power Limited (WCP) - the owner of the 310 MW Yugadanavi Power Plant to the US-based company.

However, on Friday, during the last day of the Budget 2022, the power sector transaction took a different turn with JVP Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake tabling a fresh document in Parliament that the agreement was signed not with New Fortress Energy but with another US based company-NFE Sri Lanka Power Holdings LLC.

The Fundamental Rights (FR) petitions filed against the Yugadanavi Power Plant deal have been fixed for consideration on December 16 and 17 by the Supreme Court.

The FR petitions were put forward by Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Ven. Elle Gunawansa Thera, Samagi Jana Balawegaya, Sunil Handunnetti and Wasantha Samarasinghe of the JVP and a group including Ven. Benganuwera Nalaka Thera, Dr. Gunadasa Amarasekara and Dr. Wasantha Bandara.

Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya has appointed a five-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court to hear the Fundamental Rights (FR) petitions filed against the Yugadanavi Power Plant deal.

The bench comprises Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya and Supreme Court Judges Buwaneka Aluvihare, Priyantha Jayawardena, Vijith Malalgoda and L.T.B. Dehideniya.

Yugadanavi deal has betrayed... From page 01

He assured that this will definitely be taken back to our country's control under an SJB Government in future.

The SJB leader made these remarks in response to questions made by media on the vesting of 40 per cent Yugadanavi power station shares to an American company following a Cabinet meeting and this clearly shows the Government has violated the rights of people in the country.

Premadasa further said it was the first time in Sri Lankan Parliament history that an important agreement signed by a people elected Government with a foreign investor late night even without the consent of key ministers representing the Cabinet.

He said the country's important assets belong to people in this country and not politicians or any other individuals and also people have the right to know about the details of whatever agreement signed by the Government with a foreign country or an investor.

It is said that Yugadanavi Power station is the country's largest power station and according to the agreement Sri Lanka gets the sole ownership of this power station in 2035.

The CEB Engineers Association said according to the agreement the supply of LNG gas also going to them. This situation clearly shows that country's security is at risk when giving the ownership of the gas supply to them.

"This agreement also betrayed the country such as the Hedging agreement and we are also surprised how majority our Cabinet ministers are quite silent over this unacceptable matter," he said.

Premadasa said the SJB vehemently condemns the decision of vesting the shares of the Kerawalapitiya Yugadanavi power station to an American based company secretly and said the people are also showing their displeasure over this.

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Late Dr Jayantha Gunarathna Jayatilaka Colombo 7

Born
18
08
1939



Died
07
12
2021

Past pupil of Thurstan College. Founder of Dilruk Garments Industry, J & J Electronics, Ward Place Private Hospitals and Rajasalu PVT Ltd. Former Commander of St. John's Ambulance.

Members of the bereaved family would like to thank all who attended the funeral, conveyed condolences and shared in their grief.

A deeply grateful acknowledgement is also made of all Members of the Maha Sangha who partook in the Pansukula and to all who helped in many ways.

May our dearest Dr. Jayatilaka attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

Beloved wife Lalitha & Son Dr. Buddika Jayatilaka. 0777510090

US inflation, COL at... From page 01

Top central bank officials meet next week to plot their next step.

Worried about the economic and political consequences, the White House has also moved to try to help untangle knots in the U.S. supply chain that are contributing to high inflation. Many goods and materials are

in short supply and prices have risen as a result.

Another closely watched measure of inflation that omits volatile food and energy costs jumped 0.5% last month. This so-called core rate is closely followed by economists as a more accurate measure of underlying inflation.

The 12-month increase in the core rate climbed to 4.9% from 4.6% and remained at a 30-year peak. The last time the core rate reached 5% was in mid-1991.

Soaring inflation is outstripping the biggest increase in worker wages in decades. Inflation-adjusted hourly pay was

1.9% lower in November compared to a year ago. Paychecks aren't buying as much as they used to buy. The stunning surge in U.S. prices this year could peak in the next few months as supply-chain bottlenecks are gradually undone, but high inflation is likely to last well into 2022. (MW)

US\$ 55 mn cable... From page 01

The Urban Development and Housing Ministry said the government had officially commenced the Nuwara Eliya Cable Car Project, one of the special development projects being implemented with the aim of steering Sri Lanka's tourism industry forward.

The agreement was signed on the instructions of the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Urban Development and Housing Minister for the first cable car project in the country as a significant investment in

the country's economy as well as the tourism industry, the Ministry said.

Nuwara Eliya District is a popular tourist destination and this area is also attracting a large number of tourists and the new project will further enhance the area reputation as a tourist hub.

Plans for all development activities have been prepared and finalized to complete the work on the proposed cable car project within the next 18 months.

This project is initiated by the Tourist Board and the Tourism Ministry. The Urban Development Authority will be contacted as a partner, Urban Development Authority Director General, Prasad Ranaweera said.

The project, which is being implemented under the Swedish Foreign Aid Scheme, is being developed on a 30-year lease basis at a cost of US\$ 55 million.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed recently at

the Urban Development and Housing Ministry auditorium. Wildlife and Forest Conservation Minister C.B. Ratnayake, Urban Development and Housing Ministry Secretary Sirinimal Perera, Urban Development Authority Chairman retired Major General Udaya Nanayakara, Urban Development Authority Director General Prasad Ranaweera; Chairman, Outdoor Engineering Company in Sweden and Director of Lanka Outdoor Engineering Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd. were present.

Slash benefits of... From page 01

He said that the relief given to the people has been cut and if the government pays an allowance of Rs. 5,000 and when a person goes to the shops to buy goods with it they will come to know it is hardly inadequate due to rising inflation.

Handunnetti said that pensions paid to MPs should be slashed and

official benefits such as free accommodation, the number of vehicles, security should be reduced. He said this should apply to Ministers and former Presidents as well.

"In addition to receiving an allowance from Parliament, MP's receive a sitting allowance for each passing day. The Parliament canopy should also be closed. MP's

should be encouraged to bring food from home".

He said funds should be given for tourism development from the President's Fund. He said if the government is willing to reduce benefits of politicians then the people too would be ready for any sacrifice to uplift the country from the current economic situation.

Police propose synchronised... From page 01

As the existing traffic light system is outdated and does not cater to the need of the present traffic flow in the city, the police have pointed out to the authorities on the requirement of setting up synchronised traffic lights and traffic lights with sensors as a short-term and long-term change respectively.

Traffic Signal Synchronization is a traffic engineering technique of matching the green light times for a series of intersections to enable the maximum number of vehicles to pass through, thereby reducing stops and delays experienced by motorists.

The Moratuwa University has been entrusted with the task to synchronise the traffic light system in Colombo as the first step and traffic lights with sensors will be installed in the second phase.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has also instructed the Road Develop-

ment Authority and the Colombo Municipal Council to take steps to widen the roads where necessary and provide timely solutions to the bottle neck junctions in Colombo to reduce the traffic congestion.

The total distance of the roads within the Colombo Municipal Council is about 400 kilometres. An average of 600, 000 vehicles enter the city on a daily basis. Of them 90,000 for 141 schools situated within the city. All these vehicular movements are handled by 800 police traffic officers, CI Bandara said.

Lack of enough parking spaces for vehicles entering the Colombo City has become a major cause for the daily traffic congestion, the CI stressed.

CI Bandara said the pilot project launched by the police with the technical support of the Sri Lanka Air Force to inspect and provide immedi-

ate solutions to traffic congestion during rush hours has been successful. Under this project, vehicular movements are being inspected by the police through the real-time drone footage provided from nine major junctions in Colombo by the Air Force and immediate deployments of police traffic officers to the locations where necessary is made.

Under the first stage only the traffic congestion will be inspected and discussions are underway to identify and fine the owners of the vehicles committing traffic law violations in the future, based on the drone and CCTV footage, he said.

All the footage received from the nine drones are inspected by the Colombo City Traffic Division officers at the Air Surveillance Centre located at the Air Force Headquarters. This is headed by Air Commodore Thushara Weeraratne.

The Partners and Staff of
Dayananda Samarawickrema & Company
(Chartered Accountants)
Wish to announce with great regret
The untimely demise of

Mr. H.G. Dayananda (FCA)
(Precedent Partner of Dayananda Samarawickrema & Company)

His remains lie at Boralessgamuwa Florists, No 75 Dehiwala Road, Boralessgamuwa.
on Monday 13th December 2021 followed by the cremation at 4 PM at Boralessgamuwa Cemetery.
Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this moment of grief.

Dayananda Samarawickrema & Company
(Chartered Accountants)



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa met the leader of the Bohra community, His Holiness Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Saheb and several leading members of the Bohra community, at his private residence in Mirihana on Saturday.

Leader of Bohra community meets President

A meeting between the leader of the Bohra community, His Holiness Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Saheb and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa took place at the President's private residence in Mirihana on Saturday (11).

Nearly one million members of the Bohra community live in a number of countries including India, Pakistan, the United States, the United

Kingdom, Canada, Sri Lanka and Australia. His Holiness Saifuddin said he was pleased to visit Sri Lanka which is one of the countries he loves and added that he would continue to visit Sri Lanka along with his followers.

He praised the Government's Covid-19 control programme and said that he looks forward to the development of Sri Lanka.

President Rajapaksa thanked the Bohra community leader for his contribution to the 'Itukama' Covid-19 Fund and appreciated the contribution made by the Bohra community to the Sri Lankan economy through investment and trade.

Principal Advisor to the President Lalith Weeraratunga and several leading members of the Bohra community were also present at the meeting.

Punjab govt decides to conduct trial of Sialkot accused in prison

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

The Punjab Provincial Government in Pakistan decided on Saturday to hold the trial of the accused in the Sialkot lynching case within the prison premises, the *Express Tribune* and news agencies reported yesterday.

The decision to hold the trial inside the prison was reached after a meeting of the prosecution team and the Punjab government. The prosecution also asked the jail administration to make the necessary arrangements to conduct the trial.

Police have also been directed to complete the necessary legal proce-

dures and submit the completed forms to the court as soon as possible.

The Regional Police Officer (RPO) said that official documents to carry out jail trials of the suspects have been issued. The Judge of the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) will head the proceedings in jail, he added. Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara was brutally lynched and his body set on fire by a mob in Sialkot in the Punjab Province on December 3.



Priyantha Kumara

The Punjab Police on Wednesday arrested eight more accused for their primary role in the Sialkot lynching tragedy.

Recent arrests came after the law enforcement officials traced the culprits via CCTV footage and cellular data.

Among the arrests made by the police was also Imtiaj alias Billi, who was involved in torturing Kumara and desecrating his body. He was arrested from a bus bound for Rawalpindi.

SLPP, SLFP committed to work together - Sagara

NERANJALA WICKRAMASINGHA

General Secretary of the People's Alliance Sagara Kariyawasam yesterday said that the SLFP and the SLPP have reached an agreement to work together in unity, while protecting the collective responsibilities of the two parties.

As the two parties worked together to form a people's Government, the two parties agreed to work together to make the President's 'Vision for Prosperity' a reality, he said.

The SLPP General Secretary

said that his party will provide 100 per cent support for this agreement and will always fulfill its collective responsibility without criticizing each other.

"The SLPP has never had a conflict with the SLFP and the party is of the view that the SLFP should be given its due place. There were critical views on several issues, including



the breach of the collective responsibility and criticism of each other, but from now on both parties will work together to resolve all these issues and serve the people," Kariyawasam said.

Meanwhile, Minister Mahinda Amaraweera stated that the leaders of the SLPP and the

SLFP have reached an agreement to minimize the conflict of opinion.

Foreign national drowns

A foreigner who was staying at a hotel in the Yaddhimulla area in Unawatuna in the Habaraduwa Police Division drowned in the seas off Dalawella beach, police said. He was admitted to

the Karapitiya Hospital in Galle and succumbed to his injuries yesterday morning. The deceased has been identified as a Russian national.

The foreigner was rescued by the

residents of the area and was admitted to the Karapitiya Hospital by the 1990 ambulance service.

Habaraduwa Police are conducting investigations.

Woman dies after gas stove explodes in Kandy

ASELA KURULUWANSA

A 51-year-old woman who was critically injured due to an explosion of the gas stove in her house in the Nattarampotha area in Kandy has died

while receiving treatment at the Kandy National Hospital on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as W. Priyangani. Police investigations have

revealed that the woman had woken up in the morning on December 1 and had gone to the kitchen and lit the gas stove which had exploded.

Cop arrested for drug smuggling

BANDULA SENEVIRATNE

Vavuniya North Gr. Corr.

Police Special Task Force (STF) arrested two individuals including a sergeant engaged in smuggling Kerala cannabis in the Puliyanakula-

ma area in Vavuniya yesterday.

A total of six kilograms and five grams of cannabis worth Rs. 1 million have been taken into custody along with the suspects.

The sergeant is attached to a police station in the Vavuniya Division.

They were to be produced before the Vavuniya Magistrate Courts. Vavuniya Police are investigating.

Opposition Members who voted for Budget in for upbraiding

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Political parties affiliated to the SJB have been verbally instructed to take action against their members who voted in favour of the Budget, SJB Member of Parliament Tissa Attanayake said.

Affiliated parties have been informed that they have to inform the SJB about the action they are taking, he said.

Attanayake said from the SJB, only Parlia-



mentarian Diana Gamage had voted in favour of the Budget and that legal action had already been taken against her.

Attanayake also said that those who supported the Budget would be rejected by the people.

He said this when queried about what action would be taken against several Members of Parliament from parties allied to the SJB who voted in favour of the Budget.

Short-term power cuts in parts of Sri Lanka

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

Short-term disruptions to the electricity supply have been experienced in several areas in the country, says the Power Ministry.

According to the Ministry,

the situation is caused by a breakdown of the second generator at the Lakvijaya Power Station in Norochcholai. Ministry spokesperson Sulakshana Jayawardena said the second generator

was removed from the system for repairs due to a water leak in the boiler. Therefore, the power supply in some parts of the island will be suspended for nearly 30 minutes, he said.

STF seizes ammo from suspect

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Police Special Task Force (STF) officers in Anuradhapura arrested a 26-year-old suspect along with explosives in the Kirigalwewa area in Pihimbiyagollewa on Saturday evening.

The STF seized 140 grams of water gel

in 265 sticks and 56 service threads of 170 feet in length from the suspect's possession.

The suspect is a resident of the Medawachchiya area and has been handed over to Pihimbiyagollewa police for further action.

Ammo discovered in Mullaitivu

BANDULA SENEVIRATNE

Vavuniya North Gr. Corr.

Mullaitivu Police have recovered several bombs said to have manufactured by the LTTE, in the Irattaiwai-

kkaal area in Mullaitivu on Saturday. It includes a T82 bomb, a JR bomb and a 60 mm mortar ammo.

They have been recovered based on the intelligence information pro-

vided by the Air Force. These bombs are due to be disposed by the STF on an order issued by the Mullaitivu Magistrate's Court. Mullaitivu Police are investigating.



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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

If you possess foreign currency that you have obtained by....

- I. Purchasing from a bank or an Authorized Money Changer for travel abroad and brought back unutilized into Sri Lanka (up to USD 15,000 or equivalent),
- II. Withdrawing from a Personal Foreign Currency Account (PFCA) for travel abroad (up to USD 15,000 or equivalent),
- III. Earnings from employment, profession, or business while abroad and brought into Sri Lanka,
- IV. Acquiring and bringing into Sri Lanka for deposit in Special Deposit Accounts (SDAs) on or after 01 January 2020.

You may.....

- Convert such foreign currency into Sri Lanka Rupees at any bank (at Sri Lanka Rupees 210* per USD or equivalent) during the month of December 2021; or
- Deposit such foreign currency into Sri Lanka Rupee Accounts at any bank (at Sri Lanka Rupees 210* per USD or equivalent) during the month of December 2021; or
- Deposit such foreign currency into your PFCA or SDA at any bank; or
- Invest such foreign currency in Sri Lanka Development Bonds through your bank.

* Exchange Rate - Rs. 200 + Special incentive of Rs. 10

Note: The necessary instructions regarding the above have been issued to all banks by the Central Bank.

Department of Foreign Exchange, No. 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01

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University Admissions: Deadline extended

S.M.WIJAYARATNE,
Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman Senior Prof. Sampath Amarantunga yesterday said that students qualified to enter Universities for the academic year 2020 can submit applications to enroll till December 16 this year.

The closing date of the enrollment was to end on December 10 but the UGC has extended it till December 16.

About 41,150 students have been selected for the Universities, he added. The students who have already appealed for re-considering them to be registered, too, will be considered for admission, he added.

Sialkot Police organise walk in solidarity with Priyantha Kumara's family

Sialkot Police on Saturday organised a walk to show solidarity with the family of the Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara, who lynched by a mob in the city earlier this month.

The walk was led by Sialkot District Police Officer (DPO) Omar Saeed Malik. Top political leadership, administration, business community, lawyers, and representatives of all religions of the district were among those in attendance.

The participants marched from the DPO Office to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce building, carrying banners in support of the late Factory Manager.

Talking to media persons, the DPO said, "We are sorry for this incident. Sialkot Police shares the grief of Priyantha Kumara's family".

Malik said that most of the main culprits had been held, and that they will be brought to justice. He vowed justice for the family of the deceased.

Conveying that Sialkot is a peaceful city, other participants said, "We are deeply saddened by the death of the Sri Lankan national in Sialkot."

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Usman Dar, Minister for Special Education Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq,

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sialkot, on behalf of Deputy Commissioner Sialkot, Sialkot Bar Council President Khalid Mehmood Qureshi, Vice President and Senior Vice President of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, Members of the Interfaith Harmony and the District Peace Committees, and hundreds of people from other walks of life attended the activity.

The nation was left shell-shocked on December 3 when the Sri Lankan national was brutally lynched before being set ablaze by the mob in Sialkot over allegations of blasphemy.

- The Express Tribune



A section of the crowd at the walk.

12th standard girl pens 3 books, becomes youngest author from Kashmir Valley

A 12th standard girl from the South Kashmir's Kulgam District, Bushra Nida, has become one of the youngest authors from the Kashmir Valley as she has written three books so far.

The three books, which have been written by Nida, were titled *Tulips of Feelings*, *The Davy* (Poetic Rendition of Elements of Periodic Table) and *E=mc2*.

After writing these books, the girl has shot to fame and received awards for the first and second books.

Bushra's first book, *Tulips of Feelings* got an Appreciation Award from 'India Book of Records' while her second book *The*



Bushra Nida

Davy (Poetic Rendition of Elements of Periodic Table) gained international applause and is registered

as 'Golden Book of World Records' and 'Asia Book of Records'. She had also won the 'International Kalam's Golden Award 2021' for her second book.

Regarding her third book, she said, "In the book, I have tried to simplify the formula by giving it a poetic form so that even a layperson can understand it easily." She said that it is the first poetry book written on *E=mc2* and even applied to get it registered in the Guinness Book of World Records.

"I have submitted the application and it has been accepted. The committee is now scrutinizing my claim. I am hopeful to get the title

on my name," she said. Bushra also said that she was interested in writing and reading poems since childhood, which made her write three books and wants to become a doctor because it was her late father's dream.

Naseera Akhter, the girl's mother feels proud of her daughter's talent and achievements. "I am proud of her talent and achievements. I thank god for supporting her and hope she continues to reach heights in future. She has written her first book in Class 10th. If she continues to work with dedication, she will gain fame across the world," her mother said. - ANI

Polish Ambassador calls on Foreign Minister

Ambassador of Poland Adam Burakowski, concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka, met Foreign Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris on Wednesday (8) at the Foreign Ministry and discussed issues of mutual interest. Ambassador Burakowski was on a visit to Colombo to coincide with the commencement of direct flights of LOT Polish Airlines to Sri Lanka.

Referring to the commemoration of 65 years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Poland in 2022, Foreign Minister Prof. Peiris reiterated Sri Lanka's commitment to further advancing its multi-faceted partnership with Poland. Emphasis was placed on the promotion of political as well as trade, investment, tourism ties and people-to-people contacts to adopt a holistic approach in furthering bilateral cooperation. In this regard, the need for regular interactions between the business



Foreign Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris and Ambassador of Poland Adam Burakowski during the discussions.

chambers of the two countries was noted. The Foreign Minister apprised the visiting Ambassador on EU-Sri Lanka cooperation and the significance of the EU market for Sri Lankan exports. The Ambassador

informed of an event planned in 2022 in Sri Lanka to promote Polish processed food and two-way tourism. The visiting Ambassador also met senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Tamil and Muslim parties for power devolution beyond 13A - Hakeem

DHARMA SRI ABEYRATNE

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) Leader Rauf Hakeem said that Tamil and Muslim party leaders have not deviated from the goal of power devolution beyond the 13th Amendment.

He was speaking at a press conference after a meeting of representatives of Tamil and Muslim parties yesterday.

Representatives of Tamil and

Muslim parties representing the people whose mother tongue is Tamil were present at the discussion.

The meeting was held in Colombo under the Chairmanship of MP Sampanthan and the final agreements are expected to be revealed to the country on December 21.

Hakeem urged the Government to hold Provincial Council elections with immediate effect and to take action to

devolve power beyond the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

"We are dissatisfied with the course of action taken by the Government. The Government has promised to introduce a new Constitution. It is important that the Provincial Councils, which have become inactive due to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution be operational again. We have not deviated from our goal of devolution beyond the 13th Amendment," Hakeem noted.

Parents in Matale ask for safe school transport system

A.A.L.DIAS

Matale district group corr

A large number of children travelling in school buses and vans are at a high risk as most of these vehicles in the rural areas of the Matale District, are unsuitable for travelling.

The Government has introduced rules regarding the use of private school buses but the relevant authorities have not implemented them properly. Therefore, schoolchildren are at a high risk since many of these buses are unsuitable for passenger transport.

Over 1,000 vehicles provide transport for schoolchildren in the District.

Railways to transport upcountry vegetables

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Vegetable transportation from Nuwara-Eliya to Colombo will be carried out using the railways to ease the vegetable shortage during the forthcoming festive season, Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said.

The Minister was speaking in response to questions that there is a severe shortage of vegetables in the country and that vegetables available at the main economic centres at Peliyagoda and Manning Market are expensive.

He accepted that vegetable prices in the country are somewhat high these days due to the shortage of fertilizer and said this situation will become normal in due course.

The Minister also talked about the decision taken to import chemical fertilizer and said his Ministry with the help of Agrarian

Service Centres will encourage farmers to grow paddy and vegetables using organic fertilizer from next year.

He said the Government has also come to a decision to continuously carry out our agricultural products using only organic fertilizer and it will start with home gardens since a majority home garden vegetable growers welcome the Government's decision to grow paddy and vegetable using only organic fertilizer.

"At a time when most countries in the world are using only organic fertilizer, considering the health situation of people, why cannot our farmers and cultivators do the same," the Minister queried.

He said cultivating paddy and vegetables using only organic fertilizer will also help develop our tourism industry since foreign tourists are keen on consuming vegetables and fruit cultivated using organic fertilizer.

Boy dies in explosion

A 15-year-old boy from the Thopur Allenagar area in the Muthur Police Division died yesterday following a sudden explosion while searching for leaves for goats.

Police said that the boy succumbed on admission to the Thopur Hospital.

The explosion had occurred when he was collecting leaves for goats in a

nearly land. The body is at the Thopur hospital mortuary and the Thopur Police are conducting further investigations into the case.

US imposes sanctions on 12 foreign military officers

The US has imposed sanctions on two Sri Lankan military officers for alleged human rights violations, banning them and their immediate family members from entering America.

Chandana Hettiarachchi, a Naval officer, and Sunil Ratnayake, a former staff sergeant of the Sri Lankan Army, were among several military officers from 12 countries who were sanctioned by the US over accountability for "gross violations of human rights". Hettiarachchi was

involved in the "flagrant denial of the right to liberty of at least eight 'Trincomalee 11' victims, from 2008 to 2009," the US State Department said in a statement issued on Saturday, coinciding with the International Human Rights Day.

The "Trincomalee 11" case pertains to the abduction and murder of 11 Tamil youths from Trincomalee district. Ratnayake was involved in the "extrajudicial killings of at least eight Tamil villagers in December 2000", the statement said.

Ratnayake was sentenced to death by a court for killing the eight Tamil civilians, including four children, following which he moved the Supreme Court. The apex court in 2019 unanimously rejected the officer's appeal and upheld the death penalty. He was pardoned last year and released from Prison.

The US State Department in 2020 also sanctioned the current Sri Lankan Army chief Gen. Shavendra Silva on allegations of war crimes committed during the final phase of

the armed conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

According to Government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts including the three-decade brutal war with the LTTE in the North and the East, which claimed at least 100,000 lives over 30 years.

The Sri Lankan Army denies the charges, claiming it as a humanitarian operation in the North to rid the Tamil population of the LTTE's control.

(The Hindu)

US Envoy in Galle on Inspection Tour

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,

Galle Central Special Corr.

Chargé d'Affaires of the US Mission to Sri Lanka and Maldives Martin Kelly made a tour in Galle recently to review the progress of the Documentation of Historic Buildings within the World Heritage Site of the Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications.

Department of Archaeology of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has submitted the project proposal on invitation of the US Embassy in Sri Lanka. Under the Project, historic structures of the Galle Fort will be catalogued to formulate a master plan.

During the visit, the US Mission Head visited a number of old buildings, including the Anglican Church in the Galle Fort, and assured that over US \$ 100,000 will be provided for the Project to document 189 old buildings in the Fort.

Chargé d'Affaires Martin Kelly also



Chargé d'Affaires of the US Mission to Sri Lanka and Maldives Martin Kelly along with other officials during the inspection tour.

met the Southern Province Governor Dr. Willy Gamage and discussed the regional economy after the pandemic. He assured US assistance to increase investment opportunities in Sri Lanka and improve sustainable economic opportunities.

The US Envoy also visited the Hiyare Biodiversity Conservation Centre in Galle. The Deputy Envoy inspected the wildlife sanctuary and conservation work being carried out by the Galle Wildlife Conservation Centre.

Fifty six Midshipmen commissioned



A scene from the ceremony.

The commissioning of Midshipmen of the 34th intake (Technical) of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and the 62nd intake of Officer Cadets of the Sri Lanka Navy was held at the Naval and Maritime Academy (NMA), Trincomalee on December 11.

Navy Commander Commodore Damian Fernando and Vice Admiral Nishantha Uluguttenne at the invitation of NMA Commandant graced the occasion as Chief Guests and took the salute. Navy Seva Vanitha Unit President Chandima Uluguttenne was also present.

Thirteen Midshipmen of the 34th intake (Technical) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and 43 Midshipmen of the 62nd intake of the

Officer Cadets of Sri Lanka Navy passed out amidst the applause of their parents and well-wishers after the commissioning parade at the NMA main parade ground.

The outstanding performances of the Midshipmen were recognized with presentation of awards by the Navy Commander. Midshipman H.U.C.L. Jayakody won the award for the Best Technical Officer.

Midshipman N.D.A.N. Nanayakkara was adjudged the Best Midshipman of the 62nd intake of the Officer Cadets of the Navy and also granted the award for the highest aggregate in Nautical Subjects. Midshipman KHPI Hannadige won awards for the highest aggregate in Overall Subjects and Professional Subjects. Midship-

man H.G.L.S.L. Somaratna won the award for the Best Marksman and Midshipman B.V.D. Pabasara was selected as the Best Sportsman of the 62nd intake.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Commander Western Naval Area and Commandant Volunteer Naval Force Rear Admiral Upul De Silva, Commander Eastern Naval Area, Rear Admiral Sanjeeva Dias, Area Commanders, Executive Committee Members of the Navy Seva Vanitha Unit, Director Generals, Flag Rank Officers, Diplomatic Corps, Officers from the Navy Headquarters and the Eastern Naval Command, Senior Officers from sister services and Police and parents of the commissioned officers were present.

Covid-19

Travel restrictions on African countries lifted

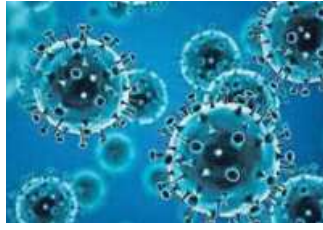
The travel restrictions for those arriving from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini have been removed with immediate effect, Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardana said.

The Health Services Director General had imposed travel restrictions for passengers arriving in Sri Lanka from these countries on November 26.

In addition, the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) has informed the Director General of the Civil

Aviation Authority and the Chairman of the Airport Aviation Services to ensure all travellers arriving in Sri Lanka upload online relevant documents such as vaccination records, pre-departure COVID-19 negative test reports and the data page of the passport beforehand, the Government Information Department said.

Further, the DGHS has instructed the relevant authorities to ensure that inbound travellers fill a mandatory Online Health Declaration on arrival in Sri Lanka. Such travellers should possess QR codes



on their mobile phones or present a hard copy. These new regulations will come into effect from January 1, 2022.

Meanwhile, DGHS Dr. Gunawardana stated that children below 12 do not need to carry pre-departure COVID-19 test reports. Accordingly, it is still

mandatory for travellers aged 12 or above to carry a negative COVID-19 PCR test report in the English language, done within 72 hours before embarkation.

If any traveller had contracted COVID-19 during the last three months, he or she could carry a negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test report done within 48 hours before embarkation. They should also carry some verifiable evidence such as a diagnostic card or positive Rapid Antigen Test report issued in English to prove his or her history of COVID-19 infection.

Speaker endorses certificate on the Appropriation Bill for 2022

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena on Friday (10) endorsed the certificate on the Appropriation Bill for the Fiscal year 2022 starting from January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022.

The Bill was presented in Parliament on October 7 for the first reading. Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa presented the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill (Budget Speech) for the year 2022 on Friday, November 12.

The Second Reading debate of the Appropriation Bill continued for seven days from November 13 to 22 and was passed with a majority of 93 votes. One-hundred-and-fifty-three were cast in favour of it and 60 were cast against it.

The Committee Stage Debate which commenced from November 23 continued for 16 days until December 10 and was passed in Parliament. Accordingly, the Third



Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena on Friday (10) endorsed the certificate on the Appropriation Bill for the Fiscal year 2022.

Reading of the Budget was passed with a majority of 93 votes. One-hundred-and-fifty-seven were cast in favour of it and 64 were cast against it. Accordingly, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

endorsed the certificate on the Appropriation Bill for the Fiscal year 2022 on December 10 afternoon. Thus, will come to effect as the Appropriation Act No. 30 of 2021.

Easter Sunday attacks

'Guilty should be punished irrespective of power, position'

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga has stated that he is of the view that anyone found guilty of the Easter Sunday attacks should be punished irrespective of status.

Minister Ranatunga said if former President Maithripala Sirisena is found to have been responsible in anyway, such as by way of negligence of duty, for the Easter attacks, he too should be punished.

"Those responsible for the Easter attacks should be punished wherever they are and at any level. Whether they are in the Government today or in the Opposition is irrelevant. They have committed an unforgivable act. As such they also should be punished according to law," Minister Ranatunga said.

The Minister was responding to questions raised by journalists after

a function at Minuwangoda yesterday.

Speaking further, Minister Ranatunga said: "The report of the Presidential Commission appointed by the previous government after the Easter attacks mentions those responsible for the attacks and those who should accept the responsibility for it."

"Those responsible for this incident, whether in the Government, our party or the UPFA, are guilty and an offence is an offence. The Christian religious leaders including the Cardinal, the Christian people as well as the entire people of the country want justice," Minister Ranatunga said.

He said the Government cannot interfere in the judicial process and the Judiciary is an independent institution.

"The people of the country do not expect us to form political committees like the previous government and form anti-corruption committees and FCIDs to take political revenge. Recommendations have been made by the Easter Attacks Commission report. Those recommendations should be implemented expeditiously," he added.

"It was after our Government came into power that these investigations were carried out properly and arrangements were made to take legal action against relevant persons," Minister Ranatunga said.

"From that time onwards the JVP lied. They are doing the same thing today. Only good, not bad, will come to the country through the Yugadhana power plant. This Government is not a Government that harms the country," the Minister said.

EXIM Bank of India officials visit Sri Lanka

A three-member team from the Export Import (Exim) Bank of India visited Sri Lanka from December 7 to 9 to review the progress of the Polgahawela and Aluthgama integrated water supply projects, being implemented under the Buyer's Credit facilities under the National Export Insurance Account (BC-NEIA) programme.

The team which included General Manager Shilpa Waghmare, Assistant General Manager Mitali Pendharkar and Chief Manager Ranjan Roy paid a courtesy call on Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay on December 9 and briefed him about the progress of the projects.

The Exim Bank of India has extended Buyer's Credit of US\$ 441.42 million, to support four projects in Sri Lanka, of which two have already been completed. For the other two ongoing integrated water supply projects in Polgahawela and Aluthgama, a support of US\$ 91.80 million and US\$ 164.90 million respectively, has been provided to



Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay met Exim Bank of India officials on December 9.

the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka (NWSDB).

The project at Polgahawela is being executed by VA Tech Wabag Ltd and the project at Aluthgama by Ion Exchange (India) Ltd. Both the projects have achieved almost 90 percent physical progress.

During the visit, the Exim Bank team visited the project sites at Aluthgama and Polgahawela to assess the progress and interacted with the contractors.

The Exim Bank team held meetings with senior

officials of Sri Lanka's Department of External Resources (under the Finance Ministry) and the NWSDB in Colombo, to review and discuss the way forward for early completion of the two projects. They also discussed projects which could be taken up under the BC-NEIA programme in the future.

The water supply projects in Sri Lanka are community-centric priority projects. A project for supply, construction and commissioning of a water treat-

ment plant and distribution to nine reservoirs across the Dambulla region has already been successfully executed by VA Tech Wabag Ltd under Buyer's Credit.

The BC-NEIA is a concessional loan facility extended by India's Exim Bank to sovereign governments and their nominated government-owned entities (parastatal agencies) for execution of projects in certain sectors. Presently, 91 countries are in the positive list under the BC-NEIA programme.

RTI Commission chief appointed

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Retired Supreme Court Judge Upali Abeyratne has been appointed as the Chairman of the Right to Information

(RTI) Commission. Its new members were appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday (11).

The RTI Commission's other mem-

bers are retired Judge P. Rohini Walgama, Kishali Pinto Jayawardena, Jagath Bandara Liyanarachchi and Dr. Athulasiri Kumara Samarakoon.



Media Minister Dullas Alahapperuma presents a gift to one of the winners of the art competition. Pictures by Saliya Rupasinghe and Ranjith Asanka

Children shine at 'Muthu Ahura' art exhibition

'Muthu Ahura', an art exhibition by schoolchildren was organised at the Public Library Auditorium on Saturday by Muthu Ahura children's educational publication of the Associated Newspapers of Cey-

lon Limited (ANCL). Media Minister Dullas Alahapperuma participated as the chief guest at the awards ceremony held on Saturday afternoon where several students who excelled with their creative



ANCL Chairman/Managing Director W. Dayaratne, PC, speaks at the event.



ANCL Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam speaks at the event.

contributions were awarded certificates. ANCL Chairman/Managing Director W. Dayaratne, PC, the Board of Directors and senior staff members of the ANCL also participated.



Children at work at the Public Library.



Visitors admire the exhibits.

Bank of Ceylon brings a new dimension to Teldeniya from a brand new location

Ushering in a new digital era in Teldeniya, we are moving into a digitally-equipped branch, with the capacity for providing you with a 24-hour banking experience with Cash Deposit/Withdrawal Machine (CRM), keeping to the highest health and safety standards, today at the auspicious time of 9:35 a.m.

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England skipper Eoin Morgan pays glowing tribute to Sri Lankan players

Mixed Fortunes at Gulf T-20 World Cup for Sri Lanka

This columnist feels that Sri Lanka did have an advantage to a great extent in the just concluded T-20 World Cup in the Gulf (Oman and UAE) because they also played in the qualifiers, which means they got more games than some of the teams that did play in the Super 12. For example, they played against Bangladesh in the qualifier, which was very, very competitive for them. They also had the option of playing against Namibia, who also qualified for the Super 12. And also they got through one great point, to the Irish when they completely bamboozled them. So, I think they were very well prepared. And they were lucky also to play in Sharjah, where the wickets are very similar to those in Sri Lanka, where it skids on so you cannot play across the line and where you play straight through the line.

Let's start off with the first game they played against Bangladesh and that was a great victory and I need to give credit to the selectors for putting their faith in Charith Asalanka, who turned out to be the fifth highest run accumulator in the T 20 World Cup 2021. He scored more runs against top rung players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for that matter.



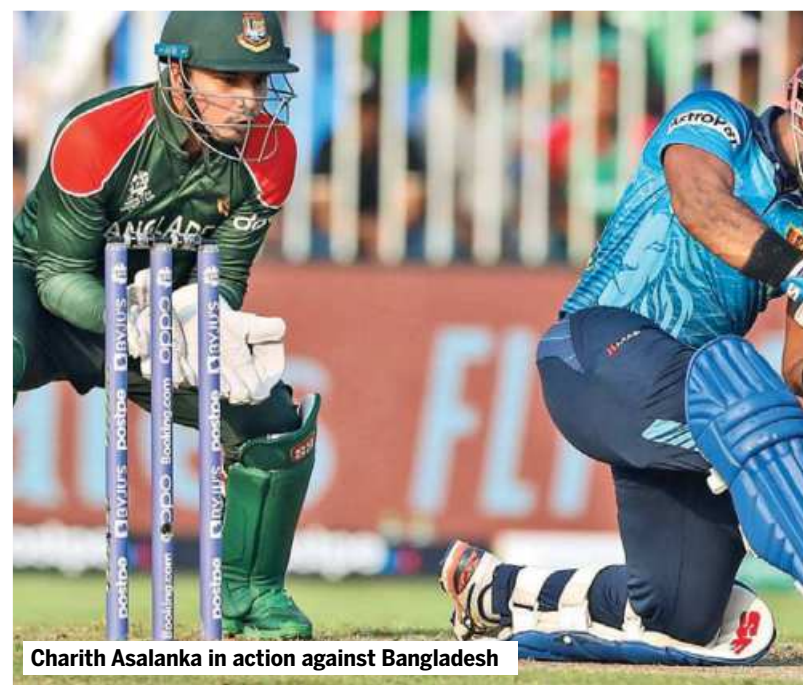
England Skipper Eoin Morgan

He also to a great extent, scored much more runs than some of the more established players in this T20 World Cup. So that was great from a Sri Lankan perspective. They had a wonderful win against Bangladesh. It was a close game, but they won the game with one over to spare. Then this columnist perceived that the encounter against the South Africans or the Proteas, was absolutely disappointing. That was very bad captaincy on the part of Lankan Skipper Dasun Shanaka. Sri Lanka could have easily won that match had the Captain Dasun Shanaka planned his approach in that particular game. The cardinal error he made was getting Lahiru Kumara

who bowls length deliveries, to bowl the last ball.

And unfortunately, he did not have the foggiest notion about how to bowl a Yorker outside the off stump. He bowled it more towards the body of the batsman David Miller. He also gave him two length deliveries to dispatch the ball to midwicket for two towering sixes. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka lost that match with one ball to spare. So, the Sri Lankans will be very, very unhappy that they lost that match. But end of the day, it doesn't matter. You have to realize one fact that, in T-20 cricket, you can't afford to make mistakes. But I would give credit to Sri Lanka that they took the game to the 20th over, which was great. They also posed a threat and told the Proteas, look, we are still a team to be reckoned with.

Then comes the England game which was touch and go. In 10 overs, England was able to score only 48 runs for the loss of four wickets and Sri Lanka was well on top. Yeah, Sri Lanka was well on top, but we learned something from Jos Butler, who got that wonderful 100. He is not going up there trying to score at will. Bang, Bang, Bang during your first six overs of power play, but he



Charith Asalanka in action against Bangladesh



paced his innings so well that ultimately he made that great 100. Okay, that is the highest score that has been scored in the T-20 2021 and ultimately helped England to win that game.

It was also redeeming to know what a touching remark England skipper Eoin Morgan made. He said Sri Lanka was the only side which pushed them to the hilt. That is a great compliment, coming from a great captain. Eoin Morgan as you know, has played so much of T20 cricket and he's a T20 specialist - the captains of one of the finest sides in world cricket and coming from him, credit should go to Sri Lanka. Finally Sri Lanka had an easy time against the West Indies. I am very proud that Sri Lanka, out of the four games they played against very competitive sides, were able to get four points which looks very, very good.

MICKY ARTHUR BIDS ADIEU

Let us not forget the great contribution Mickey Arthur has made to develop Sri Lanka cricket. And I always boil when I keep thinking about what Sri Lanka cricket did with him. Like all foreign coaches, they gave him a little bit of, let me say, step motherly treatment at the last stages. He should have been retained as the coach for Sri Lanka for the World Cup in 2023. Well, I think the pundits know very much more than all of us.

Let us hope that they have not made the wrong move. And they are accountable because Mickey Arthur to me is a fantastic coach.



Wanindu Hasaranga in action

All in all, I would say Sri Lanka had a very good T20 World Cup

under his guidance. They seemed to play so very well, they were very dominant in the qualifier rounds. They played to their potential in the Super 12, but then they played against very good teams. Sadly, they were knocked off. They could not qualify for the semifinals, but basically, they did a sterling job with the little resources they had. Credit should go to Charith Asalanka for being an excellent batsman. He shows a lot of potential for the future. Wanindu Hasaranga is a right arm leg spinner who has a deadly Googly. Many

opposing players still cannot read his Googly. So that is a good sign. All in all, Sri Lanka played a great game of cricket at the T-20 World Cup. This is a great accomplishment for Sri Lanka. This columnist wishes them well in their next undertakings - Down Under in February 2022 and India in March 2022.

It was redeeming to know what a touching remark England skipper Eoin Morgan made. He said Sri Lanka was the only side which pushed them to the hilt. That is a great compliment, coming from a great captain. Eoin Morgan as you know, has played so much of T-20 cricket and he's a T-20 specialist - the captains of one of the finest sides in world cricket and coming from him, credit should go to Sri Lanka.



Dasun Shanaka

STADIO OLIMPICO: Sports Can Heal The World



RAMZY BAROUD

Among chaotic politics and anti-immigrant and refugee sentiments, Stadio Olimpico in Rome seemed like an oasis of social and cultural harmony. AS Roma and Raja Casablanca fans gathered in their thousands on a hot Saturday evening to cheer for their teams in a friendly match, the first in the Olimpico for nearly a year and a half.

The guest team is a Moroccan football powerhouse and an African champion par excellence. AS Roma, though it had a tough season last year, seemed ready to reclaim its past glory, especially with Jose Mourinho now leading the squad.

The match was Roma's final 'friendly' before embarking on the difficult task of reclaiming their strong standing in Serie A. Relegated from both the UEFA Champions League and Europa League, Roma is

forced to play in the less prestigious Conference League. Neither the team nor the fans, however, seemed shaken by the setback. On the contrary, the team's Ultras were, once again, back in the stadium, in their fixed spot in the Curva Sud, with their massive flags and melodious chant, "Roma, Roma, Roma..."

Raja Casablanca's fans, although fewer in number, were still far more animated and, sometimes, rowdy. They danced in unison amid the occasional flares, fireworks and massive clouds of coloured smoke.

As someone who has written and reported on issues pertaining to human rights, socio-economic inequalities and political discord in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere, the spectacle was atypical. Italians, Moroccans and other Arabs seamlessly mingled as friends, or friendly rivals.

Muslim women, some in their traditional attire and headscarves, others without, some speaking Italian, others Arabic or French, looked comfortable, free from judgement, harassment and unfriendly looks.

The children, however, took centre

stage. A 10-year-old Roma fan, sitting alongside his father while wrapped in a Roma flag, belated screams of joy and anger and, quite often, specific instructions at Roma players who, starting in the middle of the first half, dominated the game.

Two Italian-Moroccan boys wore green and white jerseys with this Arabic inscription at the back: "Rajawi Falastini" - Palestinian Rajawi - the typical homage to Palestine and her people, often exhibited by Raja Casablanca and its loyal fans. The two children remained hopeful that their team could still stage a comeback, despite Roma's victory almost being assured well before the end of the game. The two boys chatted in Italian, spoke to their parents with a distinct Moroccan accent and yelled at the players, in French, to play better or to move faster.

In fact, the intermingling of languages was omnipresent throughout



the entire event. Raja's Ultras chanted in several languages, including Italian, and held large banners, communicating messages of a political nature, written mostly in French.

Most amusing, especially for those of us sitting in the Tribuna Tevere - at an equal distance between both ultras - was the shouting match, through songs, chants and, occasionally, whistles between the two sides.

For me, personally, the game, although 'friendly', was one of the most difficult matches to watch. A

loyal Roma fan for years, my heart was also with the Moroccan side. At times, it seemed that I was cheering for both teams and regretting missed opportunities on both sides. While it was clear that Roma was easily winning the match, I desperately hoped for a Moroccan goal or two.

By the end of the match, as the large crowd - still giddy by the fact that they were able to attend a large sports event despite the deadly COVID-19 pandemic - dispersed, I walked around the Foro Italico, the

sports complex which hosts Stadio Olimpico, among other edifices. The contradictions were palpable.

This towering sports monument was once called Foro Mussolini, one of the starkest celebrations of fascist Italy in the twentieth century. Fascists, under the leadership of Benito Mussolini, laboured to harness the popular appeal of sports to communicate the message that fascism exists to celebrate the power and vigour of the Italian race, one that is, supposedly, superior to all others.

Although the complex's name eventually changed, many of the inscriptions dating back to the Fascist era are still in place. The most obvious of these references is the Mussolini Dux, a 50-foot obelisk that still towers near the entrance.

Fascism, which is rearing its ugly head once more in various European societies, cared little for social justice, for racial equality and for cultural harmony. Yet, this very stadium, one of the greatest architectural achievements of Italy's Mussolini, is now a venue for various peoples, cultures and languages to intermingle. Several Muslim women, donned with beautifully coloured hijabs, sought respite from the heat and humidity under Mussolini's Dux obelisk, possibly unaware of the irony.

News outside the stadium that day told of horrific stories from Greece and Belarus regarding the mistreatment of refugees and the targeting of migrants. Muslim European communities are constant subjects for political 'controversies', merely for living their lives and practicing their religions or covering their heads. However, for approximately two hours, in Stadio Olimpico on Saturday, August 14, none of this seemed to matter. The world outside may bring the worst in us, but, for now, we are only defined by our love for football, and hopefully, someday, for each other.

(Ramzy Baroud (www.ramzybaroud.net) is an internationally-syndicated columnist and the editor of PalestineChronicle.com. His book "My Father Was a Freedom Fighter: Gaza's Untold Story" (Pluto Press, London), is now available on Amazon.com)

Foreign Minister G. L. Peiris reassures commitment of Sri Lanka to BIMSTEC

Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Tenzin Lekphell paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris and briefed on his first official visit to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is the Chair of BIMSTEC (since 2018), and the Minister assured Sri Lanka's commitment to furthering the goals of the regional organization.

Thanking the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting his

visit the Secretary General informed that Sri Lanka has achieved much during its tenure, which includes the finalization of the BIMSTEC Charter and the allocation of defined areas of cooperation among member States, which form the base of the organization. Sri Lanka will host the 5th BIMSTEC Summit early next year, where the Chairmanship will be handed over to Thailand.

As Sri Lanka is the lead country for Science and Technology and Innovation

with sub-sectors of Health and Human Resource Development, the Secretary General briefed the Foreign Minister on the discussions with focal sectors, which included meetings with Minister of Health Dr. Keheloya Rambukwella, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health Sisira Jayakody, State Minister of Regional Co-operation Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation Dr. Seetha Arambepola, and Acting Foreign Secretary A. M. J. Sadiq and ministry officials.

The Secretary General also paid courtesy calls on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and commended the Government of Sri Lanka on its achievements in curbing the impact of COVID 19 and the vaccination programme. He also emphasized the need to revive economies in the region and informed

that BIMSTEC has an important role to play in this area. President Rajapaksa emphasized the need for all member states to formulate action plans under given sectors that would reach the people of the region.

The Secretary General also paid homage to the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy during his visit.

Additional Secretary Sabarullah Khan, Acting Director General Anzul Banu Jhan and Executive Assistant of the Economic Affairs Division



Kalani Dharmasena were also associated with the visit.

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Alert over strong winds and lightning during thundershowers

The Northeast monsoon is gradually establishing over the island and showers will occur at times in the Eastern, Northern, North-central and Uva provinces and in Hambantota and Matara districts, the Meteorology Department said yesterday. Fairly heavy rainfall above 50 mm can be expected at some places in these areas.

Showers or thundershowers will occur at several places in Western, Sabaragamuwa and North-western provinces and in Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Galle and Matara districts during the evening or night. Fairly heavy rainfall above 75 mm can be expected at some places in these areas.

Misty conditions can be expected at some places in Western and Sabaragamuwa provinces and in Galle and Matara districts during the morning.

General public is requested to take adequate precautions to minimize damages caused by temporary localized strong winds and lightning during thundershowers.

Meanwhile, the sea areas extending from Trincomalee to Puttalam via Kankesan-

thurai and Mannar and in the sea areas extending from Matara to Potuvil via Hambantota can be fairly rough at times. Temporarily strong gusty winds and very rough seas can be expected during thundershowers.

Indian-origin Anil Menon chosen by NASA for future missions



Indian-origin Anil Menon

Indian-origin physician Anil Menon, a lieutenant colonel at the US Air Force, has been selected by NASA along with nine others to be astronauts for future missions, the American space agency has announced.

Menon, 45, was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Ukrainian and Indian immigrants.

He was SpaceX's first flight surgeon, helping to launch the company's first humans to space during NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission and building a medical organisation to support the human system during future missions.

In a statement, NASA announced that it has chosen 10 new astronaut candidates from a field of more than 12,000 applicants to represent the US and work for humanity's benefit in space. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson introduced the members of the 2021 astronaut class, the first new class in four years, during a Monday, December 6 event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

(The Economic Times)

Suspect arrested for robbery along with heroin

LAHIRU FERNANDO

A suspect wanted for robbing a car, cash and jewellery from a person was arrested along with five grams and 900 milligrams of heroin in Kirulapone area by the Colombo South Divisional Crimes Investigating Unit on Saturday.

The suspect had robbed a car worth Rs. four million, Rs. 30,000 in cash and gold jewellery worth Rs. 360,000 on December 9.

He had hired the said vehicle with the driver by impersonating as a police officer and committed the crime by threatening the driver with a knife, while the car was moving.

The motorbike the suspect came on to hire the car was found by the police and it had been robbed from the Keselwatta area by the suspect, police said. After the incident, the suspect had left the car in the Bambalapitiya area.

The 33-year-old suspect is a resident of Kirulapone area.

He was to be produced before the Aluthkade No. 3 Magistrate Courts. Bambalapitiya police are investigating.

Medical camp for college teachers

Past students of Nalanda Balika Central College, Minuwangoda organized a medical camp for college teachers on December 10 at the college premises. This was carried out by the doctors with thorough physical examinations being done. Dental and eye examinations were also done. (Picture by Samantha Weerasiri)

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Friday
Date: 10.12.2021
Draw No.: 3750
Colour: Orange

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,000,500/-

Winning Numbers
02 | 26 | 49 | 65

English Letter
U

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

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Saturday
Date: 11.12.2021
Draw No.: 3751
Colour: Green

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,718,440/-

Winning Numbers
06 | 41 | 44 | 54

English Letter
U

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English Letter & Winning Numbers
Date: 10.12.2021
Draw No.: 776
Colour: Green
Friday

Winning Numbers
10 | 38 | 42 | 56

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,418,940/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 87,991,255/-

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Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

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Friday
Date: 10.12.2021
Draw No.: 1415
Colour: Purple

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,648,700/-

Winning Numbers
03 | 08 | 34 | 43

English Letter
G

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
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Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
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For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

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Saturday
Date: 11.12.2021
Draw No.: 1416
Colour: Yellow

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,076,740/-

Winning Numbers
40 | 42 | 47 | 69

English Letter
V

Development Lotteries Board
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Monday, December 13, 2021

Internal dissent is democracy

The various dissenting voices within the governing coalition have earned rebukes from the Opposition but the joke is on them. These Opposition parties talk as if they are the exemplars of democratic dissent. But that seems to be when their leading lights want to sound as if they are the purest of driven snow, or show that they are very idealistic and selfless. But when there is healthy democracy within the governing apparatus, they call for dictatorship.

When the Opposition ridicules the voices of dissent such as National Freedom Front (NFF) Leader Wimal Weerawansa, in effect they are saying that the President and the Prime Minister should be dictatorial and smother all dissenting voices. But there are ministers such as Bandula Gunawardene in the Government who speak their minds and criticize the appointed bureaucracy as well.

That is tantamount to a direct voicing of dissent at Presidential appointments etc. but these opinions have not met with the disapproval of the President. This gives the lie to the Opposition canard that this Government does not tolerate dissent.

It appears that there is no Government that tolerates dissent — even internal dissent — more than this Government. That was not the case with the Yahapalana Government. The disagreements between the then President and the then Prime Minister constituted healthy dissent between two contending branches of Government.

But both viewed such dissenting views as being inimical to their relative standing as leaders in the then governing coalition. As a result, both tried to silence each other. It was the height of undemocratic cacophonous discord. But yet the publicists in the then ruling dispensation made raucous noises about democracy.

What democracy is there if within the Government there could be no dissenting views tolerated? The then President and the Premier clearly went out of the way to smother each other's viewpoints, to a point the Government soon tottered on the brink of collapse.

The very sober and articulate gentleman from the NFF MP M. Muzammil is absolutely correct when he claims that their party's dissent is a responsibility they do not take lightly. They need to ensure that the coalition does not give up on its compact with the 6.9 million people that voted the Government into power, and so they strive to keep the Government to account.

There are other MPs who voice dissent on different issues such as the Constitution. Gevindu Kumaratunga has said that a new Constitution cannot be delayed. He is particularly concerned about the Provincial Councils (PCs) which he says should be abolished.

He sees a new Constitution that formally abolishes the PCs as the proper way to go about resolving the issue of PC Elections which are technically overdue.

However it seems — at least by their silence on the matter — that others are less worried about the issue and do not think the Constitution is a priority irrespective of the pending PC Elections.

But Kumaratunga's dissent is not met with a volley of abuse by governing party bigwigs. He is allowed to say what he wants with dignity. Nobody complains to the newspapers that it is difficult to govern when there are dissenting voices within the Government. There are ministers such as Ali Sabry, PC, who have been vocally in dispute with Government policy and even offered to resign on account of such disagreements.

It is clearly seen that the healthy tolerance of dissent within governing party ranks is what keeps the governing coalition stable and effective. Despite the enormity of the challenges faced by this Government, there has been no chaos and instability as was normal during the Yahapalana era.

On account of this fact, this Government can and should claim true democratic credentials. Anyhow its publicists prefer the quiet route of not making a fuss about the obvious. They seem to go by the dictum 'good wine needs no bush'.

The Opposition looks rather queer and confused when it tries to ridicule dissent within governing ranks. But whenever they highlight the issue they inadvertently focus on the fact that there is ample internal democracy within the governing coalition.

It is good that the Government gets the Opposition to do its own work for them. Why pay PR firms when the Opposition makes it obvious most of the time that the rulers allow healthy dissent and are quite comfortable with democracy?

This situation does not seem to obtain in Opposition ranks, which is sad because these people are not in power and yet they cannot tolerate dissent. There may be so many apparent shortcomings in the conduct of former Minister Champika Ranawaka for instance, but when he tried to create his own niche within the Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB), he was shouted down.

It seems these democrats cannot tolerate healthy dissent even though they make the loudest noises about pluralism and tolerance.

The people seem to appreciate the fact that there are dissenting voices tolerated within the governing ranks by contrast. They see that the leadership is being kept on its toes. They would rather have a multi-faceted democracy in place of a cacophonous chamber of discord.



Pakistani Human Rights officials with a portrait of Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Now & Then BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Today we are talking about Samantha and Priyantha. Samantha was Ovitigalage Vithanage Samantha and Priyantha was Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana. We talked about Samantha last week and we talked about Samantha in November 2002, 19 years ago. The significance is that both were killed in the same manner and one right here in Sri Lanka and the other was in Pakistan, one of our neighbouring countries. The only difference is the killers of Samantha could not burn his body. We are talking about Samantha and Priyantha today because the next such victim could be your son, brother, husband or any other close male relation. This is why we talk about it today. At least then we can take precautions to prevent another similar killing.

By now the entire world knows very well what happened to Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana, where, when, how and why. There is no point in talking about the victim or the incident now because we do not need to hurt his family by talking about him and we have something more important to discuss. That is preventing such incidents in the future and taking precautions. We have to take care of ourselves.

Right to live and be alive

Blood thirsty two legged beasts are everywhere in the world and the first thing we should understand is that they never show their real faces until they are ready to take another 'meal' of human blood and flesh. Therefore we all should identify them while they are hiding their real faces and behaving as normal human beings among us. Only then can we save our precious lives. We all have the right to live and be alive.

The acts of terrorism which killed millions of innocent people all over the world during past several decades, especially after 9/11 attacks have given us a golden opportunity to identify them no matter where they are, what they do or how they hide their real faces. This single fact can give us a very clear idea about where to avoid, whom to avoid, how to avoid and when to avoid. But unfortunately people forget things quickly and they see no connection whatsoever between them and those acts of terror. They never think that 'One day I can be a victim'. Sadly even after Easter Sunday suicide bomb attack series which killed nearly 300 people, no one is concerned about personal safety.

It is up to us to protect ourselves and we cannot expect a Government, an individual, an organisation or an institution to protect us all the time. Therefore all we need to do is identify bloodthirsty beasts and avoid all the places where they have their power and control as a group. There is no other way of protecting ourselves in this world full of various types of terrorism. We do not need to be with them in order to earn a living. There are plenty of other ways and means in this world to earn a living. They kill us once and we do not know at what time they will kill



The scene of the crime in Sialkot, Pakistan



An anti-ragging protest

us. Maybe just one glance is adequate for them to find fault with us. If we need to live inside a cage full of animals who can eat us at any time, we need to think about it more than twice. What if we make them antagonize by doing something at once or bit by bit? There is no need to tell the end result.

According to the postmortem examination report of the late Priyantha, 99 per cent of the body was charred. The cause of death was skull and jaw fractures. All of his essential organs were impacted, including his liver, stomach, and one of his kidneys, while torture scars were apparent all over his body. Anyone can imagine how much he suffered.

Religions and ethnic groups

In Sri Lanka, November 7, 2002 was a similar dark day. This is one of the very few occasions where the people watched a murder live right here in Sri Lanka. A youth was murdered making him suffer for hours before death in front of hundreds who did nothing to save him. They belonged to all religions and ethnic groups in Sri Lanka and the majority was Sinhala Buddhists. The most important factor is all of the killers and viewers of the mur-

der belonged to one small political party.

Ovitigalage Vithanage Samantha who was popularly known as Samantha Vithanage was a third year Management student of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, who pioneered an anti-ragging campaign. He was killed on November 7, 2002 while engaged in a discussion to stop the brutal practice of ragging in the faculty. His death was a landmark incident in the anti-ragging movement of Sri Lankan universities which provoked many students and academic staff of universities to act against ragging. But it was just another opening of a soda bottle here in Sri Lanka because the



Ragging must be stopped

country's common law does not exist inside State universities.

Anti-ragging campaigners

On November 7, 2002, the anti-ragging campaigners sat down for a discussion with the pro-rag controlled student council - General Students Union of University of Sri Jayawardanapura (Progressive Front), who defended the practice. The meeting took place at the premises of the Department of Marketing Management. Midway through the discussion, a mob of around 200 strong supporters of the political party which now has three percent representation in the country armed with clubs and stones stormed into the room and viciously attacked Vithanage and others in the anti-ragging camp.

The attackers stabbed their victims with shards of glass, pens, pencils and all the other available shrapnel and Vithanage who was struck, fell to the floor. The President of the General Students Union at that time crashed a heavy computer monitor on his head. Vithanage was seriously injured. Then the pro-ragging students blocked the vehicle carrying the injured to the hospital, delaying proper medical treatment. The first hour of any seriously injured person is called 'the golden hour' by doctors because the first hour decides whether the seriously injured person lives or dies. That is why such victims need to be hospitalized as soon as possible.

When Samantha was about to be transported to the hospital, the killers of Samantha laid down on the ground blocking all internal roads inside the university preventing the vehicle from reaching the gate of the university to get into the main road. Two days later Samantha Vithanage died. Even beasts do not do such a thing.

Still, Sri Lankan State universities and some other state institutions such as Educational Colleges, Technical Colleges and even some schools are full of such bloodthirsty beasts. They show their real faces when an innocent student/students opposes their ideology of torturing and getting the consent of others by force. The new university intake is coming round the corner.

It is up to you to protect your own life. There is no one to protect your life inside a State university or any other state educational institution. All you need to do is bow down in front of bloodthirsty two legged beasts. Do whatever they want you to do no matter whether it will cost your health. You need to be alive. Just bear up and pass the first year.

Then comes your golden opportunity to teach a lesson to them. Never vote for them ever. Do not support their 'brothers' scattered in all State and private institutions. They can be identified very easily because they are the employees who lead all types of protests and strikes against the administration of the specific institution and the Government as a whole.

One last thing. Take care of yourself. There is no one to protect you once you are surrounded by several hundreds of flesh eating beasts no matter whether you are here in Sri Lanka or in a foreign country. Your behaviour will decide whether you will live or die. These incidents can happen again.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out. This is your democracy. Protect it. Pass it on. - Thurgood Marshall

Sri Lanka Can Gain By Following 'India-Bangladesh Eternal Ties Model'



JUBEDA CHOWDHURY
 Bangladesh-India friendship has established an example for any neighbouring countries regarding bilateral ties between neighbours. Sri Lanka can learn from this example. Being a neighbouring country, Sri Lanka can follow Bangladesh's footprint. Bangladesh and India are benefitting from this eternal tie despite having some bilateral problems between them. There might have some problems between Sri Lanka and India. But that can be resolved. Ultimately, Sri Lanka can benefit from following the 'India-Bangladesh Eternal Ties Model'.

Bangladesh and India are two neighbouring countries of South Asia and these two countries have historically had very close relations. After the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, present day Bangladesh was part of the Republic of Pakistan as East Pakistan. The people of Bengal will never forget the assistance rendered by the late Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and her Government when the people of East Bengal under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took part in the War of Independence against the West Pakistani military rule. On the other hand, India and Sri Lanka are also neighbouring countries. It is possible to make Lanka-India eternal ties in the line of India-Bangladesh eternal ties.

The role that Mrs. Indira Gandhi played in the international arena, including providing shelter and military assistance to nearly one Crore East Pakistani refugees, accelerated Bangladesh's Independence. The generosity shown by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in withdrawing the Indian Allied



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Bangladeshi Premier Sheikh Hasina

forces from independence-North Bangladesh in a very short time at the request of Bangabandhu is rarely seen in the case of the newly independent countries.

The unity between the two countries since Independence has continued to this day. However, despite the existence of negative relations between Bangladesh and India for some time, the relations between the two countries have reached a certain height in the last 12 years. Many important problems have been solved in the last 12 years, including the solution of enclave problems. Relations between the two countries have been further strengthened by India's assistance in various projects. The current regime of Sri Lanka can follow the same path of the Bangladeshi Government.

despite the increase in Indian exports to Bangladesh, the desired target for products exported from Bangladesh has not yet been achieved. However, since 2011, the trade deficit between the two countries has been reduced, albeit to a lesser extent, as a result of the Government of India's decision to allow duty-free trade of Bangladeshi products in the Indian market, except for 25 products. Even then, in order to improve relations, the two Heads of Government should reach an agreement to reduce the trade deficit.

In the field of culture, very friendly relations exist between the two countries. Just as Bangladeshi cultural groups display their cultural activities in India, so Indian cultural groups often present their activities to the people of Bangladesh. Through this, a strong bridge has been created in the cultural arena of the two countries. It is worth mentioning here that since Bangladesh and India are two states of the subcontinent, there are many similarities between the cultural worlds of the two countries. Cultural ties between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh should be built on this ground. 'The India-Bangladesh Eternal Ties' model shows how to conduct it.

The scholarships that the Government of India has introduced for Bangladeshi students in various fields to further enhance the relations between the two countries have had a positive impact on the relations between the two countries. Along with scholarships under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bangladeshi Premier Sheikh Hasina

Government of India has introduced scholarships for Bangladeshi students in several other sectors. Among these are the Friendship Scholarship, the Scholarship for the Children of the Freedom Fighters and the Bangabandhu Chair Scholarship on the occasion of Bangabandhu's Birth Centenary. The fact that a large number of people from Bangladesh travel to India every year for medical treatment also sends a positive message to the relations between the two countries. There is also a rail link from Dhaka to Kolkata that facilitates seamless travel between the two countries.

Strengthen people-to-people ties

In addition, the Governments of the two countries are seriously con-

sidering launching a regional inter-country road link. If this communication starts, there will be huge potential for expansion of trade and commerce between the two countries. It is expected that this will open new doors for Bangladesh's trade not only with India but also with the neighbouring countries. Many try to view inter-country road connectivity in a negative light, arguing that Bangladesh would then become India's corridor.

Such an argument is entirely politically motivated, because if such efforts are successful in the age of globalization, it will bring benefits to both countries. Providing duty-free trade and visa-free travel with this communication link will benefit both countries as well as strengthen the people-to-people ties between the two countries as we see in Europe's

Schengen Area. Many European countries can be entered under the single Schengen visa.

There is no denying that the governments of Bangladesh and India have reached a consensus on a number of issues since the post-independence period. Important among these were the Padma water sharing agreement, the solution of enclave problems and duty-free access to goods to reduce the trade deficit. However, although the relations between the two countries are very deep, it has not been possible to reach a consensus on a number of issues so far. The most important of these are the Teesta water sharing agreement and the killings at the border.

Although the Indian Government has a positive attitude towards the Teesta water treaty, it is not possible to do so due to opposition from the West Bengal government for the completion of the contract. If this agreement is reached, it will not only have a positive impact on the relations between the two countries, but will also alleviate the suffering of the people of Northern Bangladesh due to the lack of Teesta water.

On the other hand, despite high-level talks between the two countries to reduce the number of killings on the border to zero, such killings have occasionally negatively affected relations between the two countries. The killings should be reduced, especially as the people of Bangladesh may have a negative impact on India.

Bangladesh-India relations are on such a strong foundation that many countries of the world have started envying this relationship. Various leaders are trying to bridge the gap in this relationship. The two Heads of Government should be aware of this.

We must remember that the relationship between the people of Bangladesh and India stands on a very strong foundation. Thus, the main theme of this year's Friendship Day may be the conviction to move the relationship forward by reaching consensus on the issues on which consensus has not yet been reached.

The relationship between neighbours should follow this model. As a neighbour, Sri Lanka must follow Bangladesh's model. Thus, we can say that Bangladesh-India eternal ties can be an ideal model for Sri Lanka as Sri Lanka and India are friendly South Asian neighbours. Then it would be possible to say 'Sri Lanka-India Eternal Ties'.

(Jubeda Chowdhury is a freelance columnist holding a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh)
 - Modern Ghana

As a neighbour, Sri Lanka must follow Bangladesh's model. Thus, we can say that Bangladesh-India eternal ties can be an ideal model for Sri Lanka as Sri Lanka and India are friendly South Asian neighbours. Then it would be possible to say 'Sri Lanka-India Eternal Ties'.

Sri Lanka and India trade ties

On an annual basis, India's exports to Bangladesh increased by 46 per cent. As of January-March 2021, India's total exports to Bangladesh amounted to US\$ 3.16 billion. In other words, during this period, Bangladesh was the fourth largest exporter to India. Bangladesh was preceded by the United States (US\$ 15.40 billion), China (US\$ 5.92 billion) and the UAE (US\$ 5.34 billion). Sri Lanka and India trade ties could be increased if they follow Bangladesh's footprint in this connection.

What is clear from these statistics is that trade between the two countries has greatly improved. However,

SRI LANKA: Towards sustainable fisheries

SACHIKO KONDO, NADEERA RAJAPAKSE and TIJEN ARIN

In a major supermarket in Washington, DC, USA, the seafood section includes a product that comes from far away: the blue swimming crab imported all the way from Sri Lanka. The packaging proudly announces that the product is "Committed to Sustainability" and is a "Product of Sri Lanka."

About 9,000 miles (14,500 Km or nearly 24 hours by air counting transit times) away in the island country of Sri Lanka, close to one million people are engaged in the fisheries sector on a full- or part-time basis, including those fishing and processing blue swimming crabs. Fish make up about 50 per cent of Sri Lankans' annual animal protein intake, a ratio three times higher than the global average. Thus, sustainable management of Sri Lanka's fisheries is essential for continued food security and livelihoods, and for providing opportunities for new jobs and exports in the country.

Blue swimming crab

Efforts to sustainably manage Sri Lanka's blue swimming crabs began in 2013 with the launch of the Blue

Sri Lanka's 1st Eco-Recommended Fishery



On Monday, January 14, 2019 Sri Lanka's blue swimming crab fisheries in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar were rated as a Good Alternative by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program; the first fisheries in Sri Lanka and the only blue swimming crabs in Asia to achieve this award.

Swimming Crab Fishery Improvement Project as a joint initiative of the National Fisheries Institute Crab Council, an association of North American crab importers, and the Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (SEAS). It is being carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and more than 70 small scale fishing communities in four districts in Sri Lanka. The project aims to improve the biological and ecological status of crab fisheries and their management in the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar and make them sustainable in and for the future. A well-managed fishery forms the basis for consistent catches and steady incomes for fishers as well as the many women working along this labour-

intensive value chain. Alternatively, overfishing would erode incomes, creating greater vulnerability among Sri Lanka's coastal fishing communities (Sri Lanka has a 1,340 Km coastline).

The analysis first assessed the blue swimming crabs' stock status using an innovative, simple but robust methodology that relies on measuring the length of crabs harvested. The assessment helped determine sustainable catch levels and is repeated periodically to gauge the stock status and adjust the catch levels accordingly.

In January 2018, the blue



swimming crab fisheries achieved a 'good alternative' recommendation from the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch, a recognition of the progress made towards improved management. This recognition allowed the Taprobane Seafood Group, Sri Lanka's top exporter of pasteurized crab products, to access new, premium markets in the United States for

eco-labelled high quality seafood products. It is noteworthy that at the height of market disruptions induced by the COVID-19 in April-May 2020, Taprobane's only orders in North America were from premium markets for "sustainably sourced seafood."

Sustainability lessons

The success of the blue swimming crab project led to new questions: Can Sri Lanka adopt a similar approach for other fisheries and seafood products? Can similar projects achieve sustainable resource management and better revenue in Sri Lanka and elsewhere? Considering the impor-

tance of the fisheries sector for Sri Lanka, the World Bank carried out an analysis between 2020 and 2021 with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Fisheries and its agencies, the National Planning Department, fisheries and processor organisations, NGOs, and academia.

The study "Priorities for Sustainably Managing Sri Lanka's Marine Fisheries, Coastal Aquaculture, and the Ecosystems That Support Them" includes an analysis of coastal and multiday fisheries, coastal aquaculture, and coastal ecosystem services that support these fisheries, partly funded by World Bank-administered trust fund, PROBLUE.

The study's main recommendations for coastal fisheries centre around data-based and participatory management. For example, it recommends that the Ministry of Fisheries allocate more resources to regular stock assessments, including developing methods for data-poor fisheries, and create sustainable management plans based on these assessments, in close consultation with fishers and other local stakeholders.

These plans should incorporate measures to conserve and, where feasible, restore

ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves that support the fisheries and increase coastal communities' resilience to weather events and Climate Change.

To ensure these plans are implemented, it will be crucial to provide support to diversify the livelihoods of fishers and their families, as well as transmit to fishers' part of the sustainability premiums achieved through exports to premium markets.

World Bank engagement

The study report will be launched at a public event with high level participation from the Sri Lankan Government and the World Bank, which will feature policy and technical discussions. These discussions are an integral part of the exchanges to develop the next Country Partnership Strategy for 2022 - 2026, and will hopefully help Sri Lanka build back better towards a sustainable blue economy.

(The authors gratefully acknowledge inputs of Dr. Steve Creech, Project Coordinator to this blog. More information on the project may be found at <http://www.pelagikos.lk/>)

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT LUCIA: A Spiritual Lighthouse



The large bell



Saint Lucy

DISHAN JOSEPH

In Psalm 27 King David says "One thing I ask of the Lord, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord". This is the significance the sanctum of God had on King David. The Cathedral of Saint Lucia reflects decades of sacrifice, faith and the overcoming of an air raid during the Second World War. For more than a century, Kotahena has been a predominantly Catholic town uniting Sri Lankans of all religions. As we look back this area covering the Municipal Ward of Colombo 13 was once a quaint village in the 17th Century. It was somewhere in 1760 that the zealous clergy of the Oratorian Order came to Ceylon to propagate their gospel and decided to build a small chapel. It is recorded that the first chapel was merely a hut, but people came to seek God's blessings. By 1779, the Catholics of Kotahena had selected this hill as their gathering point. In 1796, the Dutch and British soldiers were encamped on either side of the Kelani River, and a confrontation was dangerously imminent. It is said the citizens on the Colombo side had taken refuge on the hill where the Chapel stood and sought divine protection.

The humble Catholic Chapel began gaining attention and pious devotion. By 1763, brickwork was added to the Chapel. Patience yields blessings and thus in 1838, the little church was elevated to a Cathedral, the first in Ceylon. In January of the same year, Rev. Vincente de Rozairo was installed as the Vicar Apostolic of Ceylon. He travelled by sea from Goa. Records indicate that the construction of the present Cathedral began with the foundation stone being laid in 1852. However, the process of construction began in 1873 and the first phase was completed in 1881. The presiding Bishop at this time was Bishop Clement Pangani. After years of resilient effort, the Cathedral was built and completed in 1887 under the leadership of Bishop Christopher Bonjean, OMI. The presence of this colossal church influenced missionary zeal and many Christian religious formations (nuns and priests) to come to Ceylon. Many of these orders still function across the island.

Contribution to education

The Catholic Church has made an immense contribution to education in Ceylon for more than 200 years. St. Benedict's Institute was founded by Abbot Hilarion Sillani OSB in 1865. The De La Salle Brothers



Main altar

ers came to Ceylon in 1867. These dedicated men taught and influenced generations of Catholics, and the La Sallian brothers continued to serve thousands of students.

The spiritual essence poured out from this Cathedral and gained momentum with the arrival of the Good Shepherd Order in 1869. These religious sisters have manifested the love and grace of God for decades. The prudent sisters established the Good Shepherd Convent in May 1869, where thousands of girls have received a holistic education. St. Lucia's College was built in 1918. It was from this Cathedral that the much-loved Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) was introduced to Ceylon in 1907. The radio-training laboratory was begun by Fr. Ignatius Perera in 1962 and this was the pioneer training entity that produced hundreds of qualified technicians.

I have visited the Cathedral on many occasions. Every time I gaze above and see the vastness of its high dome I am reminded of God's goodness and protection. Within its sacred precincts are statues of Christian saints and martyrs. We must pause here to realize that saints do not wave a magic wand and grant

miracles. It is Almighty God who works miracles through his divine grace. The life of a saint should serve as a reminder to us of how we should live as followers of Jesus Christ. The feast of St. Lucy will be celebrated today (13); in addition, the Corpus Christi and the Month of May festival are also significant dates in the Catholic calendar. The Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Colombo.

The Cathedral of Saint Lucia resonates with inspiring architecture. Its facade has four majestic pillars rising into the ceiling. On the topmost border, there are statues of Blessed Mary, St. Lucia, St. Anthony, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi. A clock with Roman numerals still indicates the time. The large dome was once subject to a crack when the Japanese bombed Ceylon in April 1942. The crack began to widen and in 1957, it took the full year to repair it. On the massive columns that support the structure, there are statues of Saint Aloysius, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Cecelia and Saint John de La Salle.

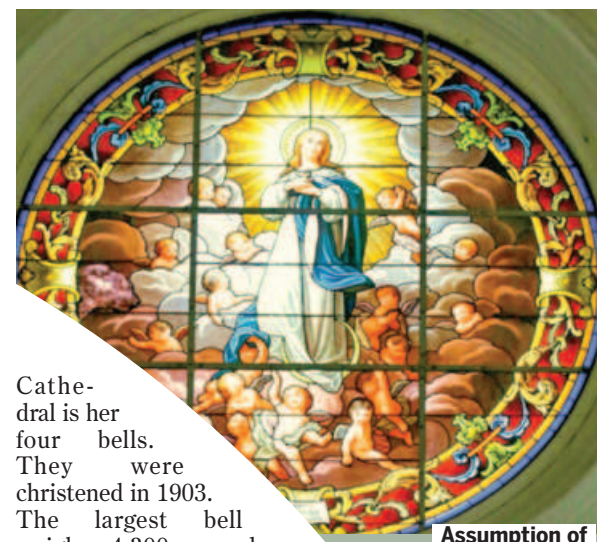
The main altar has a crucifix and shows the letters 'INRI' engraved at the top. Another important feature of the



Front view



Interior of Cathedral



Assumption of Mary - stained glass

Cathedral is her four bells. They were christened in 1903. The largest bell weighs 4,300 pounds and is called Anthony Thomas; the second bell, Henry Lucia Emilia weighs 2,000 pounds, and the third bell, Francis Theresa weighs 1,400 pounds. Weighing 950 pounds, the small bell was christened Jean Baptist Edward Anna. A plaque celebrates the beatification of Fr. Joseph Vaz, Apostle of Sri Lanka in 1995 by Pope John Paul II. The amiable Pope visited the Cathedral during this event.

Story of Santa Lucia

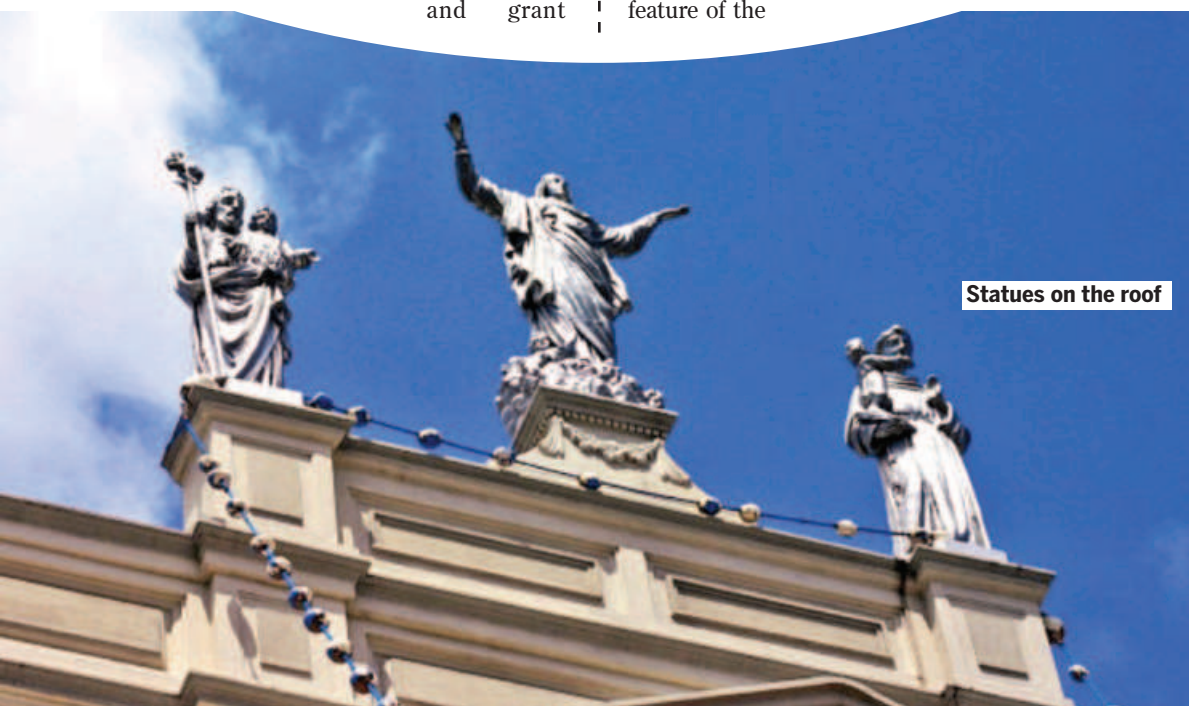
Visitors to the Cathedral must understand the story of Santa Lucia which dates back to the third century. Lucy was born to a rich noble family, with a comfortable life. The family was shaken when her father died. She was only five years old. Having realized the uncertainty of life and focusing on spiritual matters, she had pledged her life to the church as a young woman. Not knowing the intentions of her pious daughter, Lucy's mother Eutychia had arranged her daughter's marriage. When her heathen suitor, who was not a Catholic, found that his bride to be was already promised to a life of divine service, he complained to Governor Paschasius.

The pagan governor threw Lucy in jail and ordered her to be defiled. Church historians say that when the guards came to take her away they could not move her. So, they brought firewood into her cell, and tried to light the logs. To their surprise, the logs would not burn. At this stage, an enraged and confused Paschasius ordered her eyes to be gouged out. This order was carried out. Lucy was killed by the sword. When her body was taken to the family mausoleum, people were shocked to see her eyes fully restored. It was this encounter which drew attention to the departed young Lucy. Since then artists drew paintings of Lucy holding her eyes on a golden plate.

In retrospect, the story is a reminder to us about how we exercise our faith when assailed by life's challenges and if we would mirror the love and compassion of God. The focus on the eye is also interesting, for it is through the human eyes that people covet and desire all the material possessions. During this month of yuletide it is prudent to open our spiritual eyes and understand life with a Biblical view. St. Lucia's Cathedral will continue to be a house of prayer and hope.



The grotto adjacent to Cathedral



Statues on the roof



The majestic pipe organ

The Cathedral of Saint Lucia resonates with inspiring architecture. Its facade has four majestic pillars rising into the ceiling. On the topmost border, there are statues of Blessed Mary, St. Lucia, St. Anthony, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi. A clock with Roman numerals still indicates the time. The large dome was once subject to a crack when the Japanese bombed Ceylon in April 1942.

Sri Lanka's CDS pays last respects to General Bipin Rawat

The military funeral of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India General Bipin Rawat and his spouse Madhulika Rawat took place on December 10 with full military honours at the Brar Crematorium in Dhaula Quan, New Delhi, amidst Ministerial Delegates, Foreign Diplomats, foreign and local high ranking military dignitaries, Indian Government Administrators, Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force Staff of the Indian Armed Forces, Senior Tri-Service Officers, Family Members and a vast gathering of mourners. General Shavendra Silva, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, who flew to New Delhi on December 10 morning to pay his tribute to his Indian counterpart was one among the few military leaders who laid a floral wreath and saluted the remains. General Rawat, a close and true friend of Sri Lanka during his tenure as the Chief of the Army Staff visited Sri Lanka in 2018 and has been in constant touch with his counterpart in Sri Lanka.



Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army General Shavendra Silva paying his last respects to the remains of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India General Bipin Rawat and his spouse Madhulika Rawat.

sonally extended his condolences and handed a special message of condolences to them. The daughters expressed their gratitude to General Shavendra Silva for his participation at the funeral within such a short notice. India's Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane also expressed his deep gratitude to General Shavendra Silva for his presence at the funeral within hours. They also shared thoughts and consoled with the tragic loss of a great military leader. The military funeral with full honours, comprising troops on vigil and bands saluted the departed General Bipin Rawat, the 1st Chief of Defence Staff of India, before his mortal remains were honoured presenting 17 rounds of

gun salutes before his remains were cremated in keeping with Hindu religious traditions. Bangladesh and Nepal's Army Commanders also shared thoughts with the Sri Lankan Chief of Defence Staff and exchanged views. General Shavendra Silva, on hearing of the tragic demise of his counterpart in India, expressed his deep sorrow and shock in a special condolence message, released to media and to the High Commission of India in Colombo. He paid tribute to his memory as a true friend of Sri Lankan Armed Forces and a military leader, saying "his mature military knowledge, command, leadership traits, visionary mission and amiable working relationship would have ushered in a new era of

dynamic professionalism and infused a great inspiration to the troops under his command in the wake of global and regional tensions that posed multifaceted challenges".

At 11.00 am on Friday (10), the remains of General Rawat and his wife, Madhulika were taken to their official residence, and by 2.00 pm, the military funeral, escorted by military bands of all three services proceeded to the Brar Crematorium in Dhaula Quan.

India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, his spouse, Madhulika Rawat and few officers who were flying in a helicopter to attend a formal ceremony at the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington crashed in the area close to Coonoor in the Nilgiri District of the Tamil Nadu State on Wednesday (8) noon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajith Doval, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K Stalin, Army, Navy and Air Force Chiefs of the respective staff and many others were among those who paid tribute to General Bipin Rawat.

APPRECIATIONS ROHAN TUDAWE



It is with profound sadness that I am penning a few lines of appreciation about our beloved and long-standing dear friend Rohan, whose sudden death was a shock to all who knew him. He was a gentleman par excellence and our association spanned over 50 years. His sudden demise has created a void which cannot be filled either in his home or with those who knew, loved, and admired him.

My wife Ayoma always mentions that Rohan was more than a brother to her just as much as his late father Lawrence.

The Wijewardene and the Tudawe families have been extremely close for so many decades and have had such memorable times together.

Rohan, we miss you dearly and I hope we would meet again some time in our journey through Sansara.

SHANTILAL WIJESUNDERE

Appreciation of Rohan Tudawe

In one's journey in life, one comes across many types of people. Some who do not mean much to you, many whom you forget after the first encounter, some you remember once in a while, and others you rather not remember at all.

But every now and then, one is privileged to meet people of exceptional merit, who make a lasting impression, and most often than not, becomes friends for life. Such a person in my life was Rohan. An encounter which lasted almost 60 years, from the time before he went for studies to the UK and returned in 1974 just in time to attend my wedding.

Our bond was strengthened by the very close friendship my father enjoyed with his own Father, the late Lawrence Tudawe, a genial man in his own right, whose good qualities rubbed off on Rohan.

When my house at Flower Road suffered extensive damage due to the 1991 JOC Bomb Blast, Rohan was amongst the first to arrive at the scene and lost no time in bringing the Tudawe Brothers workforce with wheelbarrows, shovels, and other equipment to clear the debris and took control and rebuilt the house in a year to a better shape than before.

He was indeed a real friend. Never hesitant, always available, and ready to help.

"Mr T", as I fondly called him will be solely missed by his wide circle of friends and colleagues whose

lives he touched, and was held in high esteem.

His death has created a vacuum amongst his siblings, his beloved wife Dr. Mala, Gayan, Romali, Faith, and Dinill; and in their hearts he has left a void that can never be filled.

When the Amana Bank Orphancare Trust was launched two years ago, I was looking for people to be appointed to the Board of Trustees. When I called Mr T, without any hesitation he said "Ruz, how can I say no to you". He took it a step further and volunteered to be its Treasurer. That was quintessential Rohan Tudawe; ever willing to oblige.

Farewell my loyal friend... you will be deeply missed.

Ruzly Hussain

'Ceylon Tea Meditation' in Frankfurt

The Sri Lanka Consulate General in Frankfurt marketed and exhibited 'Ceylon Tea' with a unique Tea Meditation in the 'Ronnefeld Tea House' in Frankfurt in the award winning Multi Brand Myzeil Center, one of Germany's largest shopping and leisure complexes. The advertising event offered a range of Ceylon Teas for a selected group of media, airline officials, and businesspeople.

The guests were led through a Tea Meditation, during which they sat back and relaxed as they were transported a sensory journey to the world of tea gardens of Sri Lanka, where the tea leaves are grown with utmost care to produce the best Tea in the world.

The guests held warm cups of tea and inhaled the aroma of freshly brewed Ceylon Tea, while relishing the mindful tea moments as Europe is experiencing winter, with temperatures as low as 3 degrees celsius, in Germany. When they were down to their last cup, they continued to enjoy Tea, sip by sip, savouring each one and gradually allowing themselves to be more conscious of their surroundings.

They were thereafter introduced to the distinct

flavours, aromas, and textures of Ceylon Tea from seven different regions in Sri Lanka by Consul General Madurika Joseph Weninger, who marketed Sri Lanka as the perfect island vacation offering emerald Tea gardens where visitors can spend tranquil moments with breathtaking views, while learning about the finer points of Tea and its numerous health benefits. The attendees were given complimentary packs of Ceylon Tea and leaflets, and tourism mementoes and booklets.

The Tea tasting was guided by Jutta Tarlan, the Manager of the 'Ronnefeld Tea House'. She spoke of the high standards of 'Ceylon Tea,' and how the quality of the Tea they sell is a top priority for them. "We select only the best-growing countries for our tea and undertake frequent quality testing to match our high requirements," she added.

Due to its focus on quality, originality, and love of Tea, Ronnefeld has a long history of success as one of the world's leading traditional Tea companies. They make certain that their consumers have access to quality Teas grown in the world's best Tea gardens, which are



During the Tea Meditation.

offered in top hotels and sold in malls, and tea houses across major cities.

The Ronnefeld Tea Academy provides future Tea professionals with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and discover new possibilities in the world of Tea so that they may provide the best service for their restaurant or hotel. Their gold training programme focuses on perfecting Tea skills and includes a trip to several Tea gardens in Sri Lanka.

The timing of the event was ideal, as Frankfurt's commercial centre was overwhelmed with Christmas shoppers during the holiday season. The Consulate General raised awareness of Sri Lanka's rich Tea Culture, health advantages, various fla-

vours, processing techniques, and presentation styles among the attendees.

DATE 10.12.2021 FRIDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 4612 Prizes won in this draw

Rs.12,684,960.00

Winning Numbers: 4 2 1 4 3 9

Winning Letter: G

The super prize of next draw: **Rs. 26,893,151.00**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER : 2907

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs.5,458,960.00**

Winning Letter: I

Winning Numbers: 18 31 53 63

The Super Prize of the Next Draw: **Rs. 78,309,943.36**

Mega Power 10 DRAW NUMBER 960

TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 3,152,120.00**

Next Mega Super Prize: **Rs. 159,000,942.00**

Next Power Super Prize: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Next Grand Super Prize: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Winning Numbers: 12 31 32 52 57

Winning Letter: K

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER : 642

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 3,306,960.00**

The Super Prize of the Next Draw: **Rs. 87,422,044.00**

Winning Numbers: 03 39 52 55

Winning Letter: W

SUPIRI VASANA DRAW NUMBER : 1644

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 2,771,700.00**

The Super Prize of the Next Draw: **Rs. 2,182,015.20**

Winning Numbers: 03 36 45 50 51

Super Number: 03

10.12.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 640,954

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs. 27,374,700.00**

Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 02 Rs. 500,000 PRIZES 01

Rs. 100,000 PRIZES 25

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

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011-4669416

National Lotteries Board

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

DATE 11.12.2021 SATURDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 4613 Prizes won in this draw

Rs. 10,227,100.00

Winning Numbers: 0 2 8 2 9 9

Winning Letter: R

The super prize of next draw: **Rs. 27,663,227.00**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER : 2908

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 5,905,600.00**

Winning Letter: K

Winning Numbers: 02 09 12 51

The Super Prize of the Next Draw: **Rs. 78,567,888.16**

Mega Power 10 DRAW NUMBER 961

TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 2,968,700.00**

Next Mega Super Prize: **Rs. 159,301,384.40**

Next Power Super Prize: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Next Grand Super Prize: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Winning Numbers: 11 08 26 39 66

Winning Letter: N

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER : 643

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 2,757,060.00**

The Super Prize of the Next Draw: **Rs. 87,630,979.20**

Winning Numbers: 60 64 71 79

Winning Letter: A

JATHIKA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 1180

TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 2,221,940.00**

The Super Prize of the Next Draw: **Rs. 10,900,780.40**

Winning Zodiac: ARIES

Winning Numbers: 1 0 7 4 9 6

11.12.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 579,448

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs. 24,080,400.00**

Rs. 2,000,000.00 07 Rs. 1,000,000.00 01

Rs. 100,000.00 22

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

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දුරකථන අංක: 011-4607000, 011-2324324
011-4669416

National Lotteries Board

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

Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ERD/SDD/PROC/2021/619/M448

Sealed Bids are invited from the prospective suppliers to supply & delivery of

Hiring of Double Cab

Bidding documents could be obtained as a soft copy version from the Procurement Department, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00.

Bid Documents will be issued online for this Tender. Bidders who wish to collect the Tender Documents are requested to forward an official request by email to procurement@leco.lk. Payment method and other details on collecting the Bid Document will be replied via email.

Bidding documents will be issued from 13th December, 2021 to 31st December, 2021.

Draft bid document (Not for Bidding) is available on www.promise.lk or www.leco.lk websites for reference purpose only.

Completed Bid documents shall be addressed to General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited under sealed cover. The Bid documents shall be placed in the Tender Box at the Ground Floor of the address below, not later than 01.00 p.m. on 04th January, 2022. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time, in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

General Manager
Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited,
E.H. Cooray Building
411, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
Telephone : 011-2371637

TENDER NOTICE
www.leco.lk



Booster dose effective against Omicron - UK study

Britain announces stronger measures to curb Omicron spread
South Africa to roll out booster shots next month
Austrians protest compulsory COVID jobs

UK: A third booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine provides 70-75 per cent protection against symptomatic infection from the Omicron variant, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said on Friday.

In its latest technical briefing, the agency said that two doses of both the Oxford/AstraZeneca — administered in India as Covishield — and Pfizer/BioNtech vaccines provide “much lower levels” of protection against symptomatic infection compared to the currently dominant Delta variant of COVID-19.

However, a third top-up dose does seem to boost immunity against the new variant, based on an analysis of data from 581 Omicron cases.

“It is projected that if current trends continue unchanged, the UK will exceed one million infections by the end of this month,” the UKHSA said.

“The preliminary data showed effectiveness against the new variant appears to increase considerably in the early period after a booster dose, providing around 70-75 per cent protection against symptomatic infection. Due to the early nature of the findings, all estimates are subject to significant uncertainty and are subject to change,” it said.

The health experts reiterated that vaccines were still likely to



offer good protection against severe COVID, which required hospital treatment.

Meanwhile, the UK will move to “Plan B” restrictions to combat the rapid spread of the Omicron COVID-19 variant this winter, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced.

At a Downing Street press conference on Wednesday night, the Prime Minister asked people to work from home when possible from December 13 and that face masks would be a legal requirement in “most public indoor”

areas such as theatres and cinemas from Friday.

However, he said the new measures were “not a lockdown” and people “should not” cancel Christmas parties or Nativity plays, and nightclubs will remain open.

Meanwhile, South Africa will next month start giving Pfizer booster shots against coronavirus, a

health official said today, a day after the country reported a near-record high in daily cases of the disease.

“The first people who will qualify for the booster dose in South Africa will be people over the age of 60 years,” Dr Nicolas Crisp, Director General at the Health Ministry, told a weekly news conference.

Slightly more than a quarter of South Africa’s population are fully vaccinated, with the figure among adults being 43 per cent.

Omicron accounts for around 70 per cent of new infections being detected in South Africa, Health Minister Joe Phaahla has said. However, hospitalised patients are so far showing mild symptoms, he said.

Meanwhile, Tens of thousands gathered in Austria’s capital Vienna on Saturday to protest mandatory COVID vaccines and home confinement orders for those who have not yet received the jobs.

Police said an estimated 44,000 people attended the demonstration, the latest in a string of huge weekend protests since Austria last month became the first EU country to say it would make COVID vaccinations mandatory.

A partial confinement since last month ends on Sunday for the vaccinated, but those who have not received the required doses will have to remain at home.

Vaccination is to be obligatory from February for all residents older than 14, except in the case of a dispensation for health reasons.

Nobody will be vaccinated by force, the government has said, but those who refuse the shot will have to pay a initial fine of 600 euros (\$670), which can then increase to 3,600 euros (\$4,000) if not settled. - THE INDIAN EXPRESS, IANS, THE MALAY MAIL, JAPAN TODAY



A COVID-19 campaign in Johannesburg, South Africa

Mandatory COVID vaccinations finds low support in African continent: Study

SOUTH AFRICA: Less than half of the African continent is amenable to mandatory vaccinations for COVID-19, according to a study by a group of scientists, which was published in the peer-reviewed journal, PLOS One.

The study came amid growing debates worldwide on compulsory vaccinations to ensure access to workplaces, public events, shopping centres and air travel. “Only 40 per cent wanted mandatory vaccination. Mandatory vaccination could potentially accelerate vaccine uptake and the attainment of herd immunity. It could, however, undermine patients’ trust in healthcare workers, threaten individual agency, and pose ethical risks if it burdens the most vulnerable in the population unduly,” the report from the scientists said.

The countries in the study were South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria in West Africa; Egypt in North Africa; and the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan in Central Africa. “We (also) found substantial vaccine hesitancy among Africans living in Africa as well as in the diaspora,” the report said.

Concerns about vaccine safety were common in the study. “The majority of respondents were worried about the vaccines’ side effects, and many were even concerned that

they might get infected with the coronavirus by obtaining the vaccine,” the report said, as it urged planners of COVID-19 vaccination programmes in Africa to proactively anticipate this challenge.

“Only 63 per cent of participants would receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible, and an additional five per cent would receive vaccines after considering their safety among earlier vaccinated individuals,” it said.

“We found that respondents’ risk perception was related to their attitude to COVID-19 vaccines. The odds of vaccine hesitancy were substantially low if participant’s perceived risk of infection or sickness was very high,” it added.

Vaccine hesitancy was high in our population - 26 per cent believed the vaccines were unnecessary, and 43 per cent believed alternatives to COVID-19 vaccination exist. “Vaccine hesitancy was more common among young people than older adults and in rural areas compared to urban ones,” it said.

Highlighting the implications for control of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent, the study found that Central Africa has a significantly low vaccine acceptance rate of under 35 per cent, compared to around 75 per cent in Southern Africa.

- THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

French climber allowed to keep gems found at plane crash site in 2013

FRANCE: A treasure trove of emeralds, rubies and sapphires buried for decades on a glacier off France’s Mont Blanc has finally been shared between the climber who discovered them and local authorities, eight years after they were found.

The mountaineer stumbled across the precious stones in 2013. They had remained hidden in a metal box that was on board an

Indian plane that crashed in the desolate landscape some 50 years earlier.

“The stones have been shared this week” in two equal lots valued at around 150,000 euros (\$169,000) each, Chamonix mayor Eric Fournier told Agencies.

He said he was “very happy” that events had been brought to a conclusion, in particular for the climber who he praised for his “integrity”

in turning his find in to police as required by law. Two Air India planes crashed into Mont Blanc in 1950 and in 1966.

Over the years, climbers have routinely found debris, baggage and human remains from the aircraft.

In September 2012, India took possession of a bag of diplomatic mail from the Kangchenjunga, a Boeing 707 flying from Mumbai

which crashed on the southwest face of Mont Blanc on January 24, 1966.

The crash killed 117 people including the pioneer of India’s nuclear programme, Homi Jehangir Bhabha.

Authorities believe the precious stones are likely to have come from that flight which had been en route from Mumbai to New York. - NDTV



France’s Mont Blanc.



Two Afghan boys play with their bicycle on a desolate road.

Donors to transfer \$280 mn for Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN: Donors agreed on Friday to transfer \$280 million from a frozen, trust fund to the World Food Programme (WFP) and Unicef to support nutrition and health in Afghanistan, the World Bank said as it seeks to help a country facing famine and economic freefall.

The World Bank-administered Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund will this year give \$180 million to WFP to scale up food security and nutrition operations and \$100 million to Unicef to provide essential health services, the bank said in a statement.

The money would aim to support food security and health programmes in Afghanistan as it sinks into a severe economic and humanitarian crisis that accelerated in August when the Taliban overran the country as the Western-backed government collapsed and the last US troops withdrew.

The United States and other donors cut off financial aid on which Afghanistan became dependent during 20 years of war

and more than \$9 billion of the country’s hard currency assets were frozen.

The United Nations is warning that nearly 23 million people or “about 55% of the population” are facing extreme levels of hunger, with nearly 9 million at risk of famine as winter takes hold in the impoverished, landlocked country.

Using reconstruction trust fund money and channeling it through the WFP and UNICEF, both part of the U.N. family, appears to be a way to get funding into the country for basic needs in a manner that does not necessarily implicate U.S. sanctions against the Taliban.

“These ARTF funds will enable UNICEF to provide 12.5 million people with basic and essential health services and vaccinate 1 million people, while WFP will be able to provide 2.7 million people with food assistance and nearly 840,000 mothers and children with nutrition assistance,” it added. - THE TELEGRAPH INDIA

‘Silent strike’ against junta empties Myanmar streets

MYANMAR: Myanmar anti-coup demonstrators staged a “silent strike” Friday, closing businesses and emptying the streets of cities and towns across the country to protest against military rule.

The Southeast Asian nation has been in turmoil since the February coup, with the economy in tatters and more than 1,300 people killed by security forces, according to a local monitoring group.

The streets of downtown Yangon — Myanmar’s commercial hub — were deserted, with no street vendors and little traffic, AFP correspondents said.

The famous Shwedagon pagoda, a Buddhist site usually bustling with visitors and pilgrims, was also quiet.

“Restaurants, shops, and the main market are all closed,” a resident of second

city Mandalay SAID on condition of anonymity.

“There have been no street vendors since this morning, no early morning walkers.”

Pictures in local media also showed empty streets in the southeastern city of Mawlamyine and in towns across northern Sagaing region.

The US embassy in Yangon advised its citizens to stay off the streets Friday, citing a heightened risk of violence by security forces against any gatherings or protests.

Mass demonstrations that rocked Myanmar’s cities and towns immediately after the coup were met by a brutal and indiscriminate crackdown by the military. - PTI



A man rides a motorbike on an empty street near a railway station in Mandalay, central Myanmar. Streets were seen empty in Mandalay on Friday as people participated in a “silent strike” to mark International Human Rights Day.

Daughter of first US Astronaut soars in to space



Crew-member of Blue Origin’s New Shepard rocket Laura Shepard Churchley.

US: The eldest daughter of pioneering US astronaut Alan Shepard took a joyride to the edge of space aboard Jeff Bezos’ Blue Origin rocketship on Saturday, 60 years after her late father’s famed suborbital NASA flight at the dawn of the Space Age.

Laura Shepard Churchley, 74, who was a schoolgirl when her father first streaked into space, was one of six passengers buckled into the cabin of Blue Origin’s New Shepard spacecraft as it lifted off from a launch site outside the west Texas town of Van Horn.

The crew capsule was carried aloft atop the fully autonomous, six-story-tall spaceship and separated from the rocket booster as it soared to an altitude of about 350,000 feet (106 km) before falling back to Earth, descending under a canopy of parachutes to the desert floor for a safe landing.

The entire flight, from liftoff to touchdown, lasted a little over 10 minutes, with the crew experiencing a few minutes of weightlessness at the apex of the suborbital flight. As she chatted with Bezos, Churchley briefly recounted her wonder at seeing the blackness of space from inside the capsule.

Voices of Churchley and her crewmates exclaiming excitement at the ride could be heard in audio transmissions from the capsule played during a live launch webcast by Blue

Origin as the vehicle neared the climax of its flight. The spacecraft itself is named for Alan Shepard, who in 1961 made history as the second person, and the first American, to travel into space - a 15-minute suborbital flight as one of NASA’s original “Mercury Seven” astronauts. A decade later, Shepard walked on the moon as commander of the Apollo 14 mission, famously hitting two golf balls on the lunar surface.

Churchley was one of two honorary, non-paying guest passengers chosen by Blue Origin for Saturday’s flight. The other is Michael Strahan, 50, a retired National Football League star and co-anchor of ABC television’s “Good Morning America” show. They were joined by four lesser-known, wealthy customers who paid undisclosed but presumably hefty sums for their New Shepard seats - space industry executive Dylan Taylor, engineer-investor Evan Dick, venture capitalist Lane Bess and his 23-year-old son, Cameron Bess. The Besses made history as the first parent-child pair to fly in space together, according to Blue Origin.

Saturday’s flight was expected to reach a maximum height of about 65 miles - just above the internationally recognized boundary of space as the Karman Line, roughly 62 miles (100 km) above Earth. - FRANCE 24

Annalakshmi Rajadurai

- Paving the Path for Woman Journalists in Tamil Media



KRISHNI KANTHASAMY IFHAM

In the sixties, there were very few women in newspapers in Sri Lanka. The few who gained entry stood out as bright eyed, educated young women trying to storm into a male bastion. Their greatest qualification was the acceptance that they could write well. In this era, Mrs. Annalakshmi Rajadurai entered the arena of newspaper journalism.

Annalakshmi Rajadurai not only rose to be an outstanding journalist but also an eminent personality in the realm of writing. Her texts have a distinctive style of captivating readers.

She has earned a name as one of the most influential women in the field of journalism for five decades.

I got a golden opportunity to meet her just after she retired from the *Virakesari* newspaper editorial, after the pandemic at the age of 82.

During the last of my series of interviews with her, she gifted me a book authored by her. She autographed it for me. I was humbled and honoured when I saw that in her book, she had written about me too and my contribution to the Tamil media industry as a Tamil woman journalist.

Following are excerpts of my interview with Annalakshmi Rajadurai:

Q: Tell us about your hometown and the environment in which you grew up

A: My hometown is Jaffna - Tirunelveli. My father's name is Rasaiya. My mother's name is Rasamma. I have a brother and sister. My father was a carpenter. Women of that era were more often than not, uneducated. So they only carried out the household chores.

I was born on June 8, 1939. The era in which we were born would be referred to as the era of World War II. As a result, there was a severe famine in the city.

It was a time when no one cared about studying. However, in the mid in the 1940s, parents developed a desire to educate their children, including daughters.

I received my primary education at the Tirunelveli Hindu mixed school and later at Tirunelveli Senguththa Hindu College (two languages), and did my London A'levels at Ramanathan College - Chunnakam.

We didn't have a radio at home. Nor did we have a newspaper to read. One or two people would put radios in their home and play loud, such as movie songs, so that other neighbours could hear it. During festivals and weddings, it is common for loudspeakers to be turned on and movie songs to be played.

Many public libraries in cities bought one or two Tamil newspapers. Adults and teenagers, who wanted to read the newspapers, shared the pages as they read.

There was not a single library in the school at that time. They would have bought a couple of magazines, including *Veerakesari*.

A sister who lived next door to my house told me many myths and stories. I also enjoyed listening to stories narrated by clergy during religious festivals. These triggered my own imagination and creativity.

I was an avid reader and then began to write myself. I wrote a short story in 1958 and sent it to the *Thinakaran* Sunday newspaper. It was immediately published. I was jubilant!

Q: How did your interest in the media come about?

A: It cannot be said that the media was influential among the people in the late 1950s or early 1960s. In the Tamil language newspapers, only *Veerakesari*, *Thinakaran* and *Suathanthiran* (weekly) were published. *Eelanadu* newspaper was just beginning during that period.

Other than my interest in writing, I didn't



Annalakshmi Rajadurai

have any other qualifications to pursue a career in the media. I was dreaming of becoming a teacher.

In those days when newspapers were scarce, it was customary for me to spread out and read pieces of newspaper that were used to wrap groceries. One day, in April, 1962, I got a *Verakesari* newspaper. A small advertisement in it caught my eye. The caption read 'Youth needed as sub editor.' 'Youth' mean young isn't it, we are young too.

I cast aside my ambition to be a school teacher. I would accept the opportunity to be a Sub Editor! It was a new career for women.

I faced the interview and was selected. Then I met another woman in the youth group who thought like me. She is Yoga Vallipuram (Balachandran). From 1966 onwards, Yoga Balachandran worked as a Sub Editor in Dinapathi and Chintamani, with Mr. Sivanayakam, being the head of the department.

Q: Were there any obstacles at the onset?

A: Initially in the editorial we were the only women. Yoga and I were both enthusiastic about our duties and responsibilities. We worked hard and earned the respect of our colleagues.

Mr. Kesavan, the Managing Director, once asked the News Editor, 'How are those girls?' He replied, "they are the geniuses' sir!".

Q: Challenges faced in the field of journalism?

A: I entered into the industry with the belief that I could excel in the writing-oriented journalism industry because I had a passion for writing. I enjoyed the drama of hunting for news and the words "Let's check it out!".

A three-month training period was provided the newcomers to the job as a Sub Editors. There was some writing and translation practice.

I was determined to complete assignments correctly and without making any mistakes. Yoga was the same. Every day, we read and wrote news clippings from English newspapers and English telegraph. ..I also created a weekly page for students called *'Maanavar Kesari'*.

Sometimes, the news editor would ask us to attend a meeting or seminar and write about it. My favourite was to take time away from my regular duties to attend meetings, learn new things, and meet new people.

"Miss, you don't have to come to work tomorrow! Watch the movie and write a review." There was no greater joy than receiving movie tickets or invitations from the news editor!

In that era the cinema premiere for media was an important for film distributors, because the fans had to be given details about the cinema on that day.

I thoroughly enjoyed my work. Hence, I did not feel that anything was an obstacles or challenge!

Q: How was the understanding between



Annalakshmi Rajadurai receiving an award from former President D. B. Wijetunga

male and female journalists during your time?

A: Our arrival must have appeared at a pace of innovation in those early days when both of us women were Sub Editors. Both Yoga and I had the confidence to act independently without having to ask for anyone's backing or help.

As a result, the male staff held us in high esteem and valued us immensely. There was a sense of understanding and camaraderie among the male and female employees. Over time, in each period, some women have taken the lead in journalism.

Q: How was the contribution of women in the media perceived in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s?

A: If you ask me about the role of women in the media during this time of the period, mainly in the print media, my own role which spans more than five decades is also significant.

I believe that it was a turning point in 1966, when I was given the responsibility of being the editor of the weekly family magazine *'Thodhi'*. I have some experience in writing short stories and novels under the pseudonym *'Jaffna Nangai'*.

When I got to work as the editor of *'Mithiran Varamalar'* magazine from 1973 to 1984, I was able to inspire young writers, including young women. I was responsible for pages such as 'Literary World' (*Elakkiya Ulagu*) and 'Women's World' (*Pengal Ulagu*) and for some time also worked as a features editor.

After the year 2000, I was responsible for publishing the weekly supplement *'Mangaiyar Kesari'* and the weekly supplement *'Kala Kesari'*. From 2010 to 2020 I had the opportunity to work as an editor of *Virakesari's* international magazine *'Kala Kesari'*, for the development of Tamil culture, art, history and archeology. I would like to thank Kumar Nadesan, the Managing Director for giving me this post.

As far as women's pages in the early days were concerned, the focus was on family, home decoration, religion, cooking and aesthetics. Beyond that, Women were considered uneducated, without their own career, and facing economic hardships.

In 1970s, the women's status began to improve. In 1995, I participated in the World Conference on Women in Beijing. This marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality. I also participated at the South East Asia conference organised by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC-1982) Manila, and the World Classical Tamil Conference in Combaratore-2010, India, also participated on three occasions in the forums for International Writers for Cinema in Tamil Nadu.

Some of our female Tamil medium journalists like Yoga Balachandran, Anandi Balasingham, Leela Ramaiah, Renuka Prabhakaran and others have written about women's equality, women's rights and women's advancement in *Thinakaran*, *Thinapathy* and *Chintamani*.

After the 1990s, young female journalists such as Suriyakumari Panjanathan and Thevagothy Mahaligamsivam were focusing on feminism and started writing in *Virakesari*.

I must mention that you yourself, Krishni Kanthasamy became a historical woman in the field of Tamil media. You became the first female defence reporter from the Tamil minority community, covering such horrible and dangerous incidents on the ground when Sri Lanka was experiencing the grim realities in the war for a long time.

Since the 1990s, Priyadarshini, Ponmalar and Menaka have been contributing to the news sector. Today we are happy to see some women like, Vidhusa, Dhanusha and Chitra making their mark in *Veerakesari*.

Since the inception of the *Thinakural Daily* in 1997, young female journalists have been making a significant contribution through the women's section *'Ival'*. Some female journalists, including Yoga Balachandran, paid close attention to their role during the days of Dinapathi and Chintamani, similarly, starting with Anandi Balasingham and Leela Ramaiah, women made their mark in *Thinakaran*. Later on we can see some female journalists like Vasuki Sivakumar and Lakshmi Parasuraman.

Q: In today's media, women are seen as progressive. However, women journalists have not yet occupied influential positions in the Tamil media. Why do you think that is? What has been done to bring about positive changes?

A: Why hasn't a female journalist become

the editor-in-chief of a Tamil medium national newspaper until now? There could be many reasons for this. The final decision is in the hands of the Board of Directors or the owners.

A male journalist with extensive experience, talent, and intellect is usually chosen. It may be easier for a male to manage and communicate with the male management.

At a time of tremendous crisis in the country, the editor-in-chief may have to stand in the newsroom to determine the front-page

news of the newspaper. In some cases, high-ranking government officials may ask for explanation.

We are aware of how the media can be subject to unnecessarily harassing and threatening.

I believe women will be able to hold key positions in the Tamil media in future, including chief editor.

Q: As a veteran woman journalist, what do you want to say to young women Journalists?

A: A Journalist is a social worker. The journalist informs people about the current situation of the country, including the political situation. Information should be disseminated fast. The journalist also has a responsibility to guide people without bias. Also it is important for a journalist to know current issues of the country and the backgrounds and international issues. Armed with this knowledge and skills the journalist will earn the trust and goodwill of the people.



Annalakshmi Rajadurai receiving an award from former *Dinamina* Editor-in-Chief Sarath Cooray

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OVER 100 DEAD as tornadoes wreak havoc in 6 U.S. STATES

US: Dozens of devastating tornadoes roared through six US states overnight, leaving over 100 people dead on Saturday and Sunday in what President Joe Biden said was "one of the largest" storm outbreaks in history.

"It's a tragedy," a shaken President Biden said in televised comments. "And we still don't know how many lives are lost and the full extent of the damage."

As darkness fell Saturday scores of search and rescue officials were helping stunned citizens across the US heartland sift through the rubble of their homes and businesses searching for any more survivors.

More than 80 people are believed to have been killed in Kentucky alone, many of them workers at a candle factory, while at least six died in an Amazon warehouse in Illinois where they were on the night shift processing orders ahead of Christmas.

"This event is the worst, most devastating, most deadly tornado event in Kentucky's history," said Kentucky gov-

ernor Andy Beshear, adding he fears "we will have lost more than 100 people." "The devastation is unlike anything I have seen in my life, and I have trouble putting it into words," the governor told reporters.

The western Kentucky town of Mayfield was reduced to "matchsticks," its mayor said.

The small town of 10,000 people was described as "ground zero" by officials, and appeared post-apocalyptic: city blocks leveled; historic homes and buildings beaten down to their slabs; tree trunks stripped of their branches; cars overturned in fields.

Previously, the longest a US tornado has ever tracked along the ground was a 219-mile storm in Missouri in 1925. It claimed 695 lives.

In one demonstration of the storms' awesome power on Saturday, when winds derailed a 27-car train near Earlington, Kentucky, one car was blown 75 yards up a hill and another landed on a house. No one was hurt.

Reports put the total number of tor-

nadoes across the region at around 30. At least 23 people were killed in other storm-hit states, including at the Amazon warehouse in Illinois.

In Arkansas, at least one person died when a tornado "pretty much destroyed" a nursing home in Monette, a county official said. Another person died elsewhere in the state. Four people died in Tennessee, while one died in Missouri.

Biden promised the full assistance of the federal government and said he planned to travel to the affected areas.

Scientists have warned that climate change is making storms more powerful and frequent.

More than half a million homes in several states were left without power, according to PowerOutage.com.

Amazon workers trapped

When another tornado hit an Amazon warehouse in the southern Illinois city of Edwardsville around 100 workers were trapped inside. Hundreds of workers scrambled to rescue the trapped employees. - THE HINDU



A lethal evening of tornadoes ripping by the US Midwest and south has leveled homes, with over 100 individuals feared dead. Here, tornadoes which hit the State of Kentucky.

Man probed for having 10 vaccine shots

NEW ZEALAND: A New Zealand man has been labeled "unbelievably selfish" after he received up to 10 COVID-19 vaccines in one day.

The news website Stuff said the man, who has not been named and is now under investigation, visited several vaccination centres. Local media reported that he was paid to take the shots on behalf of other people, pretending to be the individuals who had allegedly hired him.

The country's Ministry of Health was taking the matter seriously, COVID-19 vaccine and immunization program manager Astrid Koornneef told Stuff.

"We are very concerned about this situation and are

working with the appropriate agencies," she said.

"To assume another person's identity and receive a medical treatment is dangerous," Koornneef was cited by the New Zealand Herald as saying. "This puts at risk the person who receives a vaccination under an assumed identity and the person whose health record will show they have been vaccinated when they have not."

The ministry would not say where the incidents took place but advised the man to visit a doctor for advice as soon as possible.

University of Auckland vaccinologist Helen Petousis-Harris told Stuff that studies did not cover such excessive doses so it was

difficult to predict what might happen to someone who had 10 vaccines in a single day.

Petousis-Harris said the man was likely to feel rough for a day or two as his body mounts an immune response to the multiple vaccines. "It's unbelievably selfish," she added.

Malaghan Institute director and immunologist professor Graham Le Gros said the actions were "silly and dangerous."

He added that the man was unlikely to die from 10 jabs, but having so many doses could mean the vaccine doesn't work as well.

In New Zealand, people do not have to show identification when receiving the vaccine. The country dropped its zero-COVID strategy in October after infections spiked.

With a population of 5 million, the country has reported about 12,500 cases and 46 deaths since the onset of the pandemic. About 89% of residents are fully vaccinated.

- THE INDIAN EXPRESS



Nobel winner Ressa decries 'toxic sludge' of social media



Philippine journalist Maria Ressa delivers a speech during the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony at the Oslo City Hall in Oslo, Norway on Friday.

NORWAY: Accepting her Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, Philippine journalist Maria Ressa launched a spirited attack against American tech giants, accusing them of fuelling a flood of "toxic sludge" on social media.

The co-founder of the news website Rappler, who won this year's prize together with Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov, attacked the technology industry which "has allowed a virus of lies to infect each of us, pitting us against each other, bringing out our fears, anger and hate, and setting the stage for the rise of authoritarians and dictators around the world."

"Our greatest need today is to transform that hate and violence, the toxic sludge that's coursing through our information ecosystem, prioritised by American internet companies that make more money by spreading that hate and triggering the worst in us," she said.

"What happens on social media doesn't stay on social media. Online violence is real world violence."

Ressa said facts and truth were at the heart of solving the biggest challenges facing society today.

"Without facts, you can't have truth. Without truth, you can't have trust. Without trust, we have no shared reality, no democracy, and it becomes impossible to deal with our world's existential problems: climate, coronavirus, the battle for truth." Ressa, whose website is highly critical of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, is the subject of seven lawsuits in her country that she says risk putting her in jail for 100 years.

Currently on parole, pending an appeal after being convicted of defamation last year, she needed to ask four courts for permission to travel and collect her Nobel prize in person.

- BANGKOK POST

UK authorities urge public vigilance in face of Christmas terror threat

UK: British authorities have foiled seven late-stage terror plots over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, new figures show, prompting police to urge public vigilance during the holiday season.

A total of 32 late-stage terror plots have been foiled in the last four years, Counter Terrorism Policing told Sky News.

Since March 2017, 18 attacks related to Islamist extremism have been disrupted, 12 linked to right-wing extremism and two to left-wing, anarchist or "single-

issue terrorism." The UK has been rocked by two high-profile incidents in the last few months: One in which MP David Amess was murdered by an Islamist, and another in which a suicide bomber detonated his vest outside a Liverpool children's hospital, killing himself only.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon, senior national coordinator for the CTP, said the public would be "well aware of the fact that the UK has suffered two terror attacks in quick succession, with the national threat level



Santas wait at a bus stop as they take a break from the classroom during Santa School at The Ministry of Fun in London on Saturday.

raising to severe — meaning an attack is highly likely.

"All of this combines to paint a picture of a

sustained and high-tempo threat, which our world-class police, security and intelligence services are doing every-

thing in their power to combat."

He said people "need to be vigilant" and "alert," and cooperation between the police and the public is "vital."

Police have also sounded the alarm over the rising number of children being arrested for terror offenses.

Home Office figures showed that the number of people committing terror offenses fell across the board for all groups, whether right-wing, Islamist or other — apart from children.

In the 12 months leading up to Sept. 30, 2021,

a total of 25 children were detained for terror crimes — eight more than the preceding year. Children accounted for 13 percent of all terror-related arrests.

Haydon expressed concern that children are "becoming an increasing proportion of our arrests" in light of the figures, "but it doesn't have to be this way. Ideally, we would identify when a young person is being led down the path towards terrorism activity and use the Prevent program to try and put them on a different path."

- ARAB NEWS

AUSTRALIA FIGHTS BUSHFIRES IN WEST, FLOODS IN EAST

AUSTRALIA: Australia battled twin natural disasters Friday, with bushfires cutting through a picturesque west coast region, while serious flooding and heavy rains lashed the country's east.

After weeks of high temperatures, fires flanked the western tourist hotspot of Margaret River — famed for its fine wine and big surf.

No homes have been damaged or injuries reported, but flames have been seen over a wide area, sending smoke billowing high into the sky.

Emergency warnings are in effect, and some residents have been told to flee to safety or shelter in place.

"Act immediately to survive," the state's Department of Fire and Emergency Services said.

While Australia's Indian Ocean coast has sizzled under temperatures that have reached 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), on the

other side of the continent its Pacific Coast has been pummeled by rain for months.

"A low pressure center has formed off the southern New South Wales coast bringing heavy rainfall and major flooding," the Bureau of Meteorology said.

Some rural regions south of Sydney — engulfed in the country's worst-ever bushfires exactly two years ago — have received 21 centimeters (eight inches) of rain in the last 24 hours alone.

November was the wettest in 122 years of records and among the coolest, as a La Nina weather phenomenon took hold.

Scientists believe Australia's extreme weather has been made worse by man-made climate change.

In recent years the continent has experienced a litany of climate-worsened droughts, bushfires and floods.

- ARAB NEWS

The Tonight Show Starring Joe Biden: US President makes late-night TV debut

US: US President Joe Biden on Friday used his first late-night television talk show appearance as US president to highlight his infrastructure bill — and laugh off his flagging approval ratings.

Biden's appearance on NBC's The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon is the first by a sitting president since Barack Obama, and comes as the White House seeks to highlight the recently passed bill for upgrading the nation's tattered transport networks.

Despite its passage, Biden's approval ratings have sunk to the low 40 per cent area, in part due to the spike in inflation.

Asked by host Jimmy Fallon if he pays attention to approval

ratings, Biden dead-panned: "Well, not anymore."

"I'm joking. I was paying attention when it was in the mid-60s, but when it's in the mid-40s I don't pay attention,"

said the president, to laughter from the studio audience.

Biden's appearance by remote video comes after his predecessor President Donald Trump declined invitations for

any late-night talk shows as president.

Obama frequently used programs hosted by Fallon and rivals such as Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert to speak to the wider US public.

Fallon opened the show by joking the pair would "discuss the economy, the infrastructure bill, and break down the first two episodes of the Sex and the City reboot."

Fallon managed one barb about inflation figures, claiming he had earlier asked the president how excited he was to appear on the show on a scale of one to ten. "He said ten. But six without inflation."

But during the interview, Fallon allowed Biden to set out policies including his landmark \$1.8 trillion Build Back Better plan to improve social

services and fight climate change, which faces a tough road in Congress.

Wearing a suit and tie, and seated in front of a festively decorated mantelpiece, Biden also urged Americans to get booster shots and highlighted steady declines in the unemployment rate.

"We do have inflation on things that in fact matter in people's lives, such as gas prices," said Biden.

"It's going to come down," he promised. The interview — in which Fallon praised Biden for "bringing class back to the office" of the president and asked "does anyone really understand how hard your job is?" — ended with the talk host being invited over to the White House for dinner.

- INDIA TODAY



US President Joe Biden making his debut late-night show appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.



The Black Summer bush fires of 2019 and 2020 were the worst in Australia's recorded history.

87th Battle of the Saints at the SSC grounds

Peterites have slight edge over determined Joes

INDIKA WELAGEDARA

The 87th Battle of the Saints between St. Peter's College and St. Joseph's College will unfold with the usual comradeship at the SSC grounds today and tomorrow, which is to be played under strict health guidelines set by the health authorities with only the parents of the players and no spectators are allowed to enter the grounds. Two days of exciting cricket can be expected from these two Catholic schools.

Though St. Peter's hold a slight edge due to their recent purple-patch leading up to the 'Big Match', St. Joseph's will try hard to turn tables and bring back the Rev.Fr Maurice Legoc trophy to Darley Road after 13 years.

Rev.Fr Maurice Legoc was the rector of both the schools and the trophy for the 'Big' match is named in his honour. He first served at St. Joseph's College and then went on to become the first rector of St. Peter's College. Robert Fernando led St. Joseph's College in the first encounter in 1933 while George Jayaweera led St. Peter's College.

Of the 86 matches played between these two great cricketing schools St. Joseph's lead the tally with 12 wins while St. Peter's has won on 10 occasions with 64 matches ending in draws. St. Joseph's last won under the leadership of Ruwantha Fernandopulle in 2008 and St. Peter's last win was under Vinu Mohotti's captaincy in 2016.

The highest score in the 'Battle of the Saints' series is by St. Joseph's when they made 382 in 1982 under the leadership of Ken Serpanchy while the highest Peterite score was in 1938 under Percy Perera where they accumulated 345 runs.

St Peter's were bowled out for a paltry score of 36 in 1972 and incidentally that remains as the lowest score in the series and St. Joseph's lowest score is 56 in 1938. The highest individual score of the series is 204 by Clive Inman of St Peter's in 1954 and the best bowling figures for an innings is 9 for 41 by Shenal Warnakula of St Joseph's in 1997.

St Peter's led by left hand batsman Nipunaka Fonseka had a good season. Sri Lanka national under 19 player



St. Joseph's skipper **Dunith Wellalage**



St Peter's skipper **Nipunaka Fonseka**

cum left arm fast bowler Danal Hemanada

lead this year's wicket tally for St.Peters with 23 wickets while another Sri Lanka national under 19 player and left arm spinner Wanuja Sahana 21 wickets and Vinuda Liyanage the vice Captain and left arm medium fast bowler had taken close to 10 wickets. If these three bowlers along with rookie right arm fast bowler Lakindu Sachin (the youngest son of former Sri Lanka national junior schools rugby player cum Ispithana wing three quarter Aruna Samarajeeva) start taking wickets, then St. Joseph's will have a difficult time.

The pillars of the Peterite batting are skipper cum left hander Nipunaka Fonseka (over 300 runs), Left hander Vinuda Liyanage (over 150 runs) and the two left handed all rounder's Wanuja Sahana (Close to 125 runs), and Danal Hemanada who has scored nearly 100 runs. They have got their



St. Joseph's College cricket team Left to right : Seated: Lahiru Wickramasinghe (1st XI Asst.Coach), Dilan Ramanayake (Head coach), Asiri Caldera (1st XI MIC), Sadeesh Jayawardena, Dunith Wellalage (Captain), Rev/Fr.Ranjith Andradi (Rector), Rev.Fr.Priyan Thisera (Prefect of Games), Shevon Daniel, Sanjeeva Fernando (Junior/2nd XI MIC), Sheran Fonseka, Kavindu Perera (2nd XI coach) Standing: Sasanka Ranaweera, Mithira Thenuwara, Shenuka De Silva, Deshan Seneviratne, Yenula Devthusa, Gagan Chamodh, Shenuk Serasinghe, Lahiru Amarasekara, Jadon Makalanda, Hiruna Kapurubandara, Kenath Sismina, Sahana Dabare, Hiran Jayasundara



St. Peter's College cricket team Seated (L-R)-- Manuka Gunaratne (Physical Trainer), Janudika Sriyapala (Coach), Shanaka Fernando (Coach), Sunanda Fernando (Sports Secretary/MIC Senior), Nipunaka Fonseka (Captain), Rev. Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo (Rector), Rev. Fr. Milan Bernard (Sports Coordinator), Vinuda Liyanage (Vice Captain), Mr. Rojer Wijesuriya (Head Coach), Wasantha Haputhanthri (Junior MIC), Rohan Soysa (Coach), Mohan Liyanage (Coach) Standing 1st Row (L-R) -- Shenal Boteju, Wanuja Kumara, Sanuka Galagoda, Chamelker De Silva, Monil Silva, Jeshuran Benajamin, Danal Hemanada, Niman Umesh Standing 2nd Row (L-R) -- Vishen Halambage, Shanon Rodrigo, Nimuthu Gunawardana, Lakindu Sachin, Sanshay Gunathilake, Rusanda Gamage

team off to blazing starts many a times and they will be itching to continue the trend beginning of the week in the most important game of the season. Veteran Sri Lanka cricketer cum Coach Roger Wijesuriya is the Peterite head coach.

Meanwhile St. Joseph's will be led by Sri Lanka under 19 skipper cum left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage and

they have done well in this year's schools season. Sheran Fonseka's success with the bat will be very vital. He is the top run-scorer for the Darley Road boys with over 400 runs this season, while Shevon Daniel has scored over 300 runs, opening batsman /wicketkeeper Sadeesh Jayawardene (over 250 runs) and skipper Dunith Wellalage has scored

nearly 225 runs this season. While captain and left arm spinner Wellalage (15 wickets), right arm off spinner Shenuka De Silva (12 wickets) and right arm fast bowler Deshan Seneviratne (12 wickets) has been lethal throughout the season taking close to 40 wickets for St.Josephs. The Joes are coached by former Josephian opening bat Dilan Ramanayake. With the first-innings restricted to 60 overs per side since year 2000, both these teams will have an equal opportunity to produce a noteworthy team performance and win the game. Most of the matches played at SSC have produced high scores even though the bowlers had enjoyed the surface. Taking all these into consideration, the odds are in favour of St. Peters pulling it off.

Kingswoodian Asiri Seneviratne a superb fly half

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA
Kandy Sports special corr.

Twenty year old, Asiri Seneviratne is an old boy of Kingswood College, Kandy who started Rugby from Grade four onwards and his first Coach was Rohith Mendis and later on he was coached by Ananda Kasthuriarachchi at junior level.

He played as fly-half through-out his Rugby career in School and had the privilege of Captaining the School from Under Twelve to Under Eighteen Rugby teams except Under 15 team. In the year 2016 he started playing for the First Fifteen Rugby team under Sachintha Udagalahitiyawa and in the following year he played under Heshan Janson and the Kingswood Rugby team emerged champions at the Dialog Super Sevens beating St. Joseph's College, Colombo in the finals (7-5 points).

In 2018 he played under the captaincy of Tharindu Weligampola and then he played under Milan Weerasinghe before getting the Captaincy in the year 2020. Under his Captaincy some of the team members were Dinal Ekanayake, Rana Rahuman and Chetiya and due to Covid epidemic only a

few matches were played in that year/ When Asiri was captaining the Under 16 Rugby team they played at the Sri Lanka Schools Super Sevens tournament and beat St.Joseph's and his team became Champions in the Under 19 Asia Cup Division II Fifteen a side Rugby Tournament held in China by beating China and Philippines and emerged Champions. Sri Lanka Rugby team was captained by Royalist, Thulaib Hassan. two of his team mates, Milan Weerasinghe and Dinal Ekanayake of Kingswood were also in that team.

Although he was coached by the above mentioned Rugby coaches at the early stages in Rugby later on he was coached by Dinesh Gamage and Indunil Wickremasinghe and some of his other coaches were Gayan Weeraratne, Nilfer Ibrahim and Anuja Mallawarachchi and Ronnie Ibrahim was the Rugby consultant. Asiri has joined the Kandy Sports Club and at present he is in the Rugby Pool

Coached by Fazil Mariya assisted by Buddhika Thalampola and his intention is to improve his talent in Rugby and represent Sri



Asiri Seneviratne after receiving a trophy



Asiri Seneviratne. Pictures by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr

Lanka through his hard training at Kandy Sports Club.

Army dominates Mr. Novice Bodybuilding Contest

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Bodybuilders from the Sri Lanka Army dominated the Yeti sponsored Mr. Novice Bodybuilding competition, held at Hyde Park Grounds in Colombo recently.

This outdoor meet conducted by the Sri Lanka Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation in collaboration with the Colombo Municipal Council also marked the return of local bodybuilding events after a lapse of nearly two years.

Over 200 competitors including promising bodybuilders from the North and East also showcased their talent at this first event of the year in different weight categories.



The winner of the 65kg weight class M. C. Ajith of Army SC (right) posing while runner-up Kevin Illangakoon (Simathra SC) receives his award from Director Yeti Dr. Dilshan Balasuriya

Ajith Akram of Natpiddimunai Hero Youth Club wins Gold medal

(Text and Pictures by I.L.M.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Correspondent)

M.J. Ajith Akram of Natpiddimunai Hero Youth Club won first place in the 10,000 metres race for men over 20 years brought fame to his club at the Ampara District 33rd Youth Sports Festival-2021 conducted by the National Youth Services Council (NYSC) Ampara District Office at the Addalaichenai Public Play Grounds recently.

Gold winner M.J. Ajith Akram qualified to compete at the 33rd National Youth Sports Festival-2021 to be held in Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo. His club and Natpiddimunai for pray for his success at National Level.

M.J.Sajith Aslam of the same club secured 2nd place at 1,500m race.

The District Youth Sports Festival-2021 was organized by Ampara District Youth Services Officer A.Mubarak Ali while

National Youth Services Council (NYSC) Ampara District Assistant Director W.A.G.S. Damayanthi who presided over.

Digamadullah District Sri Lanka Pothujana Peramuna (SLPP) Parliamentarian and Ampara District Development Committee Chairman W.D. Weerasinghe was the Chief Guest at the sports festival.

The National Youth Services Council (NYSC) Eastern Province Director Sarath Chandrapala,



M.J. Ajith Akram of Natpiddimunai Hero Youth Club who won the 10,000 metres race for men over 20 years receives a certificate

Akkaraipattu Municipal Officers were present and distributed the medals and trophies at the awards ceremony.

Kandy Zone two in easy win in under 15 Super Provincial Cricket Tournament



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Over here in Kandy two under 15 Super Provincial cricket Tournament - matches were played. One was between Kandy Zone two vs. Kegalle at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium. In which Kandy Zone side won by 167 runs.

In this game Kandy Zone two scored 283 losing all the wickets in 46.5 over's Anjana Weerasekara scored with a 72 with some good

hits and Caruka Ekanayake too did well to score 64. N.S.S.Madagedera and K.S.S.Chandraekara took three wickets each. Kegalle were able to score 116 runs in 30.2 overs, Kevin Fernando and Bimash Samarasinghe took three wickets each.

Kandy Zone two scored 283 all out in 46.5 over's Anjana Weerasekara to score with a 72 and Charuka Ekanayake 64, Januka Rathnayake 31, S.S.Madagedera 3 for 27, P.K.S.S. Chandrasekara 3 for 51.

Kegalle 116 all out in 30.2 overs - Bhagya Bandara 26, Kevan Fernando 3 for 08, Bimash Samarasinghe 3/12, Dasun Weliyanka 2 for 22.

In the other game Kandy Zone one

beat Kandy Zone three this game too was played at Pallekele International Stadium.

Kandy Zone three scored 188 runs in 47 over's with Hansaka Premarathne 44 and Kevin Gamage took 3 for 33 in replay Kandy Zone I made 189/4 in 37.4 overs with Nisala Abeyaratne 55 and Lakvin Abeysinghe 54 not out

Kandy Zone three - 188 all out in 47 over's - Hansaka Premarathne 44, Gayan Thennakoon 25, Kaveen Gamage 3 for 23 Oshana Lokuge 2 for 14 Lakvin Abeysinghe 2 for 29

Kandy Zone one - 189 for 4 in 37.4 over's - Nisala Abeyaratne 55, Lakvin Abeysinghe 54 not out, Kavija Gamage 2/42

Mayor's cup Football

Municipal Council-Play Grounds department are making arrangements to play the annual Mayors cup seven-a-side football tournament. This tournament is for Play Grounds and community Centers, where they will present good quality football and also some of the Kandy's top players will be seen in action. By end of this month.

Kandy schools ready for rugby

Kandy school rugby fever gets back into action in Kandy. Kandy's rugby lovers welcome the schools

sevens tournament, which is going to give a big break to young schoolboys and wishes the competitors the best. Thanks to the Sri Lanka Schools Rugby Football Association who have drawn up a plan to conduct a schools provincial Sevens rugby tournament for schools after a long wait. This tournament will be conducted in three provinces. The Central Province tournament is on 27th at the Trinity College rugby grounds at Pallekele. Where top eight schools of Kandy will be seen in action.

This is going to be the first rugby tournament of this year and every school will hope to enjoy an exciting day of rugby. This is going to be a

tournament with a spirit of good sportsmanship and friendly rivalry. Rugby lovers wish all the teams taking part the very best of luck.

This tournament will see schools like Kingswood College, Trinity College, St. Sylvester's College, Dharmaraja College, St. Anthony's College, Vidarthana College, Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College and Sri Rahu-la College in action. Participants of this tournament will be playing behind closed doors with no spectators according to news and are expected to give a good display of rugby. Sri Lanka rugby Referees Society officials will handle the whistle in this tournament.



Jaffna Kings paceman Wahab Riaz in action while Minod Bhanuka is at the non-striker's end.



Kandy Warriors opener Charith Asalanka plays a shot while wicket keeper Upul Tharanga looks on. (Pix courtesy SLC)

Jaffna Kings beat Kandy Warriors by seven wickets

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Jaffna Kings, led by Thisara Perera, produced a superb display to beat Kandy Warriors by seven wickets with eight balls to spare under the D/L method in their rain-hit LPL game played at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, yesterday.

Kandy Warriors batted first, but they couldn't continue their innings as the rain obstructed them twice in a row, forcing in a revised target of 95 runs in 10 overs. However, Jaffna Kings reached their target in 8.4 overs with seven wickets in hand to continue their winning form.

Skipper Thisara Perera, who was in good form with back-to-back fifties, once again made an unbeaten 29 in 13 balls, striking four fours and a six;

while Shoaib Malik hit 14 runs in 9 balls and paved the way to their win by making a 43-run fourth-wicket unfinished stand. Malik was adjudged the 'Man of the Match'.

Earlier, Kandy Warriors scored 47 for one wicket in seven overs when the game was halted for 75 minutes and umpires decided to reduce the overs to 16 for both innings, but once again, Kandy's innings was interrupted by rain, wrapping things up at 94 for 2 in 12.2 overs. Kandy Warriors openers made a good start with Charith Asalanka leading from the front, rotating the strike with Ahamed Shehzad. How-



ever, Shehzad was the first to be bowled out by Shoaib Malik in the fifth over. He scored 22 in 19 balls, hitting four boundaries; and Kandy Warriors were 39 for one wicket following the Power Play stage.

Asalanka and Bhanuka added a further 49-run second-wicket stand. Bhanuka, who scored 20 in 16 balls, hitting a four and a six off Wanindu Hasaranga's over, was finally taken out by Wahab Riaz and Ashen Bandara—the latter taking a superb diving catch to dismiss Bhanuka at mid-wicket.

When the rain halted the Kandy innings after 12.2 overs, Asalanka had hit 44 runs for 34 balls, which included two sixes and two fours, and Tom Moores with an unbeaten six.

Chief scores
Kandy Warriors: 94/2 in 12.2 overs (Charith Asalanka 44*, Ahamed Shehzad 22, Minod Bhanuka 20)

Jaffna Kings: 95/3 in 8.4 overs (Upul Tharanga 13, Avishka Fernando 23, Tom Kholer-Cadmire 12, Shoaib Malik 14, Thisara Perera 29*)

Mathews guides to Colombo Stars victory

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Skipper Angelo Mathews made a superb knock of 73 as Colombo Stars defeated Galle Gladiators by 41 runs in their LPL match played at R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Galle Gladiators chasing a target of 163 runs were 81 for 2 wickets after 9.5 overs ultimately were bowled out for 121 in 16.5 overs. Opener Kusal Mendis made a good fighting knock of 64 in 39 balls hitting seven fours and a six but was not enough to reach their target with Colombo Stars bowlers fighting back strongly.

Earlier, Colombo Stars chose to bat first without any hesitation to make a competitive total. Skipper Angelo Mathews, who came to the game for the first time after his injury, made a superb batting display as an opener while Pathum Nissanka was sent back to the pavilion by Samit Patel in the first over scoring only one run.

However, Mathews was leading from the front added a 65 runs second-wicket stand with Ashan Priyanjan, who scored 23 in 16 balls with three fours was dismissed with a return catch nicely held by Isuru Udana. Mathews, who reached his 50 in just 42 balls used his experience to add more runs, especially from big strokes, was finally out for 73 runs trapped LBW to Mohammad Amir in 16th over. He hit 8 fours and 3 sixes in his 57 ball innings.

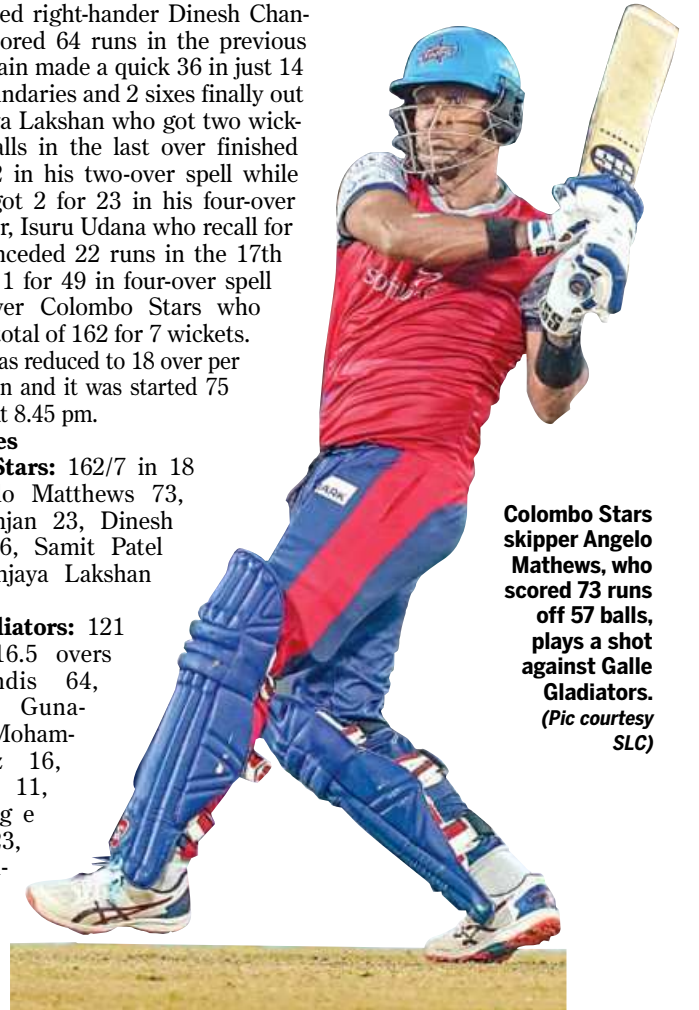
The informed right-hander Dinesh Chandimal who scored 64 runs in the previous game once again made a quick 36 in just 14 balls hit 4 boundaries and 2 sixes finally out off Dhananjaya Lakshan who got two wickets in two balls in the last over finished with 2 for 22 in his two-over spell while Samit Patel got 2 for 23 in his four-over spell. However, Isuru Udana who recall for this game conceded 22 runs in the 17th over finished 1 for 49 in four-over spell struggling over Colombo Stars who made a good total of 162 for 7 wickets.

The game was reduced to 18 over per side due to rain and it was started 75 minutes later at 8.45 pm.

Chief scores

Colombo Stars: 162/7 in 18 overs (Angelo Mathews 73, Ashan Priyanjan 23, Dinesh Chandimal 36, Samit Patel 2/23, Dhananjaya Lakshan 2/22)

Galle Gladiators: 121 all out in 16.5 overs (Kusal Mendis 64, Dhanushka Gunatilleke 14, Mohammad Hafeez 16, Samit Patel 11, Seekkuge Prasanna 2/23, Ravi Rampaul 1/23, Naveen Ullah 3/27)



Colombo Stars skipper Angelo Mathews, who scored 73 runs off 57 balls, plays a shot against Galle Gladiators. (Pic courtesy SLC)

Sri Lanka Super League Championship

New Young force 4-all draw against Red Star

ALTHAF NAWAZ

A gallant performance in the second half by New Young enabled them to force a 4-all draw against Red Star in their soccer fixture played in the 'Super League' Tournament at Race Course grounds yesterday.

After reeling 4-1 at the breather, the lads from Wennapuwa put up a splendid performance to bounce back and deprive a certain win in favour of their rival, who were cruising along rather comfortably. The cynosure of all eyes was Kalum Sanjaya of New Young, who scored a hat-trick to save them from certain defeat.

Earlier, from the start, it was total dominance by the Beruwala lads, who had firm control over the game. They never allowed their opponents to find inroads by executing a solid defensive approach. Eventually, the tournament's highest goalscorer, Mohamed Rahuman, once again proved his superiority by being instrumental in scoring another goal during the extra time of the first half, which brought his goal tally to six. The other three goals for Red Star were scored by Dananjaya Wijesinghe, Ismail Abumere, and Mohamed Rihard before lemons, while Kalum Sanjaya booted the solitary goal for New Young to go 4-1 at the short whistle.

After the turnaround, New Young changed gears and adopted an offensive approach. They kept the pressure on their rivals using their strikers to initiate teasing moves. After some anxious moments, Kalum Sanjaya scored twice and Nikila Pakhan Fernando scored one.

Nixon Robesh refereed.

Blue Star tame Up Country Lions 2-1

Meanwhile, in the second game Blue Star came out with a splendid performance to edge out Up Country Lions by 2 goals to 1 in their match played under lights.

Full credit should go to the Blue Star lads who came into this game as underdogs, but were well geared up to the task with a well-

planned strategy. Their main strength was their defense line, which stood very firm by laying a strong wall. They never allowed the rival strikers, who had in their ranks the likes of Waseem Razeek, to move freely and control the ball at will.

Just two minutes away from the first half, an Up Country player was penalised for rough play on the left flank just outside the box, which resulted in referee M. Irshan offering a free kick. Arepade Jerry Ombembe fired in a left footed kick which deflected off an Up Country player into the net, with goalie Sujana Perera completely unseen. The teams went into the breather with a 1-0 scoreline.

On resumption, in the 49th minute Up Country Lions almost got the equalizer, but Mohamed Mushtaq's 15 metre kick rebounded from the upright. Four minutes later, Blue Star bounced back with a spectacular solo effort by Shenal Sandesh Pingho, who covered 60 metres through the rival defense and unleashed a left footed kick to increase their lead to 2-0.

In the 69th minute a Blue Star player was penalized for dangerous play in their box area, and referee offered a penalty, and skipper Sujana made no mistake with the kick to reduce the gap 2-1.

The game continued to be played at a tremendous pace, but there was no change in the score line at the final whistle, as Blue Star notched up a spectacular win while their rivals tasted their second defeat in a row.



Kalum Sanjaya of New Young who scored a hat-trick of goals, dribbles the ball ahead is challenged by a Red Star player.

Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen head for final battle

Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton will start their decisive final battle in one of the greatest Formula 1 seasons in history alongside each other on the front row of the grid at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Both Hamilton and Verstappen go into the final race locked together on 369.5 points - only the second time this has happened since F1's first season in 1950.

Whatever unfolds, history will be made - either 36-year-old Hamilton will claim his eighth world title and become the sport's most successful driver

ever by surpassing Michael Schumacher. Or, 24-year-old Verstappen will win his first title to usher in a new era.

Verstappen has the advantage after taking pole position in his Red Bull with a quite exceptional lap around Yas Marina on Saturday that left Hamilton and Mercedes breathless.

"Max did a great job on that final lap," Hamilton said, admitting there was no way he could have matched it.

But the battle is a long way from over, for the race is about as perfectly poised as it could possibly

be in what is essentially a winner-takes-all contest. The two title contenders start on different types of tyres, after Verstappen made a mistake and locked up in the second part of qualifying and damaged the set he wanted to use for the opening stint.

And their team-mates, who Red Bull and Mercedes want to use to help in the strategic battle between the two teams, are not right behind them, for Lando Norris produced his own stellar lap to put his McLaren third.

"I have the best seat," Norris said. "I'm very excited to see what goes on. **BBC**

Badminton Nationals 2021 begins today

The 69th Badminton Nationals will commence at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium today and will go on till Sunday, December 19 with a turnout of over 1000 entries, including para athletes for the first time.

Sri Lanka Badminton is taking all health protocols into account to ensure the safety of all participants and officials with medical personnel in attendance to ensure no undue lapses occur. Stringent inspections will prevail with social distancing and face masks mandatory which the expanse of the Indoor Stadium amply provides for and will make compulsory for all those within the playing areas.

A host of Sri Lanka's best talent will be on display except for the current champion, Niluka Karunaratne who is away at the World Championships in Spain. His brother, Dinuka Karunaratne has flown back from the UK to face the test from the challenges in the Open Men's events, that will be posed by players of the calibre of Buwaneka Goonethilleka, Sachin Dias, Ranthushka Karunatilake, Rasindu Hendahewa, Viren Nettasinghe and Dumindu Abeywickrama.

In the Men's Double, it is difficult to imagine a serious challenge to Buwaneka and Sachin who have just returned from Bangladesh having won the recent international championships while it is also unlikely that Sachin and Kavidi Sirimanna

can be overwhelmed in the Mixed Doubles event. In the Women's Open, Thilini Hendahewa will make a strong comeback after a long break but not without a stiff contest from recent champs, Dilli Dias & Hasini Ambalangodage.

In the Senior Category, all age groups from 35 years onwards, both Men's and Women's, are being contested heavily, while the Junior Category will see a large influx of Boys & Girls from 13 - 19 years vying for honors. The Open Category will comprise top contenders in five major events, where the big battles will be a treat to watch!

BWF rules will apply, ably conducted by veteran Referees Sanjewa Wijesekera, Lakpriya Edirisinghe and Samantha Nawarathne supported by experienced foreign Umpires from Nepal & Bangladesh.

The Tournament is organised by SLB Chairperson Lakshmi Punchedewa, ably assisted by Event Director Saman Wijesinghe with Jude Fernando will oversee coordination & logistics to ensure a smoothly run program.

All arrangement is under the guidance of SLB President Rohan De Silva and the Executive Committee Members working to deliver an outstanding sporting experience. For the Winners, Prize Money totaling Rs.1.5M is on offer along with competition awards and prizes.

Pubudu Dassanayake appointed coach of Nepal cricket team

Former Sri Lanka wicket-keeper Pubudu Dassanayake has been re-appointed as head coach of the Nepal men's national team, Cricket Association of Nepal announced at the end of their board meeting held yesterday. Dassanayake will fill the vacancy, which opened up after Dev Whatmore, who stepped down from the position in September at the end of Nepal's ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 matches in Oman.

Dassanayake has had a successful run as a coach at the Associate level over the years. From 2007 to 2011, first, he was with Canada, whom he represented as a cricketer after migrating from Sri Lanka in 2001. He helped the team qualify for their third straight ODI World Cup, and was then appointed as Nepal coach.

Earlier, he was involved with the Nepal set-up from 2011 to 2016, guiding them from Division Four of the



Pubudu Dassanayake

World Cricket League (WCL) to Division One, the WCL Championship, and to their first major ICC tournament, the 2014 T20 World Cup.

The 51-year-old Dassanayake played 11 Tests and 16 ODIs as a wicketkeeper for Sri Lanka between the 1993 and 1994 period before Ramesh Kaluwitharana became the preferred keeper for the national team.

After he took over as the coach of the Canada side and has been a professional coach since. **(D.R.)**

Former Army boxer Bandulasena passes away

Former Army and Sri Lanka boxer K.A.D. Bandulasena passed away yesterday after a brief illness. He was 62 at the time of his death.



K.A.D. Bandulasena

One of the finest products of legendary St Mathews College, Dematagoda boxing coach late T.G. Somapala, Bandulasena was a former Feather and Light weight national champion, being adjudged Best Boxer at the National Championship on one occasion.

"He was a very disci-

plined and dedicated boxer who was a good team man," said his Army team mate Capt. R.K. Indrasena (Rtd) paying a heartfelt tribute to the wonderful

humane qualities of Bandulasena. Members of the Boxing Referees and Judges Association observed two minutes silence before the start of the North Central Province Boxing tournament in Polonnaruwa yesterday.

His remains lie at his residence in Rajagiriya.

Daily News Business

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COMBANK WINS IFC'S CAFI CLIMATE IMPACT AWARDS PAGE 20

State-Owned Enterprise losses mount to staggering Rs 1.2 trillion

Calls to list SLIC subsidiaries Reform critical to debt sustainability

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The 55 "Strategically Important" listed State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) snowballing losses from 2006 to 2020 is a staggering Rs. 1.2 trillion. Out of the 527 state-owned enterprises the Treasury has classified 55 as "Strategically Important" it was revealed at an Advocata Institute that organised an event on "The Urgency of State-Owned Enterprise Reforms" last week.

Sri Lanka's State-Owned Enterprises have placed a significant burden on public finances. They are also a major source of inefficiency in the economy. "Therefore the present economic crisis, along with Sri Lanka's current debt crisis, makes reforms on SOE's a national priority to emerge from present economic challenges," it was opined at the event.

Policy Analyst Advocata, K.D.D.B.Vimanga said that Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ceylon Electoral Board, SriLankan Airlines, and Sri Lanka Transport Board daily loss



Advocata Institute Advisor Prof. Rohan Samarajiva leading the discussion

in the year 2019 per day was Rs. 384,479,189. Academic Chair Advocata Institute Dr Sarath Rajapatirana, said that the total productivity of SOE is less than 1% and very much less in countries like Vietnam and Korea.

LIRNEasia Founding Chair and Advocata Institute Advisor Prof. Rohan Samarajiva for the second time in succession (at an Advocate event) stressed that SriLankan Airlines should be privatised as it is making around Rs. 47 billion in losses per annum. "What is the rationality of using public funds collected

through commodity taxes from persons who have never even gone near the airport to keep this airline," he asked. He also pointed out that even India doesn't own a national carrier as (Air India was returned to Tata after 68 years. After the Group paid INR 18,000 crore to acquire it from the government.)

"Currently Sri Lanka lacks credibility to approach our creditors. Therefore, the privatisation of SriLankan Airlines represents a grand gesture to alter the existing perception regarding Sri Lanka's sincerity in meeting its debt obliga-

tions and will go a long way in improving our credibility," claimed Prof. Samarajiva.

He also cited Sri Lanka Telecom as one of the success stories of privatization for which credit should go to former Minister Mangala Samaraweera.

After the liberalization, SOE's productivity jumped up but they could not maintain it. He also said that some SOE's like Steel Corporation should not have been started. "SOEs which are less productive surprisingly have staff five times bigger than John Keells Holdings!"

He also said that the government always comes to the rescue of the SOE by pumping money to it by way of providing handouts which are termed as 'letters of comfort.'

Director, John Keells Hotels and Deputy CEO, Sri Lanka at Lankan Angel Pvt. Ltd, Anarkali Moonesinghe called for looking at the privatization of some of the SOEs by way of listing in the Stock Market. She noted that there were sizable large capital-based companies that would benefit through broad basing of their ownership.

"Sri Lanka Insurance (SLIC) poses a great opportunity to list along with some of its subsidiary entities. Even the state-owned banks could consider this as it would drive and fundamentally change our stock market. This is not easy as these SOE's have to be corporatized and made better disciplined."

She added, "For all this, a powerful regulator is needed."



SLIM DRIVES SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION PAGE 21



GOVERNOR OPENS HNB'S MINI CUSTOMER CENTRE PAGE 24

BOI Chairman reiterates desire to step down

BOI Chairman Sanjaya Mohottala indicates despite requests from top decision-makers from the government to remain in his post he has decided to relinquish himself from the position of BOI Chairman.



Sanjaya Mohottala

The following is a release from his office; "After a meeting held this week with the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the Chairman of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka reiterated his desire to step down from his post.

The Chairman further said that he was grateful to the government for placing the highest confidence in him and the Board and for requesting them to continue to serve and contribute effectively to promote foreign investments to help the post-COVID economic transformation of Sri Lanka.

He requested for a new leadership team to be appointed, so that they may continue with the efforts already made to further improve the services offered to investors, and thereby realise the vision set out by the government of Sri Lanka to double GDP over a decade."

ESG reporting extremely important - SEC Chairman

DINESH PERERA

SEC Chairman Viraj Dayaratne underscored the importance of companies documenting their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) related data in their annual reports. Dayaratne further linked such information to potentially being part of the material information that could be the duty of companies to report to all stakeholders through market disclosures.

Dayaratne was speaking as chief guest on 9 December at the CA Sri Lanka's Annual Report Awards ceremony held at the BMICH. Dayaratne noted that in the



SEC Chairman Viraj Dayaratne

coming years the Annual Report Awards was to incorporate in a larger scope ESG factors into the assessment criteria.

Dayaratne was of the view that the annual report in

terms of documentation was one of the most important things that a company has in its communication with all stakeholders. He was of the view that good corporate governance was reflected in the annual report.

Dayaratne said, "In the long-run good corporate governance pays off."

Dayaratne highlighted that in an increasingly complex and technologically evolving world the need for companies to stay ahead of the risks posed by public concerns of ESG was paramount. He noted that investors were more likely to invest in companies where the

ESG data was disclosed to the marketplace.

Dayaratne noted that in the increasingly conscientious society investors would look at the ESG data as a measure of the potential risk a prospective investor would face when investing in a company.

Dayaratne highlighted that stakeholders were looking to compile ESG indices to be able to compare companies. ESG reporting would also help act as a check and balance on companies thereby bringing discipline and accountability in their dealings. Dayaratne was of the view that the corporate sector would be welcoming of more widespread ESG reporting.

Lanka Salt pays bonus for second successive year

Lanka Salt Company for the second year in succession will be paying a bonus to its employees today at 10 a.m. "This would be equivalent to their one month salary and we have allocated around Rs. 47 million from our profits to pay



this bonus for over 1,000 employees."

Chairman of the Lanka Salt Company Nishantha Sandabarana told **Daily News Business** that the Company,

which had incurred a loss of Rs. 262 million on average each year under the previous government, was able to turn a profit within two years. "For the first 10 months of 2021, we have made a pre-tax profit of Rs. 161 million," he said.



For 2021/ 2022 season

Tourism Promotion in UK, Germany, France India, M-E for Rs. 273 Million

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

The Government will implement a tourism promotion campaign in the key markets of UK, Germany, France, the Middle East and India between November 2021 and April 2022.

This will coincide with the 2021/2022 tourism season and will cost Rs. 273 Million, Ministry Secretary Siripala Hettiarachchi told **Daily News Business** yesterday.

The breakdown of this cost will be Rs. 200 Million for the global advertising campaign which includes BBC and CNN, a social media campaign in France worth Rs. 53 Million and also another social media campaign in the Middle East worth Rs. 20 million. There will also be a tactical travel trade promotion as well

Cabinet approval has been given for a proposal submitted by Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga for this exercise.

The procurement process has begun. The Ministry of Tourism has also written to the Ministry of Finance to appoint a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) as well in this regard, he said.



Planters' Association requests speedy solution on other agri inputs beyond fertiliser

The Planters' Association of Ceylon (PA) has urged the authorities to provide an urgent solution to facilitate the availability of appropriate herbicides, weedicides, fungicides and pesticides, which are essential for the sustenance and health of the country's plantation sector.

In addition to requesting the Government to fast-track implementation of the decision to allow private fertilizer imports, the PA also highlighted the increasing risk of Sri Lankan tea and rubber plantations facing a similar situation to the 'coffee rust blight' - which decimated Sri Lanka's coffee cultivations in the late 1800s.

In the absence of inputs required to mitigate such challenges, the industry is already

grappling with similar issues. The 'Circular Spot Disease of Rubber' for instance is spreading rapidly across rubber plantations and has affected more than 20,000 hectares.

"While we appreciate the government's eventual decision to allow our industry to acquire fertiliser, plant nutrition is only one of the several key requirements of the plantation industry," PA Media Spokesperson, Dr. Roshan Rajadurai said. "Additional inputs are also required to mitigate issues such as diseases, pests and weeds."

"With the ban on glyphosate being reinstated for the third time now, we are yet again left with no immediate solutions to the problem of weed management. We urge the Government to pro-

vide any kind of guidelines as to how the industry can arrive at a lasting solution to these related issues," Rajadurai noted.

In the recent past the country has seen several major changes in its policy with regard to importing and usage of agri inputs.

As of November 2021, glyphosate was removed from the list of controlled substances, only for the ban to be reinstated by the end of the month. Even prior to the overall ban of fertiliser and agrochemical imports, the country has vacillated repeatedly in its stance on certain key inputs used by the plantation sector.

Glyphosate, is a herbicide which was introduced to Sri Lanka in the late 1970s and was recommended for use by the Tea Research Institute (TRI) follow-

ing rigorous trials, was first banned in late 2014 over unproven allegations as to its contribution to higher instances of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) prevalent in Sri Lanka's dry zone. This despite the kidney disease not being prevalent in tea-growing areas.

Given the ban's adverse impact, which led to plantations finding it difficult to control weeds - which consume the nutrients provided to tea bushes - the industry saw declining yields. Tea growers also had to deploy more workers for weeding, hence incurring higher costs, putting the country at a disadvantage, given that Sri Lanka's production cost of tea is in general higher than its competitors.

Indian economy to grow 9% next fiscal - Credit Suisse

Swiss brokerage Credit Suisse expects the economy to continue to show positive surprises and record up to 9 per cent growth in the next fiscal.

For the current financial year too, the brokerage anticipates growth to be higher than the consensus forecast of 8.4-9.5 per cent and printing in at around 10.5 per cent.

As a policy, Credit Suisse does not provide absolute growth numbers in its forecast. However, an extrapolation of data available and projections indicate that economic growth could clip 9 per cent in the 2022-23 period, which according to the brokerage is



up to 400 basis points (bps) over the consensus numbers.

"We expect GDP getting an upgrade of 4

percentage points over the consensus for FY23 as output should get closer to the pre-pandemic trend than what is currently forecast."

"The economy is expected to continue to show positive surprises even though the recovery has so far been lop-sided but in the next three-six months most of the low-income jobs should recover too," Co-Head Equity Strategy Neelkanth Mishra said on Thursday.

While warning that high energy prices could be a headwind, Mishra said the economy can sustain faster import growth. (<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>)

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'COME TO CONSENSUS WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO PROTECT MOTOR INDUSTRY'

FIZEL JABIR

The Motor Industry is in a very sad state mainly attributed to the blunders made by the policy makers, asserted industry expert

and Past President Ceylon Motor Traders Association (CMTA) Reeza Rauf. In an interview with Daily News Motor Rauf requested policy makers to come to a consensus

with stakeholders to protect the industry for its survival and implement government policies maintaining a level playing field. Excerpts of the interview

Q: What is your perspective of the motor industry today?

Whilst we understand the present pandemic situation has affected the motor industry in the recent past I have to give you a very short answer to this: it is precarious and is in a very sad state mainly attributed to the blunders made by the policy makers.

Q: What are the consequences importers face due to the import ban?

The consequences are immense as an industry which raked in one of the highest tax revenue to the government has collapsed from the government's revenue point of view, from the industry's point the legitimate importers investments are huge and its long term planned with providing large amounts of job opportunities locally and helping trained technicians/mechanics to seek employment opportunities internationally. Difficulty in running the business, unable to recover overhead costs, retrenchments, lost job opportunities for the younger generation.

Q: What are your suggestions to revive the industry?

Today It is not about reviving the industry, it's about surviving. It is common sense that the transport industry plays a pivotal role in a country's development. If this is hampered the development is also affected. The Automobile industry needs long term planning, huge investments in terms of setting up infrastructure, training manpower with long term steady policies for its survival, you cannot compare it

with imports of onions and potatoes and change policies overnight. If you look back into history you will find almost at every budget the custom duties and import categories are changed sometimes drastically which puts the industry in very unstable situations. Our suggestion is to come to a consensus with the stakeholders to protect the industry for its survival and implement government policies maintaining a level playing field.

Q: How has the corona pandemic affected the livelihoods of the motor stakeholders?

Definitely yes, this phenomena is not only confined to Sri Lanka, but is a global problem but the lesson to be learnt is that as an industry we are more affected and put into more difficulty due to wrong and adhoc policy decisions taken unlike in other countries.

Q: What do you expect at this moment from the government?

Have a clear and long term policy and avoid adhoc and short term policy decisions which have been happening from time to time. In order to overcome the present crisis situation of the legitimate vehicle importers at least allow imports on a quota system.

What are the relief and concessions the industry needs at this juncture?

As an industry we don't need concessions but allow us to import the vehicles ordered and LC's established prior to the import ban. Also ensure that we are allowed to carry on our businesses in a manner that we can sustain and justify our investments and to take care of our employees.

Q: How have these stringent measures affected your relationships with vehicle manufactures?

This has affected us very badly as we have gone against the international business norms, and as a nation we have lost our credibility and we have lost our recognition as a country to do reliable business, the most shocking is that we were not allowed to import vehicles for LC's already established with the sudden import ban and this has made manufactures lose confidence and faith on us. When imports are allowed the future imports will see additional cost as manufactures will insist on Confirmed LC's

Q: How will the non imports affect development activities in the country?

An efficient transport system is essential be it passenger or commercial for development of the country as this will help minimise downtime, inefficiency of ageing vehicles is a hindrance and also cost more to maintain

Q: What are the social impacts of the prohibition of vehicle imports?

Past records show that almost 70% of vehicles purchased are on borrowings, the reason being we don't have an efficient and comfortable public transport system, due to the ban of imports the used vehicle market has artificially skyrocketed which doesn't reflect the actual residual value this also can result in high cost on insurance premiums, end of the day the common man has to face the brunt of it creating a total imbalance

in the market.

Q: Will there be a relaxation to import curbs by the government?

I can't see the light at the end of the tunnel, nor are we getting a decent reply from the authorities in this regard, we are basically kept in the dark

Q: How has the pandemic and ban affected your business?

The pandemic has definitely affected the business from all angles. Manufactures are facing short supply of components and there are delays in production, the costs have shot up with escalated production and freight cost. However we are mostly affected by the import ban

Q: How are you planning to adjust to the new normal?

We are shifting our focus to pre owned vehicles and after sales and repair of vehicles with value added services with adapting or accommodating multi brands. As distributors this is not the ideal way of doing business but we have no choice but to be forced into it for our survival.

Q: What are your thoughts on introducing EV (Electric Vehicles)?

Whether we like it or not we will have to accept this as the future of automobile is turning into EV. Having said that, we need to carefully study the impact before making any hasty deci-

PROFILE

Reeza Rauf has been in the automobile trade in Sri Lanka with over 30 years of experience in the trade. He has been managing many international brands over the years during his career and currently works as the Director Sales & Marketing in one of the leading automotive companies in Sri Lanka. He has also held many senior positions in the Ceylon Motor Traders Association (CMTA) which is affiliated to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, and was the Past Chairman in 2016/17 of CMTA, the sole association that represents brand new vehicle importers and distributors in the country.

Even though a couple of manufactures have EV vehicles it is still in its initial stages. Certain developed countries in Europe have begun to go full EV in the next 10 to 20 years. The shifting is not going to be that easy, the point to note is the price against the ICE (internal combustion engines) vehicles.

EV are far more expensive and can we really afford it being a third world country, the question is are we ready with the infrastructure with charging points. Do we have sufficient renewable energy for charging rather than depending on thermal power. We need to allocate time for training technicians, disposal/recycling of batteries etc. If sudden policy changes come in without proper study and analysing the repercussions to the industry and to the nation would be detrimental.

EV vs. PHEV

All-electric vehicles (EVs), also referred to as battery electric vehicles, have an electric motor instead of an internal combustion engine. Because it runs on electricity, the vehicle emits no exhaust from a tailpipe and does not contain the typical liquid fuel components, such as a fuel pump, fuel line, or fuel tank.

A PHEV(plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) usually offers a much greater driving range than most comparable Pure EVs do, with their combination of power sources. Although the range does vary with different models, many PHEVs can achieve around 300-400 miles with both petrol and electric sources used.

On a shallow / short-term view it will reflect that electric vehicles benefit the environment more than plug-in hybrids, since they don't use any fuel at all. However, the manufacture of batteries is a heavy CO2 emitting mechanism.

Additionally, belief is that electric vehicles help drivers save more money than plug-in hybrids do, since they don't use any fuel. However, this has to be considered along with the many other factors, such as cost of value drop, cost of replacement battery etc.



A budget electric vehicle (EV) selling in China for \$4,500 (£3,200) is now outselling Tesla's more upmarket cars. The compact car is proving a big hit for state-owned SAIC Motor, China's top automaker. The Hong Guang Mini EV is being built as part of a joint venture with US car giant General Motors (GM).

Last month sales of the budget electric car in China were around double those of Tesla, which was questioned this month over safety issues there. While the \$4,500 Hong Guang Mini is the most popular model, there is an upgraded one with air conditioning for just over \$5,000. The cars are being marketed as "the people's commuting tool".

Car experts have said that while it clearly lags well behind Tesla when it comes to its battery, range and performance, its convenience and low price have made it one of



China's bestselling "new-energy" vehicles. Having launched last year, the basic model has a top speed of 100km/h (62mph) and can accommodate four people at a squeeze.

"China's government is serious about pollution reduction and becoming the global lead in adopting and promoting innovation of electric vehicles," Shaun

Rein, managing director of the China Market Research Group, told the BBC.

"We remain very bullish on the adoption of budget EVs like the Hong Guang Mini to higher end ones like NIO and Tesla." To promote EVs, the Chinese government offers license plates for free and they are guaranteed. In many cities, it can take months, if not

years, to get a license plate for a petrol engine through various auction systems. The Hong Guang Mini EV saw sales of 112,000 for the second half of 2020, ranking second behind Tesla's Model 3 which are made in its Shanghai factory. Earlier this month five Chinese regulators summoned Tesla over quality and safety issues at its plant. China is Tesla's largest market after the US. For January, Hong Guang Mini sales outstripped Tesla's Model 3. The tiny, all-electric EV sold 25,778 models in China in January according to the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA). This compares to 13,843 for the Tesla Model 3.

But high-end electric vehicles have still been performing well with Tesla more than doubling its

sales volume in China last year. The Model 3 sells for about \$39,000 (£27,000) in China factoring in price cuts due to its local production. The Hong Guang Mini EV could make an appearance outside China, as Wuling has said it plans to export the EV overseas.

"China has so many makers of small and cheap electric vehicles, however most of them are low-quality and low-speed products that do not appeal to a wide market, said Sam Fiorani, at Auto Forecast Solutions. "The Hong Guang Mini is the first time a major company has stepped up with a simple EV that targets buyers looking for a real car."

Reports have linked Wuling to a Latvian automaker who could sell a version of the car in Europe. However, the price is likely to be twice as high due to European environmental requirements. *BBC*

DP Logistics launches TruckBuddy

Leveraging technology to provide bespoke, cost effective options, D P Logistics launched TruckBuddy a web solution that offer smart transport solutions.

With the expertise D P Logistics has garnered over the past two decades in the transport business, the platform is customized for multi industry verticals such as apparel, FMCG, industrial and electronics.

Technology takes the pain out of finding, evaluating, and negotiating with transport suppliers on a case by case basis and the extensive manual work involved in planning, monitoring, generating of reports and similar tasks.

D P Logistics is equipped with a 24/7 monitoring control center to ensure the cargo is delivered to the



DPL TruckBuddy Team

destination in a safe manner, meeting the expectations of its valuable customers. Company specific report templates and dashboards facilitate decisions based on data and real time GPS tracking and alert system ensures the security of the cargo un-

til it reaches the destination.

DPL also has the added edge of being able to leverage on its own extensive fleet which includes both general purpose and specific vehicles such as cement carriers, automotive carriers, and specialized pro-

ject equipment to provide customers with greater options.

Given the extremely challenging times faced by customers due to increasing freight/ transportation costs D P Logistics has been focusing on ways and means of reducing expenses, while increasing efficiency and this is the second such initiative introduced in the recent past which leverages on technology. The first was the introduction of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to its 3PL and warehouse operations.

A David Pieris Group Company, DP Logistics covers the entire spectrum of logistics and supply chain management solutions including: Transportation, 3rd Party Logistics (3PL), Warehouse Management and Freight Forwarding.

DPMC Workshop Express launched

Augmenting the after-sales care facilities offered to its Bajaj customers, David Pieris Motor Company (Pvt) Ltd. launched DPMC Workshop Express recently to provide best care, quality and convenience.

"DPMC Workshop Express" operates under the umbrella of the flagship 'DPMC Workshops' situated in Madapatha and Matara. DPMC Workshop Express in Badulla, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Mathugama and Ampara are open from 8.30am to 5.00pm from Monday to Friday.

Selected services, maintenance, running repairs, accident repairs (minor repairs for three wheelers), engine oil change, emission testing and issuing estimates, etc. are available for Bajaj motorcycles, three wheelers and Qute.

Bajaj Genuine Spare Parts and Bajaj Gen-



DPMC Workshop Express

uine Oil are used exclusively for all services carried out at a DPMC Workshop Express and substandard parts are not used under any circumstance.

Additionally, the standard discounts offered at DPMC Spare Parts Outlets are available for parts purchased and used for vehicle services at DPMC Workshop Express. DPMC Workshop Express operates under health guidelines issued by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.



Samantha Silva, Chief Marketing Officer at David Pieris Motor Company opening the DPMC Workshop Express'

Volkswagen DRIVES FORWARD electrification of its European plants



Within the framework of Planning Round 70, the Volkswagen Group resolved to further electrify its European plants in pursuit of its goal of becoming global market leader in electric mobility by 2025.

Thus, the Group vigorously drives forward the implementa-

tion of its NEW AUTO strategy. The Group headquarters and manufacturing site in Wolfsburg will be transformed and the Group's competitiveness boosted through higher spending on future technologies. The future-oriented investments, which will be primarily in e-mobility and

digitalization, will account for the largest proportion of total investments of EUR 159 billion for the first time, at 56 percent or EUR 89 billion. Volkswagen expects that by 2026 one in four vehicles sold will have a battery-electric drive system.

www.volkswagen-newsroom.com

MARKET REVIEW/NEWS

CSE sees renewed SOE interest by SOEs to enter Stock Market - Chief Regulatory Officer

RAVI LADDUWAHETTY

The Colombo Stock Exchange's Chief Regulatory Officer Renuke Wijayawardhane said last week that the CSE has seen a renewed interest in 2021 by state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to enter the stock market to raise capital.

"Another timely product that has yet to be implemented is Green Bonds. The capital raised via Green Bonds will be directed solely towards eco-friendly projects that are sustainable and in line with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors," he said.

The Exchange has rebounded strongly since the depths of the pandemic in the last several quarters and is moving forward with robust momentum.

Here, he speaks on the new developments, the product and strategy diversification outlook at the CSE.

Q: How has the CSE evolved as an exchange in terms of products offered over the years, and what is the exchange's outlook for the future?

The CSE has provided a strong foundation for equity and debt financing in its 35-year history. While economic winds have shifted, even through an extended Civil War period that ended 12 years ago and the most recent COVID-19 Pandemic, the CSE continued to be a primary venue for channelling funds to corporates, including private companies, while offering attractive investment opportunities. However, in regional and global contexts, we have been somewhat limited in our product range. As a result, the CSE Board has been focused and ambitious on a transformative product and strategy expansion roadmap that is currently in the works at the CSE. This is a strategy pipeline that will allow us to significantly evolve and establish a comprehensive and multi-product Securities Exchange. So, this is an exciting time for the CSE as we have already strategized and implemented several initiatives focused on diverse stakeholders and global practices in mind.

Q: What are the products and strategies of this product pipeline that have already been implemented at the CSE?

If we take an overview of the work we have done so far, last year we

introduced REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) as a new product. In terms of infrastructure change, we also implemented digitalization of the exchange and Delivery versus Payment.

In September 2021, the CSE launched a new Over the Counter (OTC) Platform to facilitate repurchase (REPO) transactions on corporate debt securities. The platform was established to carry out such REPO Transactions to create a further regularized opportunity for investors, trading members, and other corporates involved in the fixed income securities market in Sri Lanka. The OTC Platform was implemented after a continuous consultative process with market experts and key stakeholders such as Unit Trust Association, Primary Dealers, Asset Management Companies and Trading Members to name a few, who are well versed in fixed income securities transactions. While the platform was well received on the initial day itself, based on the feedback received post-implementation, we are currently in the process of implementing a revised transaction fee structure.

Another exciting product that will be introduced shortly is the Multi-Currency listing of shares by local companies. The regulatory framework, which has been recently approved by the SEC subject to a few amendments, will allow local companies to list dollar-denominated shares on the CSE. The product has been strategized over more than 15 months, under the guidance and support of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Finance has issued regulations to facilitate this initiative. This new listing method would be extremely attractive to local companies, both listed and unlisted, who may require dollar-based funding for projects, especially outside Sri Lanka. Such companies could raise fresh dollar-based capital through this initiative. It should be noted that certain companies have already expressed interest in a multi-currency listing. As for non-resident investors, who will be eligible to invest in such shares, a dollar-based listing method would reduce the conversion risk as well, as the shares will be traded and settled in USD on the CSE and CDS respectively.

Once we implement the Multi-Currency listing of shares by local companies, such listings will also be extended to debt securities. In this connection, we have already formulated the rules which will have to be further modified to be in line with the regulations imposed by the Minister of Finance.

Q: As we discussed the Multi-Currency Listings, what is the progress on implementing a Gold-Based Product at the CSE?

This is a relatively complex product that we have conceptualized the framework for. This will be an investment product based on the underlying holding of Gold held in established bullion exchanges outside Sri Lanka. Therefore, it will be another dollar-denominated product targeted at non-resident investors. It will be traded as an unlisted product on the OTC Platform and the framework has already been identified with a thorough industry consultation involving a few licensed commercial banks, who would be the issuers of the Gold product. We already have two licensed commercial banks that are interested in coming on board once the framework is established. We are currently looking into the legal feasibility of trading such a Gold-Based product on the CSE.

Q: What are the other areas and stakeholders that the strategized products could be focusing on?

Another key product we have conceptualized is Stock Borrowing and Lending or SBL. We had to wait until DVP was fully implemented in August this year to ensure a smooth process for this product.

SBL is essentially a mechanism that connects securities lenders and borrowers. Through the SBL mechanism, potential securities lenders could lend their idle securities held in their portfolios, which they do not intend to trade, to potential borrowers. SBL would enable the borrowers of securities to profit from a downward market and we do not have a product that caters to this at present. The borrowed shares can be sold by the borrower in



Chief Regulatory Officer
Renuke Wijayawardhane

the market, paving the way for regulated short selling which would enhance the liquidity of the market. However, the borrower must return the securities on the return date agreed with the lender.

As for lenders of securities, SBL would provide a mechanism to earn a fee-based income that they would not have earned otherwise. Due to these reasons, we believe that SBL would be a product that would be attractive to many investors. We expect to launch SBL in 2022.

We are also in the process of formulating a framework for the listing of shares by Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs). Here, a shell corporation formed by a group of Sponsors would be listed initially for two years, within which they will be required to acquire or amalgamate with another company. The acquired company will then be listed on the CSE. There are inherent risks in facilitating SPACs and therefore, we are currently looking at the legal feasibility and the stakeholder viability to proceed with this product.

Q: What are the types of new fixed income products that the CSE would be focusing on?

I spoke about the OTC Platform for REPOS, and in addition, we have several fixed income-based products that are in the process of finalizing. One such product is Perpetual Bonds, which is a type of debentures but with certain unique features such as not having a maturity date, unlike the plain vanilla debenture securities that are transacted currently. We are awaiting the final approval of the SEC for the rules formulated by us in this regard and a few listed companies have already intimated to us that they will list Perpetual Bonds no sooner than the framework is established.

Another timely product that has yet to be implemented is Green Bonds. The capital raised via Green Bonds will be directed solely towards eco-friendly projects that are sustainable and in line with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors.

The project will require certain initial and continuing listing criteria revisions to be introduced. As sustainable investing has continued to gain momentum globally, CSE remains dedicated to providing stakeholders with sustainable investment opportunities. Therefore, we are very excited about implementing the project.

Q: Is CSE planning to incentivize state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to raise capital from the market?

We have seen an improved interest in 2021 by state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to enter the stock market to raise capital. State-owned power utility Ceylon Electricity Board has already raised capital through a listed debenture issue on the CSE in April 2021. So yes, we have been working on a different framework to facilitate the listing of equity and debt of SOEs. This is still at a development stage, and we are looking into various options in this regard, including the listing of a different class of shares by SOEs.

Q: As the CSE introduces these products and strategies, what is the outlook that market participants could expect for the ensuing years?

Moving on to next year, we are hoping to roll out most of the products that I mentioned with special focus being made on stock-borrowing and lending and regulated short selling. The product will be familiar to the investing public and it would also have a positive impact on market liquidity. At the same time, we anticipate strategizing a CCP or a Central Counterparty System, which will drastically reduce the settlement risk of the market.

It should be noted that the implementation of some of the products that are conceptualized by the CSE, as discussed here, is subject to regulatory approvals, in certain instances from multiple regulatory bodies, and would also require modifications being carried out to CSE systems.

And going into 2023, we will be looking at launching ETFs, or Exchange Traded Funds and structured warrants. Through this whole process, we are also expecting that the CSE will be demutualized starting 2023, and the government is already in the process of enabling that through legislation.

We are excited about the years ahead and we believe that the Sri Lankan Capital Market will establish a more sustaining and diverse investment opportunity that is going to outperform in terms of valuations and a comprehensive rollout of new products. So we are equipped with an ambitious program that will allow market participants to engage in not just a single product, but experience a more holistic investment approach across several asset classes, allowing much better risk management and hopefully creating much more liquidity in this market in the process as well.

Effies Awards 2021 Jury announced

Effie Sri Lanka Awards has announced its 2021 jury lineup. Organised by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing the Effies Awards are open to all agencies and brands that strive to be recognised for their most effective marketing efforts.

This year's awards program is special in its being a bumper year where more than 2 years' worth of marketing campaigns (from January 2019 to March 2021) will be considered for awards versus the usual one-year awards period. Established to lead, inspire and champion creative marketing effectiveness, the 2021 campaign has been themed "Dare to Inspire" in line with the extremely challenging conditions the country faced during the years under consideration.

The independent jury

comprises leading client marketers, agency strategists & creative leads, digital marketing and media front runners and research experts led by the head of Jury Gamika De Silva (Seylan Bank PLC Assistant General Manager- Marketing and Sales). The star-studded panel carries years-worth of local and international

experience in judging similar awards and this times' jury also consists of two international jury members.

Entries closed on the 13th of November and owing to the record-breaking number of entries this year, the judging will happen on the 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 and 20 of December at BMICH in strict compliance with all safety precautions.



Bourse rises 405 points - Acuity Stockbrokers

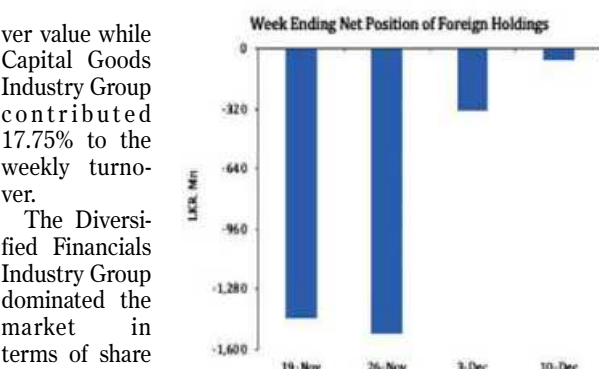
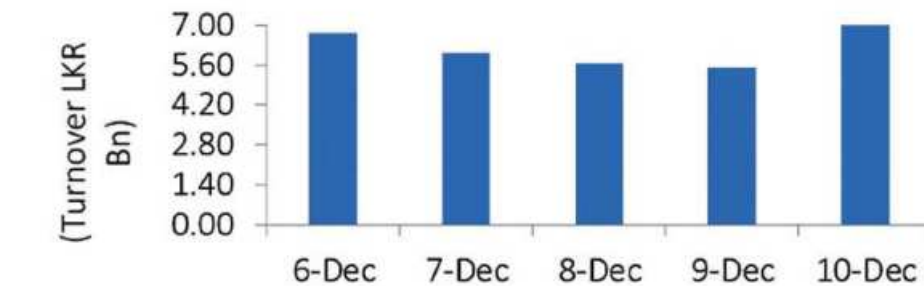
The Bourse ended the week on a positive note this week with ASPI increasing by 405.16 points (or 3.69%) to close at 11,393.48 points, while the S&P SL20 Index also increased by 190.06 points (or 4.89%) to close at 4,074.63 points.

Turnover & Market Capitalization

Expolanka was the highest contributor to the week's turnover value, contributing LKR 4.94Bn or 15.98% of total turnover value. Comm Lease & Fin followed suit, accounting for 11.27% of turnover (value of LKR 3.48Bn) while Browns Investments contributed LKR 2.79Bn to account for 9.03% of the week's turnover. Total turnover value amounted to LKR 30.92 Bn (cf. last week's value of LKR 43.66 Bn), while the daily average turnover value amounted to LKR 6.18 Bn (-29.19% W-o-W) compared to last week's average of LKR 8.73 Bn. Market capitalization meanwhile, increased by 3.69% W-o-W (or LKR 180.82 Bn) to LKR 5,084.73 Bn cf. LKR 4,903.91 Bn last week.

Liquidity (Value & Volume)

Diversified Financials Industry Group was the highest contributor to the week's total turnover value, accounting for 22.98% (or LKR 7.11Bn) of market turnover. Industry Group's turnover was driven primarily by Commercial Leasing & Finance, LOLC Finance, S M B Leasing and LOLC Holdings which accounted for 87.29% of the sector's total turnover. Food Beverage & Tobacco Industry Group meanwhile accounted for 18.39% of the total turnover




Date(XD): VALLIBEL ONE PLC, 1.5, First interim, 15-Dec-21; WINDFORCE PLC, 0.55, Second interim, 15-Dec-21. Key Economic Indicators November; Prime Lending Rate- 7.89%; Ave. Wtd. Deposit Rates- 4.82%; Ave. Wtd. Fixed Dep. Rates- 5.75%; CCCI Inflation Y-o-Y- 9.9%.

Net Foreign Position

Foreign investors were net sellers this week with a total net outflow amounting to LKR 0.06 Bn relative to last week's total net outflow of LKR 0.33 Bn (81.0% W-o-W). Total foreign purchases decreased by 42.7% W-o-W to LKR 0.48Bn from last week's value of LKR 0.84Bn, while total foreign sales amounted to LKR 0.54Bn relative to LKR 1.17Bn recorded last week (-53.4% W-o-W).

Dividend Announcements

Company, DPS(Rs.), Dividend Type,



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

Rs. 66,000 million Treasury Bills are to be issued through an auction on 15th December 2021

The Details of Treasury Bill issues are as follows :

Maturity Period	91 Days	182 Days	364 Days	Total
ISIN*	LKA09122C189**	LKA18222F171**	LKA36422L165**	
Amount Offered (Rs. Mn.)	20,000	22,000	24,000	66,000

Date of Auction : 15th December 2021
 Date of Settlement : 17th December 2021
 Date of Issue : 17th December 2021
 Closing date and time of bid submission : **Wednesday** 15th December 2021, at 11.00 a.m.
 Minimum amount of a bid : Rupees five million (Rs. 5,000,000/=) and multiples of Rupees one million (Rs. 1,000,000/=) there onwards.

Bids are invited from the Primary Dealers in Government Securities.
 Bids should be made only through the electronic bidding facility provided by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL).
 The CBSL may accept a higher or lower amount than the offered amounts for each maturity by reallocating amounts between the maturities, depending on the market conditions, but without exceeding the total amount on offer at this auction.

The general public is invited to purchase Treasury Bills from the following Primary Dealers or any other Licensed Commercial Banks

Acuity Securities Ltd.	2206297	NSB Fund Management Co. Ltd.	2425010
Bank of Ceylon	2541938	People's Bank	2206783
Capital Alliance Ltd.	2317777	Sampath Bank PLC	2305842
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC	2332319	Seylan Bank PLC	2456340
First Capital Treasuries PLC	2639883	WealthTrust Securities Ltd.	2675096

* International Securities Identification Number
 ** New holiday treatment for Treasury Bill maturities applies, i.e. effective from 2022, in the event the maturity falls on a bank holiday, payments will be made on the immediate following business day.

M.Z.M. Aazim
Superintendent / Registrar of Public Debt

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Ceylinco Life voted 'Most Popular Service Provider' in Sri Lanka's Life Insurance sector



Ceylinco Life has been voted the 'Most Popular Service Provider' in Sri Lanka's Life Insurance industry in an online survey conducted by LMD, Sri Lanka's pioneering business magazine, to assess satisfaction levels of customers in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sri Lanka's life insurance market leader, Ceylinco Life topped the life insurance ranking in the customer service survey that encompassed 22 diverse sectors ranging from banks and airlines to hotels, spas and wellness centres.

Elaborating on what inspired the study, LMD opined that the customer service concept has been reshaped since the start

of the COVID-19 pandemic early last year, disrupting the experiences offered by businesses through traditional operations. The pandemic also led to a shift in customer expectations, creating a new set of challenges for businesses as they strive to meet these expectations and maintain service levels. The survey helped provide an insight into the satisfaction levels of customers in the local context, including in the digital realm. Commenting on this latest ranking achieved by the Company, Ceylinco Life General Manager Marketing Samitha Hemachandra said; "For companies, the initial challenge posed by the pandemic was to keep operations going while ensuring the safety of employees and customers. In this respect, Ceylinco Life was already ahead of the game, having

developed a culture of using digital technology to advance customer convenience. With the pandemic demanding that we fine-tune this process very quickly, we were able to introduce further improvements in customer service that have actually permanently redefined how we deliver services to customers and interact with them."

In April last year, Ceylinco Life began offering multiple online payment and communications options as well as facilitation of settlement of claims, to ensure policyholder requirements are met, despite the country-wide lockdown and other travel restrictions and safety measures that came into play.

The Company also automated the process of obtaining insurance policies, designed and promoted simple online insurance and retirement plans, and ena-

bled easy processing via its e-submission system that made it possible for sales staff to approach and close a sale without physical meetings. This included enabling digital signatures and payments. Ceylinco Life had already equipped its sales personnel with tabs which enabled them to continue with their canvassing and sales without interruptions or face-to-face contact with customers. LMD's 'Customer Service Excellence' online survey garnered over 2200 responses over a period of nine weeks between July and September 2021.

The poll which was hosted on www.LMD.lk asked participants to name their favourite establishment in each segment for service excellence.

The organisations that earned the highest number of votes in each category were named the most popular service providers in Sri Lanka.

AWARDS

Nikita Shuhumar recognized by UN Women for Exemplary Business Practices and Leadership

Seven Seas Holdings Ceylon Nikita Shuhumar, a Sri Lankan, Ceylon Spices, Agro Produce, Tea and Coffee Export House, was recently recognized by UN Women for exemplary business practices and leadership.

She was included in the select list of top 24 candidates for The United Nations Women Asia and Pacific Women Empowerment Principles Award Youth Leadership for Generation Equality in Business (under 35 years of age).

More than 700 individuals and businesses from 20 different countries (of Asia and the Pacific region of the world) had been initially nominated and further shortlisted based on business practices and values.

As mentioned by UN Women Asia, the top 24, including Nikita Shuhumar, hold leadership roles in 'businesses that are taking bold action for gender equality and accelerating progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. UN Women also goes on to say that 'The UN Women Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards are the only regional awards initiative to recognize companies actively implementing gender-inclusive initiatives across their businesses aligned with the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)'.

The 2021 Asia Pacific WEPs Awards are organized by UN Women's We Empower Asia Programme funded by and in partnership with the European Union, and with additional support from Australian Aid and Investing in Women, initiatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government.

Ultimately, the awards strive to make good practices visible and aim to encourage more businesses to take action by joining the WEPs community.

This is the first time in history that a Sri Lankan leader and business has been recognized for The UN Women Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards.



Nikita Shuhumar

Emirates crowned World Class Airline at APEX Airline ratings

Emirates has been named World Class Airline at The APEX Official Airline Ratings awards, becoming one of the first airlines to be recognised in this new award category that stands at the pinnacle of all APEX Passenger Choice awards. In addition, Emirates was renewed as Five Star Airline by APEX, and clinched its fourth APEX Passenger Choice Award for Best Entertainment at the APEX/IFSA Awards ceremony, the industry's largest in-person event of the year.

Developed in conjunction with Yates and Partners, the new "World Class Airline" award is unique in considering not only an airline's services and products, but also its health and safety, and sustainability efforts – reflecting the expectations of today's customers and key focus areas for the airline industry.

Like all APEX awards, the "World Class Airline" accolade was based on independently verified and audited ratings from over a million air travellers. President Emirates Airline Sir Tim Clark said; "This is an honour dear to my heart, as it celebrates the amazing work of our worldwide team at Emirates in reaching the new pinnacle of APEX World Class. This recognition is due to the tireless work and efforts by the people of Emirates in delivering safe journeys, stepping up to sustainability initiatives and in delivering the highest standards of service. I'm confident the World Class paragon will play a very important role in our industry, helping advance a focus on sustainability for the betterment of our world. On behalf of all of us at Emirates, we're proud to be one of the first airlines worldwide to be named APEX World Class." APEX Chief Executive Officer Joe Leader said; "Emirates' continuous improvements in passenger experience permeates in their every effort. The exceptional service, leading IFEC, pristine health safety practices, and new fuel-efficient aircraft orders underline the values we hold dear with Emirates as an APEX World Class airline."

Operating modern and fuel-efficient aircraft always has been central to Emirates' business model and it the airline's ongoing, multi-billion dollar commitment to passenger comfort, and to reducing its environmental impact.



Against the backdrop of the pandemic, Emirates led the industry on many initiatives to assure customers and build travel confidence. This included: being the first to introduce complimentary COVID-19 travel medical cover all customers, fast-tracking refunds, offering generous waiver and rebooking policies, and helping its loyalty programme members retain tier status and miles. Emirates' signature services and products continue to win over customers and offer excellent experiences and value for travellers in all cabin classes.

Ogilvy Group wins big at 'Campaign Asia's Agency of the Year Awards'



The Phoenix Ogilvy Group returned to international fame yet again, bagging two highly coveted awards at Campaign Asia's Agency of the Year Awards 2021 South Asia.

Campaign Asia-Pacific's Agency of the Year Awards celebrate the people, the work and the businesses achieving outstanding success in media, marketing and advertising. The awards highlight strong leadership, creativity and innovation, stellar new business performance, the development of talent and contribution to the industry and is open to agencies from across the South Asia region.

Ogilvy Digital seized the top spot among digital agencies, continuing its consistent streak in the category, winning Gold for the 'Rest of South Asia Digital Agency of the Year' Award. The agency has bagged the Silver and Bronze Awards in this category in previous years.

Meanwhile Phoenix Ogilvy brought home the Bronze for 'Rest of South Asia Creative Agency of the Year'.

Speaking on the wins Irvin Weerackody, Chairman, Phoenix Ogilvy Group said, "2021 has been a year of trials and tribulations for businesses in Sri Lanka and the rest of the world, with both the Company and our Clients working together to overcome the challenges of the pandemic. These awards underpin our strength and capability to rise above difficult circumstances and to craft unique messages and winning campaigns for our clients".

Ogilvy Digital retained pole position this year, building on the achievements of the past

year, to cap the year off with an astounding 98% growth in billing and 57% growth in revenue. The company's unique combination of technical prowess and creative output enabled its superior performance, maintaining the happiness of all existing clients by providing premium services and winning multiple new businesses during this time.

"Ogilvy Digital has distinguished itself from the outset as the digital agency that was about people. This focus helped us almost double our growth from Oct 2020-Sep 2021, amidst an economic crunch and the global impact of COVID-19," commented Lalith Sumanasiri, Managing Director of Ogilvy Digital. "We recruited 57 new employees in that time. While the rest of the industry was cutting salaries and laying off people, we were able to offer the biggest ever salary increase in our history. It is heartening that our strategy paid off with off-the-charts growth, and happy clients." He added.

Phoenix Ogilvy's Bronze for 'Rest of South Asia Creative Agency of the Year' was awarded for achieving new business and revenue despite the headwinds of an economic downturn caused by the global pandemic. The Award is recognition to the fearless creativity that shapes the company's DNA, making it one of Sri Lanka's leading creative agencies for over two decades. Overall, the Ogilvy network in Asia concluded the Awards show with a Gold for South Asia Creative Agency of the Year.

Velona Cuddles Chairman feted at ACEF Asian Leaders Awards

Velona Cuddles, was in the limelight at the 2021 edition of the ACEF Asian Leaders Awards for Branding, Marketing and CSR, clinching five Gold awards in multiple categories.

These categories included the 'ACEF Asian Business Leadership', 'ACEF Marketing Leader of the Year', 'Excellence in Customer Service Strategy', 'Best Eco Product/FMCG' and the 'Best Eco Focused Organisation/FMCG'. These prestigious awards further cement the brand as a market leader in baby hygiene products and solidifies the brand's commitment to being a sustainable, responsible and an eco-friendly corporate.

As recognition for his invaluable leadership and integral role in the company's great success over the years, Dr. Gehan De Soysa, Chairman of Velona Cuddles, won two Gold awards in



the ACEF Asian Business Leadership and ACEF Marketing Leader of the Year categories. Commenting on these achievements, Dr. Gehan De Soysa stated, "I am honoured to have been bestowed with these two awards and it is truly a highlight in my career, and I couldn't be happier. I also could not be prouder of the team at Velona Cuddles for bagging multiple awards on this prestigious platform. We have always strived to be a company with a heavy focus on sustainability while being a responsible

corporate citizen. I am truly amazed by our R&D team who worked tirelessly to develop products to stay true to this cause and in turn, earning the company these prestigious awards". Velona Cuddles took home a Gold Capability Award in the Excellence in Customer Service Strategy category. This was achieved by identifying the need for a more convenient means of ordering and purchasing products, through the Velona Cuddles Diaper Subscription App. The App, a first of its kind in Sri Lanka, enabled users to make one-off orders, preschedule diaper orders with an island wide delivery capability. The App also allows users to customise bundles to suit their needs while offering an attractive loyalty programme as well.

Bank's Greenhouse Gas reduction equivalent to taking 40,000 cars off the roads

ComBank first Lankan bank to win IFC's CAFI Climate Impact Awards



Commercial Bank's Chief Operating Officer Sanath Manatunge (right) receives one of the CAFI awards from IFC's South Asia Regional Director Hector Gomez Ang.

Sri Lanka's first fully carbon neutral Bank, the Commercial Bank of Ceylon has emerged as one of the top banks – and the only Sri Lankan bank – to win two Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) awards from the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

These ground-breaking climate impact awards were conferred on Commercial Bank in acknowledgement of the Bank's estimated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and for completing the highest number of climate finance transactions in South Asia in 2020.

The awards were presented for the first time by the IFC to recognise financial institutions that outperform their climate finance targets.

Commercial Bank's climate finance achievement included the reduction of 208,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) of greenhouse gas which is equivalent to removing more than 40,000 cars from the roads, and the disbursement of 416 green loans or climate finance transactions that meet the CAFI criteria.

IFC selected Commercial Bank upon analysing data regarding GHG reductions and climate financing submitted by its clients in the South Asia region using CAFI - a digital, web-based platform introduced by IFC to help banks and other financial institutions assess climate eligibility and to measure the development impact of the projects they finance.

IFC South Asia Regional Director Hector Gomez Ang said: "The private sector should see climate change as an opportunity to deliver innovative solutions that are commercially viable and help countries transform their economies. Commercial Bank of Ceylon is a longstanding partner of IFC in Sri Lanka. We are proud to see the results and the impact of CBC's green investments across the country, helping Sri Lanka transition towards a more sustainable and a resilient future."

Commercial Bank uploads data pertaining to its green projects and green loans and leases granted to the CAFI platform as a practice. Using CAFI, the Bank is able to verify whether or not a project meets internationally agreed-upon criteria for climate finance.

Commercial Bank Managing Director and Group CEO S. Renganathan said: "Climate finance and carbon footprint reduction have always been priority areas for us. These awards position Commercial Bank as the predominant bank in climate financing and environmental consciousness in the South Asia region. They also affirm that as an institution we continue to strive for carbon footprint reduction even after achieving carbon-neutrality. Not only are we conscientiously reducing GHG emissions in our operations, but by financing sustainable and climate-impactful ventures, we are also encouraging other individuals and corporate entities to join in our march towards a greener future."

FEATURE



SLIM drives sustainability oriented innovation

Q: Some large companies in our country lack marketing orientation which is an attribute that goes hand-in-hand and strongly adds value to the GDP. How do SLIM programs cater to the challenge of converting companies to marketing oriented ones?

A: We conduct a significant number of corporate programs and they take the shape of academic programs, corporate training and workshops. We emphasise the importance of marketing orientation and apart from an array of academic programs, we ensure experience sharing by experts in respective fields to bring about real-life applications. Short programs offered by our training department focus on C level / Senior Management and assure the inculcation of marketing principles and an emphasis on the importance of the pivotal role played by marketing. Free workshops on marketing that we conduct for the corporate sector instil the importance of marketing and its benefits.

Q: SLIM also creates specific tailor-made programs for the corporate. How have these programs added value to local companies?

A: We deliver customised programs for corporates based on their requirements. These programs are designed after a careful Training Needs Analysis carried out jointly. Such programs consist of the latest developments in the marketing arena. We have the liberty to infuse modules which are contemporary and effectively bring in future trends. We ensure that some of these modules are mapped to our mainstream products so that they have progressive academic pathway. Upskilling their staff and enhancing their knowledge and being abreast with the latest theory and developments worldwide, will have an edge over the competition. We also have seen positive behavioural changes and pragmatic approaches. Workforce which is more effective and efficient presents better and higher results in addition to the recognition which the company gets.

Q: What are the SLIM programs best suited for beginners?

A: 'Professional Certificate in Marketing' aka PCM is a comprehensive program and a stepping stone for aspiring marketers. This three-month course covers a gamut of marketing and an entry qualification for the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management, our apex qualification. There are other specialised fundamental programs which we offer at certificate level such as; Certificate in Digital Marketing.

Q: What innovative measure has SLIM taken via its programs to make businesses evolve within the 'new normal' context?

A: It is a continuous process at SLIM to review and assess the market conditions and dynamic nature influenced by numerous activities. Being the National body for Marketing in Sri Lanka our approach spans across academic, training and sustainability initiatives.

Academic – we have ensured the syllabi are contemporary and infused Digital modules and introduced a program on Data Driven Marketing Professional which consists of Digital, AI, Data Analytics to meet with future demands and trends. We further made all our programs online including an on-demand online course.

Training – two-pronged approach by introducing short workshops and programs with contemporary topics and certificate programs with bite-size modules. Such two programs are the "License to Sell" and "Digital Toolkit".

Sustainability – Continue to support the livelihoods of MSMEs', SMEs', Entrepreneurs and Women Entrepreneurs through workshops, mentoring sessions and advice to sail through the pandemic and thrive post-pandemic.

Elaborate on "Restart Sri Lanka" program initiated by SLIM in the face of COVID 19 pandemic.

At the time of making a donation for the COVID-19 fund the Prime Minister sought SLIM's assistance in creating a positive notion.

At the time the entire nation was overwhelmed by the ill effects of COVID. This was never the intention to confine to a mere campaign but we strode beyond to help the nation and its people. Especially an impetus to sustain and develop the local businesses and reinvigorate the national economy.

Thus the 'Restart Campaign' was launched and it was well received and adopted by numerous groups which took a proactive stance to change the mindset of the masses.

This had five pillars and the first was to support the Sri Lankan businesses by supporting them to re-engineer and resurrect their businesses and launch a National Business Guide to thrive in a crisis which we did. Support was extended to develop Women Leaders via "Leading Liyo" to mentor and develop the potential of future women leaders as they play a pivotal role in the society.

The second pillar was to help the Micro Small and Medium enterprises through mentoring and advice by the experts. Under this pillar it was also initiated to support home based female entrepreneurs which we continue even as of today under our sustainability banner. Consequently "Liyaka Mahima" saw its launch. We even introduced a new segment, "SME Development Awards" to our national level awards ceremony "Brand Excellence".

The third pillar was establishing the School Entrepreneurship Societies to inculcate entrepreneurial skills at early age which would however, take a different style and a scale going forward.

The fourth pillar was intended towards building the brand of Sri Lanka. It was planned for a Nation Branding exercise with the Annual General Meeting of the Asia Marketing Federation (AMF) of which SLIM is a Board of Management member. However, the AGM had to be confined to an online event due to the pandemic.

CHANNA BANDARA WIJEKOON

Marketing which is an evolving subject plays a pivotal role in the contemporary business world. Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) being the national body for marketing founded in 1970 has been adding value to the marketing sphere for decades with innovative mentoring programs.

The CEO of SLIM, Sanath Senanayake says SLIM is poised to provide quality training programs with a view to uplifting the status of marketing within the country and the institute would never compromise with standards.

Being a product of Royal College, Senanayake has vast experience and exposure in the fields of FMCG, Credit Cards, IT, Internet, Information, Insurance and Education.

As a team player and a strategist with professional experience spanning from sales, marketing, CRM, general management to senior management, Senanayake is in the process of harnessing all strengths within the institute to bring about novel and innovative Marketing programs for professional marketers and the laymen.

He said the SLIM team aspires to be in the forefront of identifying business opportunities and to realise the strategic vision of being a reputed player not only in the domestic market but also across the region.

Following is an exclusive interview SLIM CEO Sanath Senanayake had with the Daily News, Business...



Sanath Senanayake - CEO, SLIM

The fifth pillar was to create a knowledge economy under which we launched the South Asian Journal of Marketing in collaboration with Emerald Publishing, probably the largest academic publisher in the world. The International Conference on Marketing Management which we successfully launched was in support of building a research culture in the country.

We have moved on and this year under the presidency of the first lady President Thilanka Abeywardena, introduced "Future Ready Marketer" also being her theme for the presidential year.

The objective of the theme is to make the marketing professionals 'future ready' as the profession and consumers are dramatically changing due to the Pandemic and skills required would be different in the future. Building a Knowledge Economy under the theme takes an equal position in the stage.

Upskilling the SLIM workforce to meet future challenges is another significant move. Introducing Data Driven Marketing Professional, Future Ready Marketer Webinar series, second phase of 'Leading Liyo' have already taken place and many more initiatives are in the pipeline.

Q: How have the above programs evolved with the new-normal context?

A: We have progressed well as a nation with the successful vaccination programs on par or better than many countries and are coming out of the fourth wave lock down. As the country is fast adapting and embracing the new normal world, we believe it is the best time to provide a common purpose and motivation to businesses and individuals to contribute to the post-pandemic economic recovery with positive spirit.

Hence we truly believe this is the best time to embark on the second phase of Restart Sri Lanka – Future Ready Sri Lanka which is the theme for SLIM by the incumbent President.

Creating a knowledge-driven economy through knowledge-based industries and a society is essential. Educated human capital, innovation eco-system, ICT infrastructure and a positive institutional framework providing economic incentive, policies and investment that encourages entrepreneurship are the key dynamics of creating a knowledge driven economy.

With this concept at the center, Future-Ready Sri Lanka national initiative will encourage Sri Lankans to adapt to new normalcy, challenge dependent, risk-averse mentality and enforce an entrepreneurial, innovative mindset through right skills and knowledge to drive Sri Lanka towards economic recovery and prosperity.

'Nation Branding' plays a vital role in attracting

the world towards our island nation. How would SLIM move forward with Nation Branding program?

Since the AMF board meeting was confined to an online event we made a few international affiliations which enhanced the visibility of SLIM in the global arena.

(AMF being the apex body for marketing in Asia has been gaining its stronghold and recognition which now has 18 member countries. SLIM being a Board of management member of AMF is an element of recognition and Sri Lanka is well known among these 18 countries.)

Affiliation with the Digital Marketing Institute, Ireland probably the biggest Digital Marketing Institute in the world was significant. They accredited couple of our programs; Certificate in Digital Marketing and Diploma in Digital Marketing

Affiliated with the Wrexham Glyndwr University in the UK to offer an exclusive top-up MBA for the Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management holders and CIM, UK qualifiers. Affiliated with Emerald Publishing and they recognized SLIM as their only partner organisation in Sri Lanka. We jointly launched the research magazine "South Asian Journal of Marketing and the International Conference on Marketing Management" with this collaboration and would continue as an annual feature.

SLIM is also the longest standing accredited study Centre in Sri Lanka for CIM –UK.

Q: What measures have SLIM taken to offer a basic knowledge in Marketing to people?

Laymen often identify Sales functions as 'Marketing' due to lack of knowledge in marketing.

"Gamata Marketing" is a consistent project which we launched a few years ago to revive deteriorating indigenous industries in Sri Lanka. It has come a long way with several industries such as Cane, bamboo, palm, fisheries. Our intervention clearly demarcated between Marketing and Sales, most importantly to distinguish between the two to apply appropriately in their businesses.

Our focused programs on marketing and sales offered through our branches and 18 accredited study centers across Sri Lanka educate people on specific subject matter including fundamentals of sales and marketing.

SME development workshops and mentoring sessions do emphasize on elements of marketing which differentiate between sales and marketing.

Q: 'Generational Marketing' that uses generational

segmentation in marketing communication has become a vital factor in Marketing in the new world. How do SLIM programs cater to the segments; Gen X, Gen Y (Millennials), Gen Z and also an older segment of Baby Boomers?

A: We recognize biological age to segment consumers; however, we should not purely go by the age but consider a multidimensional perspective taking other elements such as cognitive age, subjective age and perceived age into account. Hence, our curricula take into consideration the new developments, industry demands, corporate sector expectations, future job roles and contemporary subjects.

Our programs have evolved over time and constantly update to ensure that they are current. Time and again we have infused them with more relevant and evolving topics which emerge with time and these generations. Launch of products regularly is a testimony to the fact that we develop programs, sometimes more specialised ones to cater to progressive requirements by these generations and industry demands.

'SLIM Brand Excellence' adds immense value with regards to enhancing the quality of Sri Lankan brands.

SLIM Brand Excellence is one of the successful events that we conduct to recognize and reward the best brands and brand custodians. Whilst it's an award show, the process which is embedded in the program scrutinises a brand carefully to assess its stature. The detailed and well-crafted application gets those brand curators to think deeply and strategically. This strategic thinking process which they have to indulge trains an individual to think differently and in line with an international brand.

We Sri Lankans haven't seen many brands going global. One of the very objectives of this award show is for the brand custodians as well as those organisations to think big and this application process is an impetus to reaching greater heights and eventually reaching offshore markets.

The process of facing an expert jury and their queries is another form of training the mind to think beyond the comfort zone. Not only the questions but also the feedback comes handy in carving a better brand.



Picture by - Sulochana Gamage



ICTA launches SPARX Lab to foster SL Entrepreneurship

The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) recently announced the launch of SPARX Lab with an opening ceremony held recently with the participation of Jayantha De Silva, Secretary to the Ministry of Technology, Oshada Senanayake, Chairman, ICTA/ Director General, TRCSL, Eng. Mahinda B. Herath, Chief Executive Officer, ICTA, Anura De Alwis, Chief Digital Economy Officer ICTA, and representatives from the startup ecosystem including Jeevan Gnanam, Founder, Hatch Works graced the occasion.

SPARX Lab is a physical space dedicated to nurturing early-stage startups in Sri Lanka. In line with ICTA mandate to develop, support, and help nurture the startups, this dedicated workspace will foster budding entrepreneurs and provide orientation, consultation, guidance, and mentoring for entrepreneurs planning to establish their own startup.

In addition, these entrepreneurs will get the chance to develop networks with like-minded people, academia, government, and all other entities within which the ICTA Startup Ecosystem Development unit closely works.

Since 2010, ICTA has supported developing startup ecosystems by creating awareness, instilling entrepreneurship culture, incubation, market access, early-stage seed funding, consulting, and mentoring. In addition, initiatives such as '10,000 Ideas', STEP Pre-Incubator, StartupSL, and Regional Startup Hubs will further support the development and growth of the startup ecosystem in Sri Lanka.

Commenting on this initiative, Jayantha De Silva, Secretary of the Ministry of Technology, stated, "Within the prevailing cultural and economic setup in Sri Lanka, initiating startups is a huge challenge. Therefore, the Ministry of Technology, along with ICTA facilitates and nurtures these startups to create a technology-driven environment conducive for the growth of startups".

Chairman of ICTA Sri Lanka and DG TRCSL, Oshada Senanayake addressing the opening ceremony, stated, "I think it's indeed a significant moment for ICTA. The key pivotal point for us is the development of the next generation of technopreneurs and startup enablers."

Therefore, ICTA has an important role to play in enabling and empowering the



Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe - Managing Director, LankaBell Ltd/ Chairman, FITIS, Shamilan Somasundaram - Founder, Niftron, Eng. Mahinda B. Herath - Chief Executive Officer, ICTA, Jeevan Gnanam - Founder, Hatch Works, Jayantha De Silva - Secretary, Ministry of Technology, Oshada Senanayake - Chairman, ICTA/ Director General, TRCSL, Anura De Alwis - Chief Digital Economy Officer, ICTA, Nevindaree Premaratne - Senior Manager, ICTA, Lakmini Wijesundara - Cofounder and Chief Executive Officer, IronOne Technologies and BoardPAC

Sri Lankan startup ecosystem." Primarily, SPARX Lab will act as a hub for budding entrepreneurs and early-stage startups that can come together and be groomed with the support of ICTA, the startup ecosystem, and the government. In addition, SPARX Lab will be the central hub for all regional startup hubs and University incubator networks formed due to the roll-out of the Entrepreneurial University framework. Finally, it allows key ambassadors to get together and work on one national agenda along with ICTA.

"ICTA has been incubating startups for a long time, and it comprises a mature, though young, team to support and nurture startups. The facilities that have been developed by ICTA here will be a massive addition to the startup ecosystem," said Eng. Mahinda B. Herath, CEO of ICTA Sri Lanka.

SPARX Lab will be open for any team or individual whose idea qualifies or has already qualified as one of the '10,000 Ideas' Tech-innovation Program initiated by ICTA, to empower the next generation of tech innovators. In addition, the registrants in the StartupSL platform who do not own a business registration or who have not completed one year since registering their business would also be eligible. StartupSL is the national online platform for startups in Sri Lanka, which allows its registrants to connect with the startup ecosystem enablers and vice-versa. Cohorts of 'STEP', the ICTA pre-incubator program will also have access to the SPARX Lab.

ICTA has remained particularly close to the startup ecosystem and have played an important role in changing the lives of many entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka" stated Jeevan Gnanam, Founder of Hatch Works, who was recently awarded 'The Best Co-working Space' in the world at the Global Startup Awards 2021.

The occupants at SPARX Lab will receive numerous supports from the entire startup ecosystem. SPARX Lab can be accessed from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm on weekdays, with multiple facilities including video conferencing, free high-speed Wi-Fi powered by Dialog and Mobitel. Based on the requirements, they will also receive access to a pod to house their startups with two team members for two consecutive weeks or daily. One-on-one meetings could be facilitated, along with a dedicated space for startups seeking a business place for recruitment. **More details are at startups@icta.lk.**

SLT-MOBITEL extends support to TRCSL's Gamata Sanniwedanaya project



TRCSL Director General, Oshada Senanayake inaugurating the first rural 4G LTE Tower launched in Kurunegala under SLT-MOBITEL's contribution towards 'Gamata Sanniwedanaya' project

SLT-MOBITEL, the National ICT, Telecommunications and Mobile Services Provider has facilitated the installation of the first rural 4G tower in Kurunegala District under the 'Gamata Sanniwedanaya' project which aims to empower Sri Lanka with 100 per cent 4G LTE connectivity.

Located in the Hiruwalpol, Kurunegala, this tower was inaugurated as part of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka's (TRCSL) 'Gamata Sanniwedanaya' project, aimed at ensuring all rural communities are equipped

with the necessary connectivity infrastructure. SLT-MOBITEL is committed to drive adoption of broadband-based consumer and enterprise services by further expanding the broadband footprint, achieved by facilitating the TRCSL's 'Gamata Sanniwedanaya' project which aims to provide superior connectivity to all Sri Lankans.

As the National ICT Solutions Provider, SLT-MOBITEL has taken innovative steps towards digital transformation and leading the nation to adopt new age technologies such as NB-IOT, 5G, AI, and Big Data among others as it works towards bridging the digital

divide. Showcasing network excellence, SLT-MOBITEL has been consecutively adjudged by Ookla, the global leader in internet speed testing, as the fastest mobile network in Sri Lanka in 2019, 2020 and in 1H of 2021.

As part of its central role in the digital transformation of Sri Lanka, to-date SLT-MOBITEL has fuelled investments of over USD 800 million in shaping Sri Lanka's ICT landscape and has utilised LKR 1.5 billion in 5G related technologies which includes 5G testing, 5G trialling and public demonstrations.

VMware Workspace ONE powers Sri Lankan technology company 99x

both regulatory and governance requirements such as ISO 27001, ISO 27701, ISO 9001 and GDPR."

VMware Workspace ONE helped 99x reduce the security risk of unmanaged end devices, without compromising its existing way of working or availability of services. Despite the far-reaching impact of the pandemic, 99x was able to expand its workforce - onboarding 100 new resources in 2020 alone. Seamless scalability was a priority and VMware's Workspace ONE solution enabled 99x to grow while allowing the unified management and facilitation of its growth plans.

"VMware Workspace ONE also helped improve overall IT administration. Instead of manually configuring devices, we could centrally manage and control each device, which has greatly simplified internal IT demands and reduced overheads," added Vidura Perera, 99x's Manager - IT. "It also facilitated more efficient collaboration and workflow management, allowing our employees to work from any location, whether remotely or in the office. By bringing down the process time of requesting new mobile devices from days to mere hours, it also improved productivity. And once our employees receive their devices, VMware Workspace ONE helps them get set up on the corporate network much faster."

Additionally, the integration of VMware Workspace ONE into 99x's processes allowed the company to roll-out initiatives such as 'BYOD' (Bring Your Own Device) that further strengthened business continuity without compromising security, by decreasing the risk of data loss and theft by enabling rapid encryption mechanisms, and the ability to remotely wipe data if a device is lost or stolen, safeguarding the organization's sensitive data.

This also led to improved efficiencies and increased savings for 99x by freeing up resources from manual tasks, allowing teams to focus on strategic activities that contribute to the bottom line.

"At a time when business is far from usual, and companies have to shift to a hybrid work environment, our digital Workspace ONE solutions enable their employees to work remotely, maintain productivity, increase connectivity, and provide more secure access to applications regardless of the endpoint. We are pleased to partner with 99x to address their end user and enterprise IT business mobility needs by aggregating all devices, applications and services while more securely managing them through unified common access and identity," said Nitin Ahuja, General Manager and Country Leader, Asia Emerging Markets, VMware.

UiPath announces Automation Excellence Awards winners

"It is extremely encouraging to see how automation has impacted the businesses of some of the largest organizations in the region. The digital revolution the world is witnessing, has spurred organizations to rethink and innovate how it approaches business functions," said Anil Bhasin, Managing Director & Vice President, UiPath India and South Asia.

The limitless possibilities that automation offers have inspired organizations to undertake transformational projects, to address the problems presented by the changing world around us. UiPath aims to recognize game-changing automation projects and inspire companies aspiring to solve some of the greatest business challenges with automation.

Independent consultants shortlisted the entries received, based on entries and supporting documents submitted. The winners were selected by a jury panel, consisting of eminent senior industry executives such as Mahendran Balachandran,

Founder and General Partner, Accel, K S Viswanathan, Vice President - Industry Initiatives, NASSCOM, Dr. Puneet Kaur Kohli, Chief Technology Officer, Universal Sampo General Insurance Co. Ltd, Annie John Mathew, Chief Information Officer, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd., Suhrid Brahma, Chief Technology Officer, WNS Global Services, and Sandeep Parikh, Partner and Leader - Intelligent Automation, EY.

Reminiscing on the judging process, K S Viswanathan, Vice President-Industry Initiatives, NASSCOM said, "The complete process was transparent, and the hours that we spent as jury makes me feel that we as a country have a powerful story to share on cognitive RPA and Intelligent Automation."

More details could be obtained from: <https://uipathindia.com/automationexcellenceawards/>

PBSS wins SAP ACE Awards 2021

PBSS Group achieved another remarkable milestone on November 25, 2021 in the most prestigious SAP ACE Awards ceremony conducted online.

The SAP ACE Awards is an annual ceremony honoring companies, businesses and individuals who demonstrate the spirit of innovation by leveraging SAP solutions to transform their businesses.

Global Vinyl (Pvt) Ltd - Sri Lanka who was recognized as a "GAME CHANGER" in the whole region of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for their SAP implementation during the pandemic period of 2020/2021. The "GAME CHANGER" category recognizes companies that have successfully demonstrated an enterprise-wide transformation approach that has evolved implementation of complex projects, across multiple lines of businesses, functional areas.

The SAP HANA Cloud Implementation has transformed the Global Vinyl as a Game Changer in their Industry. They are the market leaders in Vinyl flooring, sheeting and synthetic leather Manufacturing in Sri Lanka.

The project has shown remarkable outcomes such as 5-10 per cent reduction of manufacturing costs and 10 per cent incremental revenue from new line of businesses. Coming up with the bad experience with the

previous systems now they are delighted with the level of details, reports, and accuracy of the reports and the analytical information of SAP Business One. SAP Business One ERP Implementation covered the finance, purchasing, inventory, Manufacturing, sales and Service and also the SAP Sales App. This has shown greater results and transformed their business to serve better for their customers.

This recognition came for both Global Vinyl and PBSS Group as their implementation partner among all applicants from multiple countries covering all implementations. This is the only award won by a Sri Lankan company with their implementation partner in this forum in 2021.

PBSS Group is the Gold partner for SAP in Sri Lanka who has implemented the SAP solutions in multiple clients in multiple industries. PBSS Group, who mastered the remote implementations during the pandemic is now geared to advance and continue the same process in the years ahead.

Eswaran Brothers Exports, one of Sri Lanka's premier tea suppliers for over five decades, became the first exporter out of the country to adopt eBL from TradeLens, a digital supply chain platform underpinned with blockchain technology that allows electronic issuance, transfer, and surrender of original bills of lading.

Eswaran Brothers' initiative to adopt TradeLens eBL comes at the time when the Digital Ministry of Sri Lanka is building and implementing a holistic strategy to address all pillars of digital transformation. The strategy includes a cluster of digitisation projects and organisations that have come together to unlock the potential of new technologies for economic growth and the overall betterment of society. One such project, which TradeLens is also involved in, is the installation of a data integration solution called ASYHUB, currently developed by UNCTAD, which allows for the smooth exchange of cargo data between the customs IT system, ASYCUDA, and multiple trade data providers. The Ministry has immensely supported Maersk's drive to promote the use of TradeLens eBL and other digital solutions in the country.

Minister Namal Rajapaksa - Minister of Youth and Sports and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development of Sri Lanka, congratulated Eswaran Brothers, Maersk and TradeLens teams on the completion of the first eBL in Sri Lanka by saying, "We believe digitalization is the cornerstone of operational efficiency for our business stakeholders across supply chains. The collaboration of Sri Lanka's traders and other stakeholders in the supply chains with TradeLens is a very important step in strengthening this digital agenda and staying ahead of the curve when it comes to digital transformation. We are excited to be a part of this digital journey, that TradeLens offers the Sri Lankan shipping and logistics industry."

"As we cater to markets in over 52 countries, we realized digitalization is the key to streamline our business easily

Sri Lanka's first ever Electronic Bill of Lading completed by Eswaran Brothers



Namal Rajapaksa
Minister of Youth and Sports and State Minister of Digital Technology and Enterprise Development of Sri Lanka

across the global supply chain. With the TradeLens eBL, we've digitized our manual paper-based processes. This has helped to reduce errors, improve security, and have mitigated chances of any additional costs. We are also able to offer superior customer service. We are very pleased to partner with Maersk for TradeLens' simple and straightforward eBLs." Subramaniam Easwaran - Vice Chairman, Eswaran Brothers Exports.



Siddharth Iyer
Country Manager, Maersk Sri Lanka and Maldives

TradeLens is a carrier-neutral, blockchain-enabled digital supply chain platform, jointly developed by Maersk and IBM. The solutions offered by TradeLens are accelerating the digitization agenda of the supply chain industry around the world by transforming manual, paper-based and time-consuming administrative processes into digital ones.

TradeLens allows an original bill of lading to be digitally issued and moved electronically through its journey with all the stakeholders.



Subramaniam Easwaran - Vice Chairman, Eswaran Brothers Exports

This not only reduces the hassles of sending physical papers from one stakeholder to the other through a courier process, but also eliminates the possibilities of documents getting lost or forged and eliminates all sorts of inefficiencies from manual processes.

"At Maersk, we are constantly working towards connecting and simplifying our customers' supply chains. This means that we cover every aspect of the integrated container logistics solutions that we are offering in the market.

TradeLens has brought to table solutions that will delight our customers with ease of doing business, visibility, speed, and safe and secure digital solution that will create value for them," said Siddharth Iyer - Country Manager, Maersk Sri Lanka and Maldives.

News from Kingdom of Kandy

TIESH OPENS TO THE LOCAL MARKET

Hidden in the kingdom of Kandy and little known to many lies the world's largest-ever commercial Blue Star Sapphire ('Tiesh Blue Empress') now on display at 'Tiesh', Sri Lanka's largest Gems and Jewellery Emporium at Peradeniya Road Kandy.

In addition to housing this historic and priceless masterpiece lies another major tourist attraction, the Gem museum of 'Tiesh' that gives a live gem mining experience to any visitor with live gem pits that go several feet below and a spectacular video show of the Sri Lanka gem history and industry from their two newly refurbished Auditoriums.

"We were not only keen in marketing our products to the tourists but wanted them to know the rich gem mining traditions in Sri Lanka, modern and old techniques used in the industry to take back with them and with a positive impression of Sri Lanka. This initiative we hope will actively help uplift the local gem industry and in doing so, contribute to the economic, social and cultural upgrade of the destination" said Director of Tiesh Sri Lanka, Ayesha De Fonseka.

The 'Tiesh Blue Empress', as

she has been christened, weighs 332 carats and is a Ceylon Blue Star Sapphire. Her current owners, the De Fonseka family of Tiesh estimate that she was born after about 800 million years in the making.

The mother stone of the Tiesh Blue Empress was unearthed in the early 1980s, in the mines of the small town of Rakwana in the Ratnapura district. She weighed an astonishing 201,500 carats which is an equivalent of about 40.03 kg. "We are both humbled and elated to present the 'Tiesh Blue Empress' not only to Sri Lanka but also to the world. Her rightful abode is neither in a safe nor in a bank vault but rather showcased to be admired by the world. Her presence now firmly positions Kandy on Sri Lanka's and the world's tourism map. Needless to say the boost and visibility she will give Sri Lanka's gem industry is inestimable", said Founder / Managing Director of Tiesh, Lasantha de Fonseka.

The Tiesh Blue Empress sits on a crown handcrafted in 18k yellow gold and white gold and set with an array of other precious Sri Lankan gemstones. She is now on permanent public display at the Tiesh showroom in Kandy in a

bomb proof shelf, under extra special 24-hour security.

Her hexagonal bi-pyramidal form and sharp crystal face junctions are a signal that the Tiesh Blue Empress hasn't been transported too far from source, further adding to her allure. The experienced and expert artisanal skill and state-of-the-art machinery at Tiesh have magically brought the stunning cabochon to life with intricate detailing, precise cutting and polishing, thus making it a gemstone far bigger and more beautiful than any precious stone previously envisioned. Sri Lanka is known for her abundance of gemstones within a very small geographic area and is especially famed for her Blue Sapphires, Star Sapphires, and Cat's Eyes. The island is known as 'Rathnadeepa' or Gem Island, reflecting her wealth of natural resources. Sri Lanka has always been the world's supplier of these precious natural beauties.

HISTORY OF TIESH

Attached to a multinational, Lasantha de Fonseka always knew that his entrepreneurial skills could be even better used by moving out and creating his own enterprise.

With tourism booming he and his wife, Bryony De Fonseka (Director and Co-Founder) saw a major vacuum for a quality Gem and jewellery center for kandy and established Tiesh, the family-owned establishment in September 1997 which became an instant success achieving great local and international celebrity status.

Moving to the high demand from tourists he reinvested and moved to a bigger building at Peradeniya Road Kandy in 2010 also upgrading the Gem museum and their workshop.

A new chapter was created in 2008, when his two children Thiya and Ayesha returned from Australia to take an active role in the business and to differentiate Tiesh by means of innovation and elevating up to meet modern day demands and trends.

"Having initiated a market study many years ago, we both took an active role in the company and opened our local arm of Tiesh in Colombo during the early part of 2014," said Thiya and Ayesha.

The Tiesh showrooms both in Kandy and Colombo are designed with the intention of sparking an appeal to delve into the mil-

stones of the gem industry.

OPENING TO THE LOCAL MARKET

As one of Sri Lanka's leading contemporary jewellers, Tiesh opened up their treasures to Sri Lankans with the opening of the refurbished Colombo showroom last March at Duplication Road in their own building.

"We now see a huge demand from locals and now our aim is to acquire a sizable market share from reputed companies by offering some more to the customer at competitive pricing and of course better craftsmanship," Director of Tiesh Sri Lanka, Ayesha De Fonseka.

He also said it was pleasing to note that the trends of the wedding jewellery market is also changing with demands shifting from 'made jewelry' to 'custom made jewelry' on the patterns and styles created by customers. "We see this trend happening in Kandy too and our craftsmen are more



Snap shots of the Kandy Tiesh showroom and gem museum

than ready to create the dream product the customer wants."

"To source customers design and curate jewellery we only use the finest, ethically sourced gemstones and precious metals to give our valued clientele only the best as our aim is to be the benchmark

for jewellery, locally and internationally." "A step into our showrooms in Kandy and Colombo will lure you to luxuriate in the story of every sparkle uniquely created just for you."

More details could be obtained from: <https://tiesh.lk>

The Kandy Club refurbishes to attract tourists



Senior officials of The Kandy Club,

UPANANDA JAYASUNDARA
Our Kandy Sports Special Corr.

The Kandy Club, one of the oldest operating sports clubs in the country and the second oldest in Kandy established in 1877 is engaging in a major refurbishment drive to upgrade the property.

"We have seen that the demand by our members and guests are increasing for even better entertainment and facilities and we also want to cater to the emerging tourism market", said Club

Secretary Palitha Pethiyagoda. "We have six rooms and now they are being upgraded installing modern amenities to offer to the tourism market as well."

Kandy Club was a typical British social club of colonial times and it was dedicated for British officials the Managers and Senior Executives of the many British owned Commercial establishments such as Cargills, Whiteways, Browns, Colombo Commercial Company and Walkers, to name a few, and also Planters stationed in the

Kandy town. "The heritage still lingers and this is an added marketing tool to attract especially the British tourists," he said. The Club has also decided to increase its membership and would offer around 100 new members to the Club. Meanwhile, the 147th Annual General Meeting of the Kandy Sports Club was held and Old Rajan, Mahesh Weerasinghe was appointed as the President of the Club for the year 2021/2022 for the fourth successive year.



Founder / Managing Director Lasantha De Fonseka and his wife Bryony joined by Directors Thiya and Ayesha of Tiesh taking the store to the next generation

'Leisure industry firsts' and out of the box thinking puts Royal Classic Resort on top



Chairman, Ammaiappan Sivasubramaniam

In today's unresponsive environment created due to the pandemic where there are some health restrictions for travellers to wine and dine (PVT) Ltd Arangala Natharampotha, Kandy has come out with out of the box thinking to and the much needed 'spark' for the industry. This 'wow' factor is that the hotel is not only offered to hotel guests but also to invitees who patronize the hotel for weddings, events and conferences.

"We do 'out of the box' thinking and offer something more to our guests including some of the 'leisure industry firsts' and these have been well received and appreciated by both local and foreign guests," said General Manager of Royal Classic Resort, R. Jayapradhap.

"I firstly also adopted novel marketing techniques mainly from my international hotel work experience in UAE launching two music videos highlighting the hotel and some social issues



which were the firsts for the local hotel industry. These were well received and the third on hosting a wedding starring a Canadian couple and hotel staff will be released next week."

With this the hotel has introduced 'music videos of wedding couples' a first to the local hotel industry. These videos are shot earlier with also hotel staff starring in them and shown during the wedding ceremony for guests. The uniqueness of this is that all these music videos were composed and directed by the hotel staff and also brings out their hidden talents."

Several other features like outdoor weddings and other 'offers' have made Royal Classic Resort a much sought after venue for weddings making it their top revenue generator.

"To increase more value to this growing market we are now investing around Rs. 6 million to build one honeymoon suites each having their own private plunge pools next year."

In addition, we will be investing another Rs. 150 million to build an 800 guest capacity pillar-less Banquet hall which will have a separate parking area. Currently the hotel has three banquet halls offering 250 each in two and 80 in the third. In addition, a special conference facility with modern amenities is available which is very popular among corporates not only in Kandy but in Colombo as well.

Since the hotel is located from the outskirts of Kandy there is a peace and tranquillity and using this our Chairman, Ammaiappan Sivasubramaniam has decided to invest a fur-

ther Rs. 80 million to build 19 individual chalets with some having their own plunge pools next to the proposed Honeymoon suites. For the three investments adjoining land has already been acquired and the project would be completed mid next year."

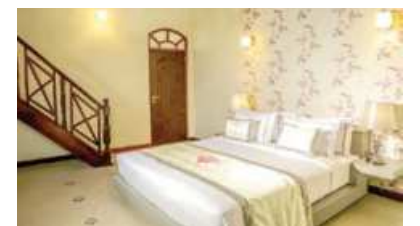
Jeyapradhap who was bestowed with 'Best General Manager of the Year' by USA Business World International Organization (BWIO) recently said that they are now maintain a high occupancy and would end the year maintain around 60% (with 20% foreign) despite the lockdowns experienced earlier in the year. "The secret of our spectacular 30 room (with four suites and 8 chalets)



General Manager of Royal Classic Resort R. Jayapradhap directing a Music video

luxury property is the personalised service standards, unmatched dining experience and also the facilities which includes an Outdoor swimming pool with Pool Bar, Coffee Lounge Bar, Pool Table, Shisha lounge, Sauna room, Restaurant, Gym, badminton court and Garden area with high end amenities. The hotel also has Wheelchair access.

The resultant also entertains outdoor guests and a special catering unit too is now available. The hotel also arranges special excursions to many attractions of the 'Kingdom of Kandy' and a host of credit card offers too are available. ROYAL CLASSIC RESORT at No. 16/5, Arangala Natharampotha, Kandy - Sri Lanka can be contacted on Tel +94 76 1250 250 (WhatsApp) +94 81 207 2888 or on E-Mail: info@royalclassicsort.com



Governor Central Bank opens HNB's mini customer centre at Department of Immigration and Emigration

To facilitate hassle free banking through formal channels, particularly for migrant labour, Sri Lanka's leading private-sector bank HNB, announced the opening of its newest mini customer centre at the Department of Immigration and Emigration in Battaramulla.

HNB's mini customer centre at the Passport office will offer migrant workers access to banking services such as the encashment of foreign remittances, and opening Rupee and foreign currency accounts. Customers also have the option of transferring cash and making use of banking facilities through HNB's mobile banking app and digital wallet SOLO.

Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) Ajith Nivard Cabraal together with HNB Managing Director and CEO, Jonathan Alles and senior officers, the mini customer centre is expected to provide prospective migrant workers with safe, efficient and reliable formal channels to send funds back home.

"Worker's remittances has been Sri Lanka's largest single source of foreign exchange inflows over the past decade. Especially during the pandemic, Sri Lankans across the



Governor Central Bank, Ajith Nivard Cabraal together with HNB Managing Director and CEO Jonathan Alles hands the pass book to the first customer at the mini customer centre Hasindu Madumal.

globe have continued to send funds home to their loved ones who depend on this income to pay for their daily essentials, and for funding education. The pandemic has disrupted these systems, and led to an increase in the use of informal channels that are far less secure.

"The opening of this new mini customer centres the latest in a series of measures HNB is launching, in support of the Central Bank's

efforts to help streamline access and performance of formal remittance networks, in order to ensure that the nation's migrant workers have the access to a safe, secure and efficient option when sending their hard-earned income home. As such we are delighted to be opening a mini customer centre at the Department of Immigration and Emigration under the auspices of the CBSL," HNB Managing Direc-

tor and CEO Jonathan Alles said. HNB Remittance services offer customers convenience and security to transfer funds through the bank's worldwide network of partners in every populated continent.

HNB's global network consists of more than 130 tie-ups with renowned exchange houses and banks across the world, where deposits could be made in 13 designated foreign currencies, along with LKR.

Flash Health wins Merit Award at FITIS Digital Excellence Awards

Flash Health, one of Sri Lanka's premier healthcare service providers, revolutionising medicine delivery, home lab testing, and many more healthcare services, is proud to announce that the company has been named winner of the Merit award in the Born Digital Category of the FITIS Digital Excellence Awards. Flash Health was selected for the award by a panel of leaders in the technology sphere of Sri Lanka.



Flash Health receives the FITIS Merit Award under the category of Born Digital

The Born Digital award is given to recognize a brand-new category of enterprise, consisting of companies that are completely digitised, who base their strategies on the latest mobile technologies. Winning this award is a testament of the strategy and unique operational methodology that Flash Health employs for its core activities.

In line with its goal of 'Health & Wellness at your Convenience' Flash Health has used mobile and digital technologies to change the people's perspectives and buying patterns regarding medical services. From its inception as a mobile based medicine delivery company, Flash Health has scaled its operations to include additional medical services such as mobile

laboratory testing facilities and many upcoming features. The growth of Flash Health has shown that demand for easy and convenient methods of accessing medical services is on the rise in the country.

CEO of Flash Health Arshad Ameer said, "We are honored to have received this award from FITIS. The whole Flash team is pleased to be recognised for all the work we have done over the last two years. Changing people's perspectives and mindsets about what is possible with technology and using technology to make people's lives easier is our driving factor. We remain committed to delivering new and innovative services and solutions to enrich the lives of all Sri Lankans."

Keangnam Engineering Construction ISO certified

Keangnam Engineering & Construction Private Limited (KEC), an emerging construction company has been certified ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001 latest standards.

Keangnam Engineering & Construction (Pvt) Limited was established in February 2020 as a local company with the inheritance of the mother company Keangnam Enterprises Limited.

Keangnam Enterprises Limited is one of the global pioneer construction company which is based in the Republic of Korea. Keangnam Enterprises Limited has entered to Sri Lanka construction industry as far as 1978 and has kept its dominance over the course of four decades. As a result of policy decisions with the new ownership, Keangnam Enterprises Limited withdrew their foreign constructions programme including Sri Lanka. This



Nalaka Jayaweera CEO and GM, KEC; Y.H. Kang CED, KEC; Bimba Kumuduni Directress-System CERT, EICPL; Raj Weththesinghe Managing Director-System Care/Lead Consultant, EICPL; Stanly Kiththanpahuwa System Consultant.

created the opportunity for the establishment of a local-based company, Keangnam Engineering & Construction (Pvt) Limited with all the experience gained through the history of the mother company.

Same as Keangnam Enterprises Limited which has dominated Road Construction Sector in Sri Lanka; the newly established Keangnam Engineering & Construction, started with the

intention of expanding to other disciplinary in the future.

As a major milestone towards the path to achieving the greatness in Construction Industry; Keangnam Engineering & Construction Limited recently certified ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System), ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety Management System), and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System) under the guidance of Einzigarting International Certifications Private Limited [EICPL].

The ceremony was held recently, at Keangnam Engineering & Construction (Pvt) Limited head office at Pita Kotte with the participation of members of Einzigarting International Certifications Private Limited & Keangnam Engineering & Construction Limited.

Chamber of Construction Industry hosts webinar

The Chamber conducted a successful webinar on the 'Impact of Supply Restriction on Construction Projects'. The webinar was conducted on 02nd December 2021. The webinar was well received amongst the construction fraternity with over 250 participating at this event.

The opening topic was on the 'Macro Economic Development and Prospects' that was addressed by Dr. P. K. G. Harischandra, Additional Director and Economic Research Unit of the Central Banker. This was a broad overview of the country's present situation and future prospects for the Construction Industry.

The topic on 'sourcing local raw material for the industry' was addressed by the Chief Mining Engineer, (RXD) of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau.

Alarming news that was highlighted is that by year 2025 the country would not have adequate river sand to mine and the alternative suggested was 'M Sand'.

Eng. Majith Kodituwakku of the International Construction Consortium spoke of the phenomenal increase in prices of the major building materials and the difficulties encountered in implementing projects.

Chartered Quantity Surveyor Dulesha Wijesiri spoke of the dilemma that contractors face in resolving disputes arising in contract administration.

This webinar was ably moderated by experienced Chartered Quantity Surveyor Upul Shantha.

All those interested in future events are requested to keep an eye on the Chamber website - www.ccsrilanka.org.

Nestomalt 'SALARY for LIFE' selects second winner



Nestomalt announced the second winner of its one-of-a-kind consumer promotion 'SALARY for LIFE' 2021.

D.D.M. Thalagala from Dambulla was selected as the winner this year and will receive Rs. 50,000 every month from Nestomalt until she turns 55, subject to the competition's terms and conditions.

Conducted for the second consecutive year, Nestomalt 'SALARY for LIFE' aims to reward one of its loyal consumers, by helping them kick-start their journey to achieve their ambitions and progress in life.

"I have always wanted to be an entrepreneur and make a name for myself in the construction industry. So winning Nestomalt 'SALARY for LIFE' is a dream come true for me and my family. I am grateful for Nestomalt for taking me a step closer to my life-

long ambition of having my own business," said D.D.M. Thalagala.

The Nestomalt 'SALARY for LIFE' competition requests consumers between 18 and 50 years to send the flap of a 400g Nestomalt pack to be eligible for the raffle draw

"As Nestlé Lanka's flagship brand Nestomalt has positively charged the progress of Sri Lankan families for over 50 years," said Ruwan Welikala, Nestlé's Vice President Dairy.

"For many years, Nestomalt has contributed immensely to the lives of Sri Lankans across generations. I am proud that the brand has been a catalyst for positive change, helping consumers progress in life through initiatives such as the Nestomalt Marathon, Buddha Prabhodaya and of course, SALARY for LIFE" said Jason Avanceña, Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka.

CA Sri Lanka opens Accounting and Business Campus

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) launched its very own campus which will offer the highly reputed BSc. Applied Accounting Degree, with plans afoot to also introduce several new Bachelor's Degrees as well as a Master's Degree.

The Scholars of Accounting and Business (SAB) Campus of CA Sri Lanka located in Colombo 4 was opened on December 9, by Dr. Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade in the presence of Manil Jayasinghe, President of CA Sri Lanka, Sanjaya Bandara, Vice President of CA Sri Lanka, Past Presidents and Council Members of CA Sri Lanka, Dulani Fernando, Chief Executive Officer of CA Sri Lanka, Pradeep Alexander, Director of SAB and other distinguished invitees.

The fully-fledged campus will provide a host of modern services and facilities including a fully functional IT lab, air-conditioned lecture halls, library, sporting facilities and cafeteria. The campus which can accommodate over 800 students, will be further supplemented by a highly experienced lecture panel comprised of state-level university lecturers.



Dr. Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade in the presence of Manil Jayasinghe, President of CA Sri Lanka, Sanjaya Bandara, Vice President of CA Sri Lanka and other distinguished invitees.

The BSc. Applied Accounting degree offered by CA Sri Lanka has become one of the most sought-after accounting degrees in the country, with a student population of over 2000. The degree is approved by the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Higher Education.

Following the overwhelming response for the BSc. Applied Accounting Degree, CA Sri Lanka decided to launch a fully-fledged campus, to provide a wider variety of academic programmes for students and professionals.

Apart from the highly successful

BSc.

Minister Bandula Gunawardana said that CA Sri Lanka in its standing as a leading professional organisation has always assured quality education that is accessible to all which is accustomed to social needs and individual development.

President of CA Sri Lanka Manil Jayasinghe said that the BSc. Applied Accounting Degree was launched in 2013 to bridge the growing gap in the dearth of university-level education in the country due to the limited number of intakes at state universities.

Due to the overwhelming success since the launch of the Applied Accounting Degree, Jayasinghe noted that CA Sri Lanka decided to spread its wings further by establishing a campus, which will offer multiple degrees and masters' degrees covering a variety of subjects.

Vice President of CA Sri Lanka, Sanjaya Bandara, highlighted that the new CA Sri Lanka Campus aims to become the preferred destination for education in Sri Lanka by offering a variety of contemporary courses under one roof, which are all recognised not just locally but also across the world.

The Business World International Awards held in grandeur

The Business World International Awards ceremony, organized by the Business World International Organization INC USA, an event which is recognized as one of the most prestigious Business Award festivals in the Asian Pacific region was held at Taj Samudra, Colombo.

BWIO is an USA based organization, driven with the objective of recognizing the accomplishments and expertise of the global business spectrum.

The BWIO Awards recognize and celebrate Excellence in Business and inspires entrepreneurs to

accomplish greater challenges and benchmark their best practices. It concentrates on every category from start-ups to business giants, social change agents, sustainable development advocates and exceptional professionals in their respective fields of expertise, varying in 30 categories.

The event attract Business owners, High Level Entrepreneurs, Enterprises from the private, government sectors and small and medium enterprises and other VIP's throughout the country.

The Joint Chief Guest was Former President Maithreepala Sirisena, Dr. G.D. Singh

Founder and Chairman Asia African Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Guests of Honour were Minister Chamal Rajapaksa, Senith Thondaman.

Among the other special guests were Senior DIG Dr. Ajith Rohana and Arjuna Ranatunga.

The distinguished invitees were welcomed by Dr. Dexter Fernando Chairman International Chapter, Dr. Tharindu Wijenayake Vice Chairman BWIO USA International Chapter and Dr. M.A.A. Jabbar Vice Chairman Sri Lanka Chapter. Prof. Dr. Dietmar Doering Founder



A recipient receiving the award from Minister Chamal Rajapaksa

and CEO Asia German was a special guest and the key note speaker of the function.

T'nc

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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Lord of the sacrificial rituals



RAVIPATHI UTHPALA KANDAGE
“Bali Shantikarmaya” is the only Shantikarmaya common to all the three dance traditions of Sri Lanka, namely Kandyan, Low Country, and Sabaragamuwa. However, the sacrificial rites are also found in “Nuwara Kalaviya” and Uva province. In this context, we must not forget that there are five traditions of sacrifice that can be identified locally as “Kandyan Bali”, “Low Country Bali”, “Sabaragamuwa Bali”, “Nuwara Kalaviye Bali”, and “Uva Bali”. Sacrifice rituals are performed to get rid of the evils that are believed to be caused by the new planets Ravi, Chandra, Kuja, Buda, Guru, Shukra, Shani, Rahu, and Kethu.

According to Sanskrit literature, Bali means offering. It differs from other offerings in that it is performed by an image. There are two types of sacrifices that are practiced in Sri Lanka today. That is, as Roopa Bali and Ambum Bali. Roopa Bali is sacrificing on which the planets, gods, or demons are depicted on a canvas cloth or other such paper and placed in front of it. Ambum Bali is a ritual performed by the deity, the planet, or the devil on his height or less, or by painting the idols on clay and placing them on the fly, and standing in front of them. There are no images of sacrifices, etc., which are sometimes done very sparingly, where only coconut leaf ornaments can be seen. But these are also called sacrifices because they are held for the planets.

Brahmin legacy

It is widely acknowledged that the Bali Brahmin culture was a legacy of ours during the Kotte period. There are legends associated with it among the people of today. A Brahmin who came to Sri Lanka from India said that he knew the ritual of Bali. Veedagama Thero was asked if there were any such Bali rites in Sri Lanka. Then he said that we also have such a Bali and asked him to sing it to see if the offering known to the Lord is the same as the offering between us. Ven. Rahula Thera, a student of Ven. Ven. Rahula recorded what the Brahmin sang and read it. The Brahmin was astonished to see this and said that it is a matter of happiness that we and you have the same sacrificial peace. It is a traditional belief that Bali rites have taken place since then. It is believed that Ven. Veedagama Thera,

Ven. Thotagamuwe Rahula Thera. But there is some evidence in the chronicles that there were sacrifices in Ceylon before the time of Kotte. BC During the reign of King Pandukabhaya in the 4th century, the demons Chittaraja, Kalawela, and Walavamuchi aided him in gaining state power and hence ordered the people to build monasteries and offer sacrifices in remembrance of their virtues. This is where the words sacrifice in the Mahavamsa first appear. During the reign of Polonnaruwa, King Nissankamalla had set a time for a new peace ceremony. Chronicles of the new planetary sacrifices do not appear before this time. It is seen from the great prayer of the Kohombayak Kankariya that God and all the ministers and MPs came together to cure the death of King Panduvasdeva and one day they performed a sacrificial feast and one day a sacrificial feast. But this storyline was formed during the Kotte period. Flower sacrificial songs say that the birth of the sacrifice dates back to the time of the Great Kandy Thunbiya. But it is worth noting that these are just legends. The Kotte period was an important period not only in the field of literature but in all other fields. There is evidence that pamphlets were frequently written during the “Thath” period. Ven. Veedagama Thero wrote works related to the sacrificial rites such as “Rathnalankaraya”, “Yaga Sangrahaya”, “Maha Bali Nidhanaya”, “Chinthamani Shanthiya”.

Patriotism elements

Although the art of Bali is considered to be a legacy we inherited from the Brahmins, it seems to have originated in this country with its own characteristics independent of patriotism. However, Poona Noola, Hakgediya, Athminiya, Thunnur Gama, which are considered ornaments of the Brahmins, are still used by Sinhala Bali priests. Sinhala Bali rites were more beautiful than the Brahmin sacrifices. Sri Chandraratne Manawasinghe says that there is no sacrificial system in India as beautiful as in Sri Lanka. The art of drawing and carving created a new rural art tradition. In temples, paintings and Buddha statues are often seen, often created by Bali priests and nurtured by the artisans themselves or their descendants.

Roopa Bali is sacrificing on which the planets, gods, or demons are depicted on a canvas cloth or other such paper and placed in front of it. Ambum Bali is a ritual performed by the deity, the planet, or the devil on his height or less, or by painting the idols on clay and placing them on the fly, and standing in front of them. There are no images of sacrifices, etc., which are sometimes done very sparingly, where only coconut leaf ornaments can be seen. But these are also called sacrifices because they are held for the planets.



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

To solve problems in the present and problems that may arise in the future, we need to revisit our past. We need to restore that lifestyle. Green Thumbs speaks to Marjorie Bopearatchy, Home Gardener and blogger at intrepidgardens.com and parenting coach @pillowfortscreative on Instagram who reminds us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten.

Before smart phones, internet, social media and computers, there was a time when our people were so close to nature. There was a time when our children spent all of their free time in the fields enjoying nature. Bopearatchy pointed out, that the glass screen of an electronic device cannot offer the range of stimuli children need to develop complex neural structures for processing sensory stimuli. She has even installed sensory garden paths at a local preschool to address this developmental need.

So many young girls and boys are on the internet or on their smart phones all day. They are holed up their room and have very little interaction with the rest of their family.

"I always encourage families to get outdoors as much as possible, even if you only have a balcony. Try to walk at the park or even just walk down the sidewalk. A surprising amount of life-forms can be found persevering in the urban



A well is a necessity but not always pretty. Cannas, elephant ears, and morning glory add colour and soften this corner.

environment. This should start early, allowing toddlers to get their hands in the sand and dirt, exploring all the natural textures and varieties of life forms. For many parents in modern Sri Lanka this is scary. Often a tablet or phone will be offered as a cleaner alternative for entertainment," said Bopearatchy.

She points out that as an educator, she can see the lack of sensory stimulation in children who cannot paint because they are afraid of getting their hands dirty or will not mould dough (a very important tool in fine motor development) because they liken it to sticky mud which they have repeatedly been taught not to handle. We also know that there is a dark side to social media and the internet, frequented by predators. Older children are exposed to them long before they have had a chance to learn to identify red-flags and make sense of their immediate environment.

FORGOTTEN LESSONS...



Home Gardener and blogger at intrepidgardens.com and parenting coach @pillowfortscreative on Instagram Marjorie Bopearatchy

Less exposure to social media at such a young age and more interaction with the family through home gardening is a much safer, healthier and productive alternative.

"The other advantage of being outdoors and working in the garden is a deeper awareness of our physical abilities and overall health. The research is now indisputable - we need sunlight, fresh air, and even greenery to thrive. Beyond this, confidence, patience,

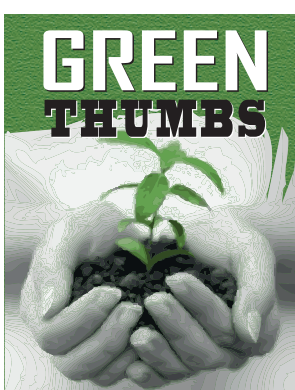


Their first ambun kesel harvest. A compost bin keeps the bananas well-fed.

and empathy are practiced by caring for plants and wildlife in the garden. Very few children spend the recommended amount of time outdoors engaged in physical activity. Most electronic games and programs are actually not educational and the stimulus they use to keep our attention feeds addictive behavior patterns. Gardening and interactions with the natural world on the other hand motivate the child to continue moving, exploring and trying out new things. By giving my students and my own daughter their pots and garden beds to tend, I have seen many children develop an increased interest in spending time outdoors away from screens."

One way to manage diabetes is through exercise. An active life is very important in order to manage diabetes. But because of this roller coaster life we live, this rate and the stress we encounter doing our jobs, we are unable to get that exercise. What kind of activities should we do in our home garden?

How much time should we allocate to each



activity in the home garden?

"Research on work and learning environments has repeatedly shown that plant life reduces stress. This is due to a number of factors, but ultimately it comes down to remembering that we are organic beings with natural needs and rhythms. We need to be allowed to slow down productivity as well as seek help when we need care. I would argue that today students have become as stressed to perform as a corporate employee. They really do feel their livelihoods are on the line come exam time," added Bopearatchy.

According to Bopearatchy, when we incorporate nature into our classrooms, offices and exercise routines, we increase the benefits of each endeavor. We become attuned to natural rhythms and in turn our own rhythms.



Pseuderanthemum caruthersii and Coleus add colour around citrus trees

"As we practice being conscious of the needs of a plant we also become more intentional about what we use to fuel our own bodies. Adults benefit from at least 30 minutes of exercise each day. And if you do that exercise outdoors you are increasing the benefits to your health and well-being in the same amount of time. Very young children should spend about 4 hours in free play each day. This is play unprompted by a toy, screen or adult. Much of this time should be in contact with nature. No toy can stimulate the same thought patterns required to classify and navigate the natural world. This can be especially difficult in the urban environment with parents working full time. However, we can get creative. Throw open the windows (when safe to do so) and add potted plants to each room. Create mini-gardens and aquatic gardens that support other life forms like fish. Go for evening walks as a family. Parents can have meaningful conversations with their children about the trees, birds and rhythms observed. In being present and physically active with family, communication and trust is also greatly improved," explained Bopearatchy.

We know that our home gardens are home not just to us. They are home to many visible and invisible creatures (e.g. butterflies, birds, bees and lizards and other living beings). It is so important for us to interact with them.

"The easiest place to start is with what we can see. I keep field guides and pamphlets handy so that my family and I can identify different species and their needs for food and shelter. Maybe there is a butterfly present in our area, but we



A pill millipede visits our outdoor classroom to teach us about creatures living under fallen logs and leaves

don't have the specific plant that species needs to eat and lay eggs. Maybe we can add it to support that population. As we look to increase our vegetable production without commercial fertilizers, we also become more aware of the soil food web and how feeding life in the soil is more beneficial to our crops and the whole environment. Well-fed soil leads to greater diversity of life (fungi, invertebrates, and beneficial insects) and healthier plants. I also educate my students about animals we can touch safely and animals we simply observe," added Bopearatchy.

For Bopearatchy it is very important for her to have several places to relax and observe her garden.



Pineapple, kehel mua (Banana inflorescence), Thai basil, and sweet potato greens were among their first harvest in the new garden



Coffee and meal planning according to what is available in the garden. Pesto it is!

MEET MARJORIE BOPEARATCHY

I am from the Southern part of the United States, where I grew up learning about gardening with family and friends. I can remember the first year my mother planted a vegetable garden and many years of foraging wild apples, plums, and berries with my father to make pies and jams. I even raised seedlings in my dormitory to maintain my home garden on the weekends. After trying to practice commercialized organic gardening on a student's budget, I became drawn to the economic and environmental benefits of biodynamic and heritage agricultural methods of which Sri Lanka has a rich tradition. I also hold a Master's degree in Child and Educational Psychology and I actively explore how children's mental health and character is shaped by their interactions with the natural environment. I met my Sri-Lankan husband at university. After working in different countries, we made the decision to marry and settle in Sri Lanka about 9 years ago. I immediately fell in love with the tropical vegetables and garden plants and I relish the opportunity to garden year-round. Intrepid Gardens began as a search for the best rooftop growing solutions and vegetable varieties for our small space in urban Kelaniya. We now care for a small 16 perch garden in Gampaha.



Many insects visit their pond, which was constructed from a kiddie pool as a habitat study

Asia's divine fruit

The mango is native to southern Asia and eastern India. Mangoes are among the most widely cultivated fruits in the tropics.

There are more than 500 hundred cultivars of mango. Some can grow more than 100 feet tall and more than 30 feet wide. Smaller dwarf cultivars that are ideal for home gardens grow just 4 to 8 feet tall. 'Tommy Atkins' is the most widely grown mango worldwide. It is 10 to 12 feet tall at maturity.

Mango fruit can vary in size and sweetness and in skin and flesh color. The fruit can be round to oval, weigh from 6 ounces to 5 pounds each and have a skin that may be green with red patches or yellowish-green with rosy parts. As the fruit ripens the warm red, orange, and yellow shades intensify and the green fades.

The colour of mango flesh colour can be pale yellow, gold, or orange. The flavour of mango is reminiscent of peach, apricot, and papaya. The fruit must be peeled before eating and a large flat seed in the middle must be cut away from the flesh.

Mangoes can be eaten raw, sliced or cubed. Mango can be eaten alone or with other fruits. Mango can be used in compotes, cakes, and tarts; it can be pureed and used as a base for sherbets, whips, ice cream, beverages, and dessert sauces. Underripe mangoes can be

made into mango chutney and mango pickle.

Best climate and site for growing mango

- Mangoes must grow in a frost-free climate. Mangoes require warm, dry weather to set fruit. Mangoes like heat they resent cool temperatures.

- Mango flowers and young fruits will be damaged or killed by temperatures below 40°F even for an hour or two. Young trees will be damaged if the temperature drops below 30°F; mature trees will be damaged if the temperature drops to 25°

- Plant mangoes in full sun.
- Plant mangoes in deep compost-rich, well-drained soil. Deep soil is necessary to accommodate the mango's deep taproot. Avoid planting mangoes in heavy clay soil or soil that is wet.

- Mangoes prefer a soil pH of 5.5 to 7.5.

Choosing the right mango plant

- Mango cultivars that grow in one climate may not grow well in another. All mangoes require tropical or subtropical growing climates; some can



- 'Alphonso' is widely considered the best-flavoured mango; it grows 10 to 15 feet tall.
- Mangoes are usually sold as grafted saplings.

Mango pollination

grow in humid climates; some grow only in dry climates

- Consult the nearby Cooperative Extension Service, Master Gardener group, or local fruit growers' group to learn which cultivars will grow well where you live.

- Consider the height of the cultivar at maturity; dwarf varieties are best suited for most home gardens.

- 'Tommy Atkins' is the most widely grown mango worldwide. It is 10 to 12 feet tall at maturity.

- The mango inflorescence is a collection of as many as 2,000-minute flowers. Most do not produce pollen, but a few are perfect flowers containing both male and female parts; these flowers can self-pollinate and produce fruit without cross-pollination from another tree. Pollen will not drop in high humidity or rain. Fertilization will not occur when night temperatures are below 55°
- Mangoes can be pollinated by flies, hoverflies, and occasionally by honeybees.

Mango yield

A mature mango tree can produce 100 to 200 fruits or more each year depending on the cultivar.

Spacing mango

There are hundreds of mango cultivars. Some can grow more than 100 feet tall and more than 30 feet wide. There are much smaller cultivars and even dwarf cultivars that grow between 4 and 15 feet tall. Consider the size at maturity of the cultivar you want to grow and space trees accordingly.

Planting mango

- Prepare a planting site in full sun that is sheltered from a prevailing breeze or wind. A south-facing wall that can collect and radiate solar heat is a good spot in cooler locations.

Work well-rotted compost or manure into the soil.

- Dig a hole half again as deep and twice as wide as the tree's roots. Add a cupful of all-purpose fertilizer to the bottom of the hole.

- Put a tree stake in place before planting. Drive the stake into the ground to the side of the hole to at least 2 feet deep. Mature mangoes are deep-rooted but young trees need to be staked at planting time.

- Set the plant in the hole so that the soil mark from the nursery pot on the stem is at the surface level as the surrounding soil. Spread the roots out in all directions.

- Re-fill the hole with half native soil and half aged compost or commercial organic planting mix; firm in the soil so that there are no air pockets among the roots. Water in the

soil and create a modest soil basin around the trunk to hold water at watering time.

- Secure the tree to the stake with tree ties.

- After planting, water each tree thoroughly and fertilize with a high-phosphorus liquid starter fertilizer.

Container growing mango

- Dwarf and semi-dwarf mangoes can be grown in containers.

- Choose a container at least 24 inches wide and deep that is well-drained. Fill the container with a well-draining potting mix formulated for citrus or palms.

- Keep the soil just moist during the growing season, but not wet. Wet soil will cause roots to rot.

- Mangoes in containers can be grown indoors but there must be ample sunlight for the fruit to ripen.

Mango care, nutrients, and water

- Keep the soil evenly moist from flowering to harvest. Water as necessary to moisten the soil, but the soil should not remain wet. Allow the soil surface to dry to a depth of 2 to 3 inches between waterings.

- Stop watering for about two months after harvest to initiate a new bloom and growth cycle.

- Feed mangoes three times during the growing season with an organic citrus fertilizer blend, slightly high in nitrogen. Fish emulsion can be used to fertilize mango trees. Do not feed mangoes after midsummer as fruits begin to ripen.
- Protect young trees from

frost. Place plant blankets on trees or build a frame around the tree and drape clear plastic sheeting over the frame. Place electric lights inside the frame to provide additional warmth.

Pruning mango

- Mangoes require little pruning.

- Prune to establish strong scaffold branches in the first three years after planting.

- Following years, prune away broken or diseased branches, and prune away suckers that grow from the graft.

- Removing some flower clusters during seasons of heavy blooming may alleviate alternate bearing.

- Prune to control size in late winter or early spring.

Thinning mango

Thin heavy fruit set so that the tree will bear fruit again the next season; if a heavy crop is left to ripen the tree will tend to bear small crops in alternate years.

Harvest and storing mango

- Mango trees bear fruit about six years after seed sowing. Saplings usually take 3 to 5 years to bear fruit.

- Mango fruit matures 100 to 150 days after flowering.
- Let fruit ripen on the tree for the best flavor.

- Ripen fruit will turn to its mature color and become soft to the touch similar to a peach.

- Fruit will ripen off the tree at room temperature. Place the fruit stem end down to ripen. Cover fruit with a cloth so that it does not shrivel.

Provoked Plea to stop domestic battery



RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

Based on the real life traumatic story of Kiranjit Ahluwalia and inspired by her biography 'Circle of Light' by Rahila Gupta, Jagmohan Mundhra's 'Provoked' traces the anguish and agony of a Punjabi housewife. It transcends language in it that, in spite of a mostly Indian cast the movie employs English as its medium. Flashbacks and present situation is entwined leaving a long lasting impact on its viewers.

Unable to bear the constant brutality of her alcoholic husband Deepak Ahluwalia, Kiranjit decides to end their abusive 10 year marriage by setting fire to him. However his death does not free her from the law. She is charged with murder, sentenced to life in prison. Yet Kiranjit finds liberation in jail and seeks solace in her cellmate, Veronica Scott.

Just when the curtains seem to fall, a non-profit group of Asian social workers running under an organization called Southall Black Sisters takes up her case. They shed light on her plight by organizing rallies and gathering public support. Veronica encourages Kiranjit to go to court. Veronica's brother, Lord Edward Foster, is a respected Queen's Counsel. He takes up the case in the English court. The final judgment pardons the accused and redefines the word 'Provocation' in the British law forever.

Wife-beating is not a new concept but 'Provoked' sheds new light on it. The strength of the film lies in the power and precision in which the story is told. Mundhra sticks to the plot without overloading the

scenes with melodrama.

The direction binds with the theme. The film flows with the idiom that, though the protagonist is a timid and traditional Punjabi woman living in the shadows of her tyrannical husband, even a worm will turn. Pushed to the edge, she approaches her sleeping husband and torches his bed. Her intention was not to kill him but only to burn his feet so that he wouldn't be able to chase her.

Armed with a powerful script, Mandhra had selected his cast well. Luminous Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai fits into the role of the coy Kiranjit beautifully. Minimal make up had enhanced her beauty. Her innocence moves the audience. She infuses life into the film by her expressive eyes and Punjabi dialogues.

Naveen Andrews does a brilliant job as the disturbed husband. You immediately feel the wrong vibes in his character from the word go. Nandita Das plays her character well but overacts slightly in a few instances. The ending is a bit disappointing because we see Kiranjit's supporters cheering her victory in the fashion of a typical Hindi movie.

This is probably the fatal point in the film which embodies such powerful substance.

Provoked holds all that it takes to make a successful movie but the finale does not embody the sensitivity.

It lacks the hard-hitting impact which makes us wonder if Kiranjit would have been better off walking out of the marriage rather than seeking justice after being prompted into action.



Sunil Soma Peiris no more



Veteran Sri Lankan film director Sunil Soma Peiris passed away at the age of 72 at his residence. He was a prolific director who directed the most number of films in Sri Lankan cinema. He has around 45 commercial films in various genres to his name. Peiris was also credited as a screenplay writer, actor and editor.

He made his debut cinema direction with 'Obata Diwura Kiyannam' in 1985. Out of the forty five films he made in his directing career spanning 25 years, eight were co-directed with his son Sudesh Wasantha.

Sunil was also responsible for introducing a number of actors and actresses to the Sri Lankan film industry. They are now popular faces in the field. He entered active politics in 1997 and became a Member of the Maharagama Urban Council.



Sajeew Rajaputra

Multifaceted talent on the screen

He has become a popular face both on the mini and wide screen these days. He portrays the role of a youth named Pulasthi in Devinda Kongahage's latest cinematic venture 'Bavatharana' while he takes on an entirely different avatar in Anuruddha Jayasinghe's teledrama 'Piyabana Munissam'. Meet Sajeew Rajaputra who breathes life into these two characters.

An entrepreneur by profession Sajeew owns a number of businesses in Sri Lanka and 26 countries abroad. He had spent 27 years of his life in Japan and had even schooled there as a Japanese citizen.

"Acting is one of my inborn talents. I used to observe people closely ever since I was young and can imitate their mannerisms. However I have only taken part in two stage plays during my school days," Sajeew said.

He had trained in the martial art form kung fu for 11 years. During this process he had developed a spine injury for which he had come to Sri Lanka to seek ayurveda medication. 'Bavatharana' director Devinda Kongahage had seen him. Sajeew had long hair and a long beard then.

"As soon as he saw me Devinda realized that I matched the role of Pulasthi, a wildlife photographer in his script perfectly. He clicked a few pictures of me after getting my consent. Later he contacted me and asked me to perform a short scene. He was really satisfied with my presentation. He decided then and there to introduce a new face in a lead role through his movie," Sajeew explained.

Sajeew had been hesitant to take on such a mammoth task at first especially because of his ailment. However after getting the necessary medication, Sajeew decided to step into Pulasthi's shoes. He had been unable to walk straight for around seven years due to his spine injury. He notes that he got a new life after becoming well through Pulasthi's character.

"This is a huge challenge but though acting in front of a camera was alien to me, I did not hesitate to take on this role. I wanted to present the best version of myself for the film," he noted.

Sajeew had prepared himself for the role by growing his hair and beard for a longer span. He had also noted that Pulasthi lives amid the animals and trees. Though Sajeew had been in contact with many people due to his profession, his spine injury had kept him away from social contact for a span. The loneliness he had faced during these seven years helped him to get under Pulasthi's skin.

"I was watching a playback of a shot I had played with Malani Fonseka when she approached me from behind and asked me if that had really been the first time I had acted. When I confirmed it is so she said that it is unbelievable and that is why she too had come to witness the scene on the monitor.

"That is one of the most memorable moments while shooting 'Bavatharana' for me. I felt like I had won an award when I heard her words. Once when I was going to do a scene with Sriyantha Mendis he joked saying that the person who succeeds in one take has come to act. I felt immense pleasure in hearing his encouraging words. My Sinhala pronuncia-



As Pulasthi in 'Bavatharana'

tion was not good when I took on this role. I even wrote the dialogs in English to practice them. I was used to the American accent but to succeed in this role you need to pronounce the dialogs properly with a Sinhala accent. Everyone in the 'Bavatharana' team helped me to perfect this. Though I did not expect to be noted by the cinematographers, I have gotten good feedback from them. It is very heartening," he said.

Sajeew had also given life to Sir John Kothalawala's character in the 2018 film 'Nidahasa Piya D S'. Speaking about his role in Suneth Malinga Lokuhewa's well known film Sajeew says that his father's grandfather had come to Sri Lanka to be Sir John Kothalawala's personal security guard.

"I decided to do the role due to the closeness and intimacy between Sir John Kothalawala and my family. My father is Veersingh Shathriya Rajaputra. Shathriya is Prince Siddhartha's cast while Rajaputra is my generation. I was born on October 31, 1984, the day Indira Gandhi passed away and Rajeev Gandhi became Prime Minister. My father simply changed one letter in Rajeev and named me as Sajeew. Though I have an Indian lineage my mother is from the Keppetipola generation. She is Shirani Keppetipola," he expressed.

Unfurling his thoughts on Shakyia Basnayake's role in 'Piyabana Munissam' Sajeew says that many viewers have questioned if there really can be a character like that he portrays for the teledrama. "Shakyia is not a corrupted politician. So that raises a question in their minds. They also ask me if I am getting ready to enter politics. The purpose behind this role is to pave way to nurture the minds of the youngsters so that they will create a positive political environment by choosing good leaders to lead the country in the future. I myself am not interested in entering politics but I wish to lend a hand to any youth whom I feel would contribute to making a corrupt-free political environ for the country," he said.

He notes that he will take on what he feels that he can in the local arts field and continue his artistic venture.

Sajeew hopes to be a part of a production which will be a Sri Lankan and Indian co-production. He also hopes to direct the project titled 'Sakura' which is a collaboration between Sri Lanka and Japan. RJ

Seeking love and blessings

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are married! It can't get more official than this. Can it? The star couple got married in the presence of a few family members and friends in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan on Thursday evening. They shared picture perfect moments from their wedding on social media.

The couple had reportedly been dating for 2 years. The actress shared pictures from the ceremony and wrote: "Only love and gratitude in our hearts for everything that brought us to this moment. Seeking all your love and blessings as we begin this new journey together." Vicky Kaushal, sharing the pictures from the jaimala, wrote: "Only love and gratitude in our hearts for everything that brought us to this moment. Seeking all your love and blessings as we begin this new journey together."

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's wedding festivities began with a mehendi ceremony on Tuesday. The pheras were reportedly preceded by a sehra-

bandi ceremony. The sangeet was held on Wednesday.

The stars reportedly started dating in 2019. Earlier this year, during Zoom's chat show By Invite Only, actor Harsh Vardhan Kapoor confirmed that the actors are dating and said, "Vicky and Katrina are together, that's true. Am I going to get in trouble for saying this? I don't know. I think they're quite open about it."

During an episode of Karan Johar's talk show Koffee With Karan 6 in 2018, Katrina Kaif said that she would "look good with Vicky Kaushal on screen." Vicky Kaushal appeared to faint when he was told about Katrina's statement during the show. NDTV



Disney has announced its next animated feature will be titled "Strange World." The original action-adventure is scheduled to debut around Thanksgiving 2022.

The studio on Thursday also shared concept art and plot details, but stopped short of revealing the film's voice cast. "Strange World" centers on the legendary Clades, a family of explorers whose differences threatened to topple their latest and most crucial mission. On Instagram, Disney Animation teased that "Strange World" "journeys deep into an uncharted and treacherous land where fantastical creatures await."

Don Hall, whose credits include "Big Hero 6" and "Raya and the Last Dragon" is directing "Strange World." He says the movie is a nod to pulp magazines, popular fiction from the first half of the 20th century

that was printed on inexpensive wood pulp paper.

"I loved reading the old issues of pulps growing up," he said. "They were big adventures in which a group of explorers might discover a hidden world or ancient creatures. They've been a huge inspiration for 'Strange World.'"

Qui Nguyen, who co-wrote "Raya and the Last Dragon" with Hall, is returning to co-write the screenplay for "Strange World. Roy Conli ("Big Hero 6," "Tangled") is producing.

Though the release calendar could change before then, "Strange World" is currently set to premiere in theaters on the same day as "The Fabelmans," a semi-autobiographical drama about director Steven Spielberg's upbringing in Arizona. Variety

Disney unveils animated movie 'Strange World'



GAMINI C. KUMARA

‘MadolDoova’ is a famous Sinhala novel that we read when we were students. First published in 1947, the story was set in Koggala in the southern province of Sri Lanka in the late 20th century. The novel has been translated into several languages and has also been made into a film as well in 1976. This novel was written by a well-known Sri Lankan author, Martin Wickremasinghe. I still have this marvellous novel with me and still love it.

The novel recounts the childhood escapades of UpaliGiniwella and his friends and later describes the efforts of Upali and his friend Jinna to lead their lives on a small deserted island. Their struggle to succeed lives on this deserted island called ‘MadolDoova’ is elaborated in the story, which was based on true incidents that took place during the 1890s.

While on a recent tour to Galle, I thought of visiting Koggala, located in the Southern coastal belt of Sri Lanka, a few kilometres south of Galle town. As we know, it is the area where the author Martin Wickremasinghe was born, and his birth house is now a Museum of Folk Culture that attracts tourists from around the world.

To explore this mysterious island ‘MadolDoova’ on which the novel was based I travelled to the area. From a distance on Galle – Matara road, one or two signboards on the wayside directing to this island can be seen. It is just a few meters from the main road.

Moving ahead, I met a man, a three-wheeler driver, and asked him about the location. He is Nishantha, a resident of Giniwella living close to MadolDoova and is engaged in taking visitors to the island on his motorboat. It was he who arranged a

To watch the water



boat ride for me to the island, which is situated in the village of Giniwella in Koggala.

I knew that this man had been transporting local and foreign visitors to MadolDoova for a long time and working as a guide as well. He said that earlier he took lots of tourists but with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic he is now in a difficult situation as he has lost his source of income. The livelihood of many boat operators living in close proximity to MadolDoova is dependent on tourists arriving to visit this island. Now, with the lifting of lockdown restric-

tions a considerable number of visitors are arriving here daily, he said.

It was early in the morning. My guide Nishantha started the engine of his motorboat and began proceeding towards the island down the shallow waters of the enchanting Koggala lake amidst a cool breeze blowing through it. Not a single boat with visitors could be seen around at that time.

Koggala Lake is a large, unspoiled freshwater lake expanding within a large area of approximately 5500 acres. Often, its water is still and crystal clear. The lagoon precinct and the lake are indeed breathtaking landscapes. In the morning it is indeed a fascinating sight around the lake.

It takes just a few seconds to reach this tiny island with a land area of three and a half acres. Located in the middle of the lake fully surrounded by water it is reachable only by boat.

Literally translated, the name of this island - MadolDoova, it means ‘Mangrove Island’ as the area is a mangrove swamp. It is said that there are around 19 species of mangrove plants here, which are all endemic to Sri Lanka.

There is a cleared place on the island for the visitors to enter. Having moored our engine boat to a root of a tree, we ventured on a walk through well-grown trees and



creepers. There are no cleared paved walking paths in the small forested area, and the trek seems to be a little arduous. Likewise, there are no open spaces around and the whole island is covered in lush vegetation. Earlier it had been suggested by the Department of Archaeology to make a walking path here but the idea was abandoned as it might cause harm to the natural beauty of this place.

Nishantha walking ahead of me described almost everything that could be seen. Over and above the large mangroves here we can see very rare species of trees and plants – some with medicinal value. Some of these trees have been named for identification.

Moving further we were able to see the ruins of a structure that remained in the past. Nishantha told me that it was the foundation of the small house which UpaliGiniwella and Jinna had built when they came to live on the island.

In the Madol Doova story, we come to know of a certain object called ‘Sekku Gala’. Such a thing built of stone placed uprightly on the ground can be seen here. It is so large and strong that it cannot be moved here and there. It is said to have been used to grind medicinal plants.

There is a certain bizarre structure built here in the shape of a well or a tank. It has been built of cement and bricks. Nishantha told me that this is believed to be a structure built by the British to mount a heavy weapon during the time of World War II then.

Having a comfortable walk all over this island is not at all easy as it is possible only through creeping through bushes and mangroves. The environment is often calm and quiet here except for the occasional chirping of birds roosting and hov-

ering in the sky. Even in the daytime, the place looks dark and eerie.

There are a lot of fruit trees thought to have been planted by its inhabitants Upali and Jinna here. From a side of the island, I was able to see other tiny islands situated beyond this, all covered in greenery that is scattered in this locality. According to Nishantha, there are nearly 11 such islands situated around out of which only four are well-known among visitors. Namely, they are Cinnamon Island, Bird Island, Meditation Temple Island and this MadolDoova.

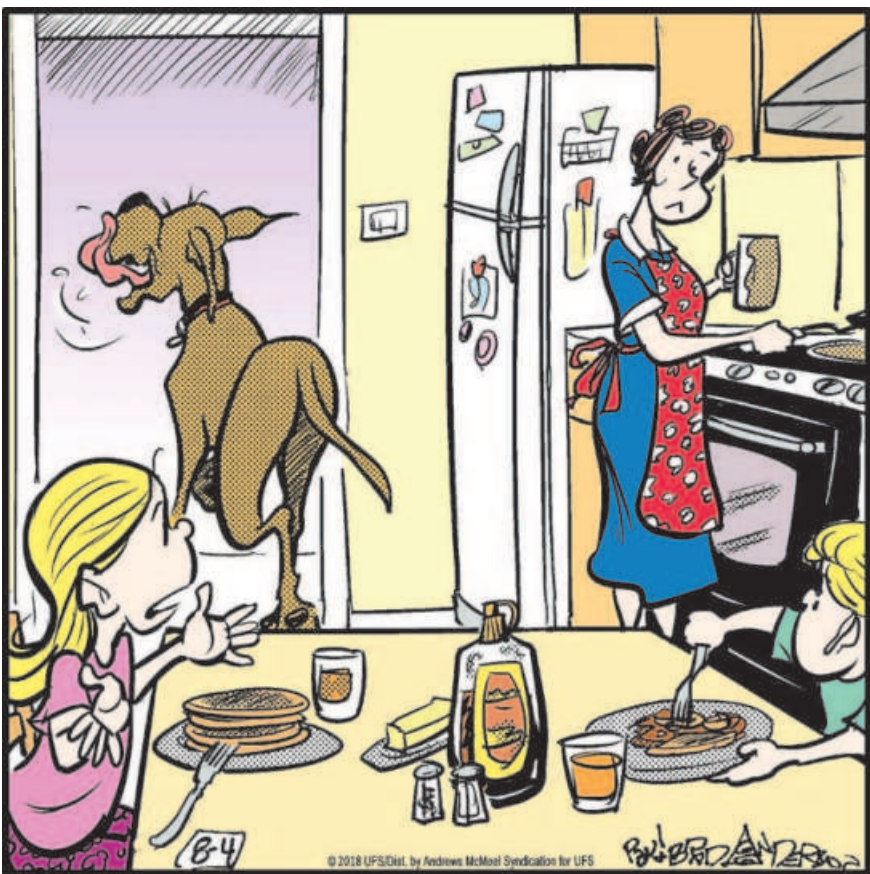
After the short walk we got on board again and slowly travelled around the island watching the spectacular scenery of the lake. While on the way towards the railway bridge Nishantha pointed out an old walau type home saying that it was Muhamdiram-walauwa, which reminded me of Kaisaruwa (theMahumdiram’swalauwa mentioned in the Gamperaliya novel, written by the same author. The old walauwa is now a fully renovated hotel situated on the bank of the lagoon.

MadolDoova is one of the best tourist hot spots in the southern part of the country and almost daily, locals and foreigners are visiting it owing to the natural beauty of the area. No doubt, it is the famous novel – MadolDoova that made this place a popular tourist destination, and for nature lovers it is the best place.

However, reportedly the beauty of it is disappearing by the day due to the misbehaviour of those living around it. Even the visitors to this island are behaving with no regard for the environment, littering things like plastic bottles here and there. As a result of these reckless human activities, the water of the lake is getting polluted resulting in some damage to the ecosystem and the scenic beauty of the lagoon area.

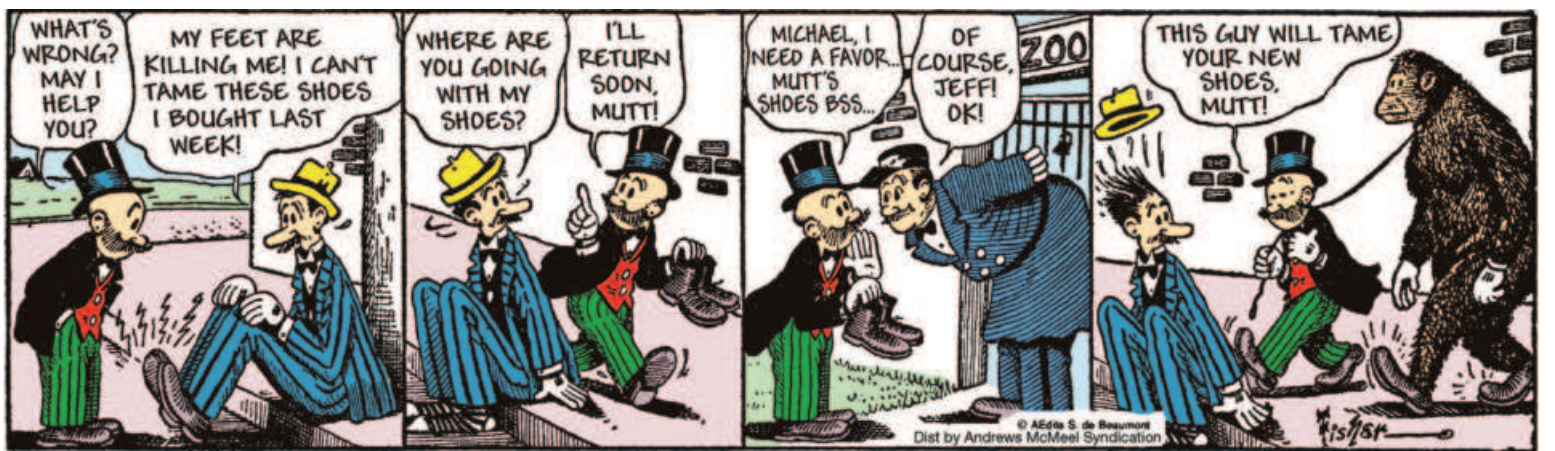


MARMADUKE

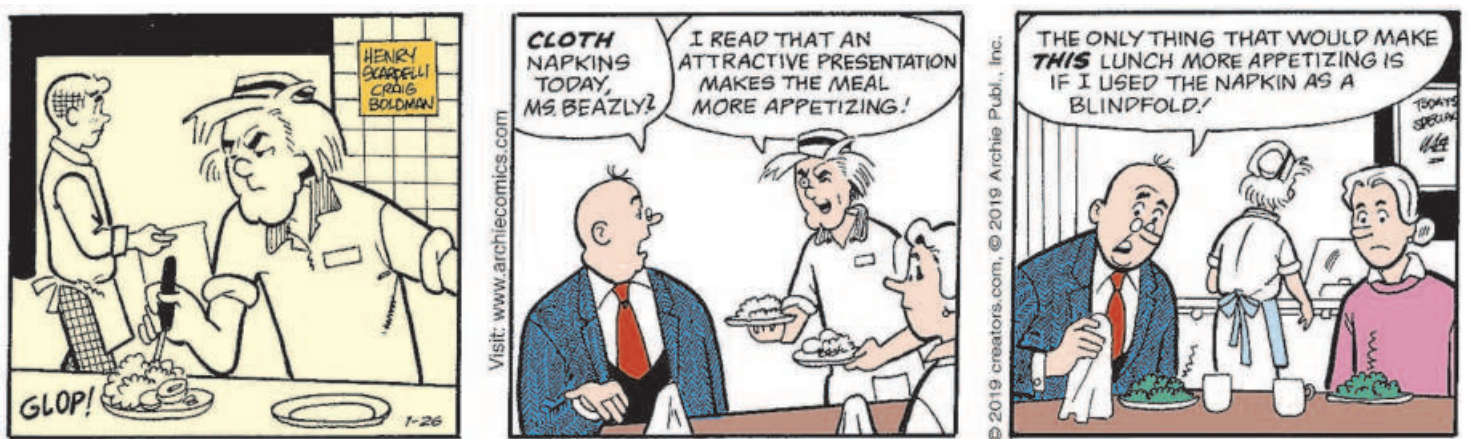


“May I please have more pancakes? Marmaduke licked all the syrup off these.”

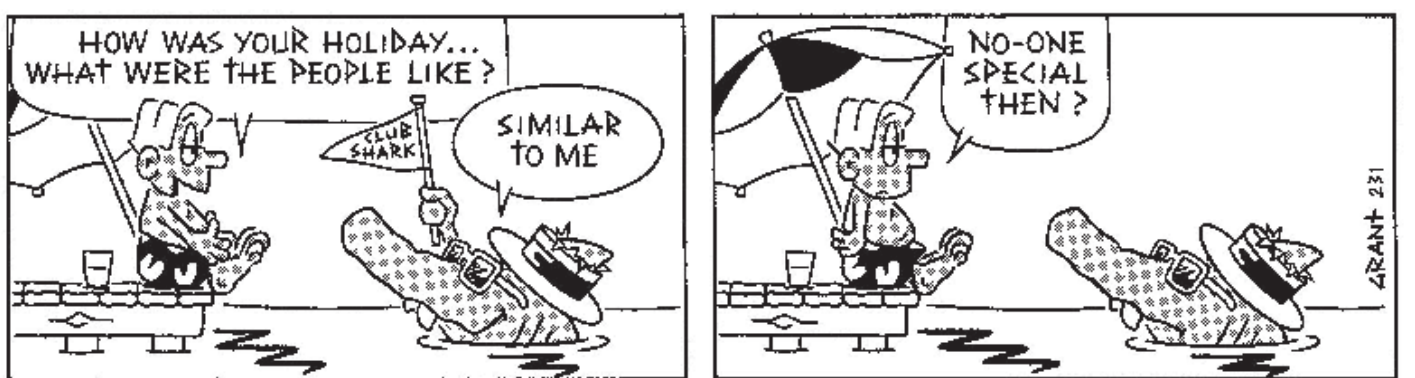
MUTT AND JEFF



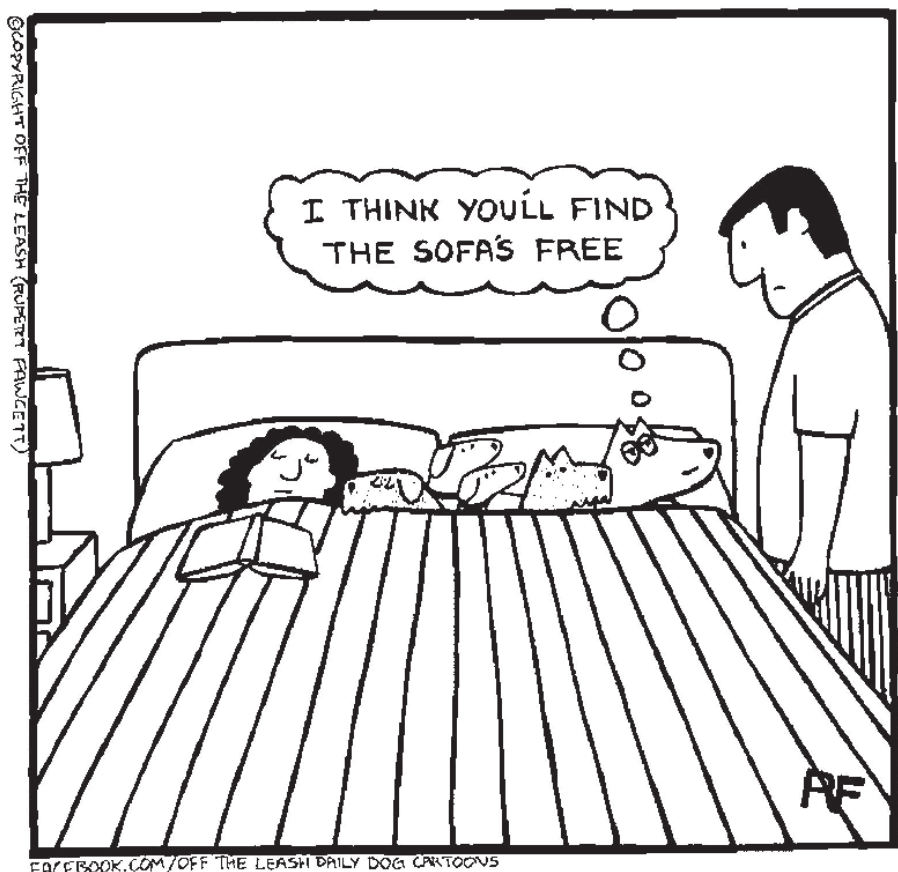
ARCHIE



FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING





STATE MINISTRY OF ORNAMENTAL FISH, INLAND FISH & PRAWN FARMING,
FISHERY HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT, MULTIDAY FISHING ACTIVITIES & FISH EXPORTS



CEYLON FISHERY HARBOURS CORPORATION

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bidding for Excavation of Sand in the Basin and Harbour Mouth of Panadura, Ambalangoda and Valachchenai Harbours and for Dumping Sand at the Designated Location in the Chilaw Estuary within the Port Premises

CFHC/PD/SAND /HAR (PAN/ABM/VAL/CHI) 2021/41-I-II-III-IV

Sealed bids are invited for Excavation of Sand in the Basin and Harbour Mouth of Panadura, Ambalangoda and Valachchenai Harbours and for Dumping Sand at the Designated Location in the Chilaw Estuary within the Port Premises until **10.00 a.m. 28/12/2021**. The tender for this work will be awarded for a period of one year only from the date of commencement of excavations. Accordingly, the price for a cube of sand to be excavated and piled up should be clearly stated.

A written application must first be submitted to submit the relevant quote. Thereafter a sum of **Rs.5000/-** should be paid to the Cashier at the CFHC Head Office or to the Cashiers of Panadura / Ambalangoda / Valachchenai / Chilaw Fishery Harbours from **13/12/2021 to 27/12/2021** from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm** (during office hours) after which the bidding documents can be obtained. It is mandatory to submit a bond of Rs. 200,000 when quotes are submitted.

The bids should be deposited in the tender box at No. 15, Rockhouse Lane, Colombo 15, Head Office, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation, Procurement Division or by registered post to the above address before **10:00 am on 28/12/2021**. Bids sent after **10.00 a.m., 28.12.2021** will not be accepted.

Excavation should be carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Coast Conservation Department and licenses of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau.

A clear report on the excavating machinery is required and the machinery will be physically inspected by our corporation engineers.

Excavations should be carried out in accordance with the Aquatic Survey Report issued by the Corporation. The relevant terms and conditions and the application are displayed on the official website of our corporation (www.cfhc.gov.lk)

The name of the port to be excavated should be mentioned in the upper left corner of the envelope in which bids are submitted. (Quotation for Excavation of Sand at and Dumping Sand at the Port Premises)

The Procurement Board of the corporation reserves the right to accept or reject the quotations. Bids will be opened on **28/12/2021** at **10:00 am** in the Procurement Division of the Head Office and the bidder or his agent may attend. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Procurement Manager (Acting) on **0112-525063**.

Chairman
Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation,
No 15, Rock House Lane,
Colombo 15.



Ministry of Agriculture

SMALLHOLDER AGRIBUSINESS AND RESILIENCE PROJECT

RECRUITMENT OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Ministry of Agriculture, with US\$ 41.7 Million financial support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is implementing the Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project to build resilience and market participation of 40,000 rural smallholder households in order to contribute poverty reduction and food security in the Dry Zone region in Sri Lanka. The project implementation period is 6 years and the project implementation areas are in North (Vavuniya, Mannar), North Western (Kurunegala, Puttalam), Central (Mathale, Eastern (Ampara), and Uva (Moneragala).

For more information please visit : www.agrimin.gov.lk

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka with below mentioned qualifications and experience to fill the following position

Project Director (PS 01)- 01 Position

01. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in relevant field (considering areas : Agriculture, Irrigation Engineering, Project Management etc.) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka
Or
A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the Bachelor's degree in relevant field
Or
An associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in relevant field
And
At least 12 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level, out of which 06 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.
02. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in relevant Field (considering areas : Agriculture, Irrigation Engineering, Project Management etc.) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka
Or
A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the Bachelor's degree in relevant field
Or
An associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in relevant field
And
Corporate / Chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field or a Postgraduate Degree in the relevant field
With
At least 10 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level, out of which 05 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.
03. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in relevant field, (considering areas : Agriculture, Irrigation Engineering, Project Management etc.) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka
Or
A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the Bachelor's degree in relevant field
And
A Postgraduate Degree in the relevant field
With
Corporate / Chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field or a Postgraduate Degree in the relevant field
With
At least 08 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level, out of which 04 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.

Accountant (PS 04) - 01 Position

01. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka
Or
A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the Bachelor's degree in relevant field.
Or
An associate membership / a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in relevant field.
With
At least 07 years post qualifying experience in relevant field
02. An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/II or above or similar status in the relevant field.
With
At least 07 years Post qualifying experience in Managerial Level.

Method of Selection :

Shortlisted applicants based on qualifications and experience will be called for an interview

Salary Scale :

Salary is based on the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 of dated on 05.03.2019

Conditions of Employment :

Officers belonging to government services will be recruited on second-men basis and persons outside the government services will be recruited on contract basis. All appointments will be initially for a period of one year and extension of services will be based on successful performance.

Age Limit :

Any person above 61 years of age shall not be considered for recruitment in projects.

Applications :

All Applicants are requested to forward their applications together with Curriculum Vitae along with two non-related referees and copies of the certificates under registered post on or before **December 27, 2021** to reach the address given below.

Applicants currently in government / semi government services should forward their applications through their relevant Heads of Departments.

Applied post and name of the project should be clearly stated on the top left hand corner of the envelope contacting application.

Secretary

Ministry of Agriculture

Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project
80/5, " Govijana Mandiraya " , Rajamalwatta Lane,
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

LOLC FINANCE VEHICLES FOR SALE

AMPARA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	198CC	2013	EP	AAM	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2014	EP	AAQ	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	YC	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2010	EP	YH	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	EP	YR	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	EP	YU	XXXX

LOLC AUTO MART, NO 223, KANDY ROAD, AMPARA
SAMANTHA - 063-5780880/881

BADULLA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	198CC	2013	UP	AAJ	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2008	CP	QP	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	NW	QX	XXXX

MAHINDRA MAXXIMO 909CC 2012 UP PS XXXX

LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NO. 161 A, KEPPEPITIPOLA ROAD, BADULLA
LAHIRU - 0554549948

WELLAMPITIYA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	150CC	2003	WP	HM	XXXX
BAJAJ	150CC	2004	WP	JI	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2004	WP	JP	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2005	WP	QA	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2005	WP	QB	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2005	WP	QC	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2005	WP	QD	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2006	WP	QE	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QF	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QG	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QH	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QI	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2007	SG	QL	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2007	SG	QM	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2007	SG	QN	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2007	WP	QO	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2007	WP	QP	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QQ	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QR	XXXX
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BAJAJ	173CC	2009	WP	QT	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2009	WP	QU	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2009	WP	QV	XXXX
BAJAJ	174CC	2009	WP	QW	XXXX
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BAJAJ	173CC	2010	WP	QC	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	WP	QD	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	WP	QE	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	WP	QF	XXXX
PIAGGIO	395CC	2011	WP	QG	XXXX
PIAGGIO	395CC	2012	WP	QH	XXXX

LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTER, NO. 98/1, AVISSAWELLA RD, MAHABUTHGAMUWA, WELLAMPITIYA
JAYANTHA - 0773242324

AMBALANTHOTA

BUS					
ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING	6014CC	2017	SP	ND	XXXX

LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NO. 162, MAIN STREET, AMBALANTHOTA
KAVINDU - 0475118080

GOTHATUWA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	198CC	2012	WP	AAG	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2021	WP	AAG	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2015	WP	AAZ	XXXX
BAJAJ	150CC	2004	WP	JO	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2007	WP	QM	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QP	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QQ	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	NC	OZ	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	NC	QX	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	WP	YA	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2010	NC	YH	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2010	WP	YF	XXXX

NO. 42/5, GOTHATUWA GAMSABHA RD, GOTHATUWA
MAHESH - 0773493535

DAMBULLA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	145CC	2006	NC	QI	XXXX
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BAJAJ	173CC	2010	NW	QX	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	NC	OZ	XXXX
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LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, ETHABENDIWEWA ROAD, THALAKIRIYAGAMA, DAMBULLA
CHAMINDA - 0665118181

KURUWITA

THREE WHEELER					
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BAJAJ	173CC	2010	SG	QX	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2009	SG	QT	XXXX
PIAGGIO	395CC	2010	SG	YI	XXXX

LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NO 472 F, MALAWA, KURUVITA
ISHANKA - 0772752097

MATHUGAMA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	145CC	2005	WP	QA	XXXX
BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QD	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2010	WP	YG	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	WP	YL	XXXX

LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NEAR THE PEOPLE'S BANK, WIJAYA MAWATHA, MATHUGAMA
PRAMODA - 0775634245

VAVUNIYA

THREE WHEELER					
BAJAJ	173CC	2009	NC	PZ	XXXX
BAJAJ	198CC	2012	NC	YY	XXXX

LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTER, NO 363, MANNAR ROAD, VEPPANKULANI, VAVUNIYA
THIMOTHY - 0766582329

The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle/vehicles from the Sale without prior Notice.
Tender forms can be collected from the Head Office - Rajagiriya & the relevant branches of the above addresses

Tender closes at 12.30 p.m on 16th December 2021

LOLC FINANCE PLC
No.100/1, Sri Jayawardanepura Mw, Rajagiriya.

NOTICE

Quotations are invited from Security Service Institutions registered at the Ministry of Defence for the supply of Security Services to Lakdiva Engineering (Pvt) Ltd. coming under the State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry for the Year 2022.

Tender applications should be obtained from the Administration Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/= by calling over at this Institution and after inspection of the premises.

Sealed tender applications should be sent to Lakdiva Engineering (Pvt) Ltd., No. 73, Minuwangoda Road, Ekala, Ja-Ela to receive before 12.00 noon on 30 December 2021.

Tender Forms will be issued from 9.00 a.m. on 13.12.2021 up to 3.00 p.m. on 29.12.2021 and Tenders will be opened at this Institution premises at 12.00 noon on 30 December 2021.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Lakdiva Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 73, Minuwangoda Road, Ekala, Ja-Ela.
Telephone Nos. 0112236530 / 0112236458**

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF A COMPANY

In Terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, we hereby give notice of incorporation of the undernoted company.

Name of the Company: SHANTAY (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Reg No. of the Company: **PV 00246939**

Address of the registered office: **No. 11/7, First Lane, Wijaya Mawatha, Minuwangoda.**

SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY
K.K.D. Rosita Fredrick

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF A COMPANY

In Terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, we hereby give notice of incorporation of the undernoted company.

Name of the Company: GOLDEN WATER DROP (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Reg No. of the Company: **PV 00249505**

Address of the Registered Office: **No. 61/B, Palapitiyagoda, Thebuwana, Kalutara Postal Code: 12008.**

SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY
K.K.D. Rosita Fredrick

Registration of Suppliers

JAYA CONTAINER TERMINALS LIMITED

Ministry of Ports & Shipping

Applications are hereby invited from reputed Suppliers who wish to register themselves for the supply of undermentioned categories of goods & services for the Year 2022.

- Stationery and Office equipment
- Construction Materials and Machinery Items & Spare Parts
- Other Services

Suppliers intended to be registered and will be required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 2500/= (Inclusive of 8% VAT) for each item of good or service. Registration fee may be deposited to **Account No. 9482528 (Bank of Ceylon)** of Jaya Container Terminals Ltd. and cash payments are also acceptable by the Finance Division of JCT Ltd. Deposit slip along with the application form should be sent by Fax, Email or by registered post, clearly marked "**Registration of Suppliers 2022**" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope to reach the Chairman, Jaya Container Terminals Limited, No. 69, Walls Lane, Colombo 15, on or before 31st December 2021.

Fax - 011-2540042
E-Mail - jctfinance@gmail.com

Application form & further information could be obtained from the JCT Limited website www.jctltd.lk or from the Finance Division of JCT Ltd. from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on weekdays.

Although, quotations will usually be called from Registered Suppliers, the Company reserves the right to call for quotations and to purchase from other Suppliers as well.

For any further clarifications you may contact the Purchasing Executive - JCT Limited on 0701327648 / 011-2540040-5.

**Chairman
Jaya Container Terminals Limited
No. 69, Walls Lane, Colombo 15.**

**STATE MINISTRY OF VEHICLE REGULATION, BUS TRANSPORT SERVICES AND TRAIN COMPARTMENTS AND MOTOR CAR INDUSTRY
LAKDIVA ENGINEERING (PRIVATE) LIMITED**

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR YEAR 2022

Applications are received up to 3.00 p.m. on 30.12.2021 for the registration of suppliers who have fulfilled the specifications given below for the supply of goods and services required for year 2022 for Lakdiva Engineering (Private) Limited affiliated to the State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry situated at No. 73, Minuwangoda Road, Ekala, Ja-ela. An application form should be obtained upon payment of Rs. 2000.00 as registration fee or else a self prepared application as per the specimen given below may be sent by registered post to the address given below to receive before 3.00 p.m. on 30.12.2021 along with the receipt obtained upon crediting Rs. 2000.00 to Account No. 404914 maintained at the Ja-ela Branch of Bank of Ceylon in favour of Accountant, Lakdiva Engineering (Private) Limited. You should retain a copy of the receipt which may be helpful for your future reference. The caption "Registration of Suppliers for year 2022" should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application. Qualifications and criteria that have to be fulfilled by suppliers for the registration and the list of goods and services for which registration is made are as follows.

Qualifications and Criteria that have to be fulfilled by the Suppliers for Registration

- Should not have been blacklisted by government or a government related institution at any time
- Should be an individual or institution possessing the Business Registration / registration under Companies Act relevant to the supply of goods and services
- Should have the ability to supply goods and services on credit basis
- Should have the ability and adequate stocks in hand to supply goods and services within the stipulated period without any delay at any time orders are placed
- Suppliers should take action to submit samples to the Tender Board of this institution regarding supply of goods
- Individuals / institutions that were registered in previous years with this institution as a supplier and have failed to properly execute the orders and had defaulted the supplies will not be registered.
- Prices quoted should be valid for at least 06 months.
- Company reserves the right to obtain goods and services from other suppliers at times deemed necessary.
- Goods that are not up to the specified standards and quality will not be accepted

1. Supply of Goods – Wholesale and Retail

- | Item No. | Description of Item |
|----------|---|
| 1. | All goods obtained for the repairing of Bus Bodies |
| 2. | Raw Materials required for painting of Bus Bodies |
| 3. | Vehicle Electrical Spare Parts |
| 4. | Vehicle Spare Parts |
| 5. | Spare Parts of All Vehicles (New and Reconditioned) |
| 6. | All kinds of Oils used for all Vehicles |
| 7. | Tyres and Batteries used for all kinds of Vehicles |
| 8. | All materials required for Servicing of Vehicles |
| 9. | Supply of all Stationery and printed forms, documents (All items including Ribbons, Toners) |
| 10. | Supply of Office Machinery (Computers, Scanners, Photocopiers, Fax Machines, Finger Marking Machines, CCTV Cameras) |
| 11. | Supply of Building Construction Materials |
| 12. | Domestic Electrical Spare Parts and Air Conditioners |
| 13. | Supply of Health Security Equipment and Cleaning Materials (Disinfectants, Gloves, Gum Boots, Brooms, Ekel Brooms) |
| 14. | Supply of Garments, Curtains etc. |
| 15. | Supply of Office Equipment (Steel Cupboards, Chairs, Tables etc.) |
| 16. | Safety Equipment (for the factory employees) |
| 17. | Landscaping Equipment and required materials |
| 18. | Sports Goods |
| 19. | First Aid Equipment and Drugs |

2. Services

- | Item No. | Description of Items |
|----------|--|
| 1. | Repairing and Servicing of Vehicles |
| 2. | Repairing of Office Equipment |
| 3. | Sanitary Services |
| 4. | Printing Works |
| 5. | Construction and Repairing of Buildings and Supply of Equipment on hire basis |
| 6. | Repairing of Electrical Supplies |
| 7. | Consultancy Services |
| 8. | Repairing and Painting of Bus Bodies on contract basis |
| 9. | Repairing of Air Conditioners (Domestic) |
| 10. | Maintenance of Office Computers, Telephones, security Cameras, Finger Marking Machines |

SPECIMEN APPLICATION FORM

1.	Name of the Institution	-
2.	Address	-
3.	Telephone Number	-
4.	Business Registration Certificate No.	-
(Copy of the Business Registration Certificate should be firmly affixed and sent with the application.)		
5.	Email Address	-
6.	Branch and Bank where fee was paid	-
7.	Registering for	Goods <input type="checkbox"/> Services <input type="checkbox"/>
(Mark 'X' in the relevant cage)		
7.1	Item No. of Goods or services	
7.2	Description of Goods or Services	
(Mention as description given by Lakdiva Engineering Company)		

**Chairman
Procurement Committee
Lakdiva Engineering (Private) Limited
Ekala, Ja-ela.
Telephone: 011 2236530, 011 2236458**

PEOPLE'S BANK

TENDER CALL FOR CLEANING SERVICES

People's Bank Nuwara Eliya Regional Head Office & Attached Staff Quarters, Branches, Service Centers, SBUs (Self Banking Units)

People's Bank Regional Head Office Nuwara Eliya, now invites sealed tenders from eligible institutions and individuals to carry out cleaning services to Regional Head Office Nuwara Eliya & attached Staff Quarters, 12 Branches, 14 Service Centers, SBUs (Self Banking Units) for a period of one year from 01.01.2022.

Applications which are issued by us with the terms and conditions should be duly completed and sent to "Regional Manager, Regional Head Office, People's Bank, No. 40, Park Road, Nuwara Eliya" through registered post before 2.00 p.m. on 30.12.2021. The tender could, alternatively, be placed in the Tender Box available at the Regional Head Office at the prescribed time.

Tender applications could be obtained from Regional Head Office, Nuwara Eliya during weekdays on Banking hours by paying Rs.2000/- before 22.12.2021.

"People's Bank Cleaning Services 2022" should be written on the top left-hand corner of the tender cover. Tender applications received after 2.00 p.m. on 30.12.2021 will be rejected and Tenders so received will be opened soon after closing.

Tender Board of Regional Head Office reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

The decision made by the Tender Board will be the final.

**Regional Manager,
Regional Head Office,
No. 40, Park Road,
Nuwara Eliya.
Telephone: 052-2222555
052-2235282**

www.peoplesbank.lk

People's Bank is a licensed commercial bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA- Brand Finance Rating

Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ERD/SDD/PROC/2021/590/M425

Sealed Bids are invited from the prospective suppliers to supply of

MS Office 365 Mail License Renewal - Microsoft Business Basic

Bidding documents could be obtained as a soft copy version from the Procurement Department, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00.

Bid Documents will be issued online for this Tender. Bidders who wish to collect the Tender Documents are requested to forward an official request by email to procurement@leco.lk. Payment method and other details on collecting the Bid Document will be replied via email.

Bidding documents will be issued from **13th December, 2021 to 23rd December, 2021.**

Draft bid document (Not for Bidding) is available on www.promise.lk or www.leco.lk websites for reference purpose only.

Completed Bid documents shall be addressed to General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited under sealed cover. The Bid documents shall be placed in the Tender Box at the Ground Floor of the address below, not later than **02.00 P.m. on 24th December, 2021.** Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time, in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.

**General Manager
Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited,
E.H. Cooray Building
411, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
Telephone : 011-2371637**

TENDER NOTICE

www.leco.lk

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BID NOTICE

CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION REFINERY DIVISION

REPAIRING OF FIXED ROOF TYPE OIL STORAGE TANK NO 11 AT SAPUGASKANDA TERMINAL

TENDER NO - REF-PL/105/2021

Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC) hereby calls bids for repairing of fixed roof type oil storage tank No. 11 at Sapugaskanda terminal at Sapugaskanda.

Bidders having following qualifications will only be qualified for bidding and bidding documents will be issued to bidders who produce documentary evidence to prove following qualifications.

- The local bidders shall have experience in carrying out steel tank construction /maintenance work according to API Standard 650/653 (Latest Edition) in the past 5 years and registration with Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Sri Lanka at EM 3 or higher grade.

Or
The local bidders shall have experience in carrying out at least a single steel tank construction /maintenance work of value not less than Rs 30 million according to API Standard 650/653 (Latest Edition) in the past 5 years at CPC/CPSTL or any other government organization.

- Foreign bidders shall have prior experience in the past 10 years carrying out steel tank construction work according to API Standard 650/653 (Latest Edition) and shall have successfully completed at least one steel tank repair/construction work of value not less than US\$ 150,000.00 within past 5 years.

Bid documents will not be issued to firms who have been awarded tank construction/repair job by CPC/CPSTL, and currently has poor progress and delay in completion. Also, will not be issued to firms who had previously carried out tank construction or repair jobs at CPC/CPSTL and imposed maximum delay penalty or terminate the contract and forfeited performance bond due to site abandonment.

A non-refundable bid fee of **Rs.3,500/=** (with all taxes) shall be paid to Refinery Finance Department at the time of collection of bidding documents. Final date and time of issuing of Bidding documents will be on **04th January 2022 at 1500 hours** and the closing date and time of receiving sealed bids will be on **19th January 2022 at 1400 hours** and bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores) Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Head Office.

Bidding documents and other details could be obtained from Deputy Refinery Manager (Maintenance & Projects), Refinery Division, Sapugaskanda. Bidding document can be read on the www.ceypetco.gov.lk website.

Tel - 0094-11-5668564/0094-11-2401359
Fax - 0094-11-2401359 / 0094-11-2400431

**Chairman (DPC Minor)
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation
Refinery Division, Sapugaskanda.**

STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES PROMOTION

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Construction of Post Office Complex at Polonnaruwa - Stage II

[Contract No : 04-03-13-2021/CT65]

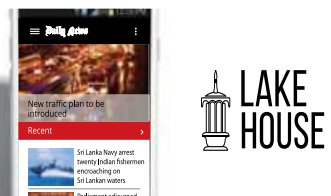
- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Department of Buildings now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for "Construction of Post Office Complex at Polonnaruwa - Stage II" as described below and estimated to cost **Rs. 68.6 million**. The construction period is **280 Days**.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of building construction for grade **C4** or **C3** with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), valid until the date of closing of the bids. Further the registration should be valid at the date of award.

"The Bidders shall also register themselves with Registrar of Public Contracts, Sri Lanka in terms of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987. The original certificate of registration (PCA 03) shall be submitted with the Bid. The Procurement shall not be awarded to any Bidder unless such Bidder had submitted the PCA 03 certificate"

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **Chief Engineer (Zone 4), Department of Buildings, Divisional Secretariat, Manmunai North, Batticaloa**, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from **9:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs**. Contact numbers are: Phone: 065-2229801, Facsimile: 065-2229807
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **Chief Engineer (Zone 4), Department of Buildings, Divisional Secretariat, Manmunai North, Batticaloa** from **13-12-2021 until 29-12-2021 from 9:00hrs to 15:00 hrs** upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rupees Fifteen Thousand (**Rs.15,000/-**).
- Bids shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla** to reach at or before **10:00 hrs on 30-12-2021**. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the Contract Branch, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

- Bids shall be valid for a period of **91 Days** from the last date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be:
 - in the form included in Section 09 in the bidding document
 - in favour of **Director General of Buildings**
 - for an amount of **Rs. 950,000.00**
 - valid up to **27th April 2022**
 - issued by one of the agencies indicated in the **Clause 16.2** of the Bidding Data.
- Bidders are advised to enter "Sethsiripaya" Premises at least 1 hour before the scheduled time for Bid closing due to security checking.

**Eng. M.H.M. Ismail
Director General of Buildings,
Department of Buildings,
2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya",
Battaramulla.
www.buildings.gov.lk**





Addendum for Extension of Bidding Period

No	Item Name	BID No	Date of Published
01	Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of Data Loss Prevention (DLP) System for Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank	DGM/HR/RDB/2021/120	2021.11.19
02	Supply Delivery & Maintenance of Servers, Network Array Storage & Redhat Licenses	DGM/HR/RDB/2021/143	2021.11.24

Notice to the intended to bid for the above procurements as per advertisements published in the Daily News on November 19, and November 24 of 2021. The bid closing dates of the above procurements have been extended as below.

- Revised Closing date - at or before 2.00 p.m. on December 21, 2021.

All other information appended in the advertisements remain unchanged.

**Chief Human Resource Officer,
Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank,
No.933, Kandy Road,
Wedamulla,
Kelaniya.**

T.P. - 011 2035454/011 2035455/011 2035456
Fax. - 011 2906883 | www.rdb.lk



**Telecommunications Regulatory
Commission of Sri Lanka**



Invitation for Bids

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 02 NO'S NETWORK STORAGE SWITCHES

Bidders are invited by the Chairman of the Senior Procurement Committee (SPC) of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL), No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo - 08 for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 02 No's Network Storage Switches.

Bid documents can be obtained by the interested parties on submission of a written application to the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL upon a payment of non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 2,000.00** in cash from **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** on week days till **30. 12. 2021**.

Bidders may obtain further information, inspect and acquire the bid documents from the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL.

Sealed bids written "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 02 No's Network Storage Switches" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be delivered to the **Chairman, Senior Procurement Committee, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08**, to receive on or before **31.12. 2021 at 3.00 p.m.** through registered post or to place in the bidding box available at Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of the bidders.

**Chairman
Senior Procurement Committee
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka
276, Elvitigala Mawatha
Colombo - 08**



**Telecommunications Regulatory
Commission of Sri Lanka**



Invitation for Bids

PROCUREMENT OF ANNUAL SERVER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR 11 NO'S OF IBM SERVERS

Bidders are invited by the Chairman of the Senior Procurement Committee (SPC) of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL), No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo - 08 for Procurement of Annual Server Maintenance Agreement for 11 No's of IBM Servers

Bid documents can be obtained by the interested parties on submission of a written application to the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL upon a payment of non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 5,000.00** in cash from **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** on week days till **30. 12. 2021**.

Bidders may obtain further information, inspect and acquire the bid documents from the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL.

Sealed bids written "Procurement of Annual Server Maintenance Agreement for 11 No's of IBM Servers" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be delivered to the **Chairman, Senior Procurement Committee, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08**, to receive on or before **31.12. 2021 at 2.30 p.m.** through registered post or to place in the bidding box available at the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of the bidders.

**Chairman
Senior Procurement Committee,
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka,
276, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo - 08.**

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

**REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS / CONTRACTORS FOR YEAR 2022
EXTENSION OF THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE**

Further to the advertisement on Registration of Suppliers which appeared in the newspapers of **Dinamina, Thinakaran and Daily News Papers on 30th of October 2021.**

Please note that the **payment of category fees and application submission date have been extended to the date mentioned below.**

Accordingly the following amendments are enforced and these amendments should be taken into consideration by the prospective Suppliers for Registration process of the **Registration of Suppliers Year 2022 - Ministry of Public Security.** Except the described below, the other information given in the above advertisement remains unchanged.

The application submission date, payment of the category fees mentioned below.

Name of Procurement	Closing Date of Application	Last Date of Payment (Category Fees)
Registration of Suppliers Year 2022 - Ministry of Public Security (Including Sri Lanka Police and Police Special Task Force (STF))	27.12.2021	27.12.2021

For further clarifications, please contact,

Address
Chief Accountant,
Ministry of Public Security,
14th Floor, Suhurupaya,
Battaramulla.
E-mail : caminlofinance@gmail.com

Telephone / Fax Numbers
T/Phone - 011-2887697
Fax - 011-2887784

**Secretary,
Ministry of Public Security,
14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla.**



**කෘෂිකර්ම අමාත්‍යාංශය
கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Agriculture**

**Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Agriculture Sector Modernization Project - Ministry of Agriculture
IDA Credit No: 5873 LK**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Construction of Access Road to Mushroom Common Centre at Dimbulagala in Polonnaruwa District, North Central Province

Contract No. LK-MOA-PMU-145823-CW-RFB

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies equivalent to US\$ 58.630 Million towards the cost of the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project of the Ministry of Agriculture and it intends to apply portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the below mentioned contract.

2. Chairman, Project Provincial Procurement Committee, on behalf of the ASM Project, Ministry of Agriculture, now invites **separately** sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for below items and details are as follows.

Contract No.	Description of Works	Estimated Cost Excluding VAT Rs. (Mn)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Bid Security validity period	Non-refundable Cash Fee (Rs.)
LK-MOA-PMU-145823-CW-RFB	Construction of Access Road to Mushroom Common Centre - Dimbulagala in Polonnaruwa District.	12.77	3 Months	C6 or above Road & Bridges	127,700.00	10th April 2022	3500.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure approved by the World Bank.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Agriculture Sector Modernization Project.

5. **Pre-Bid meeting** will be held on **24th December 2021 at 10.30 a.m.** in the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, NIPHM premises, Jayanthi Mawatha, Anuradhapura.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash to the Provincial Finance Manager of the Project.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2.00 p.m. on **10th January 2022**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2.00 p.m. on **10th January 2022**.

8. Complete bids should be separately forwarded in two copies as the original and the duplicate. The original and the duplicate should be enclosed separately and marked as the 'original' and 'duplicate' respectively in sealed envelopes. Both envelopes enclosed in a sealed single envelope and marked the contract number and name of the contract on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

9. The address referred to above is;

**Chairman
Provincial Project Procurement Committee
Agriculture Sector Modernization Project
NIPHM Premises, Jayanthi Mawatha,
Anuradhapura.
Tele : 025 2227890 / 0716902271 / 0776189143 / 0718072078**

Date: 08.12.2021

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HOMAGAMA PRADESHIYA SABHA - HOMAGAMA

Notice calling for Regional Quotations

Regional Quotations are invited from eligible institutions for sale of recyclable solid waste which is being stored by the Solid Waste Section of the Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha as mentioned in the schedule for the year 2022.

- Issuing of Tender Forms - 13.12.2021 during office days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- Closing of Issuing Tender Forms - 2.00 p.m. on 03.01.2022
- Accepting of Tenders - up to 2.25 p.m. on 04.01.2022
- Opening of Tenders - at 2.30 p.m. on 04.01.2022

Tender forms will be issued in 02 copies (original / duplicate) and these should be inserted in two (2) separate envelopes marked as original and duplicate and sealed and marked with the words, "Invitation for Quotations for Purchase of Recyclable Solid Waste - Original / Duplicate" on the top left-hand corner of these envelopes and sent by registered post addressed to Chairman, Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in this office to be received before the specified time.

Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha retains the right of the final date regarding tenders submitted and further details regarding this matter could be obtained from the Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha.

- Tender application fee for the Recycle - Rs. 200.00
- Telephone No. - 011-2855230
- Fax - 011-2857169

CONDITIONS:

1. Business Registration Certificate and the National Identity Card should be submitted when obtaining applications.
2. The solid waste stored at the Solid Waste Section should be removed by calling over at this location after intimation by the Sabha.
3. Quotations should be submitted only by completing the application form obtained from the Pradeshiya Sabha upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 200/- and all details regarding supply of services are included in this specimen form.
4. Pradeshiya Sabha retains the right of accepting or rejecting tenders submitted.
5. The selected tenderer should enter into a Service Agreement with the Pradeshiya Sabha.
6. A refundable amount to the value as decided by the Sabha should be deposited in the Sabha as a guarantee when signing the service agreement.

**Chairman,
Pradeshiya Sabha
Homagama.**

At the Head Office
12 December, 2021



Ayurveda Medical Council

State Ministry of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development & Community Health

Provision of Pre-Registration of Traditional Medical Students undergoing Practical Training as a Traditional Medical Officer / Doctor in the Ayurveda Medical Council

Ayurveda Medical Council has decided that Medical Students who are hereby undergoing Practical Training under the registered Traditional Medical Officers / Doctors to be forwarded to the Pre-Registration in the Ayurveda Medical Council to strengthen streamline and make efficient the Methodology of Registration of Traditional Medical Officers / Doctors.

Traditional Medical Students who are at present undergoing Practical Training under the Guru Advisory Doctors (Teachers) of Traditional Medicine, should have got their Pre-registration before 31.01.2022.

Qualifications required for the pre-Registration of Traditional Medical Students, undergoing practical training under Guru Traditional Medical Doctors / Officers.

- I. Should be a Sri Lankan citizen
- II. Should be of sound Medical health
- III. Should have completed 18 years of age
- IV. Should not have been convicted of any crime by a Court of Justice.
- V. Should have passed G.C.E. (Advanced Level) in three (03) subjects in any stream of subjects.

(N.B. : Even those who have obtained pre-registration, should have to complete the above educational qualifications to have formal registration).

Information relevant to students should be submitted as per the Form No. 01 and relevant application forms could be obtained from the Office of the Ayurveda Medical Council or downloaded from the Official Website of the Ayurveda Medical Council.

Only the Traditional Medical students who have obtained the Pre-registration will be able to apply for the Formal Registration from the date of this methodology is implemented.

N.B : Only for five (05) students of Traditional Medicine could be pre-registered even by a Medical Doctor who have the registration under several fields of Medicine within 08 years period.

Contacts :

- Telephone : 011-5672905 / 011-5672906
- Address : Registrar, Ayurveda Medical Council, Nawinna, Maharagama.
- Website : www.ayurvedicmedicoun.gov.lk

Dr M.D.J. Abeygunawardena
Ayurveda Commissioner and Chairman, Ayurveda Medical Council

**Office of the Ayurveda Medical Council,
Nawinna.**

01st December 2021



Promotional Rates for Classified Advertisements (Only 15 Words)		
Any Single Newspaper	Two Newspapers	Three Newspapers
රු. 300/- (Except Thirukaram Varanjan)	රු. 500/- (Except Thirukaram Varanjan)	රු. 650/-

COLOMBO DISTRICT

- AVISSAWELLA** 036-2230446
Famous Bake House, No. 31, Seethawakapura
- ANGODA** 011 3069404
Kotikawatte Junction, Kudabuthgamuwa,
- ATHURUGIRIYA** 011 2760479, 011 4876968
267, Godagama Road,
- BATHHARAMULLA** 011 2866705, 077 0736770
West Town, Bake House, Sweet House,
- BORALESGAMUWA** 071 6505533, 011 2519954
No. 17, Wewa Rd,
- HANWELLA** 011 4967962, 011 4967960
Sithumina Newspaper Agency, 144, High Level Rd,
Pahalthgama,
- HOKANDARA** 071 8685437
No. 501, North Hokandara,
- HOMAGAMA** 011 2892262, 077 7304046
"Aradanas", Senanayake Shopping Complex,
Station Road,
- KADUWELA** 011 2579609
Nayana Bake House
- KADUWELA** 011 2412291, 011 4443566
375/1, Pahala Bomirya, Yakkala,
- KALUBOWILA** 077 3551145, 011 2767259
No 195, Hospital Road,
- KESBEWA** 011 2703415
Seedevi Newspaper Office, 19, Horana Rd,
- KIRULAPONE** 071 5439396, 011 2514166
Ramani Book Shop, 27-A High Level Rd,
- KOTTAWA** 011 2842569, 071 2510950
Srisara Groceries, No. 101/2,
- MAHARAGAMA** 077 7686683, 011 2896373
Supermarket Complex, 88, High Level Rd,
- MALABE** 011 2791782
Kumudu Stores,
- MEEGODA** 011 2858290, 011 2831120
Nandana Stores, No. 635/3, Padukka Rd.,
- MORATUWA** 011 2647410, 077 5486719
Wijesekara Stores,
- MORATUWA** 0112 657326, 0114 212989
S.J.M. Fareed, 222, Egoda Uyana, Modera
- MT. LAVINIA** 011 2724820
Dayal Stores, Galle Rd,
- NUGEGODA** 077 3458785, 011 2811833
Ekwalitha Rd, Mirihana,
- NUGEGODA** 011 2846100, 077 1652800
No. 4, High Level Plaza, Delkanda,
- PADUKKA** 011 2859186, 011 5638677
No. 03, Hanwella Road,
- PILIYANDALA** 011 2619967, 072 8069487
No. 05, Seeko Gardens, Gedabuwana,
- PITAKOTTE** 011 2823960, 077 0858585
No. 435, Pothgula,
- RAJAGIRIYA** 011 2861338
No. 51/2A, Rajahewavitharana Road,
- RATHMALANA** 011 2626106, 011 2632006
Thusitha Newspaper Agency, Galle Rd,
- RAWATHAWATTE** 011 2655153, 071 4274689
No. 3, Soysa Road, Galle Road
- UDAHANULLA** 077 6859780, 011 2810042
No 138, Station Rd,

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



UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF NETWORK EQUIPMENT

PROCUREMENT NO.UM/SU/DPC-03/2021

1. The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee** on behalf of the University of Moratuwa invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following item.

Item No.	Brief Description of the Item	Quantity	Bid Security	
			Amount	Valid up to
01.	Blade Servers for Existing Dell EMC Power Edge M1000e Blade Enclosure	02 Nos.	Rs. 84,000.00	28 th April, 2022
02	High End Servers with 2xGraphic (GPU)	04 Nos.	Rs. 192,000.00	28 th April, 2022
03	Expansion Enclosure for Existing Dell EMC Power Vault ME 4024	03 Nos.	Rs. 99,000.00	28 th April, 2022

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding.
3. Eligible interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Assistant Bursar - Supplies, University of Moratuwa and inspect Bidding documents free of charge at the Supplies Division, University of Moratuwa during office hours **from 09.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs on working days.**
4. Eligible bidders shall be registered Manufacturer, Sole Agent and Dealer and with valid and appropriate Business Registration. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,500.00** to the Shroff of the University from **14.12.2021** up to **12.00 hrs on 28.12.2021** the method of payment is by cash only.
6. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security for the amount mentioned above. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
7. Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 14.00 hrs. on **29.12.2021.**
8. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at the **Boardroom adjoining to the Supplies Division**, University of Moratuwa in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend in person. Late bids will be rejected.
9. For further details, please contact **Senior Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, University of Moratuwa** on Tel No: **011-2651587**, Fax No: **011-2651186**
10. Bids shall be valid up to **30th March 2022.**

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
University of Moratuwa,
Katubedda,
Moratuwa.

KULIYAPITIYA PRADESHIYA SABHA

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS FOR YEAR 2022

Applications will be received from applicants who wish to register as Suppliers for the supply of undermentioned Goods and Services mentioned in the following Schedule and as Contractors for the Year 2022. Applicants should send by registered post self-prepared applications giving the address, nature of the business, qualifications and other details along with Registration Fees to reach the "Chairman, Kuliypitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, Kuliypitiya". Payments could be made by cash, Cheques or Money Orders. Money Orders and Cheques should be drawn in favour of Chairman, Kuliypitiya Pradeshiya Sabha. Applications for registration will be received up to 12.01.2022. The top left-hand corner of the envelope containing applications should be marked as "Registration of Suppliers 2022".

Serial No.	Subject / Material Services & Supplies	Registration Fee (Rs.)
1	Office Stationery / Printed Documents / Equipment including Seals	1000.00
2	Office equipment / Wooden / Steel goods	1000.00
3	Electrical Equipment and Appliances / Equipment for Street Lamps	1000.00
4	Health & Clinical Centre Equipment	1000.00
5	Building Construction Materials and Equipment	1000.00
6	Sports Goods, Community Centre Equipment	1000.00
7	Pre-School Equipment	1000.00
8	Supply of Digital and Offset Printing Services	1000.00
9	Repairing of Office Equipment	1000.00
10	Supply of Uniform Materials / Tents	1000.00
11	Repairing of Duplo Machines, Roneo Machines, Photocopiers	1000.00
12	Road Construction Materials & Equipment	1000.00
13	Detergents and Cleaning Materials (Masks, Sanitizers, Disinfectant Liquids)	1000.00
14	Supply of Readymix	1000.00
15	Drawing of Notice Boards & Banners / Commemorative Plaques	1000.00
16	Supply of Labour for Construction Work	1000.00
17	Supply of Machinery and Equipment for Construction Work	1000.00
18	Supply of Vehicles on Hire Basis	1000.00
19	Supply of all Vehicle Spare Parts / Supply of Batteries	1000.00
20	Supply of Tyres for all vehicles inclusive of Motor Graders, JCB	1000.00
21	Supply of Equipment for Health and Sanitary Services (Brooms, Ekel Brooms, Detergents, etc.)	1000.00
22	Repairing of Heavy and Light Vehicles, Fixing Seat Covers and Cushioning Works	1000.00
23	Supply of Hume Pipes, Concrete Products including Concrete Wire Posts	1000.00
24	Computers, Repairing of Computers and Supply of Spare Parts	1000.00
25	Servicing of Vehicles	1000.00
26	Supply of Tar	1000.00
27	Supply of Plumbing Equipment and Maintenance Equipment / Supply of Water Pumps	1000.00
28	Supply of Fuel	1000.00
29	Supply of Surveying services	1000.00
30	Provision of Translation Services	1000.00
31	Provision of Legal Services	1000.00
32	Photographing and Videoing	1000.00
33	Supply of Food and Beverages and Catering Services	1000.00
34	Supply of Timber	1000.00
35	Supply of Paints, Thinner and Varnish	1000.00
36	Cutting down of Hazardous Trees	1000.00

Construction Contracts

1	Work less than Rs. 500,000.00	1000.00
2	Work from Rs. 500,000.00 to Rs. 1,000,000.00	1500.00
3	Work over Rs. 1,000,000.00	2000.00

For above Construction Contracts Contractors should have been registered with the Institute for Construction Training and Development (ICTAD).

The "Sabha" reserves the right to obtain Supplies and Services from other Suppliers and Contractors than those registered whenever necessary.

Further details could be obtained from this office during office hours. Telephone 037-4947212 / 037-4947902.

E.M. Wijayasiri Ekanayake
Chairman
Kuliypitiya Pradeshiya Sabha

13.12.2021

WAGES BOARDS ORDINANCE

The rates of Wages applicable to workers covered by the decisions of the following Wages Boards for the month of November 2021 are given below.

B.K. Prabath Chandrakerthi
Commissioner General of Labour

Department of Labour,
Colombo 05.

07.12.2021

Cocoa, Cardamom and Pepper
Growing & Manufacturing Trade } Worker Daily Rs. 976.24

❖ In addition, the allowance payable in terms of the Budgetary Relief Allowance Act, No. 36 of 2005 and the Budgetary Relief Allowance Act, No. 04 of 2016 should be paid to the workers by the Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that the undermentioned oversized vehicles would be travelling on the route mentioned therein and at the dates and times specified.

Dates : 13 Dec. 2021 to 19 Dec. 2021

Vehicle Nos : 47-4578,
LY-0258,
G21-5014,
G21-5015

Route :

De Seram Gate - Aluthmawatha Road - Maradana - Borella - Kirulapona - Piliyandala bypass road. Kesbewa - Kahathuduwa - Horana Road - Horana - Wagawatta Road - Poruwadanda - Kanumassagala Road - Wagawatta CEB Grid Substation.

Time : Between 10.00 p.m. and 4.00 a.m. This notice is being published as a fulfillment of the requirement made by the RDA in granting temporary travel permits for oversized vehicles.

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The Housewives' companion

**Classifieds on
Daily News**



Provincial Ministry of Roads, Transport,
Cooperative Development & Trade, Housing &
Construction, Estate Infrastructure Facilities,
Industries and Rural Development -
Western Province

PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WESTERN PROVINCE

REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS - YEAR 2022

Applications will be received from 15.12.2021 up to 31.01.2022 for the registration of contractors for the year 2022, relevant to road development work, construction of bridges, road maintenance work and building construction work fields, being implemented within the Western Province by our Authority.

- 1) Contractors expecting to be registered for Highways and Bridges / Buildings should have been registered at ICTAD under one or several fields above.
- 2) An application fee of **Rs. 2,000.00** and a registration fee of **Rs. 10,000.00** will have to be paid to be registered as a Contractor. In addition, an **8% VAT Tax** will also be charged. Relevant application forms can be obtained from the Procurement Section of the Head Office (payment can only be made between **9.00 a.m.** and **2.45 p.m.** on office days).
- 3) Applicants expecting to be registered should duly complete their application forms and hand over them to the Procurement Section, to be received on or before **15.02.2022** along with the copies of the relevant certificates.

General Manager,
Provincial Road Development Authority (W.P.),
No. 59, Sebastian Hill,
Colombo 12.

Tel No. 0115756420

Date - 09.12.2021

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

Power of Attorney No. 2604 dated 27th November 2020 attested by T.S. Weliganga, Notary Public Colombo granted by Hanifa Mahamed Navab, Director of IKEA Marketing (Pvt) Ltd, to Ranbima Holdings Lanka Pvt is cancelled, revoked from today itself.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

CP RE-XXXX TAFE 45DI 2018
2500.00 CC
0773-747787
COMMERCIAL LEASING & FINANCE PLC

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PURCHASE OF FURNITURE

COLOMBO SOUTH TEACHING HOSPITAL - KALUBOWILA, DEHIWALA

Invitation of Quotations by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital for the purchase of essential furniture required for this Hospital.

- 1) Interested Bidders can obtain the relevant bid documents from the Finance Section of this Hospital from **13.12.2021 up to 22.12.2021**, on normal working days between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on submission of the Receipt received for the payment of the non-refundable document fee of Rs. 2000.00, made to the Shroff's Section of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital along with the National Identity Card.
- 2) The cover containing the Bid should be marked "**Purchase of Furniture - Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila, Dehiwala - 2021/12/23**" at the left-side top corner and could either be sent by Registered Post addressed to **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila, Dehiwala** or placed in the Tender Box kept at the Office of the Accountant of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, to be received at or before **10.00 a.m. on 23.12.2021**. Bids received will be opened at **10.00 a.m. on 23.12.2021** at the office of the Accountant.
- 3) It is essential to submit a Catalogue (Photo) along with the Quotations and specifications requested of all equipment and should also submit samples if requested for.
- 4) Bids, prepared in two copies as the original and duplicate should be placed in separate covers, marked accordingly and then both covers should be placed in a single sealed cover and submitted.
- 5) Bids received will be opened at the same place immediately after closing of acceptance and Bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the opening.
- 6) Relevant Bid Documents can be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Accountant of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital.
- 7) Bid Documents will not be issued to persons who have contravened Government contracts and conditions and are blacklisted.
- 8) The Regional Procurement Committee retains the right to either accept or reject Bids in its entirety or part thereof.
- 9) For further details, contact the Accountant of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital. **(Tel. No. 0112763038)**.

Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee,
Colombo South Teaching Hospital,
Kalubowila, Dehiwala.

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National Transport Commission



Sisu Seriya School Bus Service

The "Sisu Seriya" school bus service operated by the National Transport Commission enables school children to travel to and from school on their own and on concessionary terms.

- If you or your school need this student bus service, you can obtain this service by applying to the National Transport Commission at the following address with the recommendation of the principal of the destination school along with the starting point and route of the service.
- If you are a bus owner who wishes to run your school bus service, you can submit a request to the National Transport Commission or to the Chairman of the Provincial Road Passenger Transport Authority.

Inquiries for further information :

Assistant Director (Planning) : **011-2533145** / Head of the Unit - Sisu Seriya - **011-2589344**

Chairman
National Transport Commission
No. 241, Park Road, Colombo 05.
Fax : **011-2503725**
chairman@ntc.gov.lk

National Transport Commission



Public Notice

The "Gami Sariya" bus service operated by the National Transport Commission provides transport facilities to the rural people and the "Nisi Sariya" bus service provides passenger facilities at night and in the early morning.

- If there are roads in your area where there is no public transport (passenger buses are not running),
- If a bus is currently running at night or during the day but it is not continuous and a public transport bus is required at night and or early in the morning,

You are informed to send your request to the following address, as the above services can be started under the Gami Sariya and Nisi Sariya project under the National Transport Commission.

Inquiries for further information :

Assistant Director (Planning) : **011-2533145** / Unit Head : **011-2589344** / Fax : **011-2585297**

Chairman
National Transport Commission
No. 241, Park Road, Colombo 05.
Fax : **0112-503725**
chairman@ntc.gov.lk



PROCUREMENT NOTICE SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD

REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 02/2021
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR PROVISIONING OF A DESKTOP
MANAGEMENT SOLUTION FOR SRILANKAN AIRLINES

The bidding forms could be downloaded directly from the following link
https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/corporate/tender-notices
with effect from 12th December 2021 after 10.00 am Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)
Bid closing date: 01st February 2022 at 11.00 am Sri Lankan time (GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

A pre-bid meeting will be organised on 21st December 2021 at 9.00 am to provide the prospective bidders with the necessary information related to the project. Proposals of the bidders who does not take part in the pre-bid meeting will not be accepted. Please refer the bidding forms for further information of the pre-bid meeting.

SRILANKAN AIRLINES LIMITED



**Telecommunications Regulatory
Commission of Sri Lanka**



Invitation for Bids

Procurement of Service Level Agreement for Dell EMC 300 Storage

Bidders are invited by the Chairman of the Senior Procurement Committee (SPC) of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL), No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo - 08 for Procurement of Service Level Agreement for Dell EMC 300 Storage

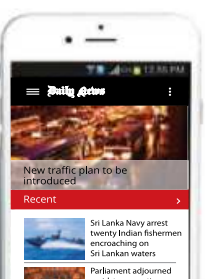
Bid documents can be obtained by the interested parties on submission of a written application to the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL upon a payment of non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 5,000.00 in cash from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on week days till 30. 12. 2021.**

Bidders may obtain further information, inspect and acquire the bid documents from the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL.

Sealed bids written "**Procurement of Service Level Agreement for Dell EMC 300 Storage**" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be delivered to the Chairman, Senior Procurement Committee, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08, to receive on or before **31. 12. 2021 at 2.00 p.m.** through registered post or to place in the bidding box available at the Administration & Human Resource Division of TRCSL. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of the bidders.

Chairman
Senior Procurement Committee,
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka,
276, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo - 08.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Ministry of Health

Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project

HIRING OF VEHICLES FOR THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT OF THE SRI LANKA COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS PREPAREDNESS PROJECT

IFB No: ERHSP/COVID19/PROC/100

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Hiring of Vehicles for the Project Management Unit of the Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project for the period of one year as per the details below.

Lot Number	01	02
Vehicle Type	Fully A/C SUV with fuel and Driver - Engine Capacity not less than 1500 CC - monthly basis for 2000 km per month	Fully A/C Van with fuel and Driver -Seating capacity for minimum of 10 Passengers - on demand

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information at the address given below and inspect the bidding document free of charge from 13.12.2021 to 24.12.2021, from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Project Director at the address given below during normal working days from 13.12.2021 until 24.12.2021 from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000.00. The payment will be deposited to the Director General Health Services, Bank of Ceylon, Thaprobane Branch Account No: 7040244 and receipt to be produced to collect the Bidding Document.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before 27.12.2021 at 11.00 am. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid until 27.03.2022.
- Employer shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by bidders in connection with preparation and submission of bids.

Project Director,
Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project,
4th Floor, J.R. Jayawardena Center,
191, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka

Telephone : +94 112 674 797
Facsimile : +94 112 674 342
E-mail : tender.covid19erhsp@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS

MAHARA PRADESHIYA SABHA

Sealed bids are invited from bidders for the Supply and Sale of the undermentioned vehicles and machinery for the Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha.

Serial No. (A)	Details (B)	Quantity (C)	Bid Guarantee to be deposited in Cash or by Bank Guarantee (D)	Validity period of the Bid and the Bid Guarantee (E)
1.	Tractors for the Garbage Section	02	50,000.00	29.03.2022
2.	01 Cube Tipper Vehicle for the Garbage Section	01	100,000.00	29.03.2022
3	33 KVA Generators for the Crematorium	02	60,000.00	29.03.2022

Bidders interested in this matter should submit bids separately on forms obtained for each of the item mentioned above and bid forms should be obtained from the Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 3,500.00. Bids forms could be obtained by calling over at the Head Office of the Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha on working days of the week between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. up to 28.12.2021.

Bid forms will be issued only at the Head Office of the Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha. Duly prepared bids in two copies should be enclosed in separate envelopes marked as original and duplicate and these covers should thereafter be inserted in a single envelope and marked with the name of the relevant machinery or the category of vehicle on the top left hand corner of this envelope also marked "Invitation of sealed bids from bidders for Supply and Sale of Vehicles and Machinery".

All sealed bids prepared according to the stipulated conditions should be sent by registered post addressed to Chairman, Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha, Pahala Karagahamuna, Kadawatha to receive before the closing date and time for accepting bids or should be inserted in the bid box kept at the above address to receive before the stipulated date and time.

An amount as mentioned under Column D above should be paid as a Bid Deposit in respect of every bid and if submitting through a bank, a bid guarantee obtained from a commercial bank certified by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka should be submitted.

Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids at 10.30 a.m. on 29.12.2021 and the bidder or his authorized representative with written approval could be present on this occasion.

The Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha retains the right of the final decision regarding bids.

Chairman,
Mahara Pradeshiya Sabha,
Pahala Karagahamuna, Kadawatha.
Tel No. 0112-927076 (Supplies)

National Medicines Regulatory Authority

Supply of Cleaning Services for the National Medicines Regulatory Authority 2022

Bid Notice

Bids are invited from registered Institutions by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority for the Supply of Cleaning Services to the National Medicines Regulatory Authority coming under the Ministry of Health for the year 2022.

- Institutions fulfilling the basic requirements mentioned below for this purpose may apply.
 - Should be an Institution providing Cleaning Services and possessing registration under the Business Names Ordinance in Sri Lanka for the last three years.
 - Should possess a minimum of 03 years experience of providing Cleaning Services and its annual value should be as mentioned below. Documented evidence should be submitted in proof of service experience and annual value and the contract awarding letter to relevant Institution and letters obtained in proof of having provided services to Institutions should be submitted.

Annual Value

- Health Institutions Rs. 300,000.00
- The receipts and C report obtained from the Employees Provident Fund and the Employees Trust Fund in respect of contributions on behalf of all employees for the immediately prior year of the Institution registered under the Business Names Ordinance for Cleaning Services provided should be submitted (only for Year 2020/2021).
- Documented evidence should be submitted for having paid VAT / Income Tax for the immediately prior assessment year in the name of the Company (If a limited private company, in the name of the Company / Private owner / Partnership should be submitted in the names of partners, (for Year 2020/2021 only).
- A Bid Bond to the value of Rs. 300,000.00 obtained from a Finance Institution / Insurance Company certified by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka drawn in favour of the Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority valid for 120 days from the last date for accepting Bids should be submitted or the second copy of the receipt obtained from the Shroffs Division of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority after depositing a similar amount in favour of the Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority to the Credit of A/c No. 78088835 at Bank of Ceylon should be submitted.
- Bid applications could be obtained during working days of the week from 15.12.2021 up to 24.12.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. from the Procurement Office of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority located at No. 47, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500.00 should be deposited in Bank of Ceylon to the Credit of A/c No. 78088835 in favour of Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority and the receipt obtained from the Shroff of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority should be submitted along with the documents mentioned below to obtain Bid Documents.
 - Business Registration Certificate
 - The Worth Certificate (Form General 170) obtained from the Divisional Secretary

Serial No.	Name of Institution	Worth Certificate	Bid Guarantee

- Experience Certificate for 03 years
- Registration Certificate under Section 8 of the Public Contracts Act.
- Duly completed Bids should be sent by Registered Post addressed to Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority, No. 47, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02 to receive before 2.00 p.m. on 27.12.2021 or should be inserted in the Tender Box kept at the same address in the Accounts Division of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority. The words "Supply of Cleaning Services to the National Medicines Regulatory Authority for the Year 2022" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Tender. Bids received late will be rejected.
- Bids prepared in two copies should be enclosed in separate envelopes as original copy and duplicate copy and thereafter, these two covers should be inserted in a single envelope and submitted.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids at 2.00 p.m. on 27.12.2021 and Bidders may participate on this occasion. Further details could be obtained from the Procurement Division of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority.
- The Procurement Committee of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority retains the right of accepting or rejecting all relevant Bids or a part of same.

Chairman,
National Medicines Regulatory Authority Procurement Committee,
National Medicines Regulatory Authority,
No. 47, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha,
Colombo 02.

Marriage Proposals

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For each additional word Rs. 23/-

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- ANGODA 011 3069404**
Kotikawatte Junction, Kudabuthgamuwa,
- ATHURUGIRIYA 011 2760479, 011 4876968**
267, Godagama Road,
- BATHHARAMULLA 011 2866705, 077 0736770**
West Town, Bake House, Sweet House,
- BORALESGAMUWA 071 6505533, 011 2519954**
No. 17, Wewa Rd,
- HANWELLA 011 4967962, 011 4967960**
Sithumina Newspaper Agency, 144, High Level Rd, Pahathgama,
- HOKANDARA 071 8685437**
No. 501, North Hokandara,
- HOMAGAMA 011 2892262, 077 7304046**
"Aradanas", Senanayake Shopping Complex, Station Road,
- KADUWELA 011 2579609**
Nayana Bake House
- KADUWELA 011 2412291, 011 4443566**
375/1, Pahala Bomiriya, Yakkala,
- KALUBOWILA 077 3551145, 011 2767259**
No 195, Hospital Road,
- KESBEWA 011 2703415**
Seedevi Newspaper Office, 19, Horana Rd,
- KIRULAPONE 071 5439396, 011 2514166**
Ramani Book Shop, 27-A High Level Rd,
- KOTTAWA 011 2842569, 071 2510950**
Srisara Groceries, No. 101/2,
- MAHARAGAMA 077 7686683, 011 2896373**
Supermarket Complex, 88, High Level Rd,
- MALABE 011 2791782**
Kumudu Stores,
- MEEGODA 011 2858290, 011 2831120**
Nandana Stores, No. 635/3, Padukka Rd.,
- MORATUWA 011 2647410, 077 5486719**
Wijesekara Stores,
- MORATUWA 0112 657326, 0114 212989**
S.J.M. Fareed, 222, Egoda Uyana, Modera
- MT. LAVINIA 011 2724820**
Dayal Stores, Galle Rd,
- NUGEGODA 077 3458785, 011 2811833**
Ekwaththa Rd, Mirihana,
- NUGEGODA 011 2846100, 077 1652800**
No. 4, High Level Plaza, Delkanda,
- PADUKKA 011 2859186, 011 5638677**
No. 03, Hanwella Road,
- PILIYANDALA 011 2619967, 072 8069487**
No. 05, Seeko Gardens, Gedabuwana,
- PITAKOTTE 011 2823960, 077 0858585**
No. 435, Pothgula,
- RAJAGIRIYA 011 2861338**
No. 51/2A, Rajahewavitharana Road,
- RATHMALANA 011 2626106, 011 2632006**
Thusitha Newspaper Agency, Galle Rd,
- RAWATHAWATTE 011 2655153, 071 4274689**
No. 3, Soysa Road, Galle Road
- UDAHAMULLA 077 6859780, 011 2810042**
No 138, Station Rd,

classified@lakehouse.lk

011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343

Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for Quotations for the Supply of Cooked Meal Parcels for the patients and the Staff of Methsiri Sevana Covid 19 Treatment Clinic - 2022

Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura

Quotations are invited from eligible Contractors for the Supply of Cooked Meal Parcels for the Indoor Patients and the Staff of Methsiri Sevana Covid 19 Treatment Clinic affiliated to the Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura. Should fulfill the undermentioned requirements when obtaining Bid Documents.

- Should be a Sri Lankan citizen
- Should be an Institution involved in the preparation and distribution of food within the City Limits of Anuradhapura.
- Should be registered in the Anuradhapura Municipal Council in the business of Supplying Cooked Meals.

Contractors fulfilling the abovementioned requirements should pay a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000.00 to the Shroffs Section of the Hospital and Bid Documents could be obtained during working days of the week (apart from weekends and Government holidays) from 13.12.2021 up to 03.01.2022 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. and a letter of request and a copy of the Business Registration Certificate for Supply of Food should be submitted to the Director, Teaching Hospital, for obtaining Bid Documents.

Duly and accurately prepared Bid Documents in two copies as original and duplicate should be enclosed in separate envelopes and these two covers should be inserted in a single envelope and sent by Registered Post addressed to Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura to receive before 10.00 a.m. on 04.01.2022 or may be inserted in the Bid Box kept in the Accountant's Room of this Hospital. The words "Invitation for Quotations for the Supply of Cooked Meals to the Methsiri Sevana Covid 19 Treatment Centre - 2022, Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura" should be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope, containing the Bid. Bids will be opened on this day, immediately after closing of accepting Bids. The Bidder or a nominated representative with written authority could be present on this occasion.

The decision of the Regional Procurement Committee of the Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital regarding this Procurement is deemed final.

Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee,
Teaching Hospital,
Anuradhapura.

Telephone Nos : 025-2222261, 025-2222262, 025-2222263

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NILMINI STORES - NO 69, DHARMAPALA MAWATHA, MATARA

ANURADAPURA
THABUTTEGAMA 025 2 276 431
MUTHUKUDA PAPER CORNER - No 86, Thabuttegama

ANURADHAPURA 025 2 221 411
MAHAJANA BOOK SHOP - Anuradhapura

ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 806
SATHSARA BOOK SHOP - 40, KADAPANNA, ANURADHAPURA

ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 575
PRINOVITA BOOK SHOP - 50/24, MATITHIRIPALA SENANAYAKE MNL NEWS BUS STAND, ANURADHAPURA

RATHNAPURA
RATHNAPURA 071 2 900 35
NO 16, CHURCH ROAD, RATHNAPURA

RATHNAPURA 045 2 223 883
LAKE HOUSE ADVERTISING CENTER - NO 88, MAIN STREET, RATHNAPURA

HAMBANTHOTA
MIDDENIYA 047 2 27 245
SOMASIRI STORES - HUNGAMA ROAD, MIDDENIYA.

TANGALLE 047 2 240 402
DURETRADERS - NO 158, MATARA ROAD, TANGALLE

HAMBANTOTA
MISIRIYA STORES - NO 32, MAHAJANA POLA, HAMBANTOTA

AMBALANTOTA 047 2 223 152
SUMITHRA TRADE CENTER - NO 11, MAIN STREET, AMBALANTOTA.

TISSAMAHARAMA 047 2 239 088
T.D. MADANAYAKE & COMPANY (PVT) LTD - MAIN STREET, TISSAMAHARAMA

BATTICALO
KATHTHANKUDY 077 7 435 566
A.L.M. UVAIS, OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING, KATHTHANKUDY.

BATTICALA 065 2 226 034
PRIVA STORES, N.K. RATHNASINGHAM, NO. 01, MARKET ROAD, BATTICALA.

POLONNARUWA
POLONNARUWA 077 9 627 542
PARAKUM BOOK SHOP - HOSPITAL JUNCTION, POLONNARUWA.

KADURUWELA 076 4 201 263
GALLE CITY STORES - KADURUWELA, POLONNARUWA

KANDY
HIDAGALA 081 3 813 666
ANURA STORES - DOLLUNA ROAD, HIDAGALA.

KANDY 081 2 222 780
JAYAKODY TRADERS (PVT) LTD - NO. 229/A, PERADENIYA ROAD, KANDY.

GAAMPOLA 081 2 354 994
DANWASA CENTER - NO. 14, STATION ROAD, GAAMPOLA.

NAWALAPITIYA 077 3 039 996
CHEAP SIDE BOOK SHOP - NO 46, GAAMPOLA ROAD, NAWALAPITIYA.

MATHALE
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RED ROSE BOOK SHOP - NO. 253 B, MAIN STREET, KEGALLE

BADULLA
BANDARAWELA 071 0 796 060
NAYANA BOOK SHOP - NO 343, BANDARAWELA

BADULLA 055 2 225 616
ADVERTISING OFFICE (LAKE HOUSE) - NO. 14, BADULLA

DEMODARA 055 2 225 616
ADVERTISING AGENCY - NEAR MUTHIYANGANA CLOCK TOWER, BADULLA.

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Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

NEGOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

LEVELLING AND THINNING OF WASTE / GARBAGE COLLECTED AND GATHERED IN THE AUTHORITY AREA OF THE NEGOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BY USING D4E MACHINE

Quotations are hereby invited from experienced and qualified Suppliers to obtain necessary machinery and equipment on Hire / Rent basis required for Thinning of Garbage / Waste, brought to the Ovitiyawatta Garbage Yard, Kochchikade, Negombo, when the garbage and waste gathered from the Authority area of the Negombo Municipal Council are disposed and laying of Earth/Gravel on them.

Tender Details

Tender Form Fee : Rs. 1,500/= + relevant taxes
Tender Deposit (Refundable) : Rs. 15,000/=
Issuance of Tender Forms : Up to 3.00 p.m. on 05.01.2022
Acceptance of Tender Forms : Up to 2.00 p.m. on 06.01.2022
Opening of Tenders : at 2.05 p.m. on 06.01.2022

❖ Tenders should be submitted in duplicate and the caption to the effect "Thinning of Garbage" should be mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing Bids.

Qualifications :

- Should submit a certificate to prove the Bidder is an Institution registered in a Divisional Secretariat.
- Should be capable to employ adequate work force (Staff).
- Should have sufficient number of vehicles and machinery & equipment.
- Experience of having provided previous qualifications in Thinning and Levelling Gravel / Earth using Machines, will be taken into consideration.

- VAT Registration No. and amount should be indicated on both caption of tender of those who have been registered for VAT payments.
- Sealed Tenders in duplicate should either be sent by Registered Post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Office of the Municipal Commissioner to reach him at or before 2.00 p.m. on 06.01.2022.
- Sealed Tenders in duplicate should be marked "Original" and "Duplicate" and enclosed in two separate envelopes.
- This Council reserves the right to accept or reject any Tender. The decision of the Negombo Municipal Council is final with regard to matters pertaining to Bids/Tender.
- Successful Tenderer, should enter into an agreement with the Negombo Municipal Council before the tender is awarded to him, after selection.
- Tenderer or one of his authorized representatives could be present at the occasion of opening of Tenders.
- Any further clarifications, if required could be had during office hours from the Municipal Health Department over following Telephone No.

Chief Public Health Inspector - Tel. 031-2222262

N.B.R.V. Fernando
Municipal Commissioner,
Municipal Council,
Negombo.
10.12.2021

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS

Urban Development Authority

CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED OFFICE BUILDING AT KALUWELLA - GALLE

Contract No : PD/UDA/GALLE/POBK/2021/053

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Urban Development Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Construction of Proposed Office Building at Kaluwella, Galle as described below and estimated to cost Rs. 204.0 Mn. plus VAT

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Method.
- To be eligible for contract award the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the CIDA Registration Grade C3 or above with the specialty of Building Construction and other requirements given in the bidding document.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Head of Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla (Tele: 011-3049008) and for Technical Information from Director (Architectural - Consultancy) Design Project Management and Consultancy Division, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla (Tel. 011-2862722) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge during normal working hours from 13th December 2021 to 31st December 2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Head of Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla (Tele: 011-3049008, Fax 011 - 2874546) for purchasing of bidding documents on normal working days from 13th December 2021 to 31st December 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rupees Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred (Rs. 38,500.00) plus Taxes. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate in separate envelopes addressed to the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla, on or before 03rd January 2022 at 11.00 a.m. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidders representatives who are nominated to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 03rd April 2022
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka and registered in Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Bid Security is Rs. 3.0 Mn. on submission of the bid and valid up to 01st May 2022 in the prescribed format given in the bidding document.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 24th December 2021 at the Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla. All bidders are advised to attend to this meeting.
- Employer shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by bidders in connection with preparation and submission of bids or attending site inspections.
- Further instructions / clarifications and site visits could be accommodated by Director (Architectural - Consultancy) Design Project Management and Consultancy Division, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya - Stage 1", Battaramulla (Tel. 011- 2862722)
- Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept a suitable bid out of the bids received or reject all bids and the decision of the Procurement Committee is final.
- All the alterations in bidding document should be signed by the bidder.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)
Urban Development Authority,
7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya"
Battaramulla.

Employment Opportunities

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

VACANCIES

The University of Kelaniya will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following posts up to 24.12.2021.

Faculty of Medicine

- Department of Disability Studies**
(Audiology / Occupational Therapy)
Lecturer (Probationary) / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Senior Lecturer Gr. II/I

Recruitment qualifications for each of the above posts and all relevant information can be obtained from website (<https://www.kln.ac.lk/vacancies>)

Salary Scales:

U-AC 3(IV) : Lecturer (Probationary) :
Rs.54,600 - 10 x 1,335; - 67,590 p.m. (Approximate Gross Salary Rs. 136,110/-)

U-AC 3(III) : Lecturer (Unconfirmed) :
Rs.69,580 - 5 x 1,630 - 77,730 p.m. (Approximate Gross Salary Rs. 182,445/-)

U-AC 3 (II) : Senior Lecturer Grade II :
Rs.79,360 - 11 x 1,630 - 97,290 p.m. (Approximate Gross Salary Rs. 222,865/-)

U-AC 3 (I) : Senior Lecturer Grade I :
Rs. 91,310 - 7 x 2,170 - 106,500 p.m. (Approximate Gross Salary Rs. 255,250/-)

How to Apply:
Prescribed application forms and details regarding the above Posts could be obtained from the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments Division during office hours or could be downloaded from the University Website: <https://www.kln.ac.lk/vacancies>. Requests for application forms by post should be accompanied with a self-addressed stamped envelope of 23x10 cm in size. All applications together with copies of relevant certificates should be forwarded to the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments, University of Kelaniya, under registered cover to her or e-mail to the following e-mail address with scanned copies on or before 24th December 2021. ("The Post applied for and Department" should be mentioned in the subject line of the e-mail). Candidates should submit separate applications for each post applied for. Incomplete, illegible or applications received after closing date will be rejected. The post should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Faculty of Medicine - applyme@kln.ac.lk

Applications from employees in the Government Departments, Corporations, Statutory Boards, UGC and Higher Educational Institutions should be channelled through their Heads of Institutions. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
University of Kelaniya
Kelaniya
09.12.2021

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

VACANCIES

The University of Colombo will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following Posts up to 03rd January 2022.

PERMANENT POSTS :

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

- Lecturer (Probationary)/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Senior Lecturer Grade II/I
- Lecturer (Probationary)/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Senior Lecturer Grade II/I (Area of Special Interest - Sub fertility)
 - Preference will be given to Candidates with special interest and training in Subfertility or eligible to be Board Certified as a Specialist in Subfertility or Board Certified as a Specialist in Subfertility
- Lecturer (Probationary)/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Senior Lecturer Grade II/I (Area of Special Interest - Gynaecological Oncology)
 - Preference will be given to Candidates with special interest and training in Gynaecological Oncology or eligible to be Board Certified as a Specialist in Gynaecological Oncology or Board Certified as a Specialist in Gynaecological Oncology

LIBRARY

- Computer Programmer - Library Services

Application forms and relevant details can be obtained from the Senior Asst. Registrar/Academic Establishments, 'College House', University of Colombo, Colombo 3 by personally calling over or by visiting the University web site. (www.cmb.ac.lk).

Duly completed applications should be forwarded with copies of relevant educational (with transcripts), professional, extracurricular activities and service certificates under registered post/ e- mail (recruit@ace.cmb.ac.lk) to the Senior Asst. Registrar/Academic Establishments, University of Colombo, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03 on or before the deadline.

The Post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Please check the University website (www.cmb.ac.lk) for handout.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Registrar,
University of Colombo
94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 3.
10th December 2021

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SRI LANKA TRANSPORT BOARD

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SLTB EMPLOYEES

(SLTB/TS/GEN/Insurance Emp./2021)

- The Chairman, SLTB Major Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Transport Board, hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the eligible, reputed Insurance Service Providers, for selection of an Insurance Service Provider for the **Provision of Insurance Covers for SLTB Permanent Employees**. The selected Insurance Service Provider would be given exclusive rights to promote their Insurance products among SLTB employees at islandwide SLTB workplaces.
- Only proponents with following qualifications, experience and business volume are eligible to submit EOIS :
 - Proponent shall be a registered entity registered under the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.
 - Proponent shall be an established Insurance Company within Sri Lanka with at least five (05) years' experience in provision of Life and Medical Insurance covers.
 - Proponent's Gross written premium on general insurance should not be less than Rs. 2.5 Billion for the financial year 2020.
 Proponents are required to submit documentary evidence for i, ii & iii above to prove their eligibility.
- A complete set of EOI documents in English Language may be purchased from the Office of the Secretary, Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Transport Board, 200, Kirula Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka during normal working days from 13.12.2021 to 03.01.2022 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs on payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lanka Rupees 20,000/= . The EOI should be submitted using the purchased set of documents only.
- The EOI shall be valid up to 08.04.2022.
- All pages of the EOI Document shall be signed by the proponents with his seal affixed.
- EOIs should be submitted in a sealed cover. The sealed cover should include the 'Original' and the 'Copy' of the EOI and marked on the top left-hand corner of the cover "EOI for **Provision of Insurance Covers for SLTB Permanent Employees**" and should either be deposited in the Box maintained for this purpose at the Office of the Secretary, Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Transport Board, 200, Kirula Road, Colombo 05 or sent by post under registered cover to the same address at or before 10.30 a.m. on 04.01.2022.
- EOIs received after closing time will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The EOIs will be opened in the presence of proponents or their representatives, who choose to be present, immediately after the closing of the EOIs.
- The SLTB Procurement Committee has discretionary authority to accept or reject one or all EOIs at any time of the process and Sri Lanka Transport Board will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by proponents in connection with the preparation or delivery of EOI.

**The Chairman,
SLTB Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka Transport Board,
No. 200, Kirula Road,
Colombo 05.**

**Inquiries : Secretary, Procurement Committee
Tel : 0117706110, 0771056110, Tel/Fax : 0112588457**

Please also note the following :

- For information on all SLTB Procurement activities, please log on to <https://sltb.lk>
- For information on all SLTB Procurement activities, please log on to <https://promise.lk> as well

NLDB
NATIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited from local suppliers for the supply of following quantity of seeds for cultivation in year 2022 in the Ridiyagama Farm of the National Livestock Development Board.

Item	Required Quantity (Kgs)
Maize Seeds	2000

Bid documents consisting of quantity of seeds required for cultivation, specifications and bid conditions may be obtained during working hours from the Supplies Manager of the National Livestock Development Board at the address given below on submission of a letter of request. A nonrefundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 is charged for each bid.

Bid documents will be issued up to 3.30 p.m. on 03rd January 2022 and bids will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 04th January 2022. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids at the National Livestock Development Board, No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05. The caption "Purchase of Maize Seeds for Ridiyagama Farm" should be clearly mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the bid and the sealed bids may either be sent by registered post or deposited in the Bid Box kept in the Head Office of the National Livestock Development Board to receive before the above mentioned closing date and time.

**Chairman, Procurement Committee
National Livestock Development Board
No. 40, Nawala Road
Narahenpita, Colombo 05
Tel. Nos. 0112 501701/2, 011 5746308**

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MONARAGALA 077 6 565 653
SRI RAMYA STORES, NO 19, 20, MONARAGALA.

MATARA
MATARA 047 2 230 093
NILMINI STORES - NO 69, DHARMAPALA MAWATHA, MATARA

ANURADAPURA
THABUTTEGAMA 025 2 276 431
MUTHUKUDA PAPER CORNER - No 86, Thabuttegama

ANURADHAPURA 025 2 221 411
MAHA JANA BOOK SHOP - Anuradhapura

ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 806
SATISARA BOOK SHOP - 40, KADAPANNAH, ANURADHAPURA

ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 575
PANDIYATA BOOK SHOP - 561/24, MUTHITHIRIPALA SENANAYAKE MK, NEWS BUS STAND, ANURADHAPURA

RATHNAPURA
RATHNAPURA 071 2 900 35
NO 16, CHURCH ROAD, RATHNAPURA

RATHNAPURA 045 2 223 883
LAKE HOUSE ADVERTISING CENTER - NO 88, MAIN STREET, RATHNAPURA

HAMBANTHOTA
MIDDENIYA 047 2 27 245
SOMASIRI STORES - HUNGAMA ROAD, MIDDENIYA.

TANGALLE 047 2 240 402
DIXTRADERS - NO 158, MATARA ROAD, TANGALLE

HAMBANTOTA 077 0 051 975
MISIRIYA STORES - NO 32 MAHAJANA POLA, HAMBANTOTA

AMBALANTOTA 047 2 223 152
SUMITHRA TRADE CENTER - NO 11, MAIN STREET, AMBALANTOTA.

TISSAMAHARAMA 047 2 239 088
T.D. MADANAYAKE & COMPANY (PVT) LTD - MAIN STREET, TISSAMAHARAMA

BATTICALO
KATHTHANKUDY 077 7 435 566
A.L.M. UJANIS OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING, KATHTHANKUDY.

BATTICALA 065 2 226 034
PRIYA STORES, N.K. RATHNASINGHAM, NO. 01, MARKET ROAD, BATTICALOA.

POLONNARUWA
POLONNARUWA 077 9 627 542
PARAKUM BOOK SHOP - HOSPITAL JUNCTION, POLONNARUWA.

KADURUWELA 076 4 201 263
CALLE CITY STORES - KADURUWELA, POLONNARUWA

KANDY
HIDAGALA 081 3 813 666
ANURA STORES - DOLUWA ROAD, HINDAGALA.

KANDY 081 2 222 780
JAYAKODY TRADERS (PVT) LTD - NO.229/A, PERADENIYA ROAD, KANDY.

GAAMPOLA 081 2 354 994
DAWASA CENTER - NO.14, STATION ROAD, GAMPOLA.

NAWALAPITIYA 077 3 039 996
CHEAP SIDE BOOK SHOP - NO 46, GAMPOLA ROAD, NAWALAPITIYA

MATHALE
MATALE 066 5 671 304
MALAKA TRADERS (PVT) LTD - NO.55-57, MAIN STREET, MATALE

NUWARA ELIYA
N.ELIYA 052 2 234 660
NO 06, NEW MARKET BUILDING, NUWARA ELIYA

KEGALLA
KEGALLA 035 2222427
SALCADO BAKERY & HOTEL - KEGALLE

KEGALLA 035 2 221 721
RED ROSE BOOK SHOP - NO.253 B, MAIN STREET, KEGALLE

BADULLA
BANDARAWELA 071 0 796 060
NAYANA BOOK SHOP - NO 343, BANDARAWELA

BADULLA 055 2 225 616
ADVERTISING OFFICE (LAKE HOUSE) - NO. 14, BADULLA

DEMODARA 055 2 225 616
ADVERTISING AGENCY - NEAR MUTHIYANGANA CLOCK TOWER, BADULLA.

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